

TRINITY'S GOOD

Volume 9 Issue 6

Keeping faith in the Pentecost season

My one question for the members of Trinity this June is: "Will you continue to be faithful this summer?"

I ask this question because there are many diversions out in the world which grab our attention from continuing our faith journeys during the summer months. School is out, some will be taking vacations (assuming they can afford the \$4 per gallon fuel prices), and the pace of life changes. For most there is a slowing down as the heat of the day necessitates a zapping of our strength. For others a quickening comes—almost an overdrive effects takes shape as optimism and opportunities for living life are multiplied. Most often we associate the school district calendar with the church calendar. And thus, if school's out, maybe that means I don't have to attend church or Sunday school either.

Just look at some of our traditional church practices. We cancel Sunday school for the summer. The choir won't be singing until September. Maybe we have Vacation Bible School, but that's just a week long adventure, certainly it's not designed to keep us attentive all summer long. I realize this is the pattern of many congregations, especially around West-Central Illinois. It is affectionately known as the summer slump. It's that trite phrase rearing its ugly head, "we've always done it this way before!" So will you be caught up in perpetuating your own summer slump, or will you instead take these hot months of June, July, and August to take the opportunities to see your faith life grow?

Seeds are germinating all around us. This is the greening season. Chlorophyll starts its work of transforming the light energy of the sun into sugars, which allow plants to thrive

and grow around us, leading to a fruitful harvest.

Seed is potential energy. Will it germinate? Will it green and grow? Will it bear fruit?

As a **baptized community** we have stepped into the life of Christ: "Grow up in every way into [Christ] who is the head." (Ephesians 4:15)

As a **worshipping community**, we have heard the word of God, "My word . . . shall not return to me empty." (Isaiah 55:11)

As a **Eucharistic community**, we have received the Holy Spirit.

Most new members join churches during the summer. This is the time when first-time visitors begin their church shopping when they arrive in a new neighborhood. Summertime is filled with sunshine, warmth, optimism (watching the planted corn and soybeans leap from their soil tombs) and lots of leisure time.

I am especially concerned for our children who need to hear the Good News preached and lived out as anybody. Will anyone bring them to church on Sunday even though there isn't Sunday School? Will they hear the wonderful stories told by Jesus in the Gospels and from our core of Children's message givers—Brent Ufkes, Merlin Gronewold, Kim Krieg, Chris Nettles, Edie Galloway and myself?

Please keep up your faithful practices of keeping God # 1 in your life this summer. And if you travel, please bring back a bulletin from the church that you are visiting.

God's blessings as we go green.

Pastor Hale

June Birthdays

- 6/02 Jennifer Clostermery, Dave Harrison,
Alexis Markham, April Lemley
6/03 Catie Harrell
6/04 Jason Waite
6/06 Mark Harrison
6/10 Jason Lemley
6/11 Cindy Brown, Cody Ufkes
6/12 Tim Snyder
6/15 Chuck Ehlert
6/16 Chris Snyder, Matt Snyder
6/17 Diana Harrison
6/23 Phil Gronewold, Mike Menn,
Dorothy Wetterich, Don Schulz
6/24 Joel Ellefritz
6/25 Megan Lemley, Grant Clark
6/26 Josh Schulz, Nicholas Bruns
6/27 Travis Ellefritz, Chase Ufkes
6/28 Angela Schoch
6/29 Alyssa Young, Ryan Kohl

June Anniversaries

- 6/02 Jerry & Lynn Fecht
6/11 Bill & Wilma Fecht
6/12 John & Sandy Peterson
Dan & Liz Snyder
Kendall & Mary Sargent
Jeff & Natalie Cole
6/15 Mike & Cindy Menn
6/16 Max & Elaine Gronewold
6/17 Keith & Terri Ellefritz
6/18 Norm & Joyce Jurgens
6/25 Dave & Judy Hartweg
6/30 Jim & Donna Hills

Blood Pressure Checks by Health Ministries Team

The nurses of Trinity will be doing blood pressure checks for the congregation on the second Sunday of each month in the Welcome Center. These checks will be held before and after church.

Summer Music Needed

Choir will not be singing until September. If there is anyone interested in helping provide special music for the summer, please sign up in the choir room or contact Linda Hartweg.

Sewing Group

The sewing group will only meet the first Monday of the month for the summer and will resume their regular schedule in September.

Financial Update As of April 30, 2008

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$47,879
Amt. Received YTD - \$44,885
Amt. Spent YTD - \$41,006
Current Fund Balance - \$8,326

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$6,212
Amt. Received YTD - \$6,130

Thank you for your faithful giving as together we live out our mission of Celebrating Christ's love as we welcome, encourage, and serve God's people!

Welcome Center Update

As of May 18, 2008, the amount given to the Welcome Center totals \$358,311. Of this amount \$17,485 was given through May 18, which compares to \$19,716 given through May 2007. Total cost of the project was \$548,653 plus interest to date of \$23,868.94. We have reduced the Marine Bank loan by \$39,357 so far this year, leaving a loan balance of \$117,343. In addition there are \$62,000 of our own funds on loan to the Welcome Center. On January 10, 2008 the construction loan ended and our payments now are due monthly in the amount of \$2,412.29. Let's continue to work together as we pay down our debt as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

Together, we are living out our congregation's missions of Celebrating Christ's Love as we Welcome, Encourage, and Serve God's people.

Donations for Shepherd's Pantry

The food pantry could use the following items that aren't always available each month from the state food pantry system:

- Boxes of dry milk
- Cans/jars of spaghetti sauce
- Pancake batter
- Syrup
- Fruits and Vegetables

Shepherd's Pantry would appreciate any donations that members are able to make. Thank you for your help.

Trinity Prayer Ministry

This **ministry at Trinity** is for anyone who wants to join us in prayer one day a week. Come to the Welcome Center at **7:00 a.m.** on Wednesday mornings. Prayer request slips are located in the pew racks. They may be filled out and put in the collection plates, or you may call Connie Schulz (357-6667) or the church office (357-2468) to request prayer. These names are used for the Prayer Ministry only and not in the prayer chain or Sunday morning prayers. Together we live out our congregation's mission of celebrating Christ's love as we welcome, encourage, and serve God's people.

Thank You

The Carthage Middle School Student Council would like to thank everyone who supported our spaghetti supper to raise money for the Wyatt & Madison Elliott playground memorial and the school library. Your generosity as individuals and businesses is greatly appreciated!

Committee Night

Committee Night is Tuesday, June 3. No meetings have been scheduled at this time.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Jerusalem Marketplace Holy Land Adventure

Mark your calendars for July 13 – 17 to come and join us at Trinity for VBS! We will have a fun time learning more about Holy Week in the Holy Land Adventure. We will be participating with the First Christian, Presbyterian and Assembly of God churches again this year. It will be held 5:00 to 8:00 on Sunday and 5:30 to 8:00 Monday through Thursday. The week will end with a short program at the First Christian Church. **If you can help** with Bible School, **please sign up** in the Welcome Center or contact Angie Fecht at 743-6363.

HUGS in Hancock County

The HUGS Cancer Support Group will hold its annual picnic on Tuesday, June 3, at 5:30 p.m. at the Jaycee Park. The meal will be provided by the HUGS team. Anyone who is dealing with cancer (past or present), including caregivers and family members, is invited for the social evening. It is a great time to visit with members of the group. If weather is inclement, the event will be moved to Memorial Hospital in the Executive Conference Room. For more information about HUGS, contact Florine Dixon, CNO at Memorial Hospital 357-6565; Stephanie Willey at the Hancock County Health Department 357-2171; Jetty Calvert at Carl Sandburg College 357-3129; or Deb Limkemann at the Sherrick Drug and Medical 357-3353.

FAMILY News

“Family News” is a place where we can celebrate together the many good things that are happening in the lives of Trinity’s members and friends. We hope to include news about all of our members and their families. To submit good news, please call Denise at the church office (357-2468) or send an e-mail to oldtrinity@hotmail.com. This is yet another way we are ***caring for each other***.

*The Carthage Middle School Scholastic Bowl Team had a fantastic year! They won the Hancock County Tournament Regionals, Sectionals and advanced to the State Finals. Members of the team are Kirby Fecht, Chris Holtsclaw, Levi Kirby, Bria Reppinger and Taylor Dittmer (granddaughter of John & Arlis Dittmer). Great job!

*Congratulations to Jared Schwartz, who graduated from University of Illinois with a Bachelors in Psychology. He is the son of John & Denise Schwartz.

*Congratulations to Jerry & Linley Bartell on the birth of a grandson. Samuel Wyatt Anderson was born May 19. He weights 4 lb. 4 oz. and is 17 inches long.

In Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family of Kevin Busboom (brother of Pastor Greg), who passed away on May 19. Services were held in Flatville on May 23. If you would like to send a card to Pastor Greg and Maressa, their address is: 133 Parkway Drive, Chatham, IL 62629

Address Change
Mike & Crista Rainford
1840 Rainbow Road – Apt. 101
Cheyenne, WY 82001

Please Lock Up

To all those who are on the schedule to unlock the church, and to others who use their own key to let themselves in and out, please make sure that all the doors in the church, parish hall and Welcome Center are locked when you leave. There have been reports that doors are left unlocked. Thank you.

High School Bible Study
We will be having High School Bible Study this coming Sunday, June 1. We will meet at 5:00. Come join us!



Attention Young People!
Hey all young people – How about helping with a spring clean up and reorganization of food items at Shepherd’s Food Pantry right here at Trinity? The Pantry board invites its church youth to come on Saturday morning, June 7th, at 10:00 a.m. Rumor has it that the board will serve pizza shortly before noon! Please come help with this important community project.

Evangelism Committee
Meeting

The Evangelism Committee will meet on Thursday, June 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Church Council Highlights May 15, 2008

Council members present were Kathy Graham, John Peterson, Jody Miller, Ryan Schardon, Angie Fecht, Pastor Hale, Brent Ufkes, David Hartweg, Tammy Snyder, John Dittmer & Linley Bartell. Absent were John Schwartz & Merlin Gronewold.

Brent called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Devotions were read from Matthew. Opening prayer led by Pastor Hale.

Minutes of April 10, 2008 were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Pastor Hale. Seconded by Kathy Graham. Motion carried.

The following Petitions or Communications were reported:

1. Pastor Hale shared letters from the Bishop regarding seminary & mission outreach events. Discussion was held regarding a possible trip to the Chicago Seminary in the fall.

Financial Secretary's Report – Report dated April 30, 2008 was reviewed. It was noted that pledge and income are both down; however, the current fund is okay at this time. Motion to approve by Pastor Hale, seconded by Jody Miller. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Report dated April 30, 2008 was reviewed. Motion to approve by Angie Fecht. Seconded by John Dittmer. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the temperature of the church before services. The head usher should check the status (or assign someone to).

Christian Ed. (Angie Fecht) – Angie reported confirmation is done and they finished with a retreat to Ursa. CLASP will be looking for a new director, as Jen will be moving. Position will be advertised for. The VBS dates are set for July 13th – 17th. The last day of Sunday school is May 18th at which time the teachers will be recognized.

Evangelism (John Peterson) – John reported that Gary has a few new signs up in the hallway and the welcome center signs are coming. Their committee discussed a large print bulletin to go along with the large print hymnal. Linley will check with Denise regarding this. Their committee has discussed a potluck to encourage attendance, possible youth praise band or invite other praise bands to Trinity monthly.

Fellowship (Jody Miller) – Discussion was held regarding summer fellowship. At this time, fellowship will be held each week and volunteers are needed. Adult Sunday school classes will be held during the summer.

Finance (Kathy Graham) – Kathy stated they have not had any committee meetings. Investments are doing well. The Investment and Account balances were reviewed from March, April and May. The equipping for mission fund was discussed. A meeting will be scheduled to further review this account.

Memorial (John Dittmer) – John stated the memorial fund has a balance of approximately \$1,100 after receiving a \$500 memorial contribution from Ronald Garrelts in memory of Michael John Garrelts.

Property (John Schwartz) – Discussion was held that when Sandy arrives to clean on several occasions she has found the doors left unlocked. Primarily this is happening on the Welcome Center. Please make sure doors are pulled tightly and locked when leaving the building. Also, it was noted that light bulbs are out in the Welcome Center.

Social Ministry (Tammy Snyder) – Tammy reported she has sent some birthday cards to residents at Carthage Terrace.

Stewardship (Merlin Gronewold) – No report.

Worship & Music (Linley Bartell) – Linley reported that Janet Rehahn is interested in

starting a bell choir. Linley will put a notice in the bulletin regarding interest in participating. Linley shared a letter from Rod Levsen regarding 3 proposals for the organ repair. Pastor Hale contacted another company in Chicago; however, no contact has been made with Linley yet. Concerns from the congregation regarding financing have been shared since we already have the Welcome Center debt and need exterior church repair as well. At this time, Linley will pursue the motor cleaning of the organ to see if that helps to keep the organ running. Proposals will be reviewed and financing discussed at a later time. David mentioned that Jason will not always be available for the sound board and that additional people needed to be trained. Linley will check with Chuck Ehlert for coverage and pursue others for future coverage. An additional hands-on training session needs to be scheduled, which should include all Head ushers. Discussion was also held regarding the organ and the insurance policy. Someone needs to see what coverage we have with Church Mutual on the organ. This was a recommendation by Rod Levsen.

Youth (Ryan Schardon) – Ryan stated the fundraiser with the Nauvoo praise band raised over \$1,000 towards the organ repairs.

Call Committee – No report.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Hale reported the following:

1. Jennifer Clostermery requested use of some old tables. Request approved but need to be taken from the basement.
2. Carthage Ministerial Alliance held the baccalaureate service Sunday.
3. July 6th service on Square at 8 a.m. by the Carthage Ministerial Alliance.
4. Confirmation camp schedule was distributed. A copy will be sent to parents. Currently we have 7 students and 1 adult attending.
5. Geographical parish meeting update. Next meeting date unknown.

6. Upcoming pulpit exchange on the second Sunday in June. Pastor Tom Kamprath will be here and Pastor Hale will be going to Trinity in Golden.
7. Discussion still being held regarding a joint worship service in August.
8. Pastor Hale brought up this is the 135th Anniversary of the congregation. Recommended some special events be planned.
9. Discussion was held regarding kid's church and times of services. Create a possible survey to see what kid's interests are and what we could improve on.
10. Constitution – will provide at the next meeting.
11. Distributed a "Book of Faith" assessment tool and requested that they be completed and returned by 5 p.m. on the Thursday before council meeting. There is a new ELCA website and many downloadable forms.
12. Synod Conference meeting. Chris Nettles & Ron Schultz attended as voting members. Pastor Hale was also appointed to a 3 year term.

Next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 19th @ 7 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Linley Bartell, seconded by David Hartweg. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Recorded by Jody Miller
Council Secretary

