

March 2010

Volume 28, Issue 3

Trinity Times

The Newsletter of the Trinity Presbyterian Church – East Brunswick

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Upcoming Events

- ❖ National Anthem Day
March 3, 2010
- ❖ World Day of Prayer
March 5, 2010
- ❖ Girl Scout Sunday
March 7, 2010
- ❖ Girl Scouts Day
March 12, 2010
- ❖ Daylight-Saving Time Begins
March 14, 2010
- ❖ S. Patrick's Day
March 17, 2010
- ❖ First Day of Spring /
International Earth Day
March 20, 2010
- ❖ Palm Sunday
March 28, 2010
- ❖ Holy Week
March 28-April 3, 2010
- ❖ Maundy Thursday
April 1, 2010
- ❖ Good Friday
April 2, 2010
- ❖ Easter Sunday
April 4, 2010

Pastor's Message



I'm curious. How's it going? Now that we're well on the way – just about halfway, in fact – how is it going?

The reflection? The self-examination? The intentional time spent exploring who you are and the life you lead, in comparison to who God is calling you to be.

This reflection, in many ways, is exactly what **Lent** is all about. So how's it going?

I pray it's going well, and that you're finding meaning and help at *The Well*, which continues to be updated with resources and opportunities to facilitate your Lenten journey. *Have you been to The Well lately?*

There's one opportunity going on right now, in particular, that deserves a special mention, in my opinion: *Soul Feast* – the six-week Lenten Study Small Group program. It's six weeks of exploring everything that Lent says we should explore. It's six weeks of endeavoring all that Lent says we should endeavor: self-reflection combined with the fun of uncovering spiritual disciplines that can do amazing things within and for our intimacy with God!

I want to thank all those who have decided to take this Lenten

opportunity to intentionally explore their relationship with Christ. I pray you find deep meaning and great purpose within your experience, and find yourself drawn to an even deeper relationship than you first thought possible.

I also want to thank the eight committed leaders who have given their time and talents to lead these Lenten programs. What is not so well known is that each of these leaders has been preparing to lead these *Soul Feast* groups since late spring 2009. That's right! They committed to leading these groups last spring and then spent all summer and fall immersing themselves within their own *Soul Feast* small group experience, led by Barbara DeCarlo.

Thank you, Barbara, Lila, Kathy, Dick, Doug, Cindy, Bill and Paula for the commitment you've made, which has enabled such a broad and far-reaching Lenten experience for us all.

May God continue to draw us ever closer, as we, day by day, look to follow in the footsteps of the One who showed us what life can really be!

In Peace,
Rob

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 March birthdays are:

2 – Dolores Bjonnes
 4 – David Larsen, Jessica Lipkin
 6 – Scott Biri, David O'Halloran II
 7 – Lauren Jensen
 8 – Thomas Bonomolo, Patricia Cimmino
 9 – Charles Davison, Alexandra Geiger
 11 – Madison Medina, Michelle Podroza
 14 – Doris Marsh, Vanessa Oppong-Dwamena, Edward Webster
 16 – Paula Riepl
 17 – Joan Bowman
 18 – Catherine Podroza, Galen Work
 19 – Kelly Cuomo
 21 – Abigail Carter, JoAnn Connolly, Doris Guterl, Eric Larsen, Christine McGovern
 23 – Margaret Tropp
 24 – Carol Carter
 25 – Scott Carney, Frank Genus Jr.
 26 – Thomas Christensen, Alyson Kelly
 27 – Robert J. Bowman, Stacy Bruden, Edward

Lent: season for listening, reflecting

March 7 – “Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!” So says our God, according to the prophet Isaiah 55: 1-9.

As the Lenten season makes clear, we struggle to find our way to the waters; we live our lives centered around the almighty dollar. Yet if we do as God invites – “Listen carefully to me... incline your ear, and come to me; listen” – we may yet still uncover the life God intends for us to live!

On this third Sunday of Lent, we will also celebrate the sacrament of our Lord’s Supper. Together we may be nourished by Christ’s eternal gifts of love and grace.

March 14 – In Luke 15, we uncover a beautiful if also familiar story – Jesus’ parable of the prodigal son. It’s a poignant parable that reveals intimate truths on many levels, but as we look at the tale of the prodigal and his father, we are reminded that, ultimately, it is a story about coming home.

It is one of the Gospel’s most unambiguous messages, which is so important to hear amid our Lenten reflections: No matter how lost we may be, God is always eager to welcome us in love and grace.

March 21 – By the fifth Sunday of Lent, our Lenten reflections have hopefully led us to a greater understanding of who we’ve been



Worship Schedule

and who we are, as well as to a deeper awareness of who God has called us to be. Certainly, the sins of our past are real, and the regrets we carry may be many.

Ultimately, however, God’s desires for us not to stay weighed down by our burdens or our sins, but to look and live into the bright future to which God is calling. As we hear from the prophet Isaiah (43: 16-21), “Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”

There is hope. There is good news. Sin will never have the last word.

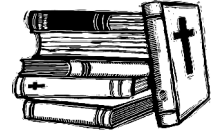
Grace and love will rule yet!

March 28 – As Palm Sunday arrives, we hear again the shouts of *Hosanna* as Jesus comes riding triumphantly into Jerusalem on the back of a colt. The townsfolk greet him as the great miracle-man he is! They wave their palm branches and spread the cloaks on the road, hailing him as the “king who comes in the name of the Lord!”

That is... until he says what they’re not ready to hear.

Group to study Christ through literature

Part one to focus on Tolkien's Lord of the Rings



On Palm Sunday, many congregations sing a hymn written for children but loved by adults, too. Jeanette Threlfall, an English-woman, composed "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" in 1873.

Threlfall's parents died when she was still very young, so she was sent from one relative to another. She also had two serious accidents during childhood, leaving her disabled.

Threlfall handled her difficulties by developing a beautiful, cheerful character. She was more concerned about others than herself. People loved to visit her because they left feeling uplifted and joyous.

Threlfall became known for her sacred poems and hymns. Many are considered classics, filled with sound doctrine and fervent devotion.

Here is the first stanza of her Palm Sunday anthem:
 "Hosanna, loud hosanna,
 the little children sang;
 / Through pillared court
 and temple the lovely
 anthem rang. / To Jesus,
 who had blessed them
 close folded to his
 breast, / The children
 sang their praises, the
 simplest and the best."

Literary analyst Northrop Frye noted, "I soon realized that a student of English literature who does not know the Bible does not understand a good deal of what is going on in what he reads."

All western literature of merit can be traced back to the Bible. Every character, theme, conflict, image and setting has its roots within Holy Scripture.

This April, after "Soul Feast," I will be leading a small group (or two depending on interest) to see how our Lord is emulated and glorified through Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*.

The group will last eight weeks, four of which will be spent in a traditional study of Scripture and corresponding segments from

Tolkien's Trilogy.

The remaining four weeks will be spent enjoying fellowship and the movie to reinforce our study.

This group will meet at my condo (right across from Trinity) at 363 Cranbury Road, Unit B-11. The first group will definitely meet on Friday night and if a second is needed, it will meet most likely on Sunday evenings.

The text we'll use is free and was written and bound by yours truly. Tolkien segments are included within the study, so purchasing the trilogy is not necessary to participate.

Food and beverages also will be served.

If interested, please sign up at the small group table in Kern Hall.

Don Andretti

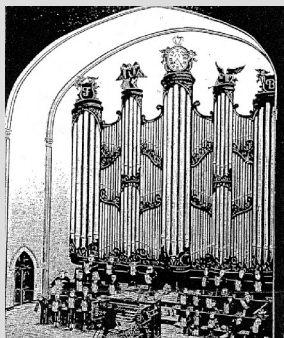
Project Child is a small group at Trinity named after the larger mission at Casa de Luz in the Dominican Republic. Casa de Luz is a children's home committed to helping children who are disabled, orphaned or abandoned so that they can live in a loving, caring, Christian home.

This July our small group will travel to Casa de Luz at our own expense to care for the children and perform much-needed maintenance. We need your help.

From now until July, there will be several opportunities to aid in our efforts to travel to the Dominican Republic.

On March 20, there will be a craft fair at Trinity. Please take a flier, promote the fair and come help and/or purchase some crafts. Then on June 5, an attic sale will be held.

Soon we will ask for donations of pampers and other supplies to bring to Casa de Luz. The schedule



NOTES FROM THE LOFT

Music for the Month

March 7 (Lent III) –
I Am Not Afraid,
L. Larson
Come To The Water,
J. Foley

March 14 (Lent IV) –
Amazing Love, How
Can it Be, L. Larson
There Is A Fountain
Filled with Blood,
C. Gregor

March 21 (Lent V) –
O For a Heart to
Praise My God,
G. Darst

March 28
(Palm Sunday) –
Hosanna To The King
of Kings, M. Beall



The Carter Family
Carol, Rick & Scott
5086 Curran Creek Drive
Haymarket, VA 20169
703-743-9956

Lorna & Honesto Castillo
2823 East Marcia Street
Inverness, FL 34453
352-419-6394

COMMISSION DONATES TO HAITI RELIEF

We're still casting our nets for a few good men and women. The Mission Commission wants you to help serve in both external and internal ministries.

See Beth Knox or Debbie O'Halloran, or just show up at on the first Monday of any month at 7 p.m.

Many volunteers contribute so much of themselves for our FISH Hospitality Program guests. They'll be here March 7-14. See the sign-up sheets outside the nursery if you're interested in volunteering. We appreciate your time, talent and stewardship. Don't forget: They come back again in June!

Trinity prepares dinner the second Wednesday of each month at Elijah's Promise. If you'd like to join us on March 10 and/or April 7, call Bob Sullivan at 732-238-1749.

The Mission Commission donated \$500 to PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) for Haiti earthquake relief. Our GreenFaith certification requires an international humanitarian act, and the Haiti donation fulfills this mandate.

A sub-committee has been formed at Trinity to manage, guide and make recommendations for our response to the Haitian disaster. Announcements will be made about future meeting dates, and all are welcome.

PDA sent \$100,000 from One Great Hour of Sharing for



immediate emergency relief in Haiti. Meanwhile, World Mission is providing support to current mission personnel in Haiti, and other aid is being sent through our ecumenical and local partners in Haiti.

Trinity will be starting a small group ministry to work with the Cranbury Habitat for Humanity. More announcements will follow.

The next Blood Drive will be held May 1. Mark your calendar and join us.

Project Child will host a Craft Fair at Trinity on Saturday, March 20. Rent a table or come and purchase gifts for your loved ones.

The I&S and Mission commissions urge you to find out if your employer will match gifts you make to charitable organizations. Many companies contribute equal amounts or more to the causes in which their employees invest. The documentation is easy and usually only requires completing a form (often online). This pertains to your gifts, not only to Trinity, but other 501(c) (3) organizations. Matching funds are like free money and increase support for what matters to you.

No desperation

Nearly every year, California is plagued with massive wildfires.

In October 2007, an unrelenting fire raged through and around Malibu. Many homes and other dwellings quickly became heaps of ashes.

The Malibu Presbyterian Church fell prey to the raging flames and unceasing wind. Those who loved the church stood helpless before the inferno. They remembered the blessing of worshiping God, attending Bible classes, sharing in prayer and experiencing warm Christian fellowship.

A Los Angeles Times reporter found faithful church member Annie Kauffman watching the fire.

Although pain was written on her face, Kauffman said, "Losing the building is stunning. To stand and look at all this is a kick in the gut. But because the heart of the church is the people, I don't feel a sense of desperation."

Adult classes continue through March

Bible Basics

A Kerygma Bible Study

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

As such, 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!

God Demands a Righteous People

March 7, 14, 21 and 28

March will be spent exploring how the Bible defines righteousness, as well as how God's people are called to live into righteousness. Led by DCE Kathy Genus,

participants will explore: The Law of God; The Prophets' Call for Righteousness; Jesus and the Law; and Righteousness in the Church.



Faith & Life

Gospel Portraits of Jesus

March 7, 14, 21 and 28

What can we learn about Jesus from the multitude of names he is given in the New Testament? Plenty!

Welcome to a course that will explore a number of Jesus' names/titles that appear in the Gospels.

The sequence of the names/titles for our course of study will move from the most familiar name, Jesus, to Jesus' activities as teacher, to several common metaphors such as bread, to more abstract names like Messiah and Son of God, concluding with a focus on resurrection and life.

Small group plans mission trip to Casa de Luz

(Continued from Page 3)

powdered milk, dried cereal and formula in April; gloves and school supplies in May; and stuffed animals and clothes in June. Please watch for donation bins.

If you are interested in financially supporting Casa de Luz directly, please go to

www.projectchild.org. To donate specifically to help "Raise the Roof" (Casa de Luz needs a solid roof) visit www.raisetheroofonline.org.

If you have questions please see Project Child information on the back tables in Kern Hall or see group leaders Debbie Chen and Marcy DaLomba.

Have you heard? Trinity has switched to "Greening the Cleaning" products. These cleaning products will help us provide a safer and more environmentally friendly environment for all who worship and meet at Trinity. Below is the Press Release announcing the adoption of the "Greening the Cleaning" Program.

"Greening the Cleaning®" Program

East Brunswick, N.J., January 26, 2010 – Trinity Presbyterian Church in East Brunswick, NJ, announces the adoption of the award-winning *Greening the Cleaning®* program from The Deirdre Imus Environmental Center for Pediatric Oncology®.

Greening the Cleaning means eliminating, to the greatest extent possible, all cleaning agents containing hazardous ingredients and replacing them with naturally-derived ingredients with the least level of toxicity. One hundred percent of all profits from the institutional products go to the Environmental Center for supporting education and research to identify, control, and ultimately prevent exposures to environmental factors that may cause adult and, especially, pediatric cancer, and other health problems with our children.

"Our *Greening the Cleaning* program makes a difference not just in the indoor environment, but in the way we think about the environment around us. We applaud Trinity Presbyterian Church for taking this important step to make a greener, brighter future," said Deirdre Imus.

Ms. Imus is the founder and President of the Deirdre Imus Environmental Center for Pediatric Oncology® (www.dienviro.com), part of Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC) in New Jersey, a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation.

Trinity joins healthcare facilities, government authorities, businesses and schools that have implemented the program since 2001, with direct savings in cleaning costs ranging from budget neutral to 75 percent.

"We're excited to take this step as we seek to improve our environmental stewardship—both as a community of faith and as individuals citizens. Certainly, the chemicals we use in our homes, workplaces, and worship spaces have a significant impact on all of creation, and all God's creatures within it. The more responsible we are in the use of such chemicals, the safer the world's environment will be not just for ourselves, but for those we don't know yet who are still impacted by their use," said Rev. Rob Carter, Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Inspired by the award-winning institutional program, the *Greening the Cleaning* household line is available in stores nationwide, as well as from [Imus Ranch Foods](#). One hundred percent of all profits go to the Imus Cattle Ranch for Kids with Cancer, a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit.

Unlike most cleaning products sold today, **Greening the Cleaning** products list all ingredients right on the label. These products are made from natural or naturally-derived ingredients, are readily biodegradable, and contain no phosphates, and no known or suspected human carcinogens, mutagens and teratogens.

Ms. Imus is also co-founder and co-director of The Imus Cattle Ranch for Kids with Cancer. The authentic 4,000 acre working cattle ranch in northern New Mexico provides the experience of the American cowboy to children suffering from cancer and various blood diseases, as well as to children who have lost a brother or sister to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

Trinity Presbyterian Church is currently involved in the GreenFaith Certification program. "The *GreenFaith Certification Program* empowers religious institutions to play their uniquely important leadership role in the development of an environmentally just and sustainable world." (www.greenfaith.org) Trinity's environmental mission statement is "We as a family of faith, believe that it is the responsibility of all to care for God's Creation, through environmental education, conservation and community out-reach." For further information, please contact Trinity Presbyterian Church's office at 732-257-6636

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*Vegetarian Recipe of the Month –*

#### Paula Deen's "Tomato Dill Soup"

Serves 6

3 cups peeled and diced fresh tomatoes or 1- 28 oz can  
1 medium onion, chopped  
2 cups chicken (or vegetable) stock  
1 tsp chopped garlic  
1/3 to 1/2 cup white wine  
1 tsp lemon pepper seasoning  
3 tablespoons chopped fresh dill  
3/4 cup heavy cream  
1/4 cup chopped parsley  
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese  
Salt and coarsely ground black pepper to taste

In a large pot, mix all ingredients together except heavy cream, parsley, Parmesan, and salt/pepper. Cook over medium heat about 30 minutes, until tomatoes are tender. Add cream, parsley, and Parmesan cheese last. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Simmer for about 10 minutes.

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**Prayer for the Environmental Common Good** ~ Jane Deren

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

