

STEWARDSHIP:

Each year Trinity Presbyterian Church participates in the Peace and Global Witness Offering, formerly known as the Peacemaking Offering. The theme for this year's offering is "Create a World of Peace." In the words of the Presbyterian Church U.S. A. (PCUSA), "For generations, and to the ends of the earth, Presbyterians have borne witness to Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace." Trinity will forward 75% of the monies received to the PCUSA for "efforts to strengthen collaboration with churches, mid councils and mission partners all over the world. Together we will support efforts to inspire, equip, and connect Presbyterians engaging in ministries of reconciliation and peace that respond to cultures of violence, including our own."

Trinity will keep 25% of the Peace and Global Witness Offering for use in our own congregation and community. With your input, the Stewardship Committee and Session will determine how to best promote and support local peacemaking initiatives or community-based ministries.

Trinity will join with Presbyterians worldwide to receive and dedicate the Peace and Global Witness Offering Sunday, October 4 - World Communion Sunday. Members will promote the offering during Mission Moments in September. Please prayerfully consider making a contribution to this special offering.

Treasurer's Report for July 2015

Income	\$ 8,680.80
Expenses	11,890.28
Deficit	- 3,209.48



At the end of July, I had to withdraw \$2,000 from investment income to supplement the operating fund. I will probably have to continue to do this each month for the rest of the year.

1. The current pledges through July 2015 are coming in as pledged. Thank you to all who are keeping your pledges current.
2. The loose offering is down by about \$500 from our predicted amount for year to date.
3. Per Capita is down. By the end of the year we will owe \$5,049 per capita to Presbytery. We have only collected \$1,657 of that to date.
4. We have been blessed with Scrip donations this year of \$1,900. Please continue to support that program. It is a blessing for this church.
5. Total Expenses for the first 7 months are under what we predicted to this point in the year.

Lois Fassett
Treasurer

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC)

The PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) is in the beginning stages of our spiritual journey to search for our new pastor. Finding God's selection/calling will not be an easy task and we need everyone to listen for God's message for Trinity's future. We have already held two meetings and are making progress.

We as a group chosen by the congregation will:

Get Trinity involved and keep the congregation informed. We will do our best to inform everyone in one of the following ways: making announcements, putting notes in the bulletin, talk one-on-one, discuss in small groups, and newsletters updates.

We also plan to hold town hall meetings the second Sunday of each a month during fellowship hour, where we can work through each other to bring happiness and joyful spirit back into our Church.

If anyone ever has any questions, do not hesitate to contact any of the PNC. Members are: Kathy Depp, Lois Fassett, Lynne Mukina, Karen Reiter, Jane Wallace, and co-moderators Dale Fassett and Beth Dougherty.

Get ready for the ride of our lives!

For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.
Jeremiah 29:11

Accept what is, let go of what was, and have faith in what will be.....

CARD MINISTRY:

Dee Fassett and her sister Elsie Anuger have been working for weeks to organize the hundreds and hundreds of rubber stamps used by the Card Making group. Their patience and attention to detail are greatly appreciated.

We now have a notebook with an example of each stamp. You are welcome to look through the notebook to get ideas for card designs and sentiments. Please talk to Beth Adams if you have a particular card request.

SESSION SNIPPETS:

These reports are summaries from the regular Session minutes in July and August, as well as some special Session activities. The minutes of August 19 will be reviewed at the September Session meeting.

Regular Session meeting July 15

- + Confirmed August 2 for Holy Communion, with Rev. LaDu presiding.
- + Received a letter from a group of members with a list of concerns about declining attendance and participation in the congregation. All Session members received copies of the letter, including Rev. Connor. The letter requested these concerns be shared with the presbytery. Session accepted the recommendation to invite representatives of the presbytery's Committee on Ministry to meet with the Session to review the letter. *(Editor's note: The meeting on August 4 resulted from this action.)*
- + Community Council reported on the visit of the Bike and Build riders on June 30 and July 1. 24 riders were hosted, provided showers, and fed dinner at the church. The riders stayed at the church overnight. Breakfast was served and they headed out to Avon Lake, Ohio. This is part of their 4000 mile, 78-day ride for affordable housing projects.

The summer lunch program continues for July and August, with Trinity providing the lunch starting on August 10 through August 24. Volunteers are providing refreshments on Trinity's dates at the Lakeshore worship services-- July 23, August 9, and August 23. Trinity's church picnic and worship service at Lakeshore Park is set for August 30.

- + Finance and Property reported that the new copier/printer has been delivered to the church office. The old machine has been stored until it can be returned at the end of its contract *(note: the new copier company has paid off the former contract)*. The main church sign has been inspected and needs major repairs. The estimated cost is \$2000.
- +The Stewardship Committee held a Shareholder's Meeting on July 12. It was well attended. A good number of questions, including discussion of 'per capita' giving to the Presbytery, were addressed.
- + In new business, a motion to purchase a new light for the organ console was approved. Funds from memorials dedicated to the music ministries will be used.

Joint session meeting with First Presbyterian and East Side Presbyterian July 19

- ++ This was an introductory meeting between the sessions. Representatives from the Committee on Ministry (COM) served as facilitators. Each congregation had some time to describe its own concerns and ideas for working together in Ashtabula.
- + A joint church picnic was proposed as an opportunity for members to get to know each other. September 13 at 1:00 pm is the proposed date and time, with Lakeshore Park as the meeting place. Jessie Smith will serve as Trinity's contact for this event.

Special Session meeting August 4

- + Rev. Ogie White from COM served as moderator. Rev. John Wahl from the COM also attended.
- + Session reviewed the concerns from the letter of July 14 in detail.
- + Rev. White directed us to look forward to not only look at divisions within our church, but to find ways to work together. We need to tell the congregation that the Session has heard what they have said; Session needs the members to address concerns directly to Session, and we need members to work on committees, and we all need to talk with each other.

Action: The Clerk will send a letter (approved by Session) to the congregation inviting them to attend an open discussion with the Session. *(The letter went out to members on August 10.)*

TRINITY WOMEN...LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

Old friendships are becoming renewed, new friendships are developing!

Friendship is our theme as we see the seasons change and look ahead to viewing God's beauty color our landscape and our lives! Let's enjoy the beauty of autumn together and feel God's grace and spirit among us.

We will caravan together to the Riverside Inn in Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania on **Wednesday, September 30th**. We will depart from the church parking lot at 10:15 a.m. to enjoy a luncheon at this charming, century-old country inn. We plan to arrive in Cambridge Springs by 11:30 a.m. and will then return back to church in the afternoon. If you need a ride to the church - no problem! You will be called on at your home and returned to your doorstep! Just let us know!

In order to accommodate arrangements for the Inn, reservations are due no later than **Wednesday, September 16th**. You can add your name to the sign-up sheet in Shiflet Hall or call the church office, 993-7111. You can also give Jane Wallace a call at 992-0888 or Mary Jepson at 993-8401.

Trinity women -- friendship is our gift from God to each other. Celebrate that gift with us on September 30th!

And the fun continues...ALL Trinity women are invited to a ***"Girls Night Out"*** at the home of Mary Jepson on **Friday, October 23**. We'll celebrate our friendship with some wine and cheese and, of course, some desserts! ***Save the date...more details to follow!***

ALL TRINITY WOMEN WELCOME

Your Help is needed!



As you may know, Trinity is currently without a custodian. The Personnel Committee is in the process of beginning to interview for this position. Until the position is filled we are relying upon the time and talents of our congregation to keep Trinity looking good. If you are able to help out with the routine cleaning activities, please do.

Questions? Talk to and Property & Finance member.

This little light of mine...Check out the new organ lamp!

Here is the history of the lamps:

For many years my wife has been organist and music minister at a larger church in Lakewood Ohio. The church has a fabulous three manual 1963 Holtkamp organ but, like so many organ consoles, music was not well illuminated. During the week she would practice using a large fluorescent adjustable desk lamp. However, due to the placement of the console she could not use the lamp for services as the glare was blinding to the choir and portions of the congregation. So for services she relied upon a typical light attached to the lip of the music rack and ambient lighting in the room.

After years of listening to her complaints, I stumbled upon the idea for the perfect lamp—one which would brightly illuminate the music but had no glare or spillage and would be virtually un-noticed. In the summer of 2008 I installed the prototype Ektralamp—and she loved it. Shortly thereafter I installed opus 2 on her home practice organ.

Now that she had wonderful light at the organ console she asked for equivalent lighting on the grand piano in the sanctuary—so was born the Ektralamp for the Steinway piano. Other musicians got jealous of the perfect lighting so we adapted the piano light to music stands.

Thus was the start of Ektralamp! We now provide both standard and custom-built lamps. We also make lamps for lighting art work, and for podiums, pulpits, and lecterns. Each lamp is hand-made to order in our Cleveland Ohio workshop.

Trinity installed one of these lamps in July.

Will Limkemann, President

TRINITY BOOK CLUB:

The Trinity Book Club was established in 2005, so this season marks our 10th anniversary. The club has 16 members and meets once a month from September through June. Meetings are usually held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. In January through March, we meet on the third Saturday of the month at 10:00 am.

Over the years we have read all types of books: fiction, nonfiction, classic, newly released, etc. Our only rule is that one member must have read a book before it can be recommended to the group. At each meeting we have a discussion of the book, enjoy fellowship with one another, and a hostess provides dessert. In addition, each year we have a special joint gathering and dinner with the book club from the Jefferson United Methodist Church, and in the winter we attend a performance at the Ashtabula Arts Center as a group and read and discuss the play.

To celebrate our anniversary, the group is kicking off the year with a party on Tuesday, September 15th, at 6:00 pm at church. Members are reading a mystery book of their choice and briefly recounting the story to the group. The mystery-themed celebration will include fun and games and dinner.

Upcoming meetings and books are: October 14th - *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and joint meeting with the Jefferson United Methodist Book Club; November 17th - *Lady Almina and the Real Downton Abbey* by the Countess of Carnarvon; December 8th - *A Midnight Carol: A Novel of How Charles Dickens Saved Christmas* by Patricia K. Davis.

New members are always welcome. For questions or to RSVP to the September meeting, call Meghan Davis at 992-8362.

CALLING ALL SUPERHEROES...**Sunday School returns September 13**

Congregational Council has set September 13 as "Rally Day" for Sunday School. There will be activities and games and a special breakfast, beginning at 9:00 am. Becca Stowell is again heading up this effort; volunteers are welcome to join in. This year's theme is 'Superheroes"! Be a hero yourself for our learners.

Bike and Build says Thank You; near goal in Canada

The following note was left by the group that stayed with us on June 30 and July 1. It was signed by all the members of the Bike and Build team. The handwritten note is on the Shiflet Hall bulletin board.

"Dear wonderful, gracious, supportive members of Trinity Presbyterian Church, THANK YOU so much for being so welcoming to our group, hosting us in your church, taking us to your homes for showers, and feeding us the most glorious spread of casseroles we have seen to date. We are humbled by your hospitality, and we really enjoyed getting to know each of you. We were really touched that you all would be so open and warm as to drive us to your individual homes, give us snacks and fluffy towels, and let us use your showers. God bless you all! With love and gratitude, Bike and Build."

At this writing (August 25), the group has crossed into British Columbia, Canada from Washington state. The group was detoured in Washington due to the massive forest fires. The riders should arrive at their final destination of Vancouver, British Columbia, on August 27. To date, they have raised \$ 124, 396 on their route

FAITH LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY FUNDRAISER:

SEPTEMBER 13TH FROM 12:30 P.M—3:00 PM

At Bethany Lutheran Church

933 Michigan Avenue

Food– Bake Sale-Chinese Auction All Proceeds will benefit the food pantry and remain in Ashtabula,

Our giant soup can is pretty empty.

Canned meats, PB& Jelly medium size, canned stew and soup are always needed!

Summer's Not Over Yet!

The 3 churches of Ashtabula—Eastside, First and Trinity, will be hosting a picnic, Sunday, September 13 at 1:00 pm. We will gather at the Overlook Pavillion in Lake Shore Park.

Please bring a dish to share and table service. Beverages will be provided. A sign up sheet is in Shiflet Hall.

Come join the fun!

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Trinity Family and Friends:

Ken Babcock, Lynda Bennett, Bess Dibble, Esther Edeburn, Wanda Frisbie, Claudia and Jim Hakkarainen, Helen Holub, Marj Kenny, Deloris King, Al Olson, Ken Platt, The Reiter/Hanna Family

Trinity College Students:

Kayla Adkins, Cassie Bessant, Kara Bloom, Troy Bloom, Megan Case, Rachael Coutts, Andrea Davis, Stephanie Davis, Becky Depp, Sarah Depp, Alayna Hanna, Kaleb Mukina, Taylor Rowe, Emmy Stowell, Mattie Stowell, Logan Stowell

Trinity Military Family and Friends:

Zac Depp, Chelsea Fleming, Andre Hanna, Anthony Scarcella, Brian Smith, John Smith, Haley Verdi, Kylene Verdi



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SEPTEMBER 25TH

EMAIL TO:

trinitypresbytn@windstream.net

FAMILY LIGHTS UP THE HOLIDAYS FOR RAINBOW

Christmas holds a special meaning for the Millard Family, whose son Zach survived a premature birth and spent the first six months of his life in the neonatal intensive care unit, today known as the Quentin & Elisabeth Alexander NICU, at Rainbow.

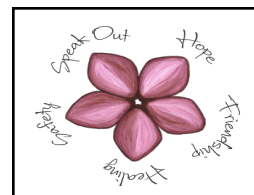
Zach's parents, Bart and Gail Millard (daughter of Jane Planisek), are grateful for his care and celebrate with an astonishing Christmas light display every year that runs from Thanksgiving to the new year and raises funds for Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital. Nearly 30,000 lights adorn their Ashtabula home during the holidays. Over the years, the Millard family has collected thousands of dollars in support of Rainbow, the hospital that saved Zach's life.

Trinity women made a donation to the Millard family in the amount of \$400.00 in June of 2015. We thank God for the Millard family. Zach, we will be back to visit you closer to Christmas. Watch for that bus filled with Trinity women who love and support you.



TRINITY TIMES

From the Interim Pastor



Dear Friends in Christ:

As I continue to get older, I have grown to appreciate of my annual checkup with my family physician more and more. Given my growing number of minor aches and pains, getting accurate and unbiased news from him is very reassuring. My hope is that this note will have a similar outcome.

My doctor always checks my “vital signs”—height, weight, blood pressure, and pulse (I’m doing fine—thanks!). In congregational life, we only have a few statistical “measures” of your spiritual well being. The two activities for which there is direct evidence is your worship attendance and your financial giving to our shared ministries.

Like your medical records, your individual activity is held in the strictest confidence. Right now, our 'numbers' as a congregation are not what we would like to be. Worship attendance and regular giving are down, even for a 'summer slump'. We certainly hope autumn will bring improvement, but that is up to you. I want to ask you to take your own spiritual 'checkup' right now.

First and foremost, I want to encourage you to return to your place in our life together. We want you here, taking your part in our mission and ministry. If there is something in your life that has been keeping from us, ask for the Lord’s help in prayer and give Trinity a chance to help. Perhaps you feel anxious or even hurt by someone or something within the congregation. This can certainly happen; we are a company of forgiven sinners with lots of shortcomings. I am always ready to hear your concerns, so that we can seek a way toward reconciliation and renewal. Finally, if you have already decided to participate with another congregation, please let us know. We would like to commend you to their care, acknowledging their partnership with us in the Lord’s ministry.

In this newsletter, you will read about actions that the Session and concerned members have taken to begin to address this challenge. Some of these discussions have been 'medicine that's hard to swallow', but ultimately helpful. I will say that, in my view, almost all of the conversations have been centered on finding a way forward to renewed and vital ministry at Trinity Presbyterian. These efforts will continue here at Trinity, with support from the Presbytery.

During my checkup, my doctor uses a checklist of things I need avoid, along with things I can do to improve my health. I do not smoke or drink alcohol-- check! Exercise and stress management--not so much. Saint Paul offers a good checklist of spiritual 'tools' for each of us. Take a minute to look over them as you consider the steps you will take to grow in your life in Christ and in vital discipleship here at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against these there is no law." Galatians 6:2.

Grace and Peace to you from the Lord Jesus Christ:
Rev. David Connor

**BETH DOUGHERTY
DEACON ON CALL
440-812-5748**

September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 AI-Anon	2 6:30 Card Ministry	3 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Thursday Ladies 7:15 Deacons	4	5
6 COMMUNION 8:00 AM LAKE SHORE PARK SERVICE 10:30 Worship	7 5:30 WW	8 8:30 ROMEOS @ Deb's Diner 11:30 Game Day 7:00 AI-Anon	9 6:00 Comm. Council 6:30 Card Ministry	10 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Thursday Ladies 7:00 Prop./Finance	11	12 Delta Kappa Gamma Breakfast/Meeting
13 2¢ A MEAL 9:00 Choir Practice Rally Day Breakfast 9:00 am 10:30 Worship East-First-Trinity Picnic 1:00 Pot luck @ Lake Shore Park	14 5:30 WW 7:00 Cong. Council	15 5:00 Book Club Meeting/Dinner 7:00 AI-Anon	16 6:30 Card Ministry 7:00 Session	17 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Thursday Ladies Free Family Dinner@Trinity Time: 5:00 to 7:00	18	19
20 9:00 Choir 9:30 Kids Breakfast 10:30 Worship	21 5:30 WW	22 11:30 Game Day 7:00 AI-Anon	23 6:30 Card Ministry	24 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Thursday Ladies	25 <u>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</u>	26
27 9:00 Choir 9:30 Kids Breakfast 10:30 Worship	28 5:30 WW	29 7:00 AI-Anon	30 6:30 Card Ministry			