

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TRINITY

- Friday (02/11)**
10:00 W.O.W. Bible Study.
6:00 A.A.—Fellowship Hall.
- Saturday (02/12)**
10:00 Emmaus 4th Day Reunion Group—Conference Room.
3:00 Memorial Service/Dinner for Sharon Stark.
5:00 Meth Anonymous.
- Monday (02/14)**
5:00 Community Table.
- Tuesday (02/15)**
6:30 Boy Scouts.
6:30 W.O.W. Bible Study.
- Wednesday (02/16)**
7:30 Praise Team.
7:30 Trustees Meeting.
- Thursday (02/17)**
7:00 United Way Volunteer Thank You Breakfast.
6:30 Cub Scouts.
- Friday (02/18)**
4:30 8 Great Dates (mother/daughter Tea).
6:00 A.A.—Fellowship Hall.
- Saturday (01/15)**
10:00 Emmaus 4th Day Reunion Group—Conference Room.
5:00 Meth Anonymous.

Lift up In Prayer

A Ministry Cluster is a group of 4 to 9 local churches who choose to work together to accomplish the Gospel mission in their area, and it is also be a group of local churches who share common ministry needs and who work together to learn from each other. We have a rotation list of the churches in our cluster to lift up in prayer. In February we will lift up in prayer Feb. 13—Albion Asbury, Feb. 20—Albion Trinity, Feb. 27—Avilla Calvary.

Church Cancellation Information

Winter is here. With winter comes snow and ice. When the weather is too bad for Trinity to hold worship services or events we will let our Trinity family know by having the cancellation announced on radio station WBCL (FM 90.3) or WBCL website at www.wbcl.org, www.indiananews-center.com, WPTA Channel 21 TV, local WAWK (AM 1140 or FM 95.5), www.wawk.com

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 37, Issue 1

January 2011

Sunday at Trinity

- 8:30 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP**
- 9:30 FELLOWSHIP IN NARTHEX**
- 9:40 SMALL GROUPS**
- 10:39 MODERN WORSHIP**
- 4:00 YOUTH BIBLE STUDY**
- 4:30 SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE**
- 5:00-7:00 YOUTH GROUP**
- 6:30 AL-A-NON**
- 7:00 AA MEETING**

The new year . . . so full of hope and potential. I find the problem is that all too often all that hope is in the context of all the “same old stuff.” As I mentioned at the Christmas Eve Worship times, one of the things that is exciting about Advent is that we focus on a baby. Babies are so full of promise and hope . . . their whole life is ahead of them. The challenge comes when the kids grow up. When one reaches a certain age and stage, our emotions shift from hope to living out a certain reality, with a known history. Sometimes we find ourselves in a place that we are contented or pleased with, and other times hope turns to despair and discouragement, thinking that we should be at another stage or situation. Sometimes we have “done it to ourselves” and other times “we live out the circumstances of life.”



This morning I overheard Beth Moore on “Wednesdays with Beth” (which airs on Wednesday mornings on two different Christian TV stations at 7:00 and 7:30 respectively via James Robison). When Anita does the treadmill on Wednesday mornings, the teaching of Beth Moore fill the house between morning news, so I could not help but overhear Beth as I sat in my chair upstairs. She was telling the story of a pet dog they had and making an application to her life. The short of it was that regardless of the circumstances of our past, we choose today to live the life before us. She was quick to highlight that sometimes there are things that affect us that we may not even realize though, but all these things influence us today.

As we start this coming year, our first preaching series will help us look at those things and times that may be causing discouragement in our lives, thus causing us to miss all that God has for us. I have included the schedule (inside this newsletter), just in case there is someone in your life that could use these insights. My assumption is that we want to be who God created us to be, we want to make healthful and healthy choices, but sometimes we get waylaid and do not always know why, and how to get help. Our hope and goal will be for us to see what the Bible may say to us to help us fully be who God created us to be.

Growing with you!

Pastor Scott

Lent Begins March 9th

Wednesday, March 9th is Ash Wednesday. Our Lenten Devotions and Luncheons will begin this day.

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



THE TRINITY SPIRE
Published by
TRINITY CHURCH U. M.
229 S. State Street - P.O. Box 431
Kendallville, Indiana 46755

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
KENDALLVILLE, IN
PERMIT No. 73

You Missed It!!

Souper Sunday was a great, fun, tasty time! We had sixteen crock pots full of everyone's favorite soups with warm bread and cookies.

There were sample cups and bowls of soup along with lots of conversation and laughter.

Brad Bloom can explain the soup tasting and Bill McGuire can explain the fun-filled white elephant bingo.

There were even prizes for the soups voted on. First place went to Melanie Fortman, second place went to Janet Berkey and third place went to Jean Aungst.

All the soups deserved first place! Thanks to all who came, contributed and had fun!

Prayer Requests

Phil Alexander, Anna Bailey, Eden Banks, Pat Barr, Charlotte Bedson, Belinda Beiswanger, Mike Bentley, Maxine Berhalter, Floyd Burnworth, Kitty Burnworth, Julie Butgen, Virginia Buttermore, Jim Chaffins, Mary Charlton, Don Corbin, Fred Cornett, Del & Mary Cortner's son, Eleanor Davis, Richard Dorscher, Sally Eulitt, Marvin Fager, Donni Frain, Jason Gienger, Jean Gray, Sarah Grismore, Mac and Helen Grossman, Beth Hager, Herb F. Hart, Wayne Hartigan, David Haskins, Raven Hensley, Brad Huff, Mike Johnson, Virginia Kirschner, Todd Kline, Evan Lash, Kara Lilly, Barbara Luther, Kenneth Marks, Austin McCormick, Cindy Mercer, Peggy Messer, Matt Ogden, Phil Ogden, Ashley Rhinehart, Evelyn Rice, Nonalee Roberts, Adam Ross, Justin Scher, Mike Sisson, J.C. Slone, Jeff Sonne (Auto accident), The Family of Sharon Stark, Karen Steelman, Deena Vale, Betty VanWinkle, Joyce Woodby, Haley Wright, Lisa Wright, Willie Mae York, 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, Father-in-law, Someone going through many changes in their life, Friend going through tough situations, My Jean Bonecutter, Terry Bowman, Becky Brown, Ava Bryan, Mom, Daughter, Karen and her Family, Friend--Janet whose father in ICU, Sister--Dixie, Friend--Alice going through divorce.

Welcome New Members

In December we were delighted to welcome into our Trinity family the following new members: Jared & Stephanie Foote, Marie Musser, Deena Vale and Mars & Stephanie Wolford. WELCOME!

Taking Down Christmas Decorations

We could use your help on Sunday, January 9th following the 10:39 Worship Service as we will be taking down the greens. If you can help, just be here on Sunday around noon.

Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit

Have you ever wanted more love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control? Come join us for the next inspirational journey into Bible study with Beth Moore as our teacher. Sessions will start:

- Tuesday evenings at 6:30, January 18,
- Friday mornings at 10:00, January 21.

The study book is \$16.00. Please contact the church office or Kathy Brittenham (call at 260-351-2149; or e-mail at ksbritt@embarqmail.com) if you would like to reserve a book. A session schedule will be available after January 18/21 just in case you want to join in "part time".

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study meets Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. They continue to use the Ray Vanderlaan material.

We will look at the "Early Church". For Christians today, faith in God can sometimes seem to be a cerebral choice. For the early church, it was the difference between life and death. In the fifth volume of Faith Lessons, discover the passion and commitment early believers displayed as they claimed Jesus in the face of fierce consequences and powerful adversaries.

Filmed on location at these biblically significant sites:

- Everything to Lose, Nothing to Gain--Caesarea Philippi
- The Salt of the Earth--Sardis
- Where Satan Lives--Pergamum
- The Mark of the Beast--Ephesus
- Hot or Cold--Laodicea

THANKS

Thanks to Doris Baker for all the planning she put into our January 30th Souper Sunday. We had delicious soups and fun activities. Thank you, Doris, for all you did to make this happen.

Thanks to the Trinity Foundation for the generous support of Trinity's ministry. Recently their partnership with Worship and Trustees purchased sound treatment for Fellowship Hall and new portable sound equipment. The 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship was benefited by better sound quality.

The new portable sound equipment is stored in the sound case which Wayne Krieger built for Trinity.

Thanks to Community Table for having the carpet cleaned in Fellowship Hall. Community Table serves Noble County by providing a delicious hot meal on Monday evenings from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

In the Bleak Midwinter



A few years ago in the midst of many, many snowstorms in a row in the Dakotas, I received a cartoon which showed a group of persons buried over their heads with snow, only their hands were showing, raised up and voting "yes" to the caption, "OK, show of hands...who's tired of snow?"

I am starting to feel like that cartoon. Last week's snowstorm and ice storm provided respite from a busy schedule, but it has become tiresome already. It was good to get out yesterday and preach in a local church, and it even feels good to be back at work in my office in the Conference Center today. Now there are predictions of yet another snowstorm heading our way. None of this is nearing Dakotas-like levels of snow, and yet I find myself voting and saying, "Yes, I am tired of winter."

Since we are still in the season of Epiphany, maybe it is appropriate to sing my favorite Epiphany hymn titled, "In the Bleak Mid-Winter."

That hymn contains these descriptive words:

*In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter long ago.*



Sound familiar? The hymn continues to celebrate the coming of Christ, saying

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

The hymn's final verse really captures the essence of faithfulness and humility through the winter times of our lives:

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him, give him my heart.*

During the winter times of our lives, during the winter times of our faith journey, even when it seems that the "winter blahs" have captured us, we are reminded to give to the Lord the only gift which really matters: Our hearts.

May God bless you during this bleak mid-winter, may God sustain you through any winter times of your faith, and may God remind you that you have been given the greatest gift of Christ - and the only true response is to give him your heart. Amen.

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

Sermon Series: Overcoming Discouragement's Thru February 20

February 6 - "It's Hard to trust you God, 'cause I've been rejected"
- Exodus 2-4 (3:11-22)

February 13 - "It's Hard to find you God, 'cause I'm in the pits"
- Psalms 42-43 (42)

February 20 - "It's Hard to understand you God, 'cause I feel so misunderstood"
- Genesis 50:15-21

Our Youth are planning a Youth Sunday in February, March or April, so the dates toward the end of the series may be adjusted, stay tuned to the Spire, website, or weekly worship bulletins for any updates.

Children & Family News

By Sonja Richards, Director of Children & Family

A Note from the Director of Children & Family

Another school year is coming to a close. I cannot believe that summer is just around the corner. Summer is a great time of the year to spend more time with family through picnics, vacations and just hanging out. Since we understand that summers can be very busy with family activities, we have suspended Sunday Night Live for the summer. Our last Sunday Night Live the children had fun finishing up the Father's Day gifts that all the men will receive on Father's Day. (If you are a man, you will not want to miss that Sunday!) As with tradition, at the last Sunday Night Live we had ice cream sundaes with all the works. You may wonder when we will begin Sunday Night Live again???? If will begin again the Sunday after Labor Day, September 12th. We are looking at some fun things to kickoff our time back in the fall. Be looking for details as it gets closer.

As always, if you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the church office 347-0056 or my cell phone 318-3402.

God's Gym

1 Tim 4:7-8: Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come (NIV).

How many of us spend a considerable amount of time at the gym getting in shape for who knows what? We can be so disciplined in exercise and diet that we are the envy of our peers. And while this kind of training has value, it is short-lived. Take a month off and see what happens!

What if we were just as disciplined in our daily time with God? Many people spend an hour or two a day exercising, but rarely spend 15 minutes a day with God. What if we spent more time in God's gym? Paul tells us the answer - training for godliness "has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." That's the kind of training a whole family can enjoy together, and that will last forever.

Get your family into God's gym, and train for eternity.

Camp Brochures are here!

The camp brochures are here! This year there are many more additional opportunities due to the addition of the south camps. We are now past the early bird cost break, you will now need to add \$20 to the cost of the camp.

Camp scholarships are available through the conference office. Scholarship forms are available in the church office or online at: www.beacamper.com.

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

Promotion Sunday

Since the last day of school is June 4th and as soon as school gets out many children believe that they are in the next grade, here at Trinity we will be following suit and promoting the children to the next class.

VBS

I have had a lot of kids ask when VBS is and what this year's theme is. VBS will be July 26-30 so mark your calendars. This year's theme is: High Seas Expedition Exploring the Mighty Love of God.



Practical Ways to Connect with Your Child's Heart

Connecting with a child is easier for some parents than others, and easier with some kids than others. Parents and kids have different personalities, likes, and dislikes. With some kids, connecting takes real creativity and persistence. Here are eleven suggestions to help you find ways to connect with your child's heart.

1. Talking. Children often like to hear stories from your own childhood. Don't feel like you have to tie a lesson into the story. Just tell it to them as if you were relating the details to a friend.
2. Listen to your kids. Take an interest in their activities and their day. Once they start talking, draw them out with more questions.
3. Touching. A hug or a gentle hand on a shoulder communicates warmth and love.
4. High-energy activities. Kids love excitement. Look for exciting activities to enjoy together.
5. Look for ways to share your child's interests.
6. Give occasional special treats.
7. Find a task and work at it together as teammates.
8. Offer genuine praise for a job well done.
9. Have fun with your kids. Be silly, tell jokes, or wrestle.
10. New times in a child's life set the stage to connect emotionally. Be there and available to share the moment.
11. Traumatic events provide opportunities to develop closeness. Remember that the most important thing isn't fixing the problem, it's restoring the heart.

In short, enjoy your kids and have fun with them. Take an interest in their lives. If you don't feel like it, do it anyway. Your kids need your playfulness, love, affection, and joy. When you give to your kids, you contribute to their well-being and your family's strength. Yes, it's sacrifice, but the time you put in now will go a long way toward reducing friction when it's time to confront or discipline.

What are some you've been able to connect with your child's heart? [Click here](#) to tell others about it.

WORD AT HOME

Scripture: Acts 16:9-15

Thoughts: What is the point of the small story of this woman, Lydia? In a day ruled by men, Lydia is a rich businesswoman; the head of her own household; and a Gentile worshipper of God. In knowing these things we can speculate that she was intelligent, independent and faithful. We also know that she cares deeply for the members of her household because she wants them to hear Paul's message and be saved. Through God's calling this single person of faith the entire church at Philippi is born and through that church Christ's message is spread into Europe. What a beautiful example of how one woman's faith changed the world.

Discussion: Do you think Lydia knew the impact she had in the greater world? Do you recognize how you influence those around you? Who are some examples of great women of faith? What makes them great? Who are some women of great faith in your own life?

Activity: Think about some of the "footprints" of faith you would like to leave in your life. How would you like to share with people? Make a plan to accomplish one in the near future. Also, thank one woman who has helped you in your faith.



