

TRINITY TIMES

2017



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The harvest season has begun. The time is upon us where we spend time picking the fruits of our gardens or if you are like me, when we spend time shopping in farmer's markets picking the fruits of other's gardens. But, the time is here to enjoy fresh fruits, vegetables, and flowers, the product of this year's growing season and to remember that before we could harvest our crops, those crops had to be planted, planted in gardens which were turned over, fertilized and watered and ultimately given time to grow and to do its thing. Perhaps this last part of gardening is the most difficult: giving something time to grow.

So too is it with our lives together: giving people time to grow is perhaps one of the most difficult aspects of our being Christian. An oak tree takes 50 years to grow from an acorn into a tree that makes other acorns. One can only sit and watch and wait for that tree to grow and nothing can rush or further the process along. So too is it with us. God takes time in growing you and I from the Baby Christians we all become in our Baptisms to the mature Christians who produce the many and varied fruits of the Spirit. One can only sit and watch and wait for us Christians to grow and nothing can rush or further the process along.

But what happens when in our watching and our waiting, the person we are wanting to grow and mature is not making any progress? One can watch a tree continue to grow, and see the tree growing, what happens when a loved one or a friend or a neighbor is not growing in our eyes? We can come to be in possession of many hurt and angry thoughts and feelings, when those we care about are not growing and maturing to our satisfaction. Just sitting and watching and waiting for progress can be a difficult and painful process and just not enough.

Perhaps then the promise of God given to us in Jesus Christ is even more important to us in those hurt moments when waiting just isn't enough and we might be tempted to help speed up the process. In Paul's letter to the Philippians he writes, *I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.* The good news is that God will finish what God starts; and what God has already started is re-creating our world and making all things new. The great difficulty is that God is in control of the progress and we are not.

When life's circumstances seem to spiral out of control, our first reaction tends to be taking control to slow the spiral down. Our second reaction needs to be surrendering the progress of ourselves and our loved ones into the hands of the Master Gardener, Almighty God. This is the essence of faith, to surrender the world into the arms of the Almighty and All-Loving God, and trust that God will bring the world into glorious and fruitful bloom.

Therefore, whoever it is or whatever name you put upon the person not progressing like you think they need to; trust that God will finish his work in them or in you, when God wants to and how God wants to. Trust that God will complete what God begins, and you will find yourself watching and waiting for God's wonderful harvest.

In Christ,
Rev. Mark

Note from Session:

Session did take a break from its regularly scheduled meeting in July. They did have one "called" meeting to look at a pressing issue.

We do have an active church with committees being led by your elders. Check out the projects that have been approved by session in the past several months: refurbishing of the offices of the Pastor and the Secretary, restoration of the stained glass window in the front of the building, repair of sidewalks, new pillars for our front sign (with new sign to be completed soon), and a beautiful new roof on our sanctuary. We are so thankful for the generosity of the estate of Jill Huggins for the financial assistance with those projects.

Community Outreach has been lovingly providing lunches for our neighbors this summer when the Federal Lunch Program is not in effect.

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.

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

The Doings of The Deacons:

We are looking forward to the change of another season and opportunities to continue our ministry to the members of our church family.

Summer is quickly coming to an end. We are sending best wishes and prayers to the students of our congregation as they approach another academic year. Whether it be preschool, elementary school, middle school, high school or college, may you all enjoy the experiences each has to offer!

Just a reminder that there is a Deacon on call every month who can be contacted if there are any needs you may have especially if you are home bound. Deacon Pat Strock is on call for the month of August and can be contacted at 440-992-7978. Please remember that home Communion is available to our home bound members.

Blessing to all!

Jane Wallace

Mary Ann Jordan

Stewardship Committee:

The Stewardship committee did not meet this summer—however Stewardship continues each and every day in the life of the church.

Stewardship is a privilege as well as a responsibility.

Coming soon will be the Peace & Global Witness offering. The theme this year is “Proclaim Christ’s Peace.” What an awesome challenge.

An exciting and innovative program will be initiated this fall for stewardship. You will be hearing more about this program.

With God’s help we will go forward to do His work.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Hogle

Treasurer’s Report for July 2017

INCOME: \$ 8,970.04
EXPENSES: 9,563.89

DIFFERENCE - 593.85

With the help of the Income from the Rummage Sale, our July income was \$1578 better than expected.
Regular giving came in ahead of the budget also, and expenses were down.

As you see, God always provides.

Yours in Christ,
Lois J. Fassett

HAPPY 1 YEAR TOGETHER!

Rev. Mark Mong September 1, 2017

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP,
YOUR FAITHFULNESS AND YOUR HEART
MAY GOD BLESS YOU!**

The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with Joy.

Psalms 126:3

Youth Group Starting



Rev. Mark will be starting a youth group this fall. We will be meeting Sunday nights beginning September 10th at 6:30pm for about an hour. Youth in 6th grade and up are invited to attend. Our time will be spent getting to know one another in fellowship, a brief time of bible study, planning fun activities and also perhaps a few mission projects. Parents please contact Rev. Mark in the church office with any questions.



Our heartfelt sympathies are extended to the Hakkarainen Family. Jim passed away peacefully July 26, 2017 following a battle with cancer. A memorial has been set up in his name. Envelopes are available in the church office.



Meredith Ayers, Ken Babcock, Lynda Bennett, The Family of Bill Davis, Bess and Roger Dibble, Mikey Dufour, The Faulkerson Family, Dee Fassett, The family of Jim Hakkarainen, Al Headman, The family of Lorain Reese, Don Maginnis, Sarah Mandrake, The family of Gene Osborne, Carol Rich, Kennedy Ritzenthaler, Wanda Schwentker, Christi Stroud, Jean and Tommy Waldron



OVER 1,000 NOTEBOOKS
WERE COLLECTED AND DELIVERED
TO THE ASHTABULA AREA SCHOOL
DISTRICTS BOARD OF EDUCATION.

WAY TO GO TRINITY!



SEPTEMBER 15TH IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING A PHOTO FOR THE CHURCH DIRECTORY. PLEASE CONTACT MARY JEPSON OR LYNNE MUKINA IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

TAYLOR FITCHET



Thanks for the laughter and memories.
See you soon.....Lynne and Mark



Children's Education, Youth
Group, Adult Education
(Sunday and Wednesday
Mornings) all return to Trinity
on September 10. We will be
kicking off the new church
year with breakfast at
9:30am in the fellowship hall.
Come and Join us!

Back to Church Sunday

September 10
at 9:30am
1342 West Prospect
Ashtabula, OH



Sponsored by
Trinity Presbyterian Church

September 2017

DEACON ON CALL: Barb McClure 997-5478
ELDER ON CALL: Norm Jepson 993-8401

LITURGIST: Mary Ann Jordan
USHERS: JEPSON/SHIFLET TEAM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 1 Year Anniversary Rev. Mark Mong We Are Blessed!	2
3 Communion 10:30 Worship 10:45 Kids Movie Fellowship Meeting After Worship	4 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY	5 11:30 Game Day 12:00 Nominating Committee Meeting 8:00 Al-Anon	6 6:30 Deacons Meeting 6:30 Card Ministry	7 10:00 Prayer Group 10:30 Thursday Ladies	8 10:00 Brown Bag Ladies	9
10 2x A Meal Collection 9:15 Adult Study 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Study (pre- 5th grade) 6:30 Youth Group	11	12 8:00 ROMEOS At Deb's 8:00 Al-Anon	13 10:00 Adult Study 6:30 Card Ministry	14 10:00 Prayer Group 10:30 Thursday Ladies 6:30 Property and Finance Meeting	15 DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING CHURCH PHOTOS FOR THE DIRECTORY	16
17 9:00 Choir 9:15 Adult Study 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Study (pre- 5th grade) Stewardship Meeting After Worship 6:30 Youth Group	18	19 11:30 Game Day 8:00 Al-Anon	20 10:00 Adult Study 6:00 Community Outreach Meeting 6:30 Card Ministry 7:00 Session Meeting	21 10:00 Prayer Group 10:30 Thursday Ladies	22	23 9:00—12:00 Transformation Group 9:00-2:00 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery Valley/Brainbridge
24 9:00 Choir 9:15 Adult Study 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Study (pre- 5th grade) 6:30 Youth Group	25 <u>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</u> 6:30 CE Meeting	26 8:00 Al-Anon	27 10:00 Adult Study 6:30 Card Ministry	28 10:00 Prayer Group 10:30 Thursday Ladies	29	30