

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1342 PROSPECT ROAD
ASHTABULA OH 44004
www.trinityashtabula.org

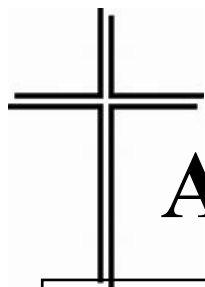
FEBRUARY 2024
NEWSLETTER



“By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are **dust**, and to **dust** you shall return.”

Genesis 3:19





Ashtabula Times



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

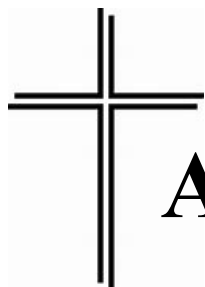
Americans love their crime shows. We have watched Law and Order and we have watched shows about true cases and true criminals. We love to watch the witnesses give testimony and lawyers argue the merits of a case. We love to watch the guilty be held accountable and we love to watch Matlock defend the innocent. But America loves to watch the spectacle of justice and the justice system, whether real or fictional.

Perhaps then we can understand what Jesus was speaking about moments before leaving his disciples after his crucifixion and resurrection. He informs them *you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*. Witnesses are those people who have watched what happened and then testify to others about what they have seen. The disciples saw Jesus, dead and then alive. The disciples saw the descent of the Holy Spirit and the daily work of the Spirit creating communities of faith, building up the people, calling to repentance and conversion, forgiving sins, and making all things new. The disciples saw these things and testified to others throughout the world about what they saw and what they were seeing.

So, it is with me. I have been graciously blessed to watch over the last year what the Holy Spirit is doing among our communities. I have watched how God has merged two faith communities into one. I have watched how new excitement and passion has been turned loose upon these congregations. I have watched how these two communities have found a new sense of call, new people to lead and contribute, the growth of those leaders who have been leading for years and new connections we never noticed were always there. I have watched and I have been floored in wonder and awe at the new things the Spirit of God is creating. I have watched and I am humbled that God would do such mighty and loving things among and to us.

Take for example our engagement with our communities. I have seen you embrace the work of ministering to victims of domestic violence with fundraising baskets. I have seen you gather blankets and sheets, bags of food and hats and gloves. I have seen you adopt children in Ashtabula and around the world for Christmas. I have seen you purchase beds and clothes for foster children. I have seen you give resources to needy families to have holiday meals. I have seen you buy appliances and food for complete strangers. I have seen you connect with homeless people through the blessing box and people in the neighborhood adjacent to the garden. I have seen you bake pies and sell rummage. I have seen the love of God given to you and you have given it to others and for that I am in wonder and gratitude that I should be able to witness such things.

But it isn't just our work that God is creating but also our worship. I have seen you find a new way to sing together and to play instruments together for the glory of God. I have seen you step out into the uncomfortable and different sanctuaries. I have seen you wrestling with what is truly important about worship and what can be accommodated. I have watched you find the joy and community behind
(continued on page 3)



Ashtabula Times

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK (CONTINUED)

worship again instead of the drudgery and isolation of times past. I have watched you embrace roles of leadership and care for one another and perhaps even connections with other communities that the body of Christ is. I have seen the timid find their voices. I have seen the guilty find forgiveness. I have seen the scared find courage. I have seen the love you have rediscovered for God and for that I am in wonder and gratitude that I should be able to witness such things.

Friends, I have watched the last year with a sense of awe and gratitude, that I should be a witness to the work which God is doing among Trinity and Eastside. I hope you can begin to see all that God is doing and that you would share in the wonder and gratitude also. I also hope that you can see the major and minor changes that have already happened and see that we have not only survived, but we have prospered and grown because of God. Celebrate with me all that God has done, all that God has changed, and all that God has blessed us with. Rejoice with me and let this year be more. Amen.

In Christ,

Rev. Mark

REPORT FROM TRINITY SCRIP FUND

Dee Fassett and Mary Belding provided gift cards that, in turn, provided rebates that made it possible for the Scrip Program to contribute to Trinity.

For 2023

Beginning balance 1/1/23:	\$ 1,211.07
<i>Income from sales:</i>	<i>42,146.00</i>
<i>Cost of cards):</i>	<i>(41,591.79)</i>
<i>Shipping</i>	<i>(315.00)</i>
Ending balance 12/31/23:	\$ 1,450.28



We were fortunate to have church members encourage groups to purchase gift cards from Scrip.

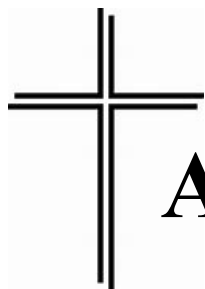
The Ashtabula County Fraternal Order of Police purchased gift cards for their Shop-with-a Cop. East Side Presbyterian Church purchased gift cards for use in a community outreach project. Faith Lutheran Food Pantry used Scrip for gift cards distributed at Christmastime.

Thanks to all who have supported this mission though the years. We will no longer be selling Scrip cards weekly. We will sell off our inventory prior to contributing the balance in our fund.

We do plan to have gift cards available for ordering in November for use for Christmas gifts.

Mary Belding

Dee Fassett



Ashtabula Times



2024 per capita is \$38.00

REPORT FROM TRINITY'S SESSION

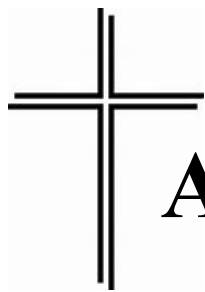
Report from Session

On Wednesday January 17, 2024 Session met. The normal business was carried out, including:

- Approval of minutes of December session meeting.
- Approval of minister's report
- Election of Officers:
 - ◊ President-Beth Dougherty
 - ◊ Financial Secretary-David Adams
 - ◊ Clerk-Mary Belding
 - ◊ Treasurer- Gina Bartone of G&J Consulting
- Committee chairs were named:
 - ◊ Worship & Music-Hobart Shiflet
 - ◊ Community Outreach-Pam Bloom
 - ◊ Property and Finance- Beth Dougherty
 - ◊ Deacons: Rev. Mong will moderate meetings
 - ◊ Fellowship- Ruth Allen
 - ◊ Memorial- Nancy Sabo
 - ◊ Emergency and Safety – Hobart Shiflet
 - ◊ The Personnel Committee- Class of 2024 Beth Dougherty
Class of 2025-Richard Fassett
Class of 2026-Becca Stowell
 - ◊ Nominating Committee- second term Elder Richard Fassett
- The Church Statistical Report was approved as presented by the Clerk.
- Communion will be observed if/when we are worshipping at Trinity-
 - ◊ The first Sunday of each month
 - ◊ Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve.
- Session will continue to meet on the Third Wednesday of each month at 7:00, with two exceptions: February will meet jointly with Deacons at 6:00, and no meeting in July.
- Deacons will hold a Shrove Tuesday Supper. Elders will assist. Proceeds will go to the work of the Deacons.
- Ushers for February will be Cathy Wood and Jessie Smith. Liturgists will be Mary Belding and Becca Stowell.
- The moderators for the Ashtabula County Cluster are meeting to discern the path forward for Presbyterianism in Ashtabula County.



Mary Belding, Clerk of Session



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EASTSIDE'S MEETING SCHEDULE

Combined Choir—Every Sunday, 9am at Trinity in February

Worship and Music—Monday, February 12th, 6:30pm

Session—Monday, February 19th, 6:30pm

Knitting Group—2nd and 4th Tuesday of Each Month from 10am—12pm

Outreach—February 18th following Worship



EASTSIDE'S BIRTHDAYS

Ellen Jacobs—18th

Keegan Sweet - 24th

Ellen Robinson - 28th



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

We will be celebrating Ash Wednesday, which is the beginning of the Lenten season on February 14, 2024 at 7pm in Trinity's Sanctuary. We will be dedicating ourselves to Lenten Disciplines of repentance, imposing ashes, and celebrating communion. Please join us as we prepare ourselves once again for the Crucifixion, Resurrection and Exaltation of Jesus Christ.



TOWN HALL MEETING

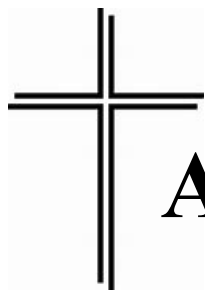


We will be having a Town Hall Meeting for Trinity, Eastside and anyone else that would like to attend on February 28, 2024 at 6:30pm in Trinity's Sanctuary. We will engage in a time of storytelling around the last 6 months and in a time of discerning for the next 6 months and perhaps even more. Please join us for a time of conversation and discernment.



John Lockhart, Sandra & Arnold Brown, Jerry Jeffries, Dale Fassett, Family of John Pildner, Jim and Carolyn Johnston, Marty Perry, Pat Ford, The Looman Family, and Family of Joyce Edgren

PRAYER LIST



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WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



February 2024

February 4th		Trinity
February 11th	Trinity Congregational Meeting	Trinity
February 14th	Ash Wednesday	Trinity
February 18th		Trinity
February 25th		Trinity

March 2024

March 3rd		Eastside
March 10th		Eastside
March 17th		Eastside
March 24th		Eastside
March 28th	Maundy Thursday	Eastside
March 31st	Easter Sunday	Eastside

LENTEN SUPPER/SERVICE

Below is the schedule containing the dates and locations for our Lenten Mid-Week Services.



Thursday, February 22nd at 6pm — Trinity Fellowship Hall

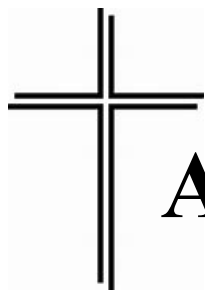
Thursday, February 29th at 6pm — Eastside Dining Room

Thursday, March 7th at 6pm — Trinity Fellowship Hall

Thursday, March 14th at 6pm — Eastside Dining Room

Thursday, March 21st at 6pm — Trinity Fellowship Hall

Dinner consisting of soup, bread, drinks and desserts will begin at 6pm. A brief prayer/worship service will begin following supper. Please join us for a time of food and worship during this Lenten Season.



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JOINT COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community Outreach met jointly after worship service Sunday, January 21, 2024.

Discussion and thank you cards read regarding the Christmas missions and the Ladies Night Out.

New Members Barb Jefferies, Keegan Sweet, Becca Stowell and Kathy Wood were welcomed to the Committee.

It was reported that \$475.00 was spent from the Kid's Only Mission Fund for immediate clothing needs. Also, \$500.00 in loose coin was collected in 2023 for this Kid's Only Mission fund.



A stove was donated to an independent parent in need as well as \$425.00 in grocery gift cards on Christmas Eve.

The "Souper" Bowl collection and fellowship will be during the month of February with a Soup Fellowship hour to be held Sunday, February 11, 2024. G.O. Ministries is requesting cans of Cream of Mushroom, Cream of Chicken and Chicken noodle soups.



Information regarding the Remote Area Medical event was read. Donation discussions will be held by the individual churches as well as volunteer participation.

Minutes for Mission will be read by Sara Wetzel at East Side and Kathy and Dee Fassett at Trinity regarding collection for purchasing items from the Presbytery Giving Catalog. Lenten Soup Suppers will take donations to be given to this mission project.

Joyce Kren will be organizing a Spring Ladies Night Out.

Rosemary Peck will host a Painting group at East Side on Mondays during the month of February from 9 a.m. until noon.



New information regarding SARA (Sharing America's Resources Abroad) was received from Kathy Fassett. Kathy will research this mission and look into having someone come and speak during Church service.

The next meeting will be February 1, 2024 at Trinity following worship service.