

**SEPTEMBER
2016**

Trinity Times

Dear Trinity,

It is with thanksgiving that I write this final message to you. We have had quite a journey together. Many changes have already happened and more will come. You have been a wonderfully generous congregation, for which I am quite grateful – and very thankful!

There are four words I would leave with you as you begin to think about and prepare for the next part of your life together. Those words are: love, forgiveness, hospitality and community.

Love, in this sense, is not the romantic love of which we often speak. This love concerns love of neighbor, love like Christ had for all people. This love cares more about keeping relationships going, ensuring that the whole community receives a welcome, looking for ways to make sure that justice is done, seeing that people are fed in both body and soul, and loving others as we love ourselves. That means having neither too high nor too low an opinion of ourselves but seeing ourselves and all others as beloved children of God.

Forgiveness really becomes a part of love. Letting go of hurts, taking responsibility for our actions, wanting to repair relationships with others are all part of forgiveness. So often we say or do things that unintentionally hurt others. We need to as quickly as possible talk through the issue, apologize, remember the importance of the relationship then move on with our lives. Letting hurts fester, not going to one another to try to repair what has come between us, undermines our lives and the life of our community. It is not always easy to speak up about what bothers us but we need to try to find a way to ask a question or voice an opinion that opens the door for conversation and forgiveness,

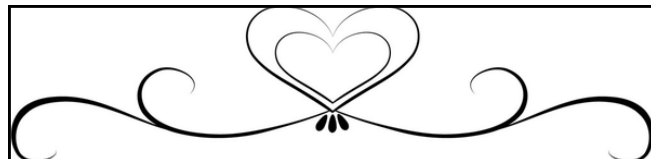
Hospitality relates not only to welcoming those new to us, but greeting life with an attitude of generosity, an attitude that says there is room enough, resources enough, time enough for everyone. This is especially true of our dealings with children and senior adults. God has given so generously to us, we need to be generous, not miserly with other. Our willingness to share opens the door to new relationships and offers welcome in God's name.

Community means that sense of being tied together. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ. We are also neighbors and those wanting to build a welcoming, loving place for others here in our area. Community means we have ties of caring to one another. Sometimes we use the idea of family, but sometimes we want to focus on those commitments we make to one another to get programs going, reach out in concern, support and care for one another and generally work together in mutual support.

Trinity has a great deal to offer both a new minister and new people coming in to this congregation. I pray God's richest blessing upon you as you continue the work of Christ here in the middle of Ashtabula.

Godspeed,

June Begany



FROM YOUR SESSION:

Ecclesiastes 3:1

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

[A time to bid farewell and Godspeed to Pastor June. We thank you for your dedication](#) and commitment to Trinity, June. Your calm leadership has been just what we needed here at Trinity. Your ever-professional and forward thinking has carried us through difficulties and led us to this time when we can welcome our incoming pastor, letting go of past hurts and looking forward to finding God's path for us.

A time to prepare for and welcome Reverend Mark Mong. The congregation has been generous with welcoming gifts, moving assistance, and preparing dinners for a few days.

What a joy to have Liz, Billy and Bobby joining us in worship!

We are excited about our future with Mark's leadership and guidance. We look forward together to share God's love, knowing we are each a child of God, searching for the path to which God is calling us.

Peace and blessings,

Mary Belding, Clerk of Session

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

Sept 4th will begin the Peace and Global Witness Program. The theme this year is "Can God Spread a Table in the Wilderness" Psalm 78:19. In our troubled times filled with political, social and religious divisions, we feel our world is like a wilderness. Weapons and drugs fill our streets. So we may ask "Can God Spread a table in this wilderness?" God not only can but does spread justice, unity and peace. By participating in the Peace and Global Witness Program we connect and support Presbyterian ministries to assist in these problems. 25% of our donations it has been decided will go to the Doughby River School in Liberia. The 75% will go to the supporting ministries. Minute for Mission speakers will further explain the program. The program will continue Sept. 4th until Sept. 27 at which time your gifts will be received.

Our annual stewardship campaign will begin on Oct. 15. The theme will be "Abundant Joy, Overflowing Generosity." As a committee we are excited to welcome a new pastor and a new stewardship program. Please give us your support.

THE JOY OF GOD'S PLAN...

I have a passion for musical theater. Just ask my husband. He knows better than to change the dial on the radio when we are in the car together. I have heard every Broadway song from the original *Peter Pan* to the huge current hit, *Hamilton*. Recently, I heard a love song from the Broadway musical, *The Bridges of Madison County*, music and lyrics by Jason Robert Brown. In part, it goes like this...

*From man's first breath to God's last warning
You and I are just one second,
Spinning by in one split-second.
You and I have just one second and a million miles to go.*

These words reminded me of where we are right now here at the Trinity Presbyterian Church. This is us. Here. Now. We have this time. Right now. We have so many fulfilling miles ahead of us. Let us take this time now to come together and greet this new chapter in Trinity's legacy head on with a vision that recognizes a strong, devoted faith.

In knowing and recognizing the joy of God's plan for us, we must always remember God's faithfulness and kindness to us. We put our trust and confidence into our Pastor Nominating Committee. Through prayer and conviction, they worked diligently to find a candidate who not only met our needs, but a minister of the Word and Sacrament that would help give us a purpose to living a better life with Christ.

As a result of their work and trusting in God, it is with joyful hearts that we welcome the **Rev. Mark Mong!** Please join the congregation and community as we welcome Mark, his wife, Liz, and their two sons, Billy and Bobby, at a ***meet and greet reception in their honor on Saturday, September 10th, from 1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m. in our church fellowship hall.***

Rev. Mong's first Sunday in the pulpit will be September 11th. Take the journey with us. Worship with us. Pray with us. Share the hope with us. Sharing the experience of worship together lets us rejoice in the love that surrounds us all. Sunday worship begins at 10:30 and we want you to be a part of this celebration as we share together the joy of walking with Christ. Join us as we welcome Rev. Mong, as we move forward to embrace those challenging million miles ahead of us with renewed confidence. We look forward to you helping us to fill our pews on Sunday mornings. Here. Now. Right in this one split-second.

*You have to look for the joy. Look for the light of God
that is hitting your life and you will find
sparkles you didn't know were there.*

Barbara Johnson

Stick a Geranium in Your Hat and Be Happy

Mary Jepson, Welcoming Committee

TREASURER'S REPORT JULY 2016

Income \$ 7,175.81
Expenses 12,450.00

We were down by -5,274.19

We predicted we would be down a total of 29,006.87 at this time of year, but we are only down 20,310.22.

Of course we are using our investment funds to help pay the expenses. Let's look forward to keeping the deficit down for the rest of the year. This may sound very optimistic but with June's help our Trinity Family has circled the wagons and we have a lot to look forward to.

Thanks,

Lois Fassett, Treasurer

FALL FUN MAKE IT TAKE IT!

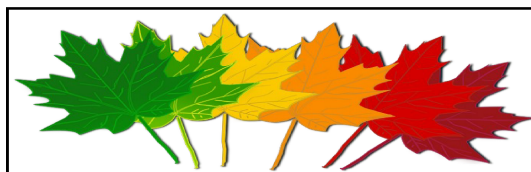
Autumn...falling leaves, cooler weather, warm sweaters...not my favorite time of year. So, to add some fun to Fall, the Trinity Card Making Ministry is inviting you and your friends to the Fall Fun Make it Take it! This free event will be at Trinity on Saturday, October 15th from 9:00 to 1:00 and is open to all women of Trinity, East Side and First Presbyterian churches and friends.

No prior card making experience is necessary! We will teach you everything you need to know. You'll visit five tables where a Trinity card maker will teach you a new artistic technique or help you make a beautiful greeting card to take home.

As requested by many, we will again serve our famous baked potato bar!

It is important to RSVP by the evening of Sunday, October 9th so we have the proper supplies and food. To RSVP, call Beth Adams at 992-8428 and leave the number of people attending and a phone number. We can only accommodate 20 people, so get your reservation in early.

This will be a happy and artistic way to spend time with old and new friends!



TRINITY BOOK CLUB

Trinity Book Club will kick off our 11th year in September. We read a variety of books, meet once a month to discuss the book selection, and enjoy fellowship and dessert. We also have joint meetings with other book clubs, and read and attend a play at the Ashtabula Arts Center each year. The book club is open to all. Please call Meghan Davis at 992-8362 for more information or to RSVP.

Our upcoming meetings and book selections are:

Tue., September 20th at 7:00 pm; *An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff

Wed., October 12th at 6:30 pm; *Upstairs at the White House* by JB West

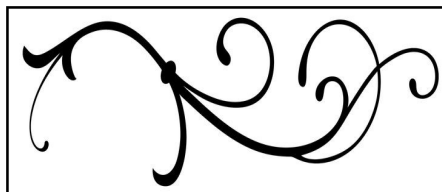
Tue., November 15th at 7:00 pm; *The 13th Gift* by Joanne Huist Smith

Tue., December 13th at 6:00 pm; *The Christmas Pearl* by Dorothea Benton Frank

We are all so blessed... with people who love each other, with a new pastor and his family, with prominent church property that helps us be a blessing to our local world. We all have personal blessings too... time in retirement to help others talents taught to us by loving teachers, or treasure passed down to us by hard working relatives whom we miss so much. Because of these blessings, Trinity has a community garden where food is grown and shared with the hungry and where children are taught how to feed themselves. Soon, in the northeast corner will be two benches, placed there in memory of Phil and Molly Hoffman, for the peace and rest of anyone who wishes to sit a while. In the future, placed near the benches will be friendship garden flower boxes filled with flowers donated by members and friends of Trinity. Please thank Mary Belding, Liz Evans, Dale Fassett and Rich Fassett for their hard work assembling the benches on such hot days and Todd McGill for installing them professionally. Please thank the faithful gardeners and waterers, too.

Enjoy some time there with a cup and a friend and God, and remember that the possibilities are endless and amazing!

With gratitude,
Beth and David Adams



THANK YOU!

To Members and Friends of TPC-

Our family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to those who helped in any way with the luncheon following the memorial service for our beloved Rick Bessant. Many positive remarks were made regarding the luncheon.

Special thanks to Rev. Begany who invited people at the service to share past memories of time spent with Rick.

Thanks to Lynne Mukina who printed an outstanding Memorial Bulletin.

Cards and gifts were received from many church members which helped during difficult moments. Your remarkable thoughtfulness will not be forgotten.

-Barb Bessant

Trinity Church-

I couldn't thank you enough for the wonderful memorial service and lunch you put on for my father's passing. It made it so much easier to get through the day knowing I had your support and help.

Thank you with all of my heart,
Cassie Bessant

Dearest Trinity Family-

Thank you all for your kind and loving support, cards and well wishes during my chemo treatments!

I have been blessed with very little side effects and very attentive friends, family as well as all of you!

My treatments are behind me, only radiation remains.

I feel very fortunate and grateful.

Love Becca Stowell



SAVE THE DATE!

OCTOBER 2, 2016

4:00 pm

Trinity Presbyterian Church

**Service of Installation for
The Reverend Mark J. Mong**

**You are cordially invited to join Rev. Mong and his family
for a reception following the service.**

THANK YOU!

Hi to my church family and friends.

I want to thank you for all of your caring thoughts and prayers.

Health issues have kept me close to home for sometime now, followed by an unexpected surgery. My energy level has been down, as well as my spirits.

Knowing that people care and feeling the Lord's presence I can finally feel energy returning to this old body.

Hopefully, I'll be back to church on a regular basis, and when I am, I know it will be because of all the concerns of you wonderful people.

Thank you , all, for caring!

Love Fran Wilson

THANK YOU, TRINITY

There are not enough words to say thank-you,, Trinity for the wonderful party and gift you gave me on Sunday, August 28. Your generosity shone through. You will always have a place in my heart.

Many, many thanks for all you have done and given.

June Begany

September 2016

DEACON ON CALL: SUE KARVONEN 992-3640

ELDER ON CALL: HOBART SHIFLET 969-1536

LITURGIST: SUSAN HOGLE

Church office hours Monday—Friday 8:30 am—12:30

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				11 10:00 am Prayer Group Thursday Ladies	2	3 Boy Scout Troop # 52 Pancake Breakfast 9-1pm Benefit for Cassie Bessant @ Trinity
4 8:00 am Last Lake Shore Park Service 10:30 Worship	5 Labor Day Church Office Closed	6 11:30 Game Day 7:00 Al-Anon	7 6:30 Card Ministry 6:30 Deacons Mtg.	8 10:00 am Prayer Group Thursday Ladies	9	10 Meet Our New Pastor—invite your family and friends 1:00 pm—3:00 pm @ Trinity
11 COMMUNION 2¢ A Meal Collection WELCOME Rev. Mark Mong	12 5:30 Weight Watchers	13 8:00 am ROMEOS @Deb's	14 6:30 Card Ministry	15 10:00 am Prayer Group Thursday Ladies 7:00 Prop./Finance	16	17 Clerk's Meeting @ Trinity
18 9:00 Choir 10:30 Worship Worship/Music Mtg.	19 5:30 Weight Watchers	20 11:30 Game Day 7:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Book Club	21 6:00 Comm. Council 6:30 Card Ministry 7:00 Session Mtg.	22 10:00 am Prayer Group Thursday Ladies	23	24
25 9:00 Choir 10:30 Worship	26 5:30 Weight Watchers 6:00 Presbytery Mtg. at Avon Lake	27 7:00 Al-Anon	28 6:30 Card Ministry	29 10:00 am Prayer Group Thursday Ladies	30	