

TRINITY'S GOOD NEWS

Volume 10 Issue 1

January 2009

January Birthdays

- 1/01 Greg Ufkes
- 1/02 Tonya Boyer, Wyatt Brown
- 1/04 Jeremy Ufkes, Chris Harrell
- 1/07 LaVerne Schudlach,
Greg Gronewold
- 1/08 Darin Klingler
- 1/09 Bud High
- 1/10 Merlin Gronewold
- 1/12 Travis Johnson
- 1/14 Rick Johnson
- 1/17 Taryn Geissler, Emalee Disney
- 1/18 Ryan Schardon
- 1/22 Esther VanHove, Paige Gutting,
Judy Cramer
- 1/23 Wesley Harrison
- 1/26 John Schwartz (50!!!), Brian Flesner
- 1/29 Diane Schardon
- 1/30 Kim Nettles
- 1/31 Travis Duffy, Jason Hartweg

January Anniversaries

- 1/04 Jerry & Linley Bartell
- 1/16 Ed & Brenda Seaver
- 1/18 Denver & Danelle Smith
- 1/26 Gerald & Cindy Brown

Choir Practice

Choir practice will be held on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Welcome Center. Anyone wishing to sing is welcome to join us!

Sewing Group

The sewing group will meet each Monday at 9:00 a.m. Anyone wishing to sew can join us.

Committee Night

Committee Night is Tuesday, January 6. No meetings have been scheduled at this time.

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.

Financial Update

As of November 30, 2008

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$131,669
Amt. Received YTD - \$106,719
Amt. Spent YTD - \$103,258
Current Fund Balance - \$10,039

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$17,083
Amt. Received YTD - \$15,919

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!

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.

Devotional Books

"The Word in Season" devotional books are available at the north entrance of the sanctuary and at the back of the church.

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.

Welcome Center Update

As of November 30, 2008, the amount given to the Welcome Center totals \$376,278. Of this amount \$35,462 was given through November 30, which compares to \$31,517 given through November 2007. Total cost of the project was \$548,653. For 2008 we have paid \$5,805 in interest through November compared to \$6,234 in 2007. We have reduced the Marine Bank loan by \$53,510 so far this year, leaving a loan balance of \$104,269. 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.

Thanks from Shepherd's Pantry

The Evangelism Committee donated the money raised during the Carthage Christmas Open House to Shepherd's Pantry. We thank the members of the committee for all their hard work and continuing support of the Pantry.

Ladies Bible Study

There is a new Bible Study that is held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in my home. The title of the 9-month study is "The Hidden Land of God: Wisdom Stories from Ruth, Daniel and Esther." There is lots of discussion and no wrong answers to questions that arise. There is always room for one more at the table and the group is very welcoming. The next meeting is January 8. For any questions you might have give me a call at 357-2737. Copies of the current Bible Study are available in the organist mailbox in the parish hall.

Doris Holtsclaw

Nursing Home Worship

We will lead worship for the residents of the Hancock County Nursing Home on Sunday, January 4 at 11:15 a.m. Everyone is invited to help us sing, pass out hymnals, transport residents, and share a smile. Come and join us in this important ministry!

Winter Items Needed

The Department of Human Services is collecting new or gently used coats, sweatshirts, gloves, mittens and scarves to hand out to those in need this winter. You may drop your items off at their office at 2005 E. US Highway 136 starting now through the end of February. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Edris at 357-3116.

College Student Address

Malyssa Galloway
Robertson Hall
Cottey College
Nevada, MO 64772

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2009 are available to be picked up in the Welcome Center.

Annual Report Deadline

All articles for the annual report are to be turned in to the church office by Saturday, **January 10**. The reports should be available to be picked up in the Welcome Center the week before the annual meeting, which will be held on January 25.

Acolyte Training

An acolyte training course will be held on Sunday, January 11 at 4:30 p.m. This is for all first year confirmation students who will start acolyting this month and for any other students who would like to have a refresher course.

Congratulations!

The Crafts and Baked Goods Sale was very successful, raising \$349.50 for the Shepherd's Pantry. Without your donations of food and crafts, we could not have had the sale, so THANK YOU!

We also want to thank the patrons of the sale for your generosity in helping those in need within our community.

The winner of the comfort that was raffled off is DAVE POLAND! Is that Divine Intervention or what?

Your Evangelism Committee



Thanks from Shepherd's Pantry

Shepherd's Food Pantry housed at Trinity extends a heartfelt thank you to the congregation for its generous cash donation in December. During these tough economic times, it is truly rewarding to have Trinity and the other churches in our community help insure that our clients will have emergency food supplies each month.

Picture Directory Update

Please plan on being included in the new directory. This will be very useful for our next Pastor, so he can put names and faces together. It also helps new members to become more acquainted with us "older" ones! And, many of our families have changed – with new additions, or because our kids have gotten older. So when the sign-up sheets come out, please select a time that will work for you.

The dates have been set – Thursday, Friday and Saturday, February 5, 6, and 7. The photographers will be set up in the Parish Hall. If you will not be able to come in on these dates, you can send a picture to the Church and be included in the directory.

The Methodist Church is having pictures taken also, on February 26, 27 or 28th. If you can not make our dates, perhaps you could schedule one at the Methodist Church. (Some of their members might be showing up at Trinity, also.)

For those who are in the Military, please provide a picture. Our Service men and women look very nice in their uniforms! They will be included in the Military section of the booklet.

Remember, each family photographed will receive a free portrait and a picture directory. And, in addition, you will be able to purchase other pictures or poses.

If you have any questions, please contact someone on your Evangelism Committee.

Address Changes

Lindsay Harrison
1566 N. County Road 1880
Carthage, IL 62321

Donald Schulz
2960 Treasure Drive – Apt. 2
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86404

Welcome!

Welcome to Bill & Judy Meier, Trinity's newest members. Their address is: 214 Cherry Street, Carthage.

Church Council Highlights
December 11, 2008

Council members present were Brent Ufkes, John Schwartz, Jody Miller, David Hartweg, Kathy Graham, Angie Fecht, Merlin Gronewold, Linley Bartell, Pastor Gayle Pope, John Peterson, Ryan Schardon, & Ron Schulz. Absent were John Dittmer & Dave Poland.

Brent called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Opening prayer led by Pastor Gayle Pope.

The minutes of the November 13 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes as presented by Angie Fecht. Seconded by John Schwartz. No further discussion. Motion carried.

There were no Petitions or Communications reported.

Financial Secretary's Report – Financial Secretary Report dated November 30 was reviewed. Motion to approve the financial secretary report by Linley Bartell. Seconded by Kathy Graham. No further discussion held. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer's Report dated through November 30 was reviewed. Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Merlin Gronewold. Seconded by John Schwartz. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Christian Ed. (Angie Fecht) – Angie stated she received no response to the request for a 7th & 8th grade Sunday school teacher. Notices were placed in the weekly bulletin & newsletter.

Evangelism (John Peterson) – John stated the Craft & Bake sale raised \$349.50. John thanked the council for allowing the event to be held and all who donated & purchased merchandise. There is an angel tree in the Welcome Center for gifts to be purchased. The picture directory committee will meet Monday, December 15. Pictures are

tentatively scheduled for February 5 - 7. Olan Mills will do the majority of the work, scheduling, reminders, etc. Members that may be unavailable that weekend will have the opportunity to have pictures taken at another local church in Carthage at a later date. Details will follow. With the credit received for the picture sales, the committee has chose to have a professional brochure created for the church. John stated that he has received an additional request for signage in the church and Gary Vest is working on the request.

Fellowship (Jody Miller) – No report.

Finance (Kathy Graham) – Kathy stated the finance committee met the 1st of the month. Discussion was held at that meeting regarding the Marie Fecht Mutual Fund account. A recommendation was made to contribute \$2,000 to the benefit for Loren & Connie Schulz's great grandson. A motion was made by Kathy Graham to approve the \$2,000 benefit gift, seconded by John Schwartz, motion carried. The investment and account balances from October – December 2008 were reviewed. Kathy made a motion to approve \$500 for the Kiwanis Toy Share Drive, seconded by David Hartweg, no further discussion, motion carried. During the finance report, David Hartweg mentioned that if the Welcome Center loan could be repaid at the same rate we are currently doing, it is possible to have the loan paid off in January 2010. Discussion was held about having a year end drive to increase giving. The original loan was set up for 18 years and it's possible to have the loan paid off in 5 years.

Memorial (John Dittmer) – No report.

Property (John Schwartz) – No report.

Social Ministry (Tammy Snyder) – No report.

Stewardship (Merlin Gronewold) – Merlin reported the Stewardship banquet was held

on November 23. Ben Ellefritz was a great speaker.

Worship & Music (Linley Bartell) – Linley, Eileen and Dave met to discuss services through the end of February. They will meet again to discuss Easter & Lenten services. Linley has received a letter from Mr. David Cool of Temple Organs, St. Joe, MO regarding an upgrade to the organ at a price of \$27,900, which could be performed prior to Easter 2009, which would have a 10 year guarantee. There is currently \$3,220 in the organ account. Linley & Eileen will make some calls regarding this issue.

Youth (Ryan Schardon) – Ryan stated that a soup and trivia night fundraiser recently held raised \$600. Thrivent will contribute \$590 towards the event. Ryan stated that he has been accepted at SIU-E next fall and may possibly need to be replaced on council this summer.

Call Committee – No report.

Dave's Report – No report.

Pastor Gayle's Report – Pastor Gayle reported that Dave and Jackie Adkins have met regarding shut-ins. Jackie will keep all the contact info. On December 4 Dave participated in the open house ceremonies on the square. Janet has been working with the confirmation youth to prepare them to play the chimes in the Christmas Eve service. The confirmation youth will be headed to St. John's tomorrow night. Three youth will be attending. John Peterson stated that Dave won the comfort from the open house raffle. Pastor Gayle stated she continues to teach confirmation class. She submitted her monthly fees to Dave & Brent.

Old Business: Food Resource Bank: Merlin reported they sent \$10,000 to the Food Resource Fund. Merlin is working on an article for the newspaper. A group will head to Springfield on March 14 to promote next year's project.

Geographic Parish Report: Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 22, at 7 p.m. at Trinity. Refreshments will be needed.

New Business:

Annual Meeting: The annual meeting will be held January 25. A brunch will be held immediately following church services with the meeting to follow. Other members may be contacted for additional items for the meal. Reports are due to Denise prior to January 10.

Nominating Committee: John Schwartz stated the Nominating Committee met last night to review a list of possible council candidates. These candidates will be contacted prior to the annual meeting.

Agnes Geissler Mission Investment Fund: John Peterson stated the funds from the global mission account will be distributed as follows: \$200 to the Schulz great-grandson benefit; \$100 to Bibles for Missions; \$100 to Miracle Ranch; \$100 to the Rushville Santa Claus (who makes toys for children). The committee members who maintain this account are: John Peterson, Max Gronewold, Brent Ufkes & Marcia McGaughey.

Budget: The 2009 budget, which was reviewed at the finance committee meeting earlier this month, was reviewed by council members. \$700 was added to the social security line item from the original proposal, which therefore increased the total budget to \$161,461. A copy of the budget will be printed in the annual report in January. Motion to approve the budget with the one correction by John Schwartz, seconded by Dave Hartweg, no further discussion, motion carried.

Council Update: It was noted that the following council member's terms will expire: John Peterson, Jody Miller & Brent Ufkes. Tammy Snyder has requested to terminate due to conflict with her work schedule.

Next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 8th at 6:30 p.m. (This change was made after the calendar was printed - this is the correct time.)

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 by John Schwartz. Seconded by Kathy Graham. No further discussion. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Recorded By: Jody Miller, Council Secretary

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*.

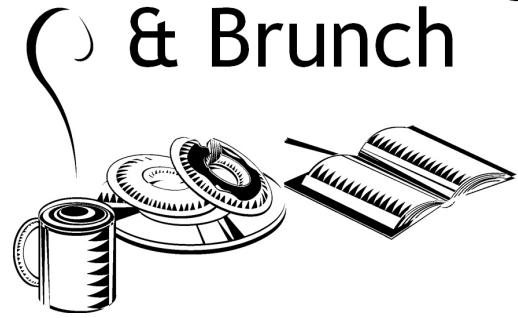
*Congratulations to **Jacqueline Galloway**, who was named a 2009-2010 Illinois State Scholar.

*Congratulations to **Tim & Tammy Snyder**, celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary on December 30.

*Congratulations to our State Champions **Ryan Schardon, Austin Ufkes, Jesse Holtsclaw, Carl Hartweg, Zach Lemley and Kirby Fecht**, who were all members of the Illini West Class 3A State Champion football team. What a season!



Annual Meeting & Brunch



The annual meeting of our congregation is scheduled for Sunday, January 25 in the fellowship hall. A fellowship brunch will be held at 10:15 a.m., immediately following worship, with the meeting to follow.

All members of the congregation are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in this important meeting as we continue to grow in our mission and ministry. Not only will we celebrate the accomplishments of this past year, but we will also begin looking toward the future as we discern together where our gracious and faithful God is leading us!

Annual reports will be available for pick-up in the Welcome Center beginning on Sunday, January 18.