

TRINITY TIMES

February 2010

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PASTOR'S PEN

During the season of Lent this year, I'd like to invite you to join in a congregation-wide study of the parable of the prodigal son. This parable told by Jesus illustrates the love and grace of God in a powerful way. Tim Keller is the author of The Prodigal God: Finding Your Place at the Table. Rev. Keller is a best-selling Christian author as well as the Sr. Pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City. This book really does offer a fresh and insightful examination of the well-known parable.

I'm praying that a large percentage of our congregation will agree to study the Prodigal God during Lent. Each week we will offer several opportunities to view a video clip hosted by Rev. Keller and then discuss a theme of the parable using a discussion guide. We are firming up the schedule at this time, but I anticipate several groups meeting during WoW on Wednesday evenings and perhaps a group during the Sunday School hour. Also, we may offer a group on a weekday morning to listen, study and discuss.

We will begin these groups the week of February 22nd. Each participant will be asked to purchase a study guide for \$10.00, of course these can easily be shared within a family. You may sign up for a study guide in the church narthex or simply call or email the church office.

Here are the weekly discussion guide themes:

The Parable
The People Around Jesus
The Two Lost Sons
The Elder Brother
The True Elder Brother
The Feast of the Father

Friends, can you imagine the wonderful things God might do at Trinity while we are all studying the same scripture? I imagine this will be a significant season of prayer and growth in God's grace as we study together. Please do commit to take this journey with others in our church family.

Grace & Peace,
Shawn

Men's Study Group . . .

In the month of February the Men's Study Group (MSG) will meet at 7:30 a.m., on the 3rd and the 17th, at Panera on Hurstbourne. We are taking our time working through the Book of Romans and will study chapter 9 in February.

Building Update . . .

Tony Koukola, the Chairman of the Building Committee, hosted an information meeting after worship on January 17th. The 61 people who attended heard that our Fellowship Hall is 99% completed and looks wonderful. Also, we learned that construction on the Sanctuary and narthex will take place during the month of February. For four Sundays in February we will hold worship services in the Fellowship Hall. Finally, Tony shared with the congregation that the plan for construction of the bell tower calls for the builders to begin work in the late spring when the weather is most cooperative. If you are interested in purchasing a tree or some other element of the renovation project, please contact Tony with your idea.

Weekly Worship Attendance . . .



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

One Year Ago

| | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|
| December 24 | 202 | 154 |
| December 27 | 126 | 104 |
| January 3 | 119 | 143 |
| January 10 | 130 | 155 |
| January 17 | 141 | 128 |

From our Treasurer. . .

A congregation member mentioned to me recently that she understood Trinity was having financial problems. I just wanted to let everyone know that – in spite of some real budget-tightening measures – I don't think that's the case.

For the past two years we have operated under a deficit budget. As the general economic conditions affected us all, we saw some decreases in pledges and giving. Also, we focused on the building renovation capital campaign last year, forgoing our typical stewardship campaign for 2009. For those reasons, we went to our 'rainy day fund' to make up for deficit budgets in 2008 and 2009. This, of course, is what a 'rainy day fund' is for.

As our Session looked at the budget for 2010, and the investments that make up our 'rainy day fund', it was decided that we should take some cost cutting measures in order to maintain an investment fund balance sufficient to use it for unforeseen future needs – that is, to exercise good stewardship in reining in costs. So, although there will be some challenges in operating within this pared down budget, there are challenges that we are choosing in order to avoid financial problems. As Trinity's treasurer, and as a Trinity congregation member, I am grateful for the difficult decisions made by our elders in order to exercise good stewardship.

Mission Committee . . .

February 7th Souper Bowl Sunday

The Souper Bowl of Caring is the result of thousands of young people joining together to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. This unique, youth-led movement of caring is transforming the nation's biggest weekend of football into its largest weekend of giving. Since the program started in 1990, over \$60 million has been raised for local charities across the country. Trinity will once again be collecting monetary donations and canned goods on Sunday, February 7th, to benefit the Eastern Area Communities Ministries and Dare to Care.

So help us fill the Food Bank at EACM by bringing a few canned goods on SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY. Items most needed: peanut butter, hearty soups, canned meats, spaghetti, Ravioli, after-school snacks, pancake mixes and syrup.

Weather permitting, we will once again hold the TRINITY BOWL, so plan to join us for the game. If you cannot play, come and cheer for your favorite team.

Friendly Reminder

Please remember to use your Kroger Cards. This is such an easy way to help our Youth raise money for their Summer Conferences. If you do not have a Kroger Card, please see Lois Bringhurst. We have a few at the church and we can always order more. The concept is simple, the initial cost of the Kroger gift card is \$5.00, you take the card to Kroger and "load" it with any amount you choose. Use your card when you pay for your groceries and gas. You can reload the card over and over again. Each time you reload your card, Kroger sends a rebate to the church, which we use to help cover the cost of the Youth Conferences.



Thanks . . .

The Keyser family wishes to express love and gratitude to their Trinity Church family for providing food, love and support during Jack's illness and death. Special thanks and hugs to Shawn and the Deacons for their visits, phone calls, cards and words of encouragement. May God bless each of you.

Love,
Barbara, Nancy and Kevin

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the March 2010 *Trinity Times* is February 18. Please email articles to trinitypc@earthlink.net or leave them in the secretary's mailbox.

From The Director of The Trinity Center for Faith & Art . . .

Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life

-Picasso

Peace & Grace to All,

As the new year starts, so do many new classes in the Art Studio. Starting on Thursday, February 11th, from 10:00 a.m. - Noon, a 4-week Sculpting Class will begin. The cost is \$100 plus the cost of clay. Starting on Saturday, February 13, 10:00 a.m. - Noon, a 6-week Pottery Wheel Class will start. The cost for this is also \$100 plus the cost of clay.

New this year - Open Studio Time on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Come try your hand at the wheel or hand-build that special gift. Upcoming classes; Copper Jewelry Class and a Beading Class, times to be announced.

As always, volunteers are still needed. Please call Candy at the church office if you can help out for an hour or so. The following are times when volunteers are needed; the 1st and 3rd Monday and Thursday of each month from 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.; the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. and the 2nd Friday of each month from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

In Christ,

Candy Wheat

Trinity Preschool . . .

News from the Red Room,

Wow! Was January cold? We stayed warm in the Red Room by making snowmen for the Preschool hallway bulletin board. They turned out great. Some of them even have eyelashes and are holding flowers.

The Red Room also gained a new friend in January. Zoe moved to Louisville from Ohio and she completes our awesome 4-year old Monday, Wednesday, Friday class of 9 girls and 5 boys.

The kids in the Red Room love to do arts and crafts projects (the messier the better), guess dictionary words and play bingo. We love our Red Room kids, they are awesome!

Love, Ms. Beth & Ms. Linda

Trinity Preschool is currently enrolling children for the 2010-2011 school year. For additional information, contact the office at 244-0054 or visit our website at www.tpclouisville.net/preschool.

February Birthdays

| | | | | | |
|------|------------------|------|-----------------------|------|----------------|
| 2-1 | Andy Block | 2-12 | Andrew Robert Kratt | 2-25 | Anuji Abraham |
| 2-3 | Robert Syms, Jr. | | Esther Seelmeyer | | Tyler Bird |
| 2-4 | Lois Bringhurst | 2-18 | Erin Goodknight | 2-26 | Natalie Hayden |
| | Betty Wilborn | | Molly Woods | | Barbara Keyser |
| 2-6 | Janet Husband | 2-21 | Jackson Donald Gilley | | |
| 2-8 | Taylor Mullin | 2-24 | Athena Walker | | |
| 2-10 | Margaret Gayhart | | Glenna Ogle | | |

February Anniversaries

2-19 T.C. & Sheila Mathew

Ash Wednesday . . .

Due to the construction in the Sanctuary our traditional Ash Wednesday service will not be held. Instead, Trinity will observe this holy day with a meal in the Fellowship Hall and prayer in the parlor. As individuals finish eating they will be invited to walk through the parlor where sacred music will be playing. Once there, you may sit and pray, read devotional material and receive the ashes.

Maundy Thursday Taize Service . . .

Our Maundy Thursday Service will be held in the Fellowship Hall due to construction in the sanctuary. The date for the service is April 1st, and the time is 7:00 p.m.

The Taize community is “an ecumenical order with a strong devotion to peace and justice through prayer and meditation.” This monastic order was founded in 1940 in the small village of Taize in central France. At present, there are 100 monks representing 30 countries in the community.

Taize style worship emphasizes prayer, silence, soft music and meditation on the scripture passage for the day. During the service the worshipper attempts to open him/herself to God and allow Christ through the Holy Spirit, speak to them and even pray for them. For Trinity this service will provide “sacred space” for God to prepare us for the observance of Good Friday and celebration of Easter.

Sunday Nursery Volunteers



| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| February 7: | Anuji Abraham |
| February 14: | Diane Frye |
| February 21: | Kay Nolan |
| February 28: | Glenna Ogle |

Trinity Presbyterian Women. . .

History is not my strong suit. To a degree, that correlates with my understanding of the Old Testament. How thankful I am, though, to have others within my circles that are knowledgeable and can contribute to my learning – a valuable benefit of the body of Christ!

In January the Tuesday Morning Circle studied Lesson Four of *Joshua: A Journey of Faith* book written by Mary Mikhael. The topic pertained to the land that God had promised His people – to Abraham and his descendants.

For thousands of years the people groups of the Middle East have been fighting and vying for precious commodities such as land and water. The factions and factors are highly complex. In her study, Mary Mikhael, as a Christian born in Syria and living most of her life in Lebanon, experiences the matters of the Middle East much differently than we do. She was a child when the modern state of Israel came into existence, a result of many years of political wrangling. She has seen first hand the devastation and injustices that the rival peoples have dealt upon each other in the land of Israel/Palestine.

We may not really know all aspects of the conflicting stories within that region. And I don't see that we, you and I, can affect any improvements to the challenging political issues. I would venture to say that we can agree that individuals and families are experiencing distress and deprivation.

Let's look at one of the many passages that tells of God's gift of the land. Genesis 12:1 reads, "Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing'."

"...so that you will be a blessing." How can one be a blessing? Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God" (Matthew 5:9).

Though it sounds simplistic, I can pray for peace in the Middle East, for each individual and family, irrespective of their being Jewish, Muslim or Christian. And to learn how our denomination may be involved with this and other areas of unrest, I can find resources through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. ((888) 728-7228 ext. 5936 or <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/#about>.)

God bless,

Virginia Kozak, Moderator

Tuesday Morning Circle: February 9th, 10:30 in the Parlor, bring a brown bag lunch. Lesson 5 of *Joshua: A Journey of Faith*, "Can War be Holy?" facilitated by Rev. Shawn Barkley. Hostess Group 4.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Where there is love, there is life.

Mahatma Gandhi

From the Director of Christian Education & Youth. . .

We are off to a great start for the New Year! Youth conferences are being scheduled, fund-raising begins soon, programs are being planned and **a new kitchen is ready for use!** This will make life easier for us in many ways. Obviously, not having a kitchen has affected our WoW program the most. We have missed the opportunity to gather for a mid-week meal.

With this down time (not having the use of a kitchen) we have taken the opportunity to evaluate the program and search for ways for it to be run more efficiently. Factored into this evaluation has been the economic struggle that most families and businesses are facing. And with this in mind there will be some changes that will be of great benefit to all of us.

While we do not want to raise the price of the meal, we simply are not able to cover our cost. After much discussion we have decided to have pot-luck for the majority of our meals. Every week there will be a sign-up sheet for what you will be able to bring. We will have a recommended main dish that some will sign up for and asked to use the recipe provided. In the remaining categories for example, salad, vegetable or dessert, you will have the option to make whatever you want. This way we will have a consistent main dish each time.

We have had people take turns cooking for us in the past. While the food is always great we have a hard time covering the cost. **If you would like to cook a meal for WoW that is still an option.** We are just asking that you keep the cost to a minimal. One family has offered to make a spaghetti dinner. That is a great economic option.

In our efforts to simplify, we certainly don't want this to be confusing for you. Just keep in mind that if it is a pot-luck meal you will need to bring a dish and pay \$1.00 or so for drinks and condiments. If a family prepares a meal for us you will need to pay the usual \$6.00 per person/\$18.00 per family. If you have any good main dish recipes or casserole recipes (with meat) please share those with us soon.

We look forward to starting up the WoW program on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. We will have dinner served by the Hartmann's and a special church service. In the remaining weeks leading up to Easter, Shawn will offer a study on *The Prodigal God*, by Tim Keller.

Many Blessings,
Linda Kennedy

Confirmation Class. . .

The Confirmation Class will meet from January 24th through May 23rd. Shawn is teaching this class which is for young people, in the 7th grade and up, who wish to explore church membership. Each Sunday, the class, which meets in Shawn's office at 9:45 a.m., will learn about an element of the Presbyterian Christian faith. Please contact Shawn if you'd like more information on the class.

Medical Corner. . . .

Hello TPC Family,

The physicians and nurses in the congregation have volunteered to write a little advice or info column in the monthly newsletter. We have many different specialties covered but would like any suggestions you have to help make this a useful venture. Please email suggestions to Linda Thomas and we will review them.

Sincerely, Geetha Joseph

Do You Know . . .

The age-adjusted annual incidence rate of all cancers in the US is 411 per 100,000 while in Kentucky it is 440. For lung cancer the US incidence is 69/100,000, but in Kentucky it is 100.5, mainly due to tobacco use. Breast cancer is the same as the US incidence and colon cancer is 50/100,000 vs. 44 in the entire US. The good news is that the number of new cases of most of the common cancers is decreasing. The keyword is PREVENTION and EARLY DETECTION. Be diligent about screening tests for cancer such as mammograms, PAP smears, PSA tests and colonoscopies. If you have a family history of certain cancers, screening usually starts earlier than usual. ASK your family doctor if you are up-to-date with your screening tests.

Get your colonoscopy at age 50 or earlier if you have a family history, mammograms annually from age 40 - 70 (can be every other year from age 40 - 50). Avoid blistering sunburns and stay healthy TPC!

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Trinity's Vision Statement

"We are a welcoming church family, developing disciples who joyfully minister to others in the name of Christ."