

MARCH 2017

Trinity Times



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Men hate to ask for directions when they are lost. We have been known to travel many miles in the wrong direction simply so we do not have to stomach the veritable indignity of asking another for help. Rather than turn around and admit our wrong turn, we press on recognizing a landmark on the right track and therefore never being on the wrong track. Even with GPS devices telling us to turn around or recalculating, we hate the idea of admitting to ourselves and our significant others that we made a wrong turn. We hate to ask for directions.

So too do we in our Christian lives. Over the course of our lives we inevitably make a wrong turn, a poor choice or we find ourselves in bad habits and rebellious attitudes. Or to use our analogy, to be sinful humans is to be lost. Our wrong turns lead to confusion and uncertainty. Our poor choices lead to guilt and harm. Our bad habits lead to bondage and captivity. Our rebellions lead to isolation and forsakenness. We end up lost and needing to turn around.

But perhaps the more sinister aspect of our sinful lives is not the sinful choices, the guilt or the isolation, the more sinister part of our sinfulness is our unwillingness to ask for help. The bigger problem is our pride. We hate asking for or needing to begin with the help of someone else. We hate asking for directions when we are lost and we continue heading in the wrong direction instead of turning around. We wish to be self-reliant and self-determining human beings. We hate asking for directions.

Perhaps that is why the gospel is such good news for us. Not only has God's Word become flesh in Jesus of Nazareth, to be crucified and resurrected to buy our pardon. But, perhaps more importantly God's Word became flesh in Jesus of Nazareth to repent in our place. To repent is literally to turn around. Therefore, Jesus repented for us because we would not do it. Jesus repented in place of us because we could not do it. Jesus did what we should have done, Jesus stopped and asked for directions even though he did not need to do so. The good news for us is that because Jesus is God he is the one saving and because Jesus is human he is the one being saved.

If we have truly been baptized into Christ through the Holy Spirit, then we now already share in Jesus' repentance. We now share in the turning back of Jesus to God. Who better to help us repent than Christ? Through Christ, we now become like Christ. This means that we can suffer our pride and ask for help and help is given. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, we can now make the necessary U-Turns in our lives to become christs ourselves. Alleluia! Alleluia!

As we enter into another season of Lent, it seems only fitting and true that we disciples of Christ look inward in introspection to discover the areas and places of our lives in need of a "turning around." Not through our own efforts, or in our own power, or by our own abilities, but only because we have been baptized into Jesus Christ. Through his efforts, in his power and by his abilities, let us once again yield to Christ in faith and let us repent or "turn around" unto eternal life. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen.

In Christ,

Rev. Mark

Note from Session:

Your Session is leading prayerfully and with guidance from Rev. Mark.

Session has joyfully approved moving ahead with Trinity's journey of transformation and discovery as outlined by Rev. Mong in the recently held Town Hall Meetings.

Trinity's committees are charged with doing God's work in our church. Being active in this committee work means being active in God's work. If you who feel called to assist with any of these committees, please contact the chair.

Chairs for our standing committees include:

Christian Education - Jessie Smith

Community Outreach - Pam Bloom

Fellowship - Nancy Sabo

Funeral Dinners - Nancy Sabo

Nominating Committee - Susan Hogle

Personnel - Norm Jepson

Property and Finance - Hobart Shiflet

Stewardship - Susan Hogle

Session will be working with Rev. Mark on creating guidelines and policies for baptisms, funerals, and marriages.

There is an Elder on Call for each month, as named in the weekly bulletin. That person will gladly listen to any questions, concerns, and joys you may have concerning Trinity.

Blessings,

Mary Belding, Clerk



CURRENT DEACONS AND ELDERS—PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15TH 6:00 P.M.

POT LUCK DINNER—FOLLOWED BY A JOINT MEETING—FOLLOWED BY INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Christian Education

The Christian Education Committee is excited that the Sunday School classes are so well attended. On average, 8 children are participating each week. We have a wonderful group of 11 creative women sharing the word of God with our Young Disciples each week. Teachers are using the topics Rev. Mark uses in worship for the Young Disciples. Each class expands on what Rev. Mark introduces to the children.

This week the children hosted the Coffee Hour. Their menu choice was to have an ice cream bar. They helped set up the tables with all the things you might want on your ice cream. Then sat with adults introducing themselves and engaging in conversation with their tablemates. Our young people love taking part in the activities of the church. This is evident in the growing number of children requesting to serve as acolytes. Plans are in progress for the children to host the Mother's Day Coffee Hour in May.

The adult class is also well attended. Rev. Mark discusses the Books of the Gospel on Sunday mornings at 9:15. Beginning Wednesday, March 1, Rev. Mark will present an Adult Study of the book of Romans at 10:00 a.m. We're hoping if you can't make one class, you'll be able to attend the other. Or, you're certainly welcome to attend both classes.

The next Christian Education Committee meeting will be Monday, March 13 at 6:30.

1 Timothy 4:12 *Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.*

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship committee is embarking on an exciting new year.

The theme of this year's "One Great Hour of Sharing" is "You Shall Be Called Repairers of the Breach" (Isaiah 28). Our gifts will be divided into three on going needs

- **Hunger—Disaster—Development**

These gifts are used in the United States as well as around the world. Last year gifts from "One Great Hour of Sharing" were used to help Michigan with the water supply during the Flint Michigan water lead problem. Money was also used to promote agriculture practices in India as well as responding to the needs of displaced persons in Syria. These are only a few of the needs provided help with this program. Please prayerfully consider your gift to this program. New ideas are being considered for our pledge program as well as the true meaning of stewardship. Stewardship is a personal commitment.

With God's help we will grow and learn His will for stewardship.

Respectfully,

Susan Hogle

January 2017

Income \$11,759.72

Expenses 10,267.51

We were 1,528.21 ahead for January

\$1,000 from Scrip fund and \$500 from Presbyterian Foundation for Music.

These two amounts are once a year income. Support the Scrip program maybe we can increase it.

Please remember your Per Capita of \$29.00 per member.

Our per capita expense to be paid this year is \$5,046.00. We have received \$726 of that so far.

Thank You,

Lois J. Fassett

Treasurer

TRINITY BOOK CLUB

Trinity Book Club will meet **Tuesday, March 21, 2017** at 7:00 pm to discuss *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout. The book, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, is set in a small Maine town. The author weaves thirteen stories of townspeople grappling with their problems, mild and dire, and the main character Olive is brought to a deeper understanding of herself and her life—sometimes painfully, but always with ruthless honesty. *Olive Kitteridge* offers profound insights into the human condition—its conflicts, its tragedies and joys, and the endurance it requires.

Melanie Todd will lead the discussion and Beth Jepson will be hostess. Please RSVP to Maryann Jordan at [964-9690](tel:964-9690).



Food Pantry Donations Needed

This is something we all can do!

The soup can is located near the kitchen. Food that is placed in the can benefits church members and friends as well as Faith Lutheran Food Pantry.

Suggested items:

Canned Meats

Canned fruits

Nutritional snack bars

Peanut Butter and Jelly (small /medium in size)

Juice boxes

Non perishable foods.

Please check expiration dates when cleaning out your cabinets. We have to dispose of anything out of date.

Egg cartons welcome. 18 PACK NOT ACCEPTED.



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

May your Ash Wednesday be a time
of reflection and promise.

ShannonBook.com

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Wednesday March 1, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.

**Ash Wednesday Service will include Communion
and Imposition of Ashes.**



Please join us! Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 28, 2017 from 4:30—7:00 p.m.

Pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee, apple juice and milk provided.

Free Will Offering will be accepted. Everyone is welcome! Bring your friends!



Lynda Bennett, Bess Dibble, Dee Fassett, Lester Frisbie, Betty Frost, Jim Hakkarainen, The family of Fran and Pete Wilson

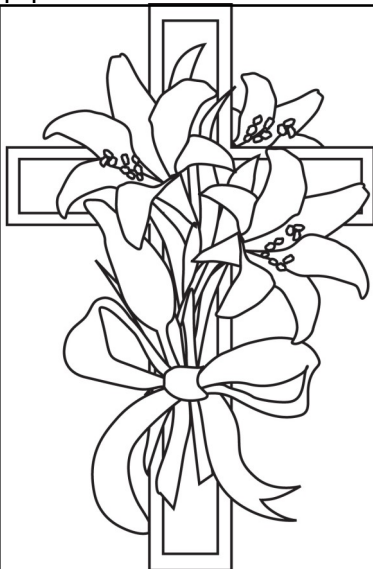
Andre' Hanna has made E-4 Petty Officer. Andre' is stationed in Maryland with the Navy, He is the son of Christina Bratzel and grandson of Craig & Karen Reiter.

Alayna Hanna has been selected to do an internship this summer at Big Cats Rescue in Tampa, FLA. Alayna is completing her sophomore year at Miami University, Oxford Ohio, studying Zoology. She is the daughter of Christina Bratzel, and granddaughter of Craig & Karen Reiter.

Prayers are asked for the **3rd Brigade, 215 BSB Battalion, Alpha Company** as they are departing for Kuwait. **Chelsea Fleming** (granddaughter of Karen & Craig Reiter) is a part of this Brigade. Chelsea is not leaving just yet, but her Company is starting to be sent in shifts.

Congratulations to **Zac Depp** and **Maggie Brockschmidt** who were married on February 18, 2017 in Kansas. Zack is the son of David and Kathy Depp. Congratulations Zach and Maggie! May your love for each other always reflect God's love for you.

Lilies will once again adorn our chancel on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017. If you wish to sponsor a lily as a memorial or in honor of family or friends, please complete this form and return it with payment to the offering plate or the church office no later than **April 2, 2017**.



_____ Lilies (only) @ \$7.50 each \$_____ enclosed

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

By _____

Checks made payable to Trinity Presbyterian Church

March 2017

DEACON ON CALL:

ELDER ON CALL : RUTH Ann Ayers 440-422-3418

LITURGIST: Ruth Ann Ayers



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 Ash Wednesday 7:30 AAMA LENTEN BREAKFAST 10:00 am Adult Study/Romans 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	2 10:00 Prayer Group Thursday Ladies 6:30 Bell Practice	3	4
5 COMMUNION 9:00 Choir 9:15 Adult Study 10:30 Worship/SS Fellowship Meeting After Worship	6 6:30 Baptism Class	7 11:30 Game Day 8:00 Al-Anon	8 7:30 AAMA LENTEN BREAKFAST 10:00 am Adult Study/Romans 6:30 Card Ministry	9 10:00 Prayer Group Thursday Ladies 6:30 Bell Practice 7:30 Prop. Fin. Mtg.	10 10:00 Brown Bag Ladies	11
12 2¢ A Meal 9:00 Choir 9:15 Adult Study 10:30 Worship/SS	13 6:30 CE Meeting	14 8:00 ROMEOS@ Deb's 8:00 Al-Anon	15 7:30 AAMA LENTEN BREAKFAST 10:00 am Adult Study/Romans 6:00 Pot Luck/Joint Meeting of the Deacon and Session 6:30 Card Ministry	16 10:00 Prayer Group Thursday Ladies 1:30 Worship Meeting 6:30 Bell Practice	17	18
19 9:00 Choir 9:15 Adult Study 10:30 Worship/SS Pot Luck After Worship	20	21 11:30 Game Day 8:00 Al-Anon	22 7:30 AAMA LENTEN BREAKFAST 10:00 am Adult Study/Romans 6:30 Card Ministry	23 10:00 Prayer Group Thursday Ladies 6:30 Bell Practice	24	25
26 9:00 Choir 9:15 Adult Study 10:30 Worship/SS	27 <u>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</u> Presby. Meeting Old Stone Church	28 8:00 Al-Anon	29 7:30 AAMA LENTEN BREAKFAST 10:00 am Adult Study/Romans 6:30 Card Ministry	30 10:00 Prayer Group Thursday Ladies 6:30 Bell Practice	31	