

# Trinity Times

OCTOBER 2017



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

College football has its storied rivalries. In Ohio, the great rivalry is between Ohio State and that team up North we never speak aloud and in polite company. In the South, the great rivalry is between Alabama and Auburn or perhaps between Georgia and Florida. But, what makes a rivalry great is the competitiveness between the two schools. Each one trying to get ahead of the other with trash talking and bragging rights for another year. Both schools want to crush the other school and will stop at no lengths to do so. We know about rivalries, some are friendly and some not so much.

But, we also know about rivalries in our world. Change the name from OSU vs. Michigan, to Democrat vs. Republican and we need no stretch in logic. If we were to edit the sides to CNN vs. Fox News we don't need our imaginations at all to understand. If we were to modify the names to Patriot and Protestor, we don't require a high IQ to understand rivalries. The spirit of competitiveness, the trash talking, the bragging, the domination, the power struggles; these are the things that make a great rivalry, not just on the football field, but in politics, in society and dare I say it, even in the Church.

Rivalries are nothing new; neither in the forum, nor the marketplace, nor the Church. In the letter to the Philippians, Paul the pastor is writing to a Church mired deep in rivalry. Two individuals whose names are Euodia and Syntyche, have involved the Church in a rivalry which rivals Saturday football. The Church's existence is threatened to be torn in two, with unity replaced by division, sibling affection replaced by selfishness, and Jesus' mission replaced by a good old-fashioned power struggle, or "turf war."

In our world of power struggles, selfish agendas, and personal rivalries, perhaps this advice from a concerned pastor still holds true today: *Be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that is in Christ Jesus.* (Philippians 2:2-5)

In 2017, our world bears many similarities to the world of old. Many humans pursue selfish ambitions and have old prejudices. Many humans look only to their own interests, instead of the interests of others, including the interests of Jesus Christ. Many create divisions and rivalries instead of building unity and peacemaking. Many contend with others over property, prestige, possessions, and power; many clearly lack the mind of Jesus Christ.

But for all those who possess the Spirit of Jesus Christ, they already possess the mind of Christ. Jesus is already their possession and Jesus already possess them. But, we need to think differently, to possess a different attitude, to act differently. Perhaps to have the same mind as Christ, we need to change; and no change is more needed than living a life filled by the Holy Spirit than a life filled by some other spirit. Perhaps then we need to live lives in collaboration with people we disagree with instead of living lives in contention. Perhaps like Euodia and Syntyche, we need to learn to work together instead of against.

My friends, if we have the gift of the Holy Spirit then we are different than those who do not. While the ones without the Spirit pursue selfish desires and agendas, we pursue the desires and agendas of others, including Jesus' agenda. While the ones without the Spirit compete and divide, we pursue partnership and unity. While the ones without Jesus practice rivalries filled with hate, we practice peacemaking filled with love. Clearly then, we must choose one or the other because they mutually exclude themselves. The good news of the Gospel is that Jesus has already made that choice for you, so become then who you already are: Sons and Daughters of a gracious and loving God. Let us collaborate as equals instead of competing as rivals.

In Christ,  
Rev. Mark

**SESSION:**

What an active church Trinity is!

Our committees being led by your elders are involved with church repairs and church acquisitions (Property and Finance), reaching out to our neighbors (Community Outreach), reaching out to our members (Deacons), helping our youngsters grow in Christ (Christian Ed), bringing us together and serving funeral dinners Fellowship), searching for a custodian (Personnel), leading us in sharing our gifts (Stewardship), organizing our worship services (Worship and Music), and finding us new leadership (Nominating).

Besides being leaders of our various committees, Session, with the help of Rev. Mong, is "taking care of business" in writing policies, cleaning up our Inactive Rolls, and overseeing the work that is being done at and through Trinity.

What can you do to be a part of this church? Join with one of these committees to help Trinity grow and share the love of Christ! Pray for your leaders and your pastor, that we may all do our best to follow God's call.

As we move into beginning our second year with Rev. Mong, we are looking forward to continuing leading Trinity prayerfully and with guidance from Rev. Mark.

Blessings,

Mary Belding, Clerk

**AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Income:       \$ 5,757.00  
Expenses:     13,528.24

Difference    - 7,771.24       This leaves a balance of \$8,206.45 in our operating account at the end of August. We will have to take more out of our investment accounts to help us through the end of the year.

Part of the shortage is the expense of the sidewalk replacement which was \$2900. In September we got a \$950 rebate from the city for that sidewalk. This was an expense we were not budgeted for. Our current pledges are coming in as budgeted. The expenses are over as far as the budget prediction but only in the property maintenance and utilities. Those are unpredictable expenses.

The per capita will have to be paid soon. That is \$5,046.  
We have only collected \$1553.00 as of the end of August.  
If you have not paid your per capita of \$29 per member, please do so ASAP.

Thank you to all of you for keeping your giving current. Your commitment is a blessing to our church.

Lois J.Fassett

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH:**

Community Council had a social evening in lieu of their meeting in July. We provided lunches two weeks prior to the children returning to school. Parents and children enjoyed free lunches prepared by committee members.

Several members attended the fresh produce distribution; food bank and clothing drive at the Plymouth Methodist Church. Everyone who participated felt that this was a very worthwhile and rewarding experience. The produce distribution is the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month from 2:00 until 5:00 pm. And the food drive is Monday/Wednesday/Saturday from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. Anyone want to go help out or just see what they are doing please see a committee member.

At sessions' approval we will be looking into assisting with Plymouth Methodist Churches food bank. Further information is being gathered and we will be getting information out to you soon.

Due to a full calendar in the spring the annual "Baby Shower" has been rescheduled for Sunday, October 8, 2017. during fellowship hour. Donations will be given to G.O. Ministries which stocks early childhood needs for the H.elp for I.ndependent P.arent P.rogram

Better known as HIPP.

Looking ahead . The Halloween Party is October 28, 2017 from 12-2 pm. Anyone that is

**BETHLEHEM EXPERIENCE:**

Trinity has accepted an invitation to participate in the "Bethlehem Experience". This event will be held Friday December 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday December 9 from approximately 5:30 P.M to 8:30 P.M. (Flyers will be prepared soon.)

Through grant funds and local donations the old Dillard's store in the Ashtabula Mall has been secured as a site to recreate Bethlehem and the Christmas Story. There will be various scenes acted out by local churches, a marketplace and refreshments. This is an exciting new endeavor and the opportunity for us to ban together with other churches and share Christ's story.

We will be seeking "Trinity helpers" to create a scene with Elizabeth and Mary. Also there will be a need for tour guides, greeters, refreshment servers, etc. Community Council has accepted this invitation on behalf of Trinity but will certainly be looking for more "Bethlehem" participants from our church family. Let's show our local churches what we are able to do!

Community Outreach

## THE EDEN PROJECT:

Our growing season is almost finished. We had a good year in spite of our late start. We have joyfully shared our produce with the Dream Center and our congregation. Thank you to some of our church family have also shared from their gardens!

Our flower bed near our memorial benches has had several gifts from our church members. Hopefully it will continue to help us share its beauty with our neighbors. Spending time in our garden is a delight and a great way to meet our neighbors.

You are all welcome to share in the joy of the garden. If you have ideas for what you would like to see there, or how we can better serve Trinity, please let us know.

Peace,

Joyce Kren and Mary Belding



The Church picnic was on Sunday Aug.20th. It was very well attended. As always there was plenty of good food and fellowship. 54 attended. On Sunday, October 1st we will celebrated the Anniversary of Rev. Mark Mong leading our Congregation. No other plans are in the works at this time. If there is something you would like us to do, please let me know.

In Christian Love  
Nancy Sabo



Emily Olson  
Hannah Olson  
Kenzie McGill  
Cole McGill  
Praying with Rev. Mark  
during the Children's  
Messages.





The Stewardship Committee and Rev. Mong have discussed in length the meaning of "Stewardship" and how we will lead our church members in a right direction. Unfortunately, many Christians today only associate the idea of stewardship with sermons about church budgets and building programs. We hope to break out of that mold, and implant the idea of what **biblical stewardship** actually involves!

This year we will not have the pledge card to fill out. Instead, we will strengthen our Faith in "giving" because each of us will strengthen our commitment to God and we will give out of gratitude and responsibility and express our obedience regarding the administration of everything God has placed under our control. It is a commitment of one's self and our possessions ( whether it be our money, our time or our talents, wisdom, relationships, and authority ) to **God's service**.

We are called as God's stewards to manage that which belongs to God. It's time to take a step back and look at our lives. We have responsibilities as stewards of our church. Take a long look at the blessings we have been given. We support our church out of Love and Gratitude and Caring. Are you prepared to commit for the right reasons ? Let's get on board together and face the challenges that are ahead of us. The simple truth is evident....it connects what we do with what God does in this world.

The Stewardship Committee

## TRINITY BOOK CLUB



Trinity Book club got back into the swing of things by enjoying a view of our beautiful Lake Erie at their September meeting, which was held at Arlene Kerneklian's home. Beth Adams reviewed James Michener's book *The Source*, an historical novel about the beginning of religion.

We will join Jefferson United Methodist's Book Club on Wednesday, October 11th at 6:30. After dinner we will discuss *Destiny of the Republic* written by Candice Millard.

Tuesday, November 14th at 7:00 we will meet at Trinity for a discussion of *The Last Days of Night: A Novel*, written by Graham Moore.

Six of our 15 members attend Trinity. They include Fran Wilson, Pat Strock, Barb McClure, Maryann Jordan, Cheryle Chiaramonte and Beth Adams. Because we are at full capacity, a daytime book club might be a welcome addition to Trinity's activities

Beth Adams



The Worship and Music committee is still looking for volunteers to usher during the month of December. May the Lord richly bless all those who have volunteered to assist during the services so far this year. Your work is greatly appreciated.

**BABY SHOWER AFTER WORSHIP ON  
OCTOBER 8**

Benefits G.O. Ministries—HIPP Ministry

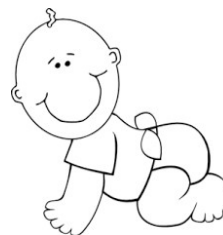
**There will be cake!**

**Please consider a**

**gift of:**

**diapers**

**wipes**



**blankets, health and hygiene, clothes, for babies and small children. Everyone is invited,**



September saw our church celebrating Back-To-Church Sunday. We had our children back in worship, as well as back learning about God. Several things about our Sunday Mornings have changed. No longer will we be calling our time together Sunday School, but we will begin to call it Faith Builders. Our group will be split into three age categories. Children in Kindergarten and younger, called Little Lambs, begin their time together in the old Sunday School classroom with a very short lesson on the Children's Message and then have play time in the nursery. Our older elementary children from 1<sup>st</sup> grade to 5<sup>th</sup> grade,

called SPY's (Spirit Powered Youth), spends their time together in the Hoyt Room with lessons and activities centered around the Children's Message. Our teens in grades 6 and up spend their time together in our youth group, Sunday evenings at 6:30pm in the Hoyt Room. Our teachers and our helpers rotate over the course of a month covering the Little Lambs one week and then the SPY's another week. Rev. Mark leads the youth group Sunday evening. Look for the young people moving around and searching out God's Word.

Christian Education Committee

**TRINITY WOMEN!!!**

*All women of Trinity Church are  
invited to an afternoon  
of fun and fellowship!*



*Let's take advantage of these beautiful  
autumn days and enjoy the colors of  
God's beauty at **Brant's Apple Orchard.***

*For those who would like to share a ride,  
we will meet at the church at  
**noon on Thursday, October 12***

*If you prefer to meet at the apple orchard,  
we will gather there at  
12:30 for lunch and **DONUTS!***

*To help with arrangements, a sign-up sheet is on  
the bulletin board in our fellowship hall.*

*"But if we walk in the light  
as He is in the light,*



The families of:

Bess Dibble

Esther Edeburn

Lester Frisbie

Jim Hakkarainen

Tommy Waldron



**Meredith Ayers, Ken Babcock, Lynda Bennett,  
Roger Dibble, Dee Fassett, Paul Ferry, Julie and  
Mark Forgach, Al Headman, Pauline Headman  
Maryann Jordan, The family of Dorothy Keel,  
Don Maginnis, Sarah Mandrake, Steve Nelson,  
Carol Rich, Wanda Schwentker, Sandi Sowrey,  
Christi Stroud, Dave VanLooke, Jean Waldron,**

# October 2017

PEG LADU—LITURGIST

HOGLE/PLANSISEK TEAM—USHERS

DEACON ON CALL: Please call the church office  
993-7111 or Call Jane Wallace 992-0888

ELDER ON CALL RUTH ANN AYERS 440-422-3418

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> World Communion 9:00 Choir 9:15 Adult CE 10:30 Worship 10:45 Faith Builders 6:30 Youth Group <b>CONG. MEETING            AFTER WORSHIP</b> Rev. Mark 1 year Anniversary Lunch	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 11:30 Game Day  8:00 Al-Anon	<b>4</b> 10:00 Adult CE 12:00 Finance Meeting  6:30 Deacons Meeting 6:30 Card Ministry	<b>5</b> 9:00 Directory Mtg. 10:00 Prayer Group 10:00 Thursday Ladies  <b>FAITH IN ACTION            DINNER 4:30-6:30</b> Bells 6:30	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 2 <sup>d</sup> A Meal Collection 9:00 Choir 9:15 Adult CE 10:30 Worship 10:45 Faith Builders 6:30 Youth Group  <b>BABY SHOWER            AFTER WORSHIP</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 8:00 ROMEO'S @ Deb's Lester Frisbie Funeral Service 10:00—11:00 Calling Hours 11:00 Service @Trinity  8:00 Al-Anon	<b>11</b> 10:00 Adult CE  6:30 Card Ministry	<b>12</b> 10:00 Prayer Group 10:00 Thursday Ladies 12:00 Women to Brant's  Bells 6:30 Property/Finance 7:30	<b>13</b> 10:00 Brown Bag Ladies	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00 Choir 9:15 Adult CE 10:30 Worship 10:45 Faith Builders 6:30 Youth Group  <b>FELLOWSHIP-            DEACONS</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 11:30 Game Day  8:00 Al-Anon Anniversary Celebration	<b>18</b> 10:00 Adult CE  6:00 Comm. Outreach 6:30 Card Ministry 7:00 Session	<b>19</b> 10:00 Prayer Group 10:00 Thursday Ladies  Worship/Music ?? Bells 6:30	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00 Choir 9:15 Adult CE 10:30 Worship 10:45 Faith Builders 6:30 Youth Group Stewardship Mtg. AW	<b>23</b> <u>NEWSLETTER            DEADLINE</u>  6:30 C E MEETING	<b>24</b>  8:00 Al-Anon	<b>25</b> 10:00 Adult CE  6:30 Card Ministry	<b>26</b> 10:00 Prayer Group 10:00 Thursday Ladies  Bells 6:30	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Community Outreach Fall Fun Day 12:00-2:00
<b>29</b> Reformation Sunday 9:00 Choir 9:15 Adult CE 10:30 Worship 10:45 Faith Builders 6:30 Youth Group  <b>CONGREGATIONAL            MEETING AFTER            WORSHIP</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 11:30 Game Day				