

Trinity United Church of Christ

Volume 3, Issue 1

March 2016

A Message from Our Pastor:

Some of you may know that I generally have an article published in the “Woodsboro Times” newspaper each month in the religious section. The reason that I mention this is because the article that you are reading now is directly related to the article that I have just written for the March issue of the “Times.” So the message of this article will have more clarification if you read the other article. That said, if you would like to read it and do not have access to the newspaper I will post a link to our website or you may contact me.

The main theme of the “Times” article is that often we will separate things that we deem are sacred from things that we deem are secular, meaning things that are holy and things that are not. I state in the article that this in my opinion is a big mistake, and causes us to miss the holiness that is around us everywhere in the world; we do not have to be in a church or other place that has been deemed “holy” to experience God. The fact is (again in my opinion) that if we believe that God created all things, and if God created out of love, then that means that God and God’s love is in all things regardless of where they are, but often we go about our daily lives overlooking that basic tenet. The danger in this is that we have a tendency to set up dichotomies, things that are good and of God and things that are bad and are not of God, even things we would call evil. Now this is not an article debating good and evil and whether there is actually evil and the devil, maybe another time I will share my views on that subject. Rather this is an article about how things would be different, meaning how we treat others, how we would treat our environment, how we would react to situations, if we saw the sacred in all of these things. If we viewed the person looking into our eyes who has just cut us off in traffic as God’s eyes looking back at us I would have to assume

that our reaction to being cut off and the near miss of an accident would be much different than it would have otherwise been. The same is true of how we would treat our environment, our animals, and the decisions that we would make regarding what chemicals to use on our farm lands or how we would raise and slaughter the animals that we eat.

As we think about how easily we tend to separate the sacred from the secular, it is also not so difficult to begin to think differently, but it requires a conscious effort to do so. One way that I began to do this about ten years ago was by looking for themes of God’s grace in movies, books, television shows, and other media. This is a good place to begin because media is so much a part of our culture and it so often mirrors what is actually happening in our world. So, I began to watch movies and read books looking for God’s grace, and I did this not in the genre of “religious” movies or books, but simply in the general box office movies and popular and classic books and novels. I am not talking about looking for the themes in movies like “The Ten Commandments”, or “Noah”, or “The Passion of Christ” or “Heaven is for Real”. What I am talking about are movies that are not deemed “religious” but when you watch carefully you see God’s grace (just like in our everyday world if we look closely); for example, “Grand Torino”, “Sling Blade”, “Her”, “Avatar” just to name a few. And books (that are also movies) like “Les Miserables”, “The Count of Monte Cristo”, “Life of Pi”, “The Kite Runner”. When you begin to look for God’s grace, you soon discover that it is everywhere, and when you begin to make that a part of your being then you not only begin to transform and deepen your relationship with God, but you begin to transform and deepen your relationship with others and the world.

In the past I was involved in a monthly spiritual movie night where I watched movies with friends and we discussed where we saw God’s

Pastor's Message Continued

grace. I also did this with a book club. I have been very much missing doing this with people and so I am asking if any of you are interested in joining me in an informal monthly spiritual movie night at my home and/or a monthly spiritual book club where we could meet at a local restaurant. If this is something that you may be interested in please contact me and I would love to get a group started. I specifically would like to do this outside of the church to make the point that these types of discussions do not need to take place in church but **should** be happening where ever we are. So I hope I do get some responses and if not, I encourage you to at least try it on your own. I think you will be pleasantly surprised by what you discover.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Sean

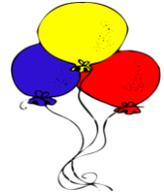
*"Toto, I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore."
(Dorothy from "The Wizard of Oz")*

*"Strange, isn't it? Each man's life touches so many other lives. When he isn't around he leaves an awful hole, doesn't he?"
(Clarence the angel in "It's a Wonderful Life")*

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

MARCH

Edgar Zander - 3/2
Tara Tokar - 3/22
Mary Fogle - 3/27
Ethan Tokar - 3/31



APRIL

Kenda O'Brien - 4/1
Sally Tokar - 4/3
Donnie Wastler - 4/6
Tootie Lenhart - 4/10
Albert Sauble - 4/14
Donnie Elower - 4/20
Martha (Mip) Mackley - 4/23
Alice Stambaugh - 4/28

MAY

Andy Tokar - 5/6
Bethany Lillard - 5/8
Larry Clabaugh - 5/18

JUNE

Eugene Myers - 6/2
Minna Stitely - 6/11
Lynda Lillard - 6/12
Irene Miller - 6/15

★ **HAPPY** ★
BIRTHDAY!

NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN

Since a full report of the kitchen happenings appeared in the annual report, we will just try to bring everyone up -to- date with what we have done in these last two months.

We had two deaths in our church family; Charlie Lenhart on 12/25/15 (Christmas Day) and Roy Clabaugh on 1/25/16, just one month apart. Charlie's memorial service was held on Wednesday, December 30th with a luncheon being served here at Trinity following the service. Roy's memorial service was held on Saturday, February 6th with a luncheon being served here at Trinity following this service. Both of these services brought lots of people which we were very happy to be able to accommodate them and both families were very appreciative of our service to them.

On January 20th we made slippery pot pie and country ham sandwiches along with most of our other food items and had great response with lots of orders. We had orders for 600+ quarts of pot pie and about 325 ham sandwiches, which are the largest amounts ever. This sale grossed in excess of \$7,000. At this writing we are now planning another such sale for Wednesday, February 24th.

Saturday, January 30th, Trinity partnered with the Thurmont Lions Club in hosting a benefit breakfast for Diane Spalding Miller who has been diagnosed with ALS. This was a tremendous success, serving over 600 people. We had great help from the Lions Club from start to finish. There were times people had to wait in lines reaching out into the street, but no one seemed to mind or complain. At times such as this it really shows that Trinity and the Lions Club both can recognize the needs of the community and are very willing to reach out to help. Trinity and the Lions shared all the cost of food and with breakfasts served and special donations we were able to hand over to Diane \$11,200. She was unable to attend the breakfast but was certainly very grateful for what we had done for her.



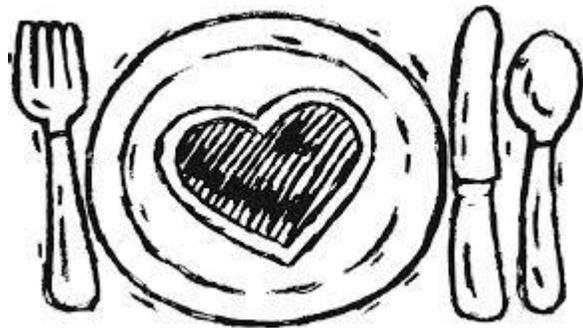
KITCHEN NEWS CONTINUED

In observance of President's Day and in appreciation to their clients, Manpower of Frederick ordered 45 cherry pies to distribute to their clients. Manpower sponsors a Girls and Boys Club at the Thurmont Middle School and they asked if these boys and girls could come to Trinity and be involved in a lesson of the makings of these pies. So at the end of a school day these boys and girls, along with chaperones, walked to Trinity to get a first-hand experience of this project. Shirley Long worked with Russ in the making, teaching and helping the children make approximately a dozen of these pies. They all really enjoyed the experience and Shirley did a great job in working with these children. A very special thanks to Shirley and Russ.

I had an ordeal that landed me in the hospital for 6 days and I can't thank Russ, Siegi, Betty, Shirley, Joann and Nancy enough for taking over for me and continuing on with the planned activities. I must say I thought about them lots, but they surely kept the ball rolling. I want them to know just how much I appreciate everything they have done for me in this trying time.

I suppose our next big event will be our Easter sale. It is hard to believe that Easter is this close already but keep tuned in as we will be taking orders as time gets closer.

RUSS AND TOOTIE



Worship / Christian Education and Fellowship Committee's

Members of the Worship, Fellowship and Christian Education Committees met on Thursday, February 18th at the home of Alice Stambaugh. The meeting was opened with a scripture and prayer. We discussed the following topics for 2016:

Palm Sunday, March 20th - Will purchase and hand out palms during the service.

Good Friday, March 25th - Pastor Sean is planning a service which will be held at 7 PM at Trinity.

Easter Sunday, March 27th - We will be ordering flowers in memory of our loved ones to be placed in a garden. Please submit your orders on the back register in the sanctuary.



Spring Tea, April 9th - More details to follow.

Catoctin Association Spring Meeting, April 23rd - Will be held at Trinity this year. We will need to provide continental style breakfast and lunch. Sean will need to prepare a sermon including communion.

Mother's Day, May 8th - We will honor our mother's with a flower.

Graduation, June 5th - We will honor our graduates. If you know of someone graduating this year, please let us know.

Hymn Sing, June 5th - Our Christmas Caroling is such a success and enjoyed so much by all of the shut-ins that we've decided to increase this tradition to twice a year. A light lunch is being planned for anyone who would like to join the group. More details to follow.

Worship / Christian Education and Fellowship Committee's

Summer Lunch Program, Week of June 20th - The Summer Lunch Program for Thurmont Children will start the week of June 20, 2016 at the park behind the senior building on Main Street in Thurmont. The hours are 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM.

Father's Day, June 19th - We will honor our fathers with a rose.

"Missed You" Card, - It was suggested by Ross Lillard that we it would be a nice gesture if we send a note to a person or a member who misses several weeks from church service. Tara Tokar is going to work on creating the card.

Christmas Caroling, December 4th (Snow Date is December 11th)

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Those in attendance were Pastor Sean DeLawder, Alice Stambaugh, Ross Lillard, Sally Tokar, Lindsay Tokar, Meghan Tokar, Sarah Tokar, Tara Tokar, Kenda O'Brien and Irene Miller.

We are always looking for suggestions and ideas for Fellowship and Christian Education activities... so please let us know if you have any ☺



News From The Council

The Trinity Council met on February 17th at the home of Alice Stambaugh. Some of the items discussed were:

- Good Friday Service at Trinity - Friday March 25th at 7:00 pm
- Remembering our shut-ins / those who are ill - and trying to visit on a monthly basis.
- Trinity to host the Spring Conference Meeting on Saturday April 23 - Continental Breakfast and a light lunch will be served to the attendees.
- Hand Bell Choir - Linda Franklin will be directing and there are currently 9 or 10 people that would like to participate. The first practice/organizational meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 2nd. Their first performance is targeted for a Sunday mid to late May.
- Upgrades to the Handicapped Accessible Restroom on the main level - to be completed sometime this spring.
- Repairs to the wall in the choir loft due to water damage.
- Church attendance - Continue to invite family and friends in the community to worship with us.

Our Annual **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering will be received from Sunday, March 6th thru Sunday, March 27th . **One Great Hour of Sharing** is one of the four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. **One Great Hour of Sharing** provides support to health, education, refugee, agricultural and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries by working with local, national and international partners.

If you have suggestions that you would like the council to address, please see Alice or call me at 301-271-2929.

Alice and Andy
Co-presidents

March Newsletter

Calendar of Events

- March 20, 2016 – Palm Sunday Service
- March 25, 2016 (7 PM) – Good Friday Service at Trinity
- March 27, 2016 – Easter Sunday Service
- March 27, 2016 - Trinity's Week for Summer Lunch Program
- April 9, 2016 - Annual Spring Tea
- May 8, 2016 – Mother's Day Service
- June 5, 2016 – Hymn Sing
- June 19, 2016 – Father's Day Service

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