

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TRINITY

Friday (12/03)

6:00 A.A.—Fellowship Hall.

Saturday (12/04)

10:00 Emmaus 4th Day Reunion Group—Conference Room.

5:00 Meth Anonymous.

Monday (12/06)

10:00 Women of the Word Bible Study.

6:30 1st Place Bible Study.

Tuesday (12/07)

6:30 Boy Scouts.

Wednesday (12/08)

7:30 Praise Team.

Thursday (12/09)

6:30 Cub Scouts.

Friday (12/10)

6:00 A.A.—Fellowship Hall.

Saturday (12/11)

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 September we will lift up in prayer Dec. 5—Albion Asbury, Dec. 12—Albion Trinity, Dec. 19—Avilla Calvary, Dec. 26—Kendallville Faith.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Trinity Church members should be very proud! This Thanksgiving, Trinity pulls out all the tabs and gave, shared and prepared the most wonderful meal! Thanks so much to all who have donated turkeys, pies, time or money. This meal would not be what it is today without the years of help and this year's team! More information will come later.

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 16

December, 2010

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 BETHLEHEM VILLAGE

5:00-7:00 YOUTH GROUP

6:30 AL-A-NON

7:00 AA MEETING

The holidays ... so many thoughts and experiences. It is a time that we seem to compress so many activities into a short time, yet while still trying to keep the joy and celebration of "this time of year." It is a time that we usually become nostalgic. We eat certain foods, drink certain drinks, pull out certain decorations, and as we live today, they usually take us back to another time. It is probably some of these things that cause this time of year to be called "magical." Hope. Joy. Peace. Celebration. Stress. Schedules. The holidays.

I am also reminded frequently that this time of year is usually one of the most challenging times for those who have experienced loss. Whether it is the loss of a loved one, a relationship, or the loss of a job and hope for the future – a loss still hurts deeply.

Advent has historically been a time that Christians use, very much like Lent, to spend in reflection and devotion to build their spiritual lives. This year, we will have some special opportunities to help you in your Advent journey. Each of our worship celebrations will have the Advent candle lighting where families and groups of friends from the congregation help guide our journey through the Advent season. Each week, new decoration will be added to the Sanctuary up through Epiphany (January 2) to the Sanctuary to help remind us that the journey of the season is just as important as the destination.



Sunday, December 5 –

- During Worship we will have special guests come and share the gift of music. The Chain of Lakes Men's Gospel Chorus will bring the gift of music and testimony to both worship celebrations during the "sermon" time. Since we want to give our guests as much time as possible to share this Sunday, we will celebrate communion on Sunday Dec. 12.

- In the evening at 4:30 the Bethlehem Village will come alive in the Fellowship Hall then at 6:00 we will gather to decorate the sanctuary and Narthex.

Sunday, December 12 –

- Communion during worship

Christmas Eve –

- We have two worship opportunities 7pm family worship in the Fellowship Hall and 11:00pm a traditional time of worship and reflection in the sanctuary.

- We will also have our annual "March to the Manger" where we bring our Christmas offerings to the Christ child's manger to remind us that Christmas is really to be about gifts to Jesus, not just gift giving to each other. This is an important practice because too often we as people of faith can let the "Macy" type Christmas influence how we celebrate the birth of Christ.

These are opportunities to help you and your family and friends do more than just buy, eat, and "drop in" the New Year (literally from exhaustion). Let this season be one that we connect to God's great gift of redemption through Immanuel – God with us.

Growing with you!

Pastor Scott

Return Service Requested

Things You Should Know

Contributions for 2010 should be in the church office or postmarked by December 31, 2010 in order to be included in this year's giving.

Thanks to Snyder Distributing we will be trying out a different coffee machine. Our goal is to get a machine that is easy to use and will supply our needs for Sunday mornings and other days.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on December 12 and not December 5.

Prayer Requests



Phil Alexander, Anna Bailey, Eden Banks, Pat Barr, Charlotte Bedson, Belinda Beiswanger, Maxine Berhalter, Jean Bonecutter, Becky Brown, The Family of Brian Burke on the loss of Brian's Father, Floyd

Burnworth, Kitty Burnworth, 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, Wayne Hartigan, David Haskins, Raven Hensley, Bob Horn, Brad Huff, The Family of Barb Huth on the loss of Barb's Mother, Kathy James, Mike Johnson, Virginia Kirschner, Todd Kline, The Family of Lois Kruger, Evan Lash, Kara Lilly, Barbara Luther, The Family of Marty Manahan, Kenneth Marks, Austin McCormick, Cindy Mercer, Peggy Messer, Matt Ogden, Phil Ogden, The Family of Murlein Reinewald, Ashley Rhinehart, Evelyn Rice, Nonalee Roberts, Adam Ross, Justin Scher, J.C. Slone, Jeff Sonne (Auto accident), Karen Steelman, Tina Terry, Bob Vale, Deena Vale, Betty VanWinkle, WillieMae 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 Mom, Daughter, Karen and her Family, Friend--Janet whose father in ICU.



3rd Tuesday Go Out to Lunch Bunch

The 3rd Tuesday Go Out to Lunch Bunch will not be going on their 3rd Tuesday Lunch outing until May, 2011. On May 17th they will be visiting an Amish farmhouse for their lunch. We encourage all those who want to enjoy a delicious meal with a bunch of Christian friends to plan to go on this luncheon.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Bell ringing for Salvation Army begins November 26th. LouAnne Pillers is the coordinator. To sign up to help, call LouAnne at 347-1625.

Handchime Practice

Practice for those participating in Handchimes will be following the 10:39 worship service on Sundays December 12 and 19 and at 10:00 A.M. on December 23 and 24.

Congratulations

3rd Grade Bibles

We were happy to present Bibles to this year's 3rd Grade youth at the 10:39 Worship November 21. Those who received Bibles were: Colby Cook, Gage Ernsberger, Austin Fortman, Luke Friskney, Alexiz Ortiz, Samantha Richards, Ian Schowe, Rachel Weber, Emily Yoder, and Erica Yoder.

Baptisms...

On November 7th Pastor Scott was privileged to baptize Katheryn Elizabeth David and Kennedy Marie David daughters of Andy and Krissy David. He also had the privilege of baptizing Krissy's sisters 2 children, Brayden Lee Bowman and MaKenna Aryn Bowman.

Our Deepest Sympathies...

We wish to express our Christian sympathy to the following families on the loss of their loved one.

The Family of Marty Manahan – Marty passed away on November 11th. Marty was active in many things in Noble County. He will be missed by those who knew and loved him.

The Family of Lois (Bender) Kruger. Lois passed away on November 15th in Florida. There was a memorial service here at Trinity on Nov. 30. Lois will be missed by her family and friends.

The Family of Murlein Reinewald. Murlein passed away on November 24th. She was the mother of John Reinewald. Murlein will be missed by her loved ones.

We also express our sympathy to Brian Burke on the loss of his father and to Barb Huth on the recent loss of her mother. Our prayers are with you.



We would like to thank Fran Moran and her special crew for all the work they did to make such a delicious dinner on consecration Sunday, October 31.

Also a big thank you goes to Doris and Jean Baker for all the work they put into our Community Thanksgiving Dinner. They also had a super bunch of helpers and we appreciate each and every one.

Trinity has a wonderful group of people who take charge to prepare delicious luncheons for funerals and such. We are so blessed to have people who work to make these things happen at Trinity.

We had a speaker, Jerry Kiester, from Gideons International on Nov. 21. Following is a note we received from Jerry -- *"on behalf of Gideons International, Maudie and I would like to thank you and your church family for the warm and gracious welcome which was extended to us as we came to deliver the Gideon Stewardship report on Nov. 21. The generous offering will purchase 29 Hotel Bibles, which have the potential readership of 66,700 souls during their average lifespan of 6 years or it will purchase 114 smaller testaments. Praise God. Thank you for your prayers and financial support."*

*Christmas Eve
With Christmas Music, Candles
And
Communion Offered*

The **7:00 Family Worship** will have a time of singing and other music, an interactive Christmas story from the Bible, Communion, and a few other things. We will be in the Fellowship Hall for this full and interactive time of worship.



The **11:00 Traditional Christmas Eve Worship** will be a time of Christmas Hymn and Carol singing, a Christmas message and communion. We will meet in the Sanctuary for this time of worship.

March to the Manger – the Wise Men brought the Christ child gifts, and gave them to Him. Be looking in the mail, for a way that we will be able to be more mindful of the things we can bring this year. This is one of our annual seasonal ways to remember in a tangible way God’s gift to us and our need to give. Our hope and prayer is that it will be an interactive way of reflecting on some of the aspects of Christmas.

The **HANGING OF THE GREENS** will be Sunday, December 5th at 6:00 p.m.

Holiday Schedule

So that our staff may enjoy the holiday season with family and friends, the church office holiday hours will be:

- December 24 – close at noon
- December 27 and 28 – closed
- December 31 – close at noon
- January 1 -- closed

Staff Christmas Appreciation Gifts



Our Staff-Parish Committee is giving you the chance to show your appreciation to your Trinity Staff Members this holiday season. Envelopes are inserted in this edition of the Spire and will available in your Sunday Morning Worship bulletins on December 5 and December 12 for you to express your support for our Staff Members. You may place your envelope in the offering plate on Sunday morning or return it to the church office. Thank you...The Staff-Parish Committee.

Holiday Goodies

Candies & Breads -- Since Holiday time is coming soon the Dorcas Circle will be baking breads & making candies. We plan to have these available between services on Sunday, Dec. 5 and Sunday, Dec. 12.

**Dorcas Circle
Candies & Breads Order Form**

- Chocolate Fudge @ \$2.00/Plate _____
- Peanut Butter Fudge @ \$2.00/Plate _____
- Peanut Clusters @ \$2.50/Plate _____
- Cashew Clusters @ \$2.50/Plate _____
- Peanut Brittle @ \$2.00/Plate _____
- Pumpkin Bread @ \$2.00/Loaf _____
- Holiday Bread @ \$2.00/Loaf _____
- Banana Nut Bread @ \$2.00/Loaf _____

Name _____

Turn in to the Church Office and we'll see it gets to the right place.

In the Mail

Pastor Scott,

We wanted to thank you for welcoming us into your church and allowing us to have this family celebration. We look forward to visiting your church again. Thanks, again! Love, Brandon, Melissa, Brayden, and MaKenna Boweman.

(Pastor Scott baptized Brayden and MaKenna on November 7th)

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Management of the Lighthouse would like to T-H-A-N-K all for the Thanksgiving meals. Several of our residents had the best meal in a long time. Again we thank you and God Bless All -- Robert C. Brouillette & Glen Ard.

THE WAIT IS OVER

Our Trinity family has been patiently waiting for our new church pictorial directory. Well, we are pleased to let you know that the pictorial directories will be shipped to Trinity the week of December 6th. We will have the directories soon.

Happy Holidays



Gifted to Give

Perhaps the most often quoted verse about stewardship is from Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians, where he says, “Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” I believe that verse is true, and I know that

giving always comes from an attitude of joy and gratitude.

But there is more to this verse that simply affirming joyful giving. Paul continues in the very next verse to explain how this works, when he says in II Corinthians 9:8, “And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” That is an amazing verse, for it assures us that God provides for us, blesses us, and even blesses us abundantly so that we may share abundantly. The blessings we receive from God are not for us, they are so that we will have “enough” to bless others.

Adam Hamilton has written about “Enough” in his book by that title. He reminds us that we have enough, especially when we align our hearts with God’s purposes rather than buying into – literally – the consumer mentality of our culture. That consumer mentality has been described as this: “Enough is always just a little bit more.” Not so for those who follow Jesus, when we discover that we have “enough” only so that we can give to others.

Perhaps it is not just by accident that so many of our churches have stewardship drives, pledging efforts, and consecration Sundays this time of year just before Thanksgiving. Perhaps a grateful heart is the first step to a giving heart. It is only as we discover the purpose of our blessings (they are not for us, they are for us to give to others), that we can become a cheerful, joyful, exuberant giver.

I hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving next week, but even more, I hope that gratitude for your blessings will bring with it the discovery that God is providing for you ... in order to provide for others.

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

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.



