

TRINITY TIMES

June/July 2011

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PASTOR'S PEN/BLOG

It was about the time I entered the seminary that our denomination started to wrestle with issues that relate to human sexuality in a serious way. Now 25 years later the PC USA continues to have conversations around this sensitive matter, and in particular, how it pertains to our ordination standards. Until this year our denomination clearly stated that "self-affirming, practicing gay and lesbian persons" were not eligible for ordination. This was the church's position on the issue since the day the question was posed decades ago . . . and obviously it was the polity under which I submitted to be ordained as a minister of the Word and Sacrament 20 years ago this month.

You have probably heard or read by now that our denomination has changed positions regarding ordination standards. Amendment 10-A which was passed by a majority of Presbytery's this month now includes the following language for ordination, "standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life." I have to admit that these words sound good, but have no clue what they really mean in relation to church polity. For years and years (including 2010) ordained persons were called by the church to "lead a life of obedience to scripture." We now have a new church polity that diminishes the role of biblical authority and emphasizes an individual's assertion that he/she is acting in accordance with Christ's Lordship in his/her life. As you can see it all seems fuzzy and potentially confusing. Rather than speak with a clear voice on the biblical witness, it seems to me that our denomination is electing to allow each person to be the ultimate authority in their life. Incidentally, I do believe that living under the Lordship of Christ and being obedient to God's Word are one in the same thing. It's just that this isn't the intent, nor will it be the result when applied to the new ordination standards.

What this new language permits is local ordaining bodies to ordain a person who is in a gay or lesbian relationship if the congregation or presbytery so desires. I disagree with the majority of presbytery's on this matter. My disagreement isn't based on any fear or animosity toward same-sex oriented persons as I have a number of Christian brothers and sisters with



Pastor's Pen/Blog continues. . .

this orientation. It's obvious that we extend the love and grace of God to all. We're talking exclusively about ordination here.

The watchwords of the protestant reformation were:

- Scripture alone
- Grace alone
- Faith alone
- Christ alone
- Glory to God alone

It is by these things that we live and by these words we derive our identity and make decisions. It's now clear that we're exchanging these watchwords for other ideals: culture, feelings, opinions, etc. Count me as one Presbyterian who is deeply saddened as in my mind this all points to the deeper question of how we regard scripture.

How does this impact our church family? I'm not yet sure what the results will be. In the immediate future we'll continue to be a welcoming church family that develops Christian disciples who joyfully minister to others in the name of Christ. Naturally we can continue to fulfill our mission regardless of what is going on in our denomination at large. However, I am also aware that some at Trinity may not wish to continue to identify themselves with the PC USA. My prayer is that you'll stick with your church family as we consider our response, if any. We have a faithful Session that will seek to be led by the Holy Spirit as we go forward. After all, there are often disagreements among Christians who love each other, even within families for that matter.

In my view the wise and faithful response for Trinity at this time is to be patient. It's anyone's guess what will emerge nationally from the growing desire among many Presbyterians to maintain a church that subscribes to the belief that scripture is the ultimate authority for our faith and life. I do know that a movement is underway and a large group of Presbyterians will gather in Minneapolis this summer to consider establishing a denomination within our denomination, or perhaps a new denomination altogether. If this appears to have merit for our congregation I'll surely communicate such information with the Session.

Friends, I love you and consider it to be a privilege to be your minister. Please know that I wrote this as a friend in Christ, a fellow redeemed sinner, and a leader who has to be honest about my position. This is tough for our church family, and it makes my heart heavy to even have to address the issue.

As in all things, however, we know that this matter is in God's hands and He will work good in our lives according to His purpose.

Grace to you,
Shawn

Session Highlights. . .

Highlights from the May 2011 Meeting

- There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 5, 2011, following the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service for the purpose of electing members of the congregation to the 2011 Nominating Committee.
- The Men's Sunday School Class is beginning a study of the book, '**Basic Christianity**' by John Stott.
- The Session approved the 'Memorial Fund Guidelines' as presented by the Mission Committee.
- There will be no regularly scheduled Session Meeting in the month of June.

Treasurer's Corner. . .

STEWARDSHIP CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY For the Month ending April 30, 2011

APRIL						
	Apr-11		Apr-10	YTD Apr 2011		YTD Apr 2010
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual
Pledges			\$15,046			\$76,607
Plate offering	\$428	\$450	\$415	\$1,572	\$3,041	\$2,806
Donors	\$30,294	\$21,364	\$5,167	\$99,221	\$103,518	\$21,337
	\$30,722	\$21,814	\$20,628	\$100,793	\$106,559	\$100,750

Weekly Worship Attendance . . .



April 24:	276
May 1:	144
May 8:	183
May 15:	106
May 22:	178

Men's Study Group . . .

In June and July our Men's Study Group will continue their study of Luke. As always the guys will meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month (June 1st & 15th and July 6th & 20th) at 7:30 a.m., at the Panera Bread on Hurstbourne. The group welcomes any male Trinity member or friend.

Mission Committee . . .

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Do you volunteer? The Mission Committee is compiling a list of Mission opportunities and we would like your input. If you volunteer please share your story with the Mission Committee so we in turn can share with others in our church family.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Prayers - Prayers: July 20 - 31

As you all know by now, Sabrina and Heather Oyler will be going to Uganda during this time. Please mark your prayer calendars to cover and surround them with prayers. (You might want to include Sheryl and Max in your prayers also. It's not easy sending your kids to the other side of the world.)



Back to School: 1st week in August

Yes I know schools have just started summer vacation, but we will be collecting school supplies in July for EACM. Packing parties will be August 3 - 5, and the Back to School Event will be Saturday, August 6. Volunteers are needed.

Operation Christ Child Kick-Off Event: October 2

Trinity will be hosting this event. Sabrina & Heather will share their Uganda experience.

Mission Committee continued . . .



UGANDA HERE WE COME!!!



As most of you know, we (Sabrina and Heather Oyler) have been chosen to be a part of the Samaritan's Purse Youth (SPY) team! We and 17 other youth from the United States and Puerto Rico will be traveling to Uganda July 22-30. While we are there we will have the opportunity to distribute Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts to the children of Uganda and participate in a service project. (As soon as we have the details on the service project we will be happy to share that with our church family)

We have been participating in Operation Christmas Child since we were 3 years old and for us, this is a dream come true! We will be giving a minute for mission on June 5th with a question and answer time following the service. We look forward to sharing with our church family this glorious opportunity! If you would like to know more about the trip feel free to call us or talk to us at anytime.

This will be a life changing experience for all of the participants on this mission trip and we would love for our church family to be as involved as possible! We are asking that before and during this trip you pray for the group; the youth, the leaders, but mostly pray for the children that will be receiving these boxes.

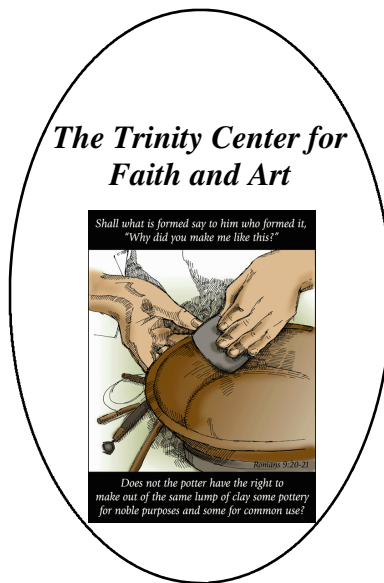
We look forward to answering any questions you may have before and after this amazing opportunity!

Love to our church family,
Sabrina & Heather Oyler

Newsletter Deadline. . .



The deadline for the August 2011 *Trinity Times* is July 18. Please email articles to trinitypc@earthlink.net or leave them in the secretary's mailbox.



Peace & Grace to All from the Trinity Center for Faith & Art,

The Art Center has been hard at work applying for grants to help with classes and purchasing a new kiln. Thank you to Elizabeth McDaniel for your hard work in preparing the grants.

Summer classes will begin the second week of June. We are expecting 90 teens per week and our regular classes of 40 adults per week.

The Center also started a new ministry for the Fern Creek/Highview United Ministries. Once a month, on their site, we will hold a class for their Adult Daycare. We will be working with adults with dementia, Alzheimer's and other aging disabilities. Please pray for this new mission of the Center.

Monthly, I receive at least two calls from people and groups that want our services, but as of now we are full until fall. Trinity is so blessed to have had God steer this mission in our direction. They say "built it" and "they will come." We just had no idea so many would come! It gets to be a little overwhelming at times because there is so much to do to keep this program going. So . . . I ask once again for you to ask yourself how you may help in this ministry.

The following are ways you can help:

- Volunteer to help with at least one class this summer. (sign-up sheets on our bulletin board)
- Donate money for cost of clay or towards to purchase of new kiln.
- Volunteer to help with prep work or cleaning and organizing once a month.
- Pray for our mission.

If you think God is calling you to help, please call the church office and I will return your call.

Thanks to the Faith & Art Committee members, Betty Muse, Elizabeth & Mark McDaniel, Lois Bringhurst and Richard Ross. There is always room for more members on this committee. If you feel called to this mission, let me know. Thank you for all your prayers and support.

In Christ,

Candy Wheat

Director of The Trinity Center for Faith & Art

June & July Birthdays. . .

6-2	Annette Goodknight	6-24	Jim Barr	7-14	Jack Wheat
6-4	Tony Koukola	6-26	Mike Conn	7-17	David Brandt
	Christopher Mullin	6-27	Amy Jo Barkley		Ruth Hof
	Douglas Oyler		Norma Pennington	7-19	Scott MacDonald
	Diane Tinsley	7-1	Sandy Koukola	7-20	Ann Moorman
6-7	Heather Oyler		Leslie Koukola	7-22	Cathy Conn
	Sabrina Oyler	7-2	Adam Elder	7-23	Mira Misleh
	Skip Wilborn	7-4	Cathy Dawson	7-24	Lila Hayden
6-12	Bill Lewis	7-5	Brooklin Elizabeth Hacker		Brenda Miller
	Jim McDaniel		Camille Williams-Neal	7-25	Mary Harville
	Sybil Ottman	7-6	Sarah Hatch	7-28	Millie Blice
6-15	Susan Hornung		Nisha Joseph		Judith Bloor
6-16	Holly Horner	7-7	Elizabeth Bodine		Marilyn Davis
	Dottie Watson	7-9	C.R. Redcorn	7-29	Ray Genet
6-19	Amy Kratt		David Schuler		Kaemba Mwale
	Pam Richardson	7-10	Irv Ottman	7-31	Betty DeWitt
6-21	Jim Sangster	7-12	Connie Levy		Logan Fulmore
	Philip Strohmeier	7-13	Barb Watts		



June & July Anniversaries. . .

6-3	Patrick & Anna Hayden	7-8	Ed & Margaret Gayhart
	Kaemba & Margaret Mwale	7-9	Marc & Connie Levy
6-7	Brian & Annette Goodknight	7-12	Ray & Mary Ann Genet
6-8	Steve & Kay Nolan	7-17	Don & Jenni Johnson
	Charles & Norma Pennington	7-19	Chris & Emily Mullin
6-11	Dennis & Brenda Miller	7-22	Vance & Kim Gilley
6-14	Bill & Carol Lewis	7-26	Mike & Kelly Meska
6-20	Richard & Ruth Hof	7-28	Abe & Geetha Joseph
6-22	Irv & Sybil Ottman		Bert & Suzanne Lundstrom
7-2	Harper & Marilyn Davis		

On May 22, we had the All-Church Birthday celebration. The Fellowship Hall was filled with a lively crowd for this year's festive event with all the fixings, including a mesmerizing selection of birthday cakes. The Birthday Offering was collected in support of ministries in New Mexico, South Carolina and South Sudan. Additional funds were raised by virtue of an opportunity quilt. The person whose actual birthday was May 22, Jay Charnes, is the one whose name was drawn for that colorful quilt made by Cindy Mitchell. We want to thank each of you for helping TPW attain its objectives in its ministry and for participating in the friendship we share as the family of Christ.

The true "birthday" of our Christian faith is celebrated on the religious holiday called Pentecost. In earlier times this holiday has been, and today in more orthodox denominations is, celebrated more vitally than we tend to do. It remains a time when we recall a pivotal event in the history of our faith. Pentecost celebrates the sending of the Holy Spirit from God to the believers of Christ as described in Acts 2. In the Gospels we read Jesus promising that the Spirit would be sent.

The Holy Spirit is the third quintessential character of God, as important to the Trinity as is the Father and the Son. From the beginning, God has been with humankind. In the earliest days, the Father character was most prevalent. About two thousand years ago, for one short lifetime, the character of the Son, Jesus, was with us. The celebration of His birth and resurrection are cornerstones of the Christian calendar – Christmas and Easter. And since the resurrection, it has been the Holy Spirit that manifests God with us as our guide, companion and advocate.

Did you know that Pentecost was originally, and still is, a Jewish holiday? Very briefly, since space doesn't allow a thorough discourse, let me share a few thoughts:

- In today's Hebrew faith, the holiday is known by its Hebrew name of Shavout.
- It occurs fifty days after Passover, the holiday which commemorates how God saved the Israelites from slavery by the Egyptians and began their 'exodus'.
- It was the Hellenistic Jews (in ancient Greece) that used the term "Pentecost" which translates to "fiftieth day" in their language, again, since the holiday fell fifty days after Passover.
- Born a Jew, Jesus celebrated Passover with the traditional feast, including the one that became known as "The Last Supper" and from which we acquired the practice of communion. His death and miraculous resurrection occurred days later, leading to the Christian holiday of Easter.

Trinity Presbyterian Women continued. . .

- As Jesus brought about the New Covenant, the recognition of Pentecost has supplanted that of Passover for Christians.

Pentecost will be Sunday, June 12 this year, so let me be the first to say "Happy Birthday!"

Virginia Kozak, Moderator

Tuesday Morning Circle: June 14th, 10:30 in the parlor, brown bag lunch. Lesson 9 of *Journeys Through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today*. Facilitator: Virginia Kozak. Hostess Group #3 (Janet Pender, chair).

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.

Mark Twain

From the Director of CE and Youth . . .

As many of you probably know, our youth at TPC are involved in several service projects throughout the year. On May 15th they, once again, served at Wayside Christian Mission. Having been there many times in the past, they each had a pretty good idea of what is expected of them and in which area they like to serve. There are a variety of jobs to be done while we are there such as serving in the food line, collecting dirty dishes, washing the dishes, etc. After passing out the hairnets (and laughing at each person as they put one on) and gloves, we get to work. About two hours and a few hundred lunch plates later we are worn out and hungry. We sweep, scrub down tables, stack chairs and leave. And then we reflect. It is impossible to walk out of an experience like that without a heavy heart. A heavy heart turns to thankfulness. Not just for God's provision...our homes, cars, toys, food in our own refrigerators...but for the opportunity to tend to other's needs. Often we forget how truly blessed we are until we see others in need. Thanks be to God for the opportunity we have to show our love for Him by loving and serving others!

In Christ,
Linda Kennedy

Mark your calendar:

June 11th -18th - Youth in Montreat

July 10th and 11th – Two Nights Together

July 22nd and 23rd – Women's Retreat

Support Services. . .

On Friday, May 13, the Support Services Committee held a "Work Day" at Trinity. Several projects were completed: drainage around the awning door was improved; many light bulbs and ballasts were changed; and a privacy fence was constructed to hide the HVAC units at the front door (see photos). Thanks to all who participated and a big special thanks to Bill Husband for all of his hard work landscaping the church yard.



Fellowship Committee. . .

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, June 11:** **Annual TPC Golf Outing** - Weissinger Hills Golf Course.
Registration 8:30 a.m., first tee time, 9:00 a.m.
(sign-up sheet on bulletin board in church hallway)
- Saturday, June 11:** **Ladies Lunch** - Salena's, Noon.
Carpool will leave church at 11:30 a.m.
(sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in hallway)
- Sunday, June 12:** **U of L Community Band Concert & Ice Cream Social**
On the church grounds, 4:00 p.m.

Join a Small Group. . .

Trinity offers a wide variety of small group learning experiences each week. These groups meet regularly for prayer, study and support. Our website has a "small group finder" page that provides useful information about the groups. If you are interested in finding a group that meets your needs, please don't hesitate to contact Shawn for some suggestions.

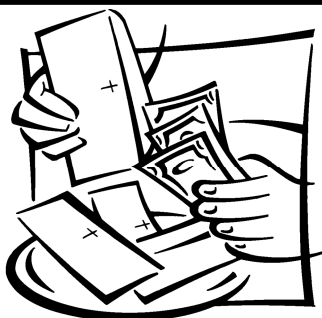
Nursery Volunteers . . .



Nursery Attendants

- | | |
|----------|------------------------------|
| June 5: | Diane Frye |
| June 12: | Steve & Amy Kratt |
| June 19: | Amy Elder |
| June 26: | Liz Barnum |
| July 3: | Amy Jo Barkley |
| July 10: | Cathy Conn and Lucie Fulmore |
| July 17: | Glenna Ogle |
| July 24: | Cathy Dawson |
| July 31: | Elizabeth McDaniel |

Collection Counters . . .



**OFFERING
COUNTERS**

June 5:	Lois Bringhurst & Betty Muse
June 12:	Bill & Janet Husband
June 19:	Mary Corum & Marilyn Davis
June 26:	Virginia Kozak & Betty Wilborn
July 3:	Larry & Carol Hartmann
July 10:	Tom & Cathy Dawson
July 17:	Lois Bringhurst & Betty Muse
July 24:	Virginia Kozak & Betty Wilborn
July 31:	Mary Corum & Marilyn Davis

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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."