

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TRINITY

Thursday (2/04)
5:00 Community Table.
6:30 Cub Scouts.

Friday (2/05)
6:00 A.A.

Saturday (2/06)
7:00 Meth. Anonymous.

**Small Group Opportunities During
Lent
(February 17, Ash Wednesday
Starts Lent)
See Lavender Colored Insert**

MMM...Good

No, it's not Campbell's Soup! But it is homemade bread. The Peacemakers (Elementary Youth Group) will be selling homemade bread on Sunday mornings during Lent.

**Men's Tuesday night
Bible Study**

Meets Weekly

Men's Bible Study on Tuesday Night @ 6:30. Starting Tuesday February 16 we will start a new series. We will use the video resource "That the World may Know - The Promised Land." This study will be taught from the Biblical sights, with Bible teacher Ray Vander Laan. We will discover how God guided his people to a specific place - the Promised Land - to impact the world both ancient and today. (Standing at the crossroads @ Tel Gezer, Wet feet @ Jordan River, First fruits @ Tel Jericho, Confronting evil @ Tel Beth Shemesh, and Iron of culture @ Tel Azekah)

Pastor: G. Scott Pattison -- Pastor of Caring & connections: Steve Brittenham
Director of Children & Families: Sonja Richards -- Youth Director: Jon Zinnel -- Church Secretary: Hazel Mapes



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THE TRINITY SPIRE

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OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT: Trinity Church is a people exalting God, growing in discipleship, reaching our community while caring and serving as Jesus did.

Volume 36, Issue 03

February 3, 2010

**Sundays at
Trinity**

8:30 WORSHIP

**9:30 FELLOWSHIP IN THE
NARTHEX**

9:35 SMALL GROUPS

10:30 WORSHIP

4:30 YOUTH

4:30 SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE

6:30 AL-A-NON

7:00 AA MEETING

Anita is heading for Haiti. By the time you are reading this, she would have left Indianapolis @ 7:05 am and will fly into the Dominican Republic about 2:15 pm. They will meet their friend Frank, who will help navigate their trip into Haiti. They will take a bus across the Dominican through Haiti to Gallette. They will get food to pass out, and distribute the tents and medical care to some there and then in Christianville. Two of the team members are first responders from Fountain County, and there will be another person, along with Anita. They will be there for about 10 days. The arrive back at 11:35 pm Friday February 12.



You have been such a blessing to respond to quickly to help and be supportive. This is one of a couple trips where we send people out into other mission fields. Carl and Diane Gove will be leaving in March to Sager Brown. Mission is about God's people sharing and living their faith. We do that through missions. We have a Mission Committee that helps us know about various ways we can support and participate. Some missions take us out of the city or country, but we are all called to the Mission of transforming the world through Jesus Christ.

Please pray for Anita, her team, and the others that are responding. But also know that God is also calling you and I to be involved in God's Mission everyday, where we live, work and play!

Growing closer to God with you!
Pastor Scott



Terina Abel, Phil Alexander, Gertrude Arnold, The Family of Julia Atz, Anna Bailey, Eden Banks, Charlotte Bedson, Maxine Berhalter, Jean Bonecutter, The Family of Kim Bontrager, Sandra Boulby, Floyd Burnworth, Kitty Burnworth, Virginia Buttermore, Jim Chaffins, Diane Claybaugh, Jan Corbin, Fred Cornett, Del & Mary Cortner's son, Eleanor Davis, Diehl Family, Ben Earley, Marvin Fager, Donni Frain, Beth Friskney, Jason Gienger, Oryan Gipson, Todd Gipson, Sarah Grismore, Mac and Helen Grossman, Doug Haddock, Beth Hager, Wayne Hartigan, David Haskins, Raven Hensley, Brad Huff, Kathy James, Mike Johnson, The Family of Phil Johnson, The Family of Bart Kile, Virginia Kirschner, Todd Kline, The Family of Ben Kreigh, Lois Kruger, Evan Lash, Kara Lilly, Kenneth Marks, Luella McClish, Austin McCormick, Cindy Mercer, Peggy Messer, The Family of Marceille Mitchell, Phil Ogden, Annie Pratt, Patricia Faye Pulis, Mary Pyle, Ashley Rhinehart, Evelyn Rice, Martha Ringler, Betty Rinker, Adam Ross, Nanette Russell, The family of Bernard Savoie, Justin Scher, Kim Shatto, Joan Shippy, The Family of Bettie Smith, Karen Steelman, Sean Tarney, Tina Terry, Bob Vale, Deena Vale, Betty VanWinkle, The Family of Edwin Winstrom, Becky & Emily Winstrom, Vi Woujas, Sharon Woods, Cousin, Jerry, with Colon Cancer, Brother who has cancer; Grandson who has brain cancer, Mom who is in hospital with heart problems, Sister who fractured her shoulder, Myself, Son and Daughter, my Mother-in-law with Parkinson's, My Family, Tammy, Father-in-law, Someone going through many changes in their life, Friend going through tough situations, A Job for my Sons and all in need of work, My Mom, Sister—Jean—In Indianapolis who has lost job and is currently unemployed, The people affected by the Earthquake in Haiti.



Devotional and Luncheon

Again this year we will celebrate Lent with a worship service and Lenten Luncheon. We will have a short worship service in the sanctuary beginning at 12:05 p.m. and then go to our Fellowship Hall for our lunch. This is a community event and we encourage everyone to come and participate in this annual event as we get ready for Easter. Our first Lenten Devotional and Luncheon will be on Wednesday, February 17.



“If It’s Not OK, Then It’s Not Over”

An Epistle from Bishop Mike

As I have reviewed some of the lovely notes and cards we received during 2009 – including many Christmas letters but also including many notes of condolence to us over the deaths of Marsha’s mother and father last year – I found one that speaks to me especially well. The card simply says:

“It will be OK when it is over.

If it’s not OK, then it’s not over.”

I like the sentiment of that card. It acknowledges that there are many times in life when it truly is “not OK.” Tough times come along, like loss of a loved one, family problems, personal injury and illness, or issues at work. Sometimes we try to cover up such tough times by saying, “I’m OK.” The truth would be expressed better by saying, “I’m not OK, but I will be.”

I like the card because it reminds me that it will be OK later. God has a way of working slowly and persistently in our lives to make things OK. That process may come through friends who support and care for us. Or it may continue through a book, movie, verse of scripture, or a card expressing condolence. It may not feel OK right now, but the promise is that it will be OK later – after God has a chance to work in our lives.

I think that is what is meant by the scripture in Romans 8 which says that “God works in all things for good.” That does not mean that all things are good, but it does mean that God will work in the midst of all things – even those “not OK” things – to make something good emerge. It may not be OK now, but it will be later if we give God time to do God’s work.

I also think that truth is expressed in a simple football statistic which I saw recently. Of all the statistics they measure in football, the one statistic which has absolutely no bearing on the final outcome of a football game is the half-time score. It has no statistical significance at all! 50% of the time the team leading at halftime wins the game, and 50% of the time the team trailing at halftime wins the game. The halftime score is utterly insignificant in terms of predicting the final score. Surely the Indianapolis Colts are proof of that! How many games have they trailed at halftime (like this past Sunday against the Jets) but come back to win?

That football statistic is a good reminder about life. The halftime score, the way we feel right now, the sense of “not OK” we have today is no indication of how God will work through this tough time. Who knows what God will do with the second half?

So ... remember that promise ... “It will be OK when it is finished. If it’s not OK, then it isn’t finished.” God will continue

to act, love, forgive, move, reassure, and heal. It may not be OK right now, but it will be OK when God is finished.

Bishop Michael J. Coyner, Indiana Area of The United Methodist Church

Just so you know

The Bishop talks about Teamwork below. Just a note to let you know which District and Cluster we are a part of. We are in the new North East District. The Rev. Dr. David Michel is still our District Superintendent. The Rev. Chip Gast is our Associate District Superintendent. Chip was formally the Huntington District DS.

Our cluster consists of 5 churches in central and eastern Noble County - Albion Asbury, Albion Trinity, Avilla Calvary, Kendallville Faith and Kendallville Trinity. We have met a couple of times prior to the first of the year, and we just had a very productive meeting a few weeks ago on January 24.

We have met to get better acquainted, talk over options as to how we encourage one another, hear and support what each of us are doing, and see what we can do together more effectively than we can do apart. We will pray for one another on a weekly basis, and see what God is calling His people to do together.

“Teamwork”

I had my first "District Day" on Friday in the new Central District, and tomorrow I head up to Fort Wayne for a District Day with the new Northeast District. On these district days (I will be in all 10 districts in the next few weeks), I meet with the DS and the district team.

This whole idea of a district team is new to us here in the new Indiana Conference. Instead of the old model of one DS and maybe a secretary or administrative assistant, where everything revolved around that one leader and helper, now we have a whole team in each district. The team includes:

- the District Superintendent who has responsibility for the whole District
- the Associate DS, who is one of our former DSes, each serving as a helper in two districts
- the District Assistant, who is the district center office manager and the person who coordinates all of the administration in the district
- the Church Development staff person from the Conference who is assigned to that district under the direction of Mark Gough
- the Connectional Ministries staff person from the Conference who is assigned to that district under the direction of Jim Bushfield

- the Ministry Cluster leaders, typically a clergy and a lay person as co-leaders, who lead the gatherings of the churches strengths in each cluster
- the Elders, Deacons, and Local Pastor coordinators for each district who help all clergy get into Clergy Covenant Groups and to feel support and care
- other district staff as determined by DS to build around the and needs of the DS

In the Central District, this team included the Director of Metro Ministries and it also included three other persons assigned by the DS to help with specific roles needed in that particular district.

Of course each district also has a whole set of elected leaders of the district committees and organizations (such as the District Lay Leader, District UMW President, District UMM President, District Chair of Ordained Ministry, etc. These person are equipped by the DS and district team.

This new model of a District Team is very exciting and very necessary. It recognizes that the small group model of one leader for the district simply is not adequate in our new, larger districts. It also gives each DS and each district a chance to have a supporting cast who cover aspects of district life which no one person can cover.

Perhaps most importantly, this team concept reflects the Biblical model that Jesus himself used. I am more and more aware that Jesus called a team of disciples, and he also sent his followers out to serve in teams of at least two at a time. It is also important to notice that the first four persons Jesus called as his disciples were two sets of brothers who were already a team working together in a fishing enterprise. Too often we have ignored this Biblical model of teamwork. Too often we clergy have been guilty of trying to do the ministry alone. Too often the laity have allowed clergy to over-function and then to burn out.

Teamwork is the key. It is the key to any sports team. And it is the key to effective ministry. That’s why I am traveling to each district and meeting with their district teams.

3RD TUESDAY GO OUT TO LUNCH

BUNCH



Our 3rd Tuesday Go out to Lunch Bunch will be going to Ponderosa in Auburn on Tuesday, February 16th. They will leave the church at 11:00 a.m. that morning. Anyone wishing to go should contact the church office (347-0056) to let us know. This is a good bunch of people and welcomes all who would like to get together for food and fellowship.



CAMPING NEWS

The camp brochures are coming! Everyone that has been to camp in the last five years will receive a camp brochure. This year there are many more additional opportunities due to the addition of the south camps. Registration is now open! If you can't wait for the brochure you may check out the camping opportunities online at: www.beacamper.com. This year there is only one early bird date: April 19, 2010. After April 19th, you will need to add \$20 to the cost of the camp.

During the week of June 20-25, two of the four directors will be Zach Pattison and Sonja Richards. Also, one of the counselors for that week will be Jon Zinnel. This week of camp is at camp Lakewood and is for children entering grades 3-6.

The education committee would like to offer everyone the opportunity to get involved in camp. With the rising cost of camp, we need to be creative in helping our children and youth so they may attend an excellent Christian camping opportunity. The average full cost of a week of camp that a majority of Trinity's children attend is \$415.00. The cottage fund only generates an average annual interest of \$380.00. As you can see, that would only help 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ children. Therefore, we need your help.

Sponsor a child to go camp

The education committee would like to give you the opportunity to sponsor a child to go to camp. You may be asking what does that mean, what do I have to do???? Well, first we ask that you would pray for the children, youth, the camping program and the camper you will be sponsoring. Then during camp, all campers love to receive mail, therefore, we ask that you send them mail during their week of camp.

Finally, we would like for you to help out financially. Typically, we ask our parents to pay half of the camp cost. So, you would help with the other half which is a maximum of \$208.00 for a full sponsorship. A half sponsorship would be \$104.00. A quarter sponsorship would be \$52.00. Lastly, an eight would be \$26.00.

Quarters for camping

What if I can't do any of the sponsorships and I still want to help financially? OK, we have quarters for camping. In the narthex there is a basket of old film containers. Take one of those containers and fill it up with quarters. Once it is full bring it in to the church office or put it in the offering plate on Sunday morning.

Cottage fund

How can I help build up the cottage fund? You may make donations to the Trinity Foundation that will go towards the principle of the cottage fund. This will increase the interest and the amount the church can offer for scholarships.

Children & Family News

By Sonja Richards, Director of Children & Family

A Note from the Director of Children & Family

With the start of a new year, I wanted to try something new. Once a month, there will be a Children & Family page that will be included in "The Spire." I would like to include devotions for parents, parenting tips and events for children and families. It is my hope that this will be an informative tool that will help keep families with children birth-6th grade better connected with Trinity Church. Within this month's page you will find information on camping, 10:30 service children's message, 3rd Annual Pretzel baking, devotion for parents and tips on Character Counts!

Also, if you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the church office 347-0056 or my cell phone 318-3402. I am at the church most days 9am-Noon except Fridays.

Moms and Dads

1 Thes. 2:7, 11-12: But we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children... For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory (NIV).

These verses describe the qualities necessary to raise well-rounded children in a spiritual family. Some of these qualities are associated with moms, such as patience, gentleness and a devotion for her children that makes her want to spend time with them and nourish them, physically and spiritually. Other qualities are associated with dads, such as encouragement, comfort and urging their children to live lives worthy of the Lord.

Paul and the other missionaries supplied these qualities to the believers in Thessalonica so that they could grow spiritually. He filled the role of both mom and dad, and he also gave us a beautiful picture of the needs of kids and the roles of

parents in meeting those needs. Whether you are in a one- or two-parent family, the kids' needs are the same. But take heart, God will equip each of you to do the job He has called you to (Heb. 13:21).

Trust God for the strength and qualities necessary to raise your children.

10:30 Service Children's Message

Since I had been to the Character Counts! training with many East Noble staff and community leaders last spring, it made sense for me to deliver the children's message during the Character Counts! sermon series. As this series is coming to an end, we will be going back to our regular rotation and I will also be doing one week. Currently the rotation is: first Sunday: Brent Berkey, second Sunday: Mike Davidson, third Sunday: Sonja Richards and fourth Sunday: Cathie Kreigh.

3rd Annual Pretzel Baking February 17, 2010 @ 6:00pm Children in grades K - 6th

We will be baking pretzels, learning about prayer and Ash Wednesday. The children will make their own prayer pretzel, participate in communion and receive ashes. Parents are welcome and encouraged to stay and participate.

Character Counts!

For the past several weeks, the sermon series has been about Character Counts! Character Counts! is a framework based on six pillars, trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship, which are shared core values. These are six character values that the East Noble school system has adopted into their day to day operations with children and youth.