

Trinity Tidings

Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church
April 2009

PERPLEXED AND TERRIFIED

“They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.’” Luke 24:2-5

Lent is the most challenging season of the Christian year for me. You may have picked that up from the last issue of Trinity Tidings.

After the dark nights of winter and the cold days of March I usually have had enough of this season. Additionally this year we had a horrible incident of carbon monoxide poisoning at the church—making this time even more difficult.

As I passed through the different accounts of the Easter story, what I liked about Luke’s version was the adjectives—words like ‘perplexed’ and ‘terrified.’ These are not common words in our Gospels but ones which show real emotion.

I, too, have been perplexed and terrified this season—also afraid, surprised and relieved. After officiating at last Sunday’s worship service around a time of “Listening, Reclaiming, and Healing” I also know that there similar sentiments in all of you right now. We, like the disciples, are full of a lot of mixed emotions. What resonated for me in these words, then, was that no matter our state of mind or our mood—Easter will come and Jesus will be resurrected. Easter does not depend on our mental readiness for its arrival.

The other piece that I found interesting about this account is that none of the women or disciples who came to the tomb ran to tell others or shared the news. Instead, disbelief (“they did not believe”) set in on them and Peter was the only one who was ‘amazed’ at what had happened. I like this account for that reason—how it offers a version that ‘keeps it real’—with real emotions and real behaviors of people. Such an account only offers more weight and power to the Resurrection story – it’s our story, too.

Happy Easter, friends.

Pastor Amanda

“Christ the Lord is risen to-day, 'Sons of men and angels say, Raise your joys and triumphs high; Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply.”

— Charles Wesley

Trinity United Methodist Church

Worship Service & Sunday School – Sundays at 10:00am
General Office Hours – Tuesday–Friday 9:00am – 1:00pm
Telephone..... 608–257–4591
FAX..... 608–268–1502
Email..... office@tumcmadison.org
Website..... www.tumcmadison.org

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday- Joint worship at St. Mark's Lutheran – 6pm-
Meal in Fellowship Hall; 7pm Worship

Good Friday – Joint worship at Trinity Church
5:30pm start-time for Pilgrimage to Holy Sites in the neighborhood

Easter Sunday – Worship at Trinity at 10am
Easter Breakfast preceding worship; no Fellowship Hour

TRINITY STAFF

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APRIL BIRTHDAYS

02 Mary Toki
04 Evan Stangel
06 Leonard Bradley
Tina Itson
15 Janet Kittelsen
18 Sharon Sigrist Wolter
20 Ray Conklin
21 Pat Evachenko
22 Barb Hogan
24 Amy Rountree
25 Donna Nelson

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

James Fountain... a very ill brother

Mark Saltzman... his mother, Virginia

All those affected by the CO poisoning at Trinity on March 15

Betty Pigott... continued healing after 2nd knee replacement

Jean Willett... healing after knee replacement surgery

Eileen Tiff... upcoming knee replacement surgery

Donna Nelson... hurt knee after a fall at church

Edna Thomas... healing after broken hip

Maria Thomas... breast cancer

Buege & Dykhuizen families... after the passing of a family member

Congrats to *Cari Chadwick...* earning her GED!

LETTERS TO TRINITY...

Dear Trinity Family,

I want to thank all the people who helped me when I was in and out of the hospital. Trinity Family, you all came to my aid and I'm truly grateful. The meals that people made, went to the grocery store, taking me to appointments when I couldn't drive myself, coming all the way out to visit and share your meal that you brought for us. Even the nice Get Well & Thinking of You cards.

I have never been that sick in my life. And to have people really want to help in any way. It's always been a problem for me to ask for help. I want in turn help someone else but I am still healing and have to keep reminding myself I just can't do it all. But I will do what I can right now:

So I want Thank EVERYBODY. Thank you, THANK YOU THANK YOU!

– Diana Thomas

Dear Pastor Stein,

Thank you so much for AGAIN opening up the church to the neighborhood for our meeting. It is very much appreciated....please also pass along a HUGE thank you to the members of your parish who assisted in hosting the event.

I may start looking into a catering contract for all my neighborhood meetings!!

– Julia Kerr, Alderperson

Thank you for the Valentine that the Sunday School Children made for me. It made me very happy.

Sincerely,
Joyce Anderson

Dear TUMC Sunday School,

Near Valentine's Day, Pastor Amanda's children's sermon was about sharing tokens of friendship and love. After that, I found a letter from you in my mailbox. It was a pretty valentine heart signed "TUMC." I thought it was a really nice token of friendship and love. It made me feel happy!

Thank you,
Betty Spoolman (a grandma)

Dear Trinity,

Thank you for your invitation, hospitality and participation with Madison Community Gospel Choir. Your contribution was awesome! – A special thanks to Pastor Amanda, Choir Director Julie, and John, who sang so wonderfully. It was a blast indeed!

– Pastor Colier McNair

Dear Trinity,

Thank you for inviting the Madison Community Gospel Choir out to your church to sing. We had a great time!

– Madison Community Gospel Choir & Pastor McNair

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL UPDATE

Katherine Loving – kathloving@juno.com

We are deeply grateful to all those from the congregation and community who offered assistance during and after the carbon monoxide leak at Trinity on March 15. Members and friends responded with skill and compassion during this scary time and reminded us all what a gift it is to be part of a community in which our commitment to one another is actively demonstrated.

I stopped by the church the following Monday morning, and our faithful leaders were ensuring that the furnace was fixed, affected members were recovering, accurate information was being released, and that all follow-up safety inspections were conducted. I expect that by the time you read this, Trinity will have returned to its usual bustling schedule. Ad Council will review the event with the intention of making adjustments to any related practices, policies and procedures to ensure that our ability to respond to such emergencies remains strong.

Trinity's physical plant is well maintained, reminding us that similar incidents can occur even with newer equipment that is serviced properly. Please, install carbon monoxide detectors in your homes and ask members of other faith communities to advocate for the installation of detectors in their buildings. Thank you.

CONNECTIONAL GIVING RESULTS 2008

The General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) reports that for 2008, 17 of the denomination's 63 US conferences contributed to the Church's seven apportioned global ministry funds at the 100% or above level.

In a joint announcement, A. Moses Rathan Kumar, General Secretary and Treasurer and Bishop Lindsey Davis, President of the Board of GCFA released this statement to the people of The United Methodist Church:

"Giving has its biblical foundation. As recorded in I Chronicles 29:12-14 we honor God when we give generously. We take this opportunity to acknowledge the generous giving of local churches to the ministries of The United Methodist Church that impact lives. Every person touched by the ministries of the Church has been enriched by your giving. Thank you for your faithfulness to the UMC connection and for your participation in apportionment giving."

The 17 conferences that paid 100% of their apportioned amount are Alaska Conference, Baltimore-Washington, Central Pennsylvania, Central Texas, East Ohio, Eastern Pennsylvania, Greater New Jersey, Illinois Great Rivers, Kentucky, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma Indian Missionary, Peninsula-Delaware, Red Bird Missionary, Rio Grande, West Michigan, and **WISCONSIN!**

NEWS FROM THE LAY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Lay Leadership Committee a big THANK YOU! to the entire congregation of Trinity for welcoming visitors and friends with open arms. A special thank you (and chocolate) to those who have extended invitations to people during this Invitation Season.

We at Trinity are always excited to recognize and receive new members and friends. We are hoping to have a New Members Class this spring so please watch the newsletter and upcoming bulletin announcements for more information. If you are interested in attending a new members class please contact Sara Gold at 225-5982 or sara.vc.gold@gmail.com or Gary Grinnell at 541-8394 huskyhuskyman@hotmail.com

We've been having an amazing time with our "Serving from the Heart" class. Gary Grinnell, Karen Mayeshiba, Angela Jones, and Pastor Amanda have been blessed by learning more about themselves and their God-given spiritual gifts. They look forward to sharing their learnings with you in worship!

Pastor Amanda, Sara Gold and Gary Grinnell

MUSIC AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS AND NOTES

Bill Guetschow, Music and Worship Committee Chair

Your Music and Worship Committee has been busy in the last few weeks. Here are some of the highlights:

- Preparations are being made for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter services.
- The organ in the sanctuary has been evaluated and some minor repairs made. See organist Janet Huenink's report in this newsletter for more information.
- On a similar note, the newly acquired piano has been moved downstairs. It is currently residing in storage until a lock is installed; after that it will move to its permanent home in the fellowship hall.
- Children's choir begins rehearsal on April 19th. The kids will sing during worship on May 31st for Pentecost.
- A "Tech-Team" subcommittee met recently to discuss technology issues as they relate to worship at TUMC. Items discussed were use of video in worship, how better to record worship services for delivery to our homebound members, improvement of wireless microphone reception in the sanctuary, website updates, and occasional use of technology in other parts of the building (e.g. video presentations in fellowship hall).
- Finally, we welcome Trevon Lawson to the Music and Worship committee. Trevon is a TUMC youth who adds great enthusiasm and ideas to the group. Thanks Trevon!

AN UPDATE ON THE MARCH 15TH CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING



On Sunday, March 15, our congregation suffered from carbon monoxide poisoning 100x the level determined to be unsafe. Five people were sent to the hospital by ambulance; a total of 16 were treated at surrounding hospitals.

This announcement is to inform you that the boiler has been repaired and inspections are being made. We have been assured by MG&E, city and state inspectors, as well as the local fire department that our building is safe. On Sunday, March 22 we had worship and our doors were opened again to our community groups on Monday, March 23.

Trinity United Methodist – A Clean Bill of Health

- ✓ Harker Heating- Repairs boiler (3-16-09)
- ✓ Madison Gas & Electric – Carbon monoxide check (3-16-09)
- ✓ State Inspector Mark Makkonen of Damarc Quality Inspection Services – Inspects boiler (3-16-09)
- ✓ City Inspector Robert Ales, Code Enforcement Officer – Inspects building for city code (3-18-09)
- ✓ City of Madison Fire Department – Inspection of repairs and detector placement (3-19-09)
- ✓ City Inspector Jim Wolf for Plumbing and Heating from Department of Planning and Development Inspection Unit (3-24-09)
- ✓ Fire Protection Engineering Unit Mike Schroeder – Life Safety Inspector (3-24-09)

Trinity's leadership will continue to work hard on the safety and security of the building. This includes new conversations about emergency plans and communicating our work and decisions with our community groups. If you have any other thoughts or concerns about these issues, please direct your comments to Katherine Loving, our Administrative Council chairperson. Thanks.

**The deadline for the May issue of the Tidings is:
Monday, April 20th**

Articles submitted after this date are not guaranteed to print.
Email (office@tumcmadison.org), fax (268-1502) or drop off your article.

SECOND SERVICE PROPOSAL DISCUSSION

Recorded by Erin MacLeod

On March 8 there was a discussion after church regarding the proposal for a second service, which, if passed would start in fall '09. Approximately 30 members were in attendance and a variety of questions were raised.

Pastor Amanda outlined the proposal and with the help of members of the Second Service Think Tank, they addressed questions. Dave Jahr, church Treasurer, stood to give the "big picture" or the "state of the church" and how this second service factors into it. Details of the second service were discussed, but it seemed the most important discussion point was *why* to do a second service. As Dave Jahr emphasized, it is our primary calling is to be disciples and spread God's word. By offering a second service we are reaching out further into the community to spread that good news. Additionally, financially our church is not solvent, and although there is no guarantee that the second service will result in an increase of giving and membership, it is a possibility that it would. Other indicators point to this being a good time in the life of the church to expand worship options. If the church cannot examine such possibilities to become solvent, the alternative would be to stop paying our apportionment to the Conference or to decrease the pastoral time to a $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ time appointment.

There was a variety of questions and concerns, but the overall feeling from the members in attendance was that this conversation should continue for the health and growth of our congregation. A few other comments included thoughts on having Adult Christian Education opportunities between the two services, as well as teachers of Sunday School being able to teach and then attend worship. In addition, we discussed that if this proposal went on we would need 15 to 20 dedicated members to attend both services for a few months so that both services would be strong from the start. Gary Grinnell raised his hand as the first member to take on this challenge and commitment to attend both services.

Below are some of the questions raised during this meeting. These questions will be answered at the next All-Church meeting on April 19, following worship.

1. The statistic that a second service should be started when 80% of comfortable seating is taken during service has been brought up as a reason for doing this, where did this statistic come from?
2. In the proposal it looks as though both services will be very similar, why have two similar services instead of two different types of services?
3. How many new members have we had in the past year? Since that number is less than 30, how do you expect 30 new people to come when the second service is begun?
4. The fact that Sunday School is at the same time as the service is a major benefit for our church, will staffing the Sunday School be difficult with two services?
5. Why is the choir being proposed to sing at the first service instead of the second? What will happen in the second service for music?
6. Amanda as pastor, are you willing to proceed with this change and do both services? Is this something you are recommending for this church?
7. Has church attendance been recorded in the past few months?

SECOND SERVICE FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION

On Sunday, April 19, during fellowship hour, we will have a follow-up discussion about the Second Service. At that time the Think Tank will not only address further questions, but will shift the conversation to consider "What can I or we do?" for the next steps of this process. Rev. Tina will be facilitating this time.

ORGAN MAINTENANCE

Janet Huenink

One evening in February, the organ was worked on by Dean Voelker of his company, The Dean of Music. After looking at the organ and hearing what the problems were, he decided that the issue of notes playing one moment and not playing the next was due to dust and dirt on/in many parts inside the cabinet of the organ (meaning the cabinet with the keyboards - where I sit) as well as in some parts by the pipes. He spent a fair amount of time cleaning it out, which seems to have taken care of the things that were the most aggravating to me. For future reference, cleaning out the cabinet really needs to be done by a professional organ technician because it would be way too easy to break something and have no idea how to fix it.

Problems not fixed:

There are two notes that never play which are a bigger issue and aren't fixed yet. Dean and Jerry Tiff spent a while by the organ pipes finding the two problem pipes. They are close together, which Dean says may be a sign that some plaster or something fell down and is blocking the connection of the wire to the pipes. If that's the case, it will be a matter of cleaning out the debris. If it's a problem inside the pipe, it will be a bigger job, including time to diagnose it.

This will cost a fair amount of money because the two pipes are way in the back, and the only way to get at them is to take out the pipes that are in front of them, which will be a huge chore and will be very dirty work. These repairs will have to wait momentarily, because of finances.

Dean's comments about our organ:

He said a few times that he was very impressed by the installation of our organ as well as the upkeep. By upkeep, he means the work Dave Yerke does with tuning, etc., plus Steve Bloy keeping the humidifier and dehumidifier by the pipes working. He said he travels around the country fixing organs and has seen many that are in much poorer shape than ours is. Currently, the sanctuary is kept at a minimum of 62 degrees, which also really helps the organ and piano. If the heat was kept significantly lower, that could damage the instruments because of expansion and contraction of the pipes, etc.

His estimate on the value of our organ for insurance purposes is \$65,000 to \$85,000.

He did recommend that we replace our humidifier with one that has a UVC Light which can kill whatever bacteria is in the water. He has seen places where the water is dirty, and when the humidifier is run, the bacteria latches onto the pipes and baffles. A less expensive option would be to keep our current humidifier but get a portable UVC Light. I'm going to look into this more to see if it's feasible for us.

He also said that one way for us to expand the sounds our organ can make is to attach a midi "box". This would be a MUCH less expensive route than adding more pipes. He said he's done several installations of this as well. I would like to look into this for prices, etc. This would go on our wish list - by no means a necessity. This is also an inexpensive way to add volume to our organ which is a problem during our really big services like Christmas Eve when the church is packed. I have to play the organ full blast and still feel like it's not quite loud enough for hymns.

Summary:

I'm very happy with the work Dean did, and he seems quite knowledgeable. He fixed the things that I feel were the most important. We can hold off getting the two nonworking pipes fixed for a few months (I can work around them) but I'd like them fixed by Christmas. As you can probably guess, the sooner the better. I know money is a problem - maybe we can see if some people would be willing to contribute specifically to this project.

Jerry took a few pictures of the inside of the organ. It's really pretty fascinating!