

February 2010

Volume 28, Issue 2

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Upcoming Events

- ❖ National Freedom Day
February 1, 2010
- ❖ Groundhog Day
February 2, 2010
- ❖ Boy Scout Sunday /
Super Bow Sunday
February 7, 2010
- ❖ Boy Scout Day
February 8, 2010
- ❖ Lincoln's Birthday
February 12, 2010
- ❖ Valentine's Day /
Transfiguration of the Lord
February 14, 2010
- ❖ President's Day
February 15, 2010
- ❖ Ash Wednesday /
Random Acts of Kindness Day
February 17, 2010
- ❖ Love Your Pet Day
February 20, 2010
- ❖ Washington's Birthday
February 22, 2010

Pastor's Message



This year alone, Trinity's Sunday school enrollment has grown by 50 percent, and creative programs are abounding! The nursery is bursting at the seams during worship; we may even need to consider additional space due to its growth! The youth group has grown in faith and commitment, endeavoring mission trips, retreats, and more! Adult education continues taking significant steps with three Sunday morning tracks offered, not counting all the many educational small groups (have you been to *The Well* lately?).

While Trinity certainly has many, many gifted and faithful people to thank for all this (and our God!) – including amazing teachers and inspiring superintendents and wonderful leaders of all types – we also can thank God for Kathy Genus' ministry in our midst.

Yet, I write not to praise Kathy (although that'd be easy to do) but to remind everyone of what Kathy's exact title is at Trinity – *interim* director of Christian education. As the italicized portion makes clear, Kathy is not our permanent DCE, but one serving in the *interim*. Said another way, Kathy was called to Trinity to help grow our programs, and prepare our leaders and

ministries for the next DCE Trinity will be calling. Said still another way, her time with us, from its very beginning, had an end in sight. This summer, that end will arrive.

As we look to this transition, we need to prepare. Some of these preparations will come in the formation of a new DCE nominating committee which will be formed this spring to begin the search for the dear soul God is preparing for us. Simultaneously, part of Kathy's job now becomes preparing us for her departure and the next DCE's arrival.

As we know, these types of transitions aren't easy. So I ask you to please make this as easy as possible for Kathy and for our community of faith. Make sure you allow Kathy to talk about plans for her departure; make sure you leave room for Kathy to speak about preparations for the future, whether it's regarding curricula review, visioning, calendaring, or making way for who's to come next. And please know that this is just as hard (if not harder) for Kathy as it is for us.

For it's not that Kathy wants
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Pastor's Message

(Continued from Page 1)

to leave, just as we don't desire her departure. Rather, we have all committed to following the call of God. And just as we know God is preparing another faithful soul who will come and minister with us as our new DCE, so Kathy knows that God is calling her to ordained Ministry of Word and Sacrament. As a result, Kathy will be enrolling in New Brunswick Theological Seminary this fall.

I applaud Kathy for so faithfully following the way of God in her life; I praise God for the blessings Kathy has shared with us, and I thank her for inspiring so much ministry in our midst; I look forward to the rest of time we have together; and I can't wait to see what else God has in store for us all — Kathy and Trinity — as we continue to experience the bounty that stems from following along the path of discipleship.

In Peace,
Rob

Kathy's Corner***Youths tackle recycling project***

As part of our desire to support Trinity's Green initiative, our youth group has decided to take on a project of recycling printer cartridges.

There is a pretty green box located by the Education bulletin board in Kern Hall. All you need to do is drop your empty printer cartridges in the box, and we will take care of the rest for you.

You might even choose to let your friends and neighbors know about this recycling effort and bring their empties along as well! Together we can do a lot to prevent these ink cartridges from ending up in a landfill somewhere.

The company that we are dealing with is committed to recycling, and if the company cannot refill the cartridges, it will recycle as much of the plastic as possible.

Not only will the effort result in recycling, it is an opportunity to raise a few dollars toward the youths' mission efforts as well.

We are looking forward to sending off many boxes of ink cartridges in the future!

Children's worship service

On Feb. 28, our Sunday school children will lead us in worship. They will be hard at work studying scripture and writing the prayers and responses for our service.

They also will focus on stewardship and giving as they



Kathy Genus

deepen their understanding of the work that they are doing with Heifer International.

Our Heifer project is not only a mission; it is a doorway through which we are attempting to teach our children another dimension of living as disciples. Particularly today our culture and society are very much "I" centered. Many of our actions pertain to what we can do to advance ourselves in the world. The Heifer project is helping to teach us to step back and think more of others.

As we glorify God on Feb. 28, we also will focus on the ways in which God calls us to live out our lives as disciples, and we hope that you will join us.

Heifer Fair set for Feb. 28

Following worship on Feb. 28, the Sunday school children will sponsor a Heifer Fair.

Everyone is invited to join us after worship in lower Kern Hall as the children will teach us about Heifer International and how we are helping others by supporting this charity.

Each class will have its own

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Happy birthday

The Trinity Times lists the birthdays of active members each month so you can wish your church family members a happy day.

Celebrating February birthdays are:

- 2 – Virginia Pachman
- 3 – Susan Batko, Jenell King
- 6 – Scott Carter, Jenifer King
- 7 – Kyla Zarsky
- 8 – Deborah Chen
- 10 – Peyton Sawyer
- 11 – Andrea Bates
- 14 – Morgan Brechman
- 15 – Arne Thomsson
- 16 – Andre Castillo, Eugene Kaczmarek
- 17 – Daniel Fic
- 18 – Ian Bates
- 19 – Sanjit Choudhury, Barbara Michael
- 20 – Drew Biri, Daniel Yackman
- 21 – Marguerite Sandberg
- 22 – Fletcher Bowers, Linda Curry
- 23 – Molly Boysen
- 24 – Abigail Nichols-Mav

ASH WEDNESDAY MARKS START OF LENT

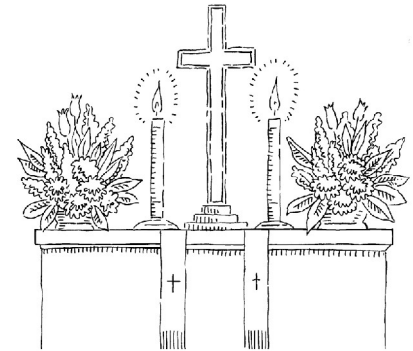
Feb. 7 — We will begin the month of February exploring the beginning of Jesus' ministry, according to Luke 5: 1-11, in which Christ calls his very first disciples. And yet, according to Luke, there is no real call. All Jesus says is, "From now on, you'll be catching people."

What does the call to discipleship look like? And what does it take to leave everything behind to follow someone (and something) so unknown, so new?

We also will celebrate the sacrament of our Lord's Supper on this first Sunday that together we may be nourished by Christ's eternal gifts of love and grace.

Feb. 14 — As Christians round the world celebrate *Transfiguration of the Lord* Sunday, we will dive into Luke 9: 28-36, which presents Jesus' transfiguration before James, Peter, and John. It's a story revealing the unspeakable glory of Christ that stems from the unspeakable Glory of God. Glory disciples are called to reflect in their lives. The struggle, it seems, is that we usually strive not to reflect it, but obtain it for ourselves.

Feb. 17 — Ash Wednesday signifies the very beginning of the Lenten season, a time in the church calendar when disciples are invited to explore the distance between who they are and who God is calling them to be. The 7:30 p.m. worship service will be preceded by a dinner and workshop, with details to come soon.



February Worship

Feb. 21 — Scripture says that if you "call on God," the Lord will hear you. But what does this mean?

We've all had prayers that seem to go unanswered. We've also seen horrible things happen to wonderful, faithful people while wonderful things seem to happen to those we would deem as *not-so-faithful* (perhaps a judgment we should refrain from making). This morning, we'll explore Romans 10: 8-13, and what it means to call on the Lord.

After worship, we will join together in Kern Hall for the annual meeting of the congregation.

Feb. 28 — In Genesis 15, we find Abraham and Sarah, *still* childless despite God's previous promises for a child. How much longer must they wait for their prayers to be answered? How long does it take God to hear our cries and respond? Indeed, the difference between God's time and our time can seem overwhelming. Join us on this final Sunday as we explore a bit of "God's time."

Ashes, olive oil have meanings of death *and* life

Do you have any questions regarding our worship at Trinity? Perhaps you've wondered why we do some of the things we do (or don't do some of the things you may have seen done elsewhere). In this recurring Trinity Times article, the Rev. Carter tackles a question some may be asking about our Sunday morning worship services.

This month, Pastor Rob explores:

What is the significance of Ash Wednesday?

For Christians the world over, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season — a time in the church calendar where we undergo a discipline that helps us become better disciples, exploring the distance between who we are and who God empowers and equips us to be.

Although you'll hear people talk about giving something up for Lent, giving something up for the sake of giving something up seems a bit pointless to me. Instead, if one gives something up for Lent, it should be like pruning dead branches off a plant so that energy can be directed toward new growth.

Often feared as a morbid season, it's also important to know that Lent is not about death or dying. Rather, Lent is really a time to explore what needs to be cut or released from our lives so that we can realize more of who God is calling us to be; sometimes, this means dying to what is dead (and death-dealing) in and among us so that there is room for the vigor of new life.

As such, traditional Ash Wednesday services usually include an imposition of ashes, which is the marking of an ashen cross on our foreheads or the backs of our hands with the pastor's thumb that has been dipped in a little olive oil mixed with ashes.

The elements used for the imposition of ashes are important to note. In the ancient

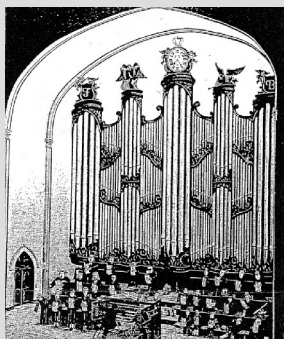


world, people used ashes to symbolize their mourning upon a death and to signify sorrow for their sins. Olive oil was used to anoint people at death, to help with childbirth, to light lamps and to wash.

Notice the double meaning of both the olive oil and ashes, meanings pertaining to both life and death. Even ashes, which are the residue of death, also contain elements of life in them, for ashes are used for soap (recalling the washing of baptism). Ashes are also one of the prime ingredients in fertilizer used to promote new growth.

Thus, there is absolutely nothing magical about the sign of the cross made with the ashes. The sign simply reminds us that we have already been marked and sealed at our baptisms as Christ's very own; it reminds us that though we live in a sinful world, God's will for us is love and grace; it reminds us that through the grace of Christ, we are destined ultimately for life, not death.

Do you have a question about how we worship at Trinity? If so, and you'd like to have it considered for inclusion in this column, please call Pat Staffa at the church office (732-257-6636).



NOTES FROM THE LOFT

As of this writing Chancel Choir and Children's Choir will be up and running. Our Bell Choirs will resume at the beginning of February. New members are welcome in all groups.

Chancel Choir meets Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.; Children's Choir, Sundays, 8:40-9:00 a.m.; Calvin Ringers, Saturdays, noon-1 p.m.; Trinity Bells, Sundays, 1-2:15 p.m.

If you've thought about being a part of any of these music ministries, please see me or call me at 732-583-2575. Come give it a try! We have musical instruction and lots of fun. It makes you feel good being a team player praising God.

February music:

Feb. 7 – Two Fishermen, J. Toolan

Feb. 14 – Tis Good Lord to be Here, Chancel Choir

Feb. 17 – Ashes, T. Conry

Feb. 21 – Lent I, Offertory, J.N. Beck, Chancel Choir

Feb. 28 – Lent II,

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table featuring one of the animals that Heifer gives to hungry families. In addition, they will also have little crafts that they have made available for sale.

Again, please support our children and come out for this very informative program.

Sign up for Heifer trip

Our Heifer trip is right around the corner, and we need everyone who is interested in going to sign up for the April 23-24 trip.

We will leave at about 5 p.m. Friday, April 23, and return around 10 p.m. the next day. The cost of the trip is \$30 per person (the only other expense will be the cost of dinner on the way home), and Christian Education is providing the transportation.

Youths to host Heifer Fair on Feb. 28

This trip is a very important part of the Christian Education requirement for our GreenFaith certification. Everyone is invited to attend. We are specifically hoping that children in the fourth grade and up will attend with a parent.

We will spend a full day at Heifer's Overlook Farm and participate in many activities to help us understand the needs around the globe and the ways that Heifer is responding to those needs.

The trip will be particularly meaningful for us all as we have been and will continue to work all year to raise \$5,000 to purchase an ark of animals.

You may sign up at the Heifer table located in Kern Hall. For more information see Sandie Yaros, LeeAnn Smith or Kathy

Special event to begin with pancake supper

Who doesn't think it is a special treat when you get to have pancakes for supper? The Christian Education Commission is inviting everyone to join us for a pancake supper on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 6 p.m.

We will gather together and share a rich and delightful meal and then transition very quietly into the season of Lent. There will be an informative program for adults as well as children on the meaning behind Ash Wednesday and Lent before we enter into worship at 7:30 p.m.

All too often in our pluralistic culture we get confused about what it is that *we as Presbyterians* believe and how we observe this very holy season. Children come home asking questions about ashes, and our answers often are, "That's what Catholics do." Or we wonder why others are "giving up" things for Lent. We want to do what's right, and we sometimes find ourselves following along out of a sense of being left out rather than truly understanding the practice.

This event will help us all to focus and settle in on how we can grow and learn during this Lenten season. Please sign up in the Narthex.

Charter school to utilize Lower Kern next academic year

Ever since Pixie Preschool left Trinity prior to the 2009-2010 school year, the valuable resources of Trinity's Lower Kern Hall and North Wing rooms have gone underutilized.

Each weekday these spaces sit vacant while they were once filled with the little people of Pixie.

As such, earlier this fall, Session approved the formation of a special task force charged to "discern how God is calling Trinity to utilize this space," and the group meets every other week. Ideas explored thus far have included children's care (with a focus on birthing Trinity's own preschool), elderly care and conference center use. However, amid this discernment came the realization that whatever is discerned for our space, it won't be ready by September 2010.

Still, just as this realization was beginning to surface, so was a request from a newly established East Brunswick charter school known as Hatikvah International Academy Charter School.

The school, which is a public school that will teach Hebrew as a second language, requested the use of Trinity's Lower Kern Hall and North Wing rooms for the coming 2010-2011 school year, as it

prepared its long-term site for readiness by the 2011-2012 academic year. In other words, the charter school asked if they could rent our space for one year while they built their own space.

After exploring many of the details, Session approved a building arrangement to be fashioned between Trinity Presbyterian Church and Hatikvah International Academy Charter School. The school, which will begin the school-year with two kindergarten classes, two first-grade classes, and one second-grade class, will use Lower Kern Hall and the North Wing rooms Monday through Friday, September through June.

Much like our previous arrangement with Pixie, the space will be shared, as the church will be free to utilize the space during the weekends.

To learn more about Hatikvah, whose mission is "to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young citizens to promote a more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect," please visit its website at www.hatikvahcharterschool.com.

The school has been most amiable in all our dealings, and they — just like we — want this relationship to be a mutual blessing for all involved.

A Few Good Friends, FISH, Elijah's Promise among Trinity's missions

Thanks to all the 2009 FISH Hospitality Program volunteers. Guests will be housed at Trinity next during the week of March 21-28 and also during a week in June, September and December. If you are interested in volunteering, please see the sign-up sheets for needs and timeslots.

A Few Good Friends gather the third Friday of each month at Sunrise Assisted Living in East Brunswick and has been led by folks from Trinity and Saint Bart's. We'd love to hear your voice on Friday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. Please call Dotti Spengel at 732-257-6026 for more information.



Trinity prepares dinner at Elijah's Promise on the second Wednesday each month. If you'd like to help Feb. 10, call Bob Sullivan at 732-238-1749.

The Mission Commission is still fishing for a few more disciples! The commission serves an ever-increasing outreach, and we'd love to have additional members. See Beth Knox or Debbie O'Halloran, or just show up at the March 1 meeting at 7 p.m.

Volunteers are also needed for Housing the Homeless at New Brunswick Presbyterian Church Feb. 7-13. Call Bob Sullivan at 732-238-1749 if you are interested.

Trinity offers varied educational opportunities for adults

Bible Basics

A Kerygma Bible Study

As we enter 2010, *Bible Basics* continues its rich *Kerygma Bible Study* that seeks to uncover the whole of the Bible through various thematic explorations.



This remarkable study is intended for a wide array of participants –

from the Biblical novice to the more Biblically literate – who want to get their hands around both the breadth and depth of Scripture, and are committed to study. Still, this is not to say that perfect attendance is necessary. Participants may come and go as desired and schedules require, as they further form themselves on this rich path of discipleship!

February 7, 14, 21 and 28 – *God's People Have Leaders*

These sessions explore how God has worked through various leaders in the Bible. Led by Doug Haff, participants will begin in the Old Testament, looking at leaders such as Moses, before moving into the Prophets, and then the New Testament with John the Baptist, Jesus and the Apostles.

Family Matters

Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28 – *ProActive Parenting 101*

Let's face it: Children don't come with instruction manuals. Communication tends to be something with which every family struggles. Family Matters will be exploring how parents and caregivers can be better listeners, while also modeling good communication techniques for the whole family.

DCE Kathy Genus will help participants explore: recognizing barriers we build; understanding your child's ages and stages; learning your child's communication style; and

improving communication in your home.

Join us as we explore issues essential to all families, supporting one another as we uncover these practical, Christian approaches to parenting.

Faith & Life

Feb. 7 and 14 – *Mary, Matha, & Me*

When someone says, "S/he is a Martha-type," we know just what that means: someone who is practical, competent, down to earth. We understand that Martha's are certainly useful and necessary, but it's usually Mary that gets the halo. In this study of a book by Camille Fronk Olson, DMC Barbara DeCarlo will help participants explore the unique perspectives of the two sisters, Mary and Martha, who serve Jesus in different ways.

Exploring the mixed messages in daily life, participants will discuss the motives and focus that determine our choices and the problem of comparing our gifts and contributions to others.

Feb. 21 and 28 – *Understanding Sudan/Darfur*

What can learning about foreign lands literally half a world away teach us about ourselves? How can this knowledge help us grow as Christians and as responsible citizens?

The country of Sudan is the largest country in Africa and the 10th-largest country in the world geographically. Directly south of Egypt, different peoples have inhabited Sudan, including ones mentioned in the Bible.

Unfortunately, the Sudanese have been caught in a battle for their lives. Estimates as to the loss of life vary, but they are all unthinkable.

This two-session study led by the Rev. Rob Carter traces where the Bible mentions Sudan, gives a brief history of the country, and urges participants to learn more.

The first session is an overview of the country while the second focuses on Darfur and recent events.

Adult Classes

News from Trinity's Earth Shepherd's and Trinity's Green

Rachel Ray's Vegetable Ravioli Lasagna

Serves 4-6

Ingredients:

4 tablespoons butter
4 tablespoons flour
2 1/2 cups milk
A pinch of freshly grated nutmeg
A couple drops of hot sauce
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil (EVOO)
2 medium zucchini, chopped into bite-size pieces
2 red peppers, chopped into bite-size pieces
1 large eggplant, chopped into bite-size pieces
4 cloves garlic
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
4 packages cheese ravioli (24-count each)
1 cup grated Parmigiano Reggiano cheese
1 cup grated Asiago cheese
A handful of parsley, chopped

Preparation:

- Pre-heat the oven to 400°F.
- Bring a big pot of water to a boil over high heat for the ravioli.
- Melt the butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Once the butter is melted, add the flour and stir for about 1 minute. Whisk in the milk and let simmer for about 5 minutes until the sauce becomes thick. Once the sauce is thick, add a pinch of freshly grated nutmeg and a couple of drops of hot sauce, depending on how spicy you like it, to add a depth of flavor to the sauce.
- In another skillet, over medium-high heat, add EVOO. Add the zucchini, red peppers, eggplant and garlic. Let cook until the veggies are softened, about 5 minutes. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Once the water boils for the ravioli, season the water with a generous handful of salt. Drop the ravioli in the boiling water and cook until they float to the top, about 5 minutes.
- To assemble the lasagna, place a third of the sauce in the bottom of a baking dish. Add half of the ravioli. Top with half of the veggies. Repeat this layering, making the last third of the sauce the top layer. Top with grated Parmigiano Reggiano and Asiago. Bake in the oven until the cheese melts and is bubbly. Garnish with chopped parsley.

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Something to think about

***“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”***

***~ Anthropologist, Margaret Mead***

What's new???

**THANK YOU & CONGRATULATIONS!** With all of your help (and I mean each and every one of you) our GreenFaith Certification – 1<sup>st</sup> quarter Progress Report received rave reviews! Keep up the good work!

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Since we are well into the second quarter of our journey toward GreenFaith Certification, we thought we would share **just a few** of the things that are happening:

- We are switching our cleaning products to the "Greening the Cleaning" line by the Deidre Imus Foundation. By doing this we are making our church a healthier, greener place to be.
- P&F is continuing to upgrade our facilities.
- Mission Commission is working to develop a relationship with an international program dealing with the scarcity and poor quality of water in disadvantaged villages and countries around the world.
- P&A is working to develop a relationship with a local or regional organization that deals with Environmental Justice Issues.
- We hosted an all-vegetarian meal at the Monmouth Presbytery's recent meeting here at Trinity.

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An idea for you to try:

Open your kitchen cabinet or where ever you keep your cleaning supplies. Many contain toxins that harmful to not only the environment, but also you.

**So...when you go shopping for these supplies, do your best to buy eco-friendly alternatives. – without the toxins! They are a much healthier option**

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APRAYER FOR CREATION

*As we breathe the very air which sustains us,
we remember your love, God,
which gives us life.*

*Fill us with your compassion for Creation.
Empty us of apathy, selfishness and fear,
of all pessimism and hesitation.*

*Breathe into us solidarity,
with all who suffer now,
and the future generations, who will suffer,
because of our environmental irresponsibility.*

*Move us into action,
to save our earth,
and to build your sustainable Kingdom.*

Amen

~ Jane Deren