



Trinity In Touch

Trinity UMC is an inclusive, progressive community of faith in which persons grow in faith, love and service in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

March Worship & Events

Mar. 7

Third Sunday in Lent

The Most Misquoted Verse in the Bible, Frank Lyman

1 Corinthians 10: 15-, 12-15

3 p.m. UMW Winter Tea

Mar. 13

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bishop's Day at Cornerstone UMC

Mar. 14

Fourth Sunday in Lent

One Great Hour of Sharing Daylight Savings Time Begins

The God Whisperer, Carole Strobe Lyman

Psalm 32

Mar. 19

6 p.m. Trinity Family Fun Night

Mar. 21

Fifth Sunday in Lent

New Members Join

Spoilsports and Saints, Frank Lyman

John 12: 1-8

Mar. 27

11 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

Mar. 28

Palm/Passion Sunday

Did You See I Waved?, Frank Lyman

Luke 19: 28-40, Luke 23: 1-49

The "Already" and the "Not Yet"

One of the unique aspects of living the life of the pastor is that we always are looking ahead... generally several months ahead. This means that during Advent we are already scheduling events for the Epiphany Season and during the Summer we are planning for the Fall.

Nowhere does this seem more poignant to me than during the season of Lent. This season is one of discipline and devotion... often a difficult combination for those of us with free spirits! Yet, it is the marking of the rituals of Lent such as marking our foreheads with ashes on Ash Wednesday, reading the Lenten scriptures and marking each and every day of Holy Week that give the Easter message its depth. Easter is not just about "life after death." It is more about "life after life;" it is a reminder that when life crushes us that there is hope beyond that which tears us apart.

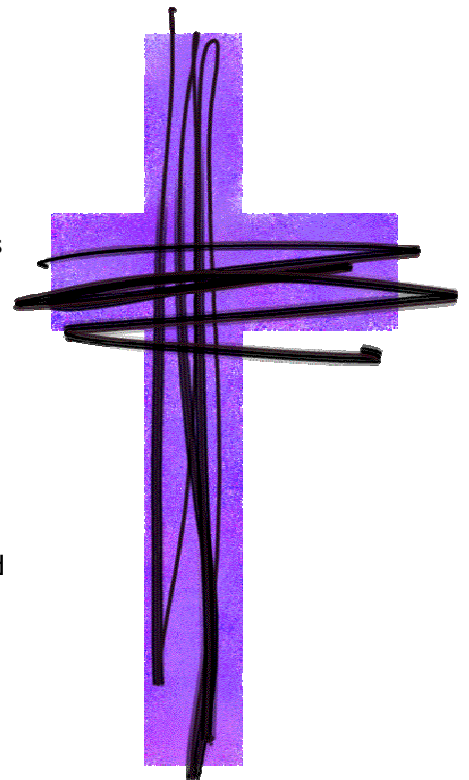
This is very real to me in preparing for Holy Week services. I know that during the services of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday that my message is already prepared for Easter. I know that in these services that mark how Jesus was betrayed and crucified, that I can also look forward to celebrating resurrection.

They seem to parallel what I know about the Kingdom of God. I've been taught that the Kingdom is "already" and "not yet."

There are times when we see what God would have this world become: moments of loving conversation, beautiful music, prayer that brings us close to God and ministries of peace and justice that say, "This is what heaven is like." And yet, we all know the incompleteness of life: our tragic shortcomings that keep us from being what God would have us be. It is in celebrating the "already" that we get ready for the "not yet." I call that hope. I call that Easter. I call that what I believe during these 40 days...and it's good, very good.

Grace and Peace

Frank Lyman



Within the Trinity Family Circle

Caring Coins

In March, **Caring Coins** will be collected for *God's Kitchen*, an ecumenical, non-profit organization that supports two special ministries: Meals on Wheels and Capitol Lunch. Meals on Wheels provides a hot, nutritious mid-day meal each weekday to over 300 Grand Rapids area homebound individuals. Capitol Lunch provides a mid-day hot meal to over 300 people seven days a week.

Taste of Trinity

The United Methodist Women were busy putting together this wonderful collection of culinary delights, and resources for your healthy lifestyle. The cookbook is now available for \$12.

Heifer Project

I would like to sincerely thank all of the Congregation for their giving, as well as Patty Watson and Ed Smith for all their work supporting this event. We did not hit our goal of being able to purchase an Ark, but the donation total of \$2,838.37 will go a long way to help many people around the world by supplying them with animals. These animals that can not only support their families with food so badly needed, but will multiply and support an entire village with food. We sincerely thank you again and look forward to next year's campaign and visiting with all of you.

-Tim White

Our Sympathy is extended to...

...Susan Brown, on the death of her father, Phillip, on Friday, Feb. 12.

...Sara Smolenski and Linda Burpee, on the death of Sara's father, J. Robert Smolenski, on Friday, Feb. 12.

Congratulations to...

...Dan and Christine Buron, on the birth of their daughter, Gabrielle on Feb. 17, 2010. She joins big sister, McKeiley.

Dear Trinity UMC,

On behalf of our clients, staff, volunteers and board members of North End Community Ministry, I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for your wonderful generous donation of \$150 in December to benefit the clients of our ministry. We pray God will bless you richly!

In Christ, Laura Castle, NECOM Director

Thank you so much for your \$191.66 gift to the Walter Henry Educational Complex in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The economic situation in Bolivia continues to be extremely difficult. Therefore your support is vital to the ongoing work of the school since the vast majority of the students are from very low income families. Please hold Bolivia in your prayers.

Sincerely, Susie Henry

We would like to thank everyone that helped us while Quentin was in the hospital and while our entire family was sick. All of your thoughts, prayers, hugs, and dinners confirmed to us that TUMC is a special place for us. You truly are a church family that we will always cherish. We are so lucky to have found Trinity and to have been able to come back.

Much love, Ryan and Tara Lafferty

Keep Making Peace - Justice for Earth Days

For anyone who is interested, wants to learn more, and wants to get ideas on what the people of the church can do...

"Keep Making Peace - Justice for Earth Days," is the 8th Annual Social Action event sponsored by the United Methodist Women of the Detroit and West Michigan Annual Conferences. It will be held on **Saturday, April 17, at Lansing Central United Methodist Church, from 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM.**

Presenters include: Tyler Edgar, Associate Director of the Climate and Energy Campaign of the National Council of Churches, who attended the UN climate negotiations in Copenhagen; Lena Pollack, former Michigan State Senator and President of the Michigan Environmental Council; and, Fred Keller, CEO of Cascade Engineering, speaking about "Sustainability in the Church: Equity, Poverty, and Business."

Please register by April 7 with Rev. John Boley, 989-773-6934 or jboley@mtpfumc.org The cost is \$30 per family, \$20 for individuals, free for students. Lunch is included.

Events and Opportunities for March 2010

To have an event listed in April's Trinity in Touch, submit your content to Laura at office@grtunc.org on or before Monday, Mar. 22.

UMW Winter Tea

Sunday, March 7, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The United Methodist Women of Trinity cordially invite you to attend *Winter Tea "Tea Cups and Roses"* Sunday, March 7, from 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the Parlor.

Enjoy a refreshing afternoon High Tea with finger sandwiches, tea cakes and delicious teas from around the world!

Take the time to join the women of Trinity as we "shake off" the snow of winter and welcome the delight of Spring!

All Women are welcome! Child Care will be available.

A freewill offering will be taken.

Trinity Family Fun Night

Friday, March 19, at 6:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars for "P.J.'s and Popcorn" Trinity Family Fun Night. We will have a movie room for young children, one for youth and one for older folks as well. Bring your P.J.'s and pillows and settle in for a fun night of movies.

A \$2 donation will get you a movie and snacks

... what a deal!



One Great Day of Sharing

Sunday, March 14

One Great Hour of Sharing, a United Methodist Special Sunday, is March 14. This Special Sunday offering enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to respond to disasters around the world by covering the costs of its doing business. Because of this offering, gifts to specific UMCOR programs go 100% to the designated project. Funds collected over the amount needed for overhead go toward UMCOR specialized ministries such as responding to disaster, fighting hunger, or alleviating poverty.

Special offering envelopes will be in our church bulletins on March 14.

Also, please remember to pray for those who suffer and for the workers who offer relief.



All-Church Potluck Dinner

Following the 11 a.m. worship bring your family's favorites to the *All-Church Potluck Dinner* in the Fellowship Hall.

We invite you to bring a main dish AND a side dish or dessert. Bring your own table settings. Beverages will be provided.

Take this opportunity to catch up with friends on conversations "buried" this winter!

Our Trinity Family Tree is growing! Join us as we celebrate your place on it's branches!

BISHOP'S DAY 2010: No Finish Line in Sight

Evangelism is not just another dirty word. But evangelizing does require us to **get** dirty. On March 13, we will get down and dirty with practical tools to share the Good News with people of all ages and stages! Bishop's Day for Evangelism sponsored by Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo Districts is Saturday, March 13, from 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Cornerstone UMC.

You won't want to miss our featured speaker, Scott Rigsby, who is a world class athlete with a testimony to share. On October 13, 2007, after enduring the elements for 16 hours and 43 minutes, Scott Rigsby became the first double-amputee in the world to finish an Ironman distance triathlon with prosthetics at the 140.6-mile World Championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. Rigsby's unique story of success, failure and faith, all started with a decision and the desire to never quit, no matter what, no matter how long. Check out Scott's story at www.scottrigsby.com/scottrigsbystory.html.

We are pleased to announce that **The Wesley Foundation Praise Team** will be leading the music for the closing worship gathering!

Online registration is available by going to www.grdistrictumc.org. Find us on Facebook, search *No Finish Line in Sight*.

Registration deadline is March 5. For more info please call the GR District office at 616.459.4503 or email grdistrict@wmcumc.org.



Trinity Blood Drive

Sunday, March 21, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Spring is just around the corner and so is the next Trinity Blood Drive. It is scheduled for Sunday, March 21, from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (No appointment is necessary, just come down to Fellowship Hall whenever it is convenient for you.) Even though the seasons change there is one thing that remains constant – the need for blood. So circle that date, say it several times out loud so it sticks, and then be there to help with this very important service to our community. And remember, if you don't do it, who will?

Kindermusik

Trinity is offering a new 5 week session Kindermusik for Village (birth -18 months) and Our Time (18 months -3 years or so). Sessions will again be offered on Sunday evenings March 21, March 28, April 18, April 25 and May 2. Village Class will be from 4 to 5 pm and Our Time will be from 5:15 pm to 6 pm.

Kindermusik is an Internationally recognized music and movement program that involves the young child and a parent/caregiver. It is fun, educational, and addresses the developmental design of children. The cost this time around will be \$25. Carol Hillman, a licensed Kindermusik educator, has volunteered to teach the sessions. Please contact the church office (456-7168, office@grtumc.org) as soon as possible if you would like to participate.

Questions? Contact Nichea Ver Veer Guy, 456-7168 or Carol Hillman, 866-9316.

Healthy Lifestyles

We have concluded our first year of Healthy Lifestyles at Trinity. We successfully offered weekly classes in Tai Chi, Yoga, City Fit Exercise, running and walking in the gym. We explored ways in which we can be a successful partner with the Local/First Initiative in Grand Rapids, by supporting local business and buying locally grown/made products. We encouraged home gardening while continuing the amazing cultivation of the Trinity Garden for local community ministries food distribution.

We partnered with the West Michigan Environmental Action Council to lead Rain Barrel projects. Several in our church family participated in the Biggest Losers which helped us to connect with weight management resources such as, www.sparkspeople.com. The United Methodist Women produced the "Taste of Trinity" cookbook with an emphasis on Local/First awareness and healthy eating. Encouraging the food service opportunities at Trinity to serve local foods when possible and Fair Trade Coffee's and Teas.

Trinity's Co-Ed Softball team also had a successful spring and summer season. We are seeing more people take an interest and gain new understanding in the concept that health has a great deal to do with our spiritual growth and well being. We are committed to continue to offer programs and project future that goal. We look forward to your ideas and suggestions for more opportunities in Healthy Living!

Nichea and Matt

Change in the United Methodist Church

The United Methodist Church has a unique method of providing pastoral leadership. When a pastoral position or positions open in a church, a process is initiated that involves the Staff Parish Relations Committee of the Church, the District Superintendent and the Bishop. The Staff Parish Relations Committee has on file a profile of the church and the kind of pastoral leadership that is needed for the church. This is then perfected with the latest information. The District Superintendent meets with the committee to help them with the process. Once the profile is ready the District Superintendent brings it to the Bishop and the other District Superintendents. They then try to match the needs of the local church with the pool of pastors who are available for a new appointment. Once the best pastor is determined, a call is made to the pastor stating that the bishop wishes to make a new appointment and states the name of the church. If necessary, the potential pastor has a day or two to think it over. If everything looks good, the District Superintendent contacts the Chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee and arranges for an introductory meeting. Generally, the District Superintendent, new pastor and Staff Parish Relations Chair meet for dinner immediately preceding the meeting. The entire committee then meets with the new pastor for a meeting in which they learn of each other. The pastor is introduced as the new pastor and not as a "candidate." Only if there are strong reasons for the appointment not to take place, does it not take place. If everything looks good, the appointment is announced to the congregation. In the interim time the outgoing pastor and incoming pastor meet to help facilitate the transition. The appointment begins on July 1.

West Michigan Camping

West Michigan Conference Camping offers all kinds of opportunities for your child/youth to explore their faith.

Elementary Camps, Fine Arts camps and even adventure camps. There are sports camps, such as, Christian Athletic Camp that focuses on Bible Study and team sports. You can S.P.L.A.T. (Seek, Pray, Learn, Act, Teach), or celebrate "Christmas in July," or even attend a "Laura Ingalls Wilder Camp" and explore horseback riding and prairie life. There are Multi-Age Group Camps that design your own mission trip, offer up camping for children of military personnel and incarcerated parents. High School camps that "Live Out Loud-Seeing Things Upside Down."

In other words...THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE! Visit our display in the Parlor March 14 - 28 to pick up your registration brochure. Trinity offers camperships for campers that have that need. We are also encouraging Trinity members to make donations to the "JoAnn Garvin Campership Fund" to help make possible for our children and youth. This fund will help to make the camping experience an important part of our children and youth's faith journey.

For more information check out www.westmichiganconference.org and click on 'camping.'

Calling All 5/6er's!

Sunday, March 21

Calling all 5/6er's...
(Pre-teens of Trinity, 5th and 6th Graders)

Join us for a "Wacky, Gym Night" Sunday, March 21, 2010. Meal will be at 5:45pm in the Fellowship Hall with pick-up at 7:30 p.m.

It's just plain CRAZY FUN!

Trinity Co-Ed Softball League is coming soon!!

Co-Ed Softball begins in April so... if you can swing a bat, we have a place for you. Games are Wednesday evenings through July. Ages are 14 through, well, whatever! Look for more details in March!

Lifetree Café

Thanks to everyone who completed the Lifetree Café survey monkey. The survey showed some definite interest and we are going to move forward with it. Lifetree Café is a comfortable place and time for people to gather weekly to explore life and faith. The hour-long Lifetree Café experiences feature real stories of real people, friendly conversation, time to build relationships with new and old friends, laughter, fun, spiritual insights, and opportunities to serve in the local community. For those who are interested we will be having an informational/introduction meeting on **Tuesday, March 9 at 4 p.m.** in the Fireside Room. Hope to see you there!

Sunday Adult Education at 9:30 a.m.

Mar. 7

Jerusalem's Stones are Crying Out

Led by Arthur Bud Chrysler in the Discovery Room. Bud Chrysler, owner of Eastown Frame Gallery, and co-author of the book *Jerusalem's Stones Are Crying Out*, will present an archaeological overview of Jerusalem from the time of Abraham until the time of Christ. This will be an informative presentation linking recent archaeological discoveries to biblical texts.

Mar. 14 - Mar. 28

Islam: Principles, Truth and Facts

Led by Ali Metwalli in the Discovery Room. The seminar will discuss the origin, the facts, the pillars and the truth about Islam. Ali Metwalli will present the similarities between the three major religions and also the role of women in Islam.

Mar. 7 - Mar. 14

Who You Callin' a Bully? Bullying & Internet Bully's

Led by Bill Chowning in the Fireside Room. The two week class will cover bullying by children in the home, school and community. It will address: what bullying is, types of bullying behavior, myths and facts about bullying, etc.



Other Opportunities

Wednesday Bible Study

Noon to 1 p.m.

Under the Tree of Life Disciple Bible Study

Led by Frank Lyman

Rather than the "normal" 33 weeks of 3 hours per week that is "Disciple's norm", the class will take its time with its Wednesday noon class. The themes include the writings of the Old Testament, the Gospel of John, letters of John and Revelation of John. Text is \$34.



Wednesday Evening Adult Ed

6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Living the Questions 2.0

Led by Frank Lyman

The class follows the 21-week video series "Living the Questions 2.0." We will watch the 20 minutes video each week and then discuss it. Each subject is taught by one of the leading lights of progressive Christianity. The class will run through February.

Spiritalk

Sunday, March 21

4 p.m. to 6 p.m. In the Fireside Room

This month *The Universe in a Single Atom* by the Dalai Lama will be discussed.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------|---|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| | 1 3:15pm YET, Congress 7pm Boy Scouts, Gym 7pm Stephen Ministry, Discovery 7pm CM Council, Parlor | 2 9am-Noon Gym Open for Walking Noon Membership Growth and Development, Fireside 3:15pm YET, Congress 3:30pm CM Basketball 5pm CM Teen Club 6:30pm Ski Patrol, F. Hall 7:30pm Men's Basketball, Gym | 3 9am Staff Meeting, Library Noon NA, Library Noon Bible Study, Fireside Room 3:15pm YET, Congress 5pm CM Kids Club 6pm Trustees, Library 6:30pm Adult Ed, Fireside 7pm CM Tutoring 7pm Table Tennis, Gym 7:30pm Symphonette, Fellowship Hall | 4 9am-Noon Gym Open for Walking 9:30am AC Program Committee, Parlor 10am City Fit Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall 11am Matin Ringers Noon La Leche League, Library, Awakenings Rm. 1pm Dissident Daughters, Fireside Room 3:15pm YET, Congress 3:30pm CM Basketball 5:30pm CM TMO 6:30pm Trinity Ringers | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 3:15pm YET, Congress 4pm Leadership Team, Discovery 6pm GRPS Hockey Banquet, Parlor 6:30pm New Members Dessert, Lyman's House 6:30pm Staff Parish Relations, Fireside 7pm Boy Scouts, Gym | 9 9am-Noon Gym Open for Walking 3:15pm YET, Congress 3:30pm CM Basketball, Gym 4pm Lifetree Café Intro, Fireside 5pm CM Teen Club 5pm Memorials and Endowment, Fireside 6pm Finance, Fireside 6:30pm Ski Patrol, F. Hall 7:30pm Men's Basketball | 10 9am Staff Meeting, Library Noon NA, Library Noon Bible Study, Fireside Room 3:15pm YET, Congress 5pm CM Kids Club 6:30pm Adult Ed, Fireside 7pm Table Tennis, Gym 7pm CM Tutoring 7:30pm Symphonette, Fellowship Hall | 11 9am-Noon Gym Open for Walking 10am City Fit Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall 11am Matin Ringers Noon La Leche League, Library, Awakenings Rm. 1pm Dissident Daughters, Fireside Room 3:15pm YET, Congress 3:30pm CM Basketball 5:30pm CM TMO 6:30pm Trinity Ringers | 12 | 13 9am Bishop's Day, Cornerstone UMC |
| 14 | 15 3:15pm YET, Congress 3:30pm CM Basketball 7pm Boy Scouts, Gym | 16 9am-Noon Gym Open for Walking 3:15pm YET, Congress 3:30pm CM Basketball, Gym 5pm CM Teen Club 6:30pm Ski Patrol, F. Hall 7:30pm Men's Basketball | 17 9am Staff Meeting, Library Noon NA, Library Noon Bible Study, Fireside Room 3:15pm YET, Congress 5pm CM Celebration Dinner, Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Adult Ed, Fireside 7pm Table Tennis, Gym 7pm Prayer Shawls, Parlor | 18 9am-Noon Gym Open for Walking 10am City Fit Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall 11am Matin Ringers Noon La Leche League, Library, Awakenings Rm. 1pm Dissident Daughters, Fireside Room 3:15pm YET, Congress 6:30pm Trinity Ringers | 19 6:30pm Trinity Family Fun Night | 20 9am Communities of Shalom Training 6pm Trinity Seniors, Parlor |
| 21 | 22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 3:15pm YET, Congress 4pm Leadership Team, Discovery 7pm Boy Scouts, Gym 7pm CM Council, Parlor | 23 9am-Noon Gym Open for Walking 3:15pm YET, Congress 6:30pm Ski Patrol, F. Hall 7:30pm Men's Basketball | 24 9am Staff Meeting, Library 9am GRPS Choir Festival, Sanctuary Noon NA, Library Noon Bible Study, Fireside Room 3:15pm YET, Congress 6:30pm Adult Ed, Fireside 7pm Table Tennis, Gym | 25 9am-Noon Gym Open for Walking 10am City Fit Exercise Class, Gym 11am Matin Ringers Noon La Leche League, Library, Awakenings Rm. 1pm Newsletter Crew, Parlor 1pm Dissident Daughters, Fireside Room 3:15pm YET, Congress 6:30pm Trinity Ringers | 26 6:30pm Sr. High Lock-In | 27 11am Easter Egg Hunt, Parlor |
| 28 Holy Week | 29 3:15pm YET, Congress 7pm Boy Scout, Gym | 30 3:15pm YET, Congress 6:30pm Ski Patrol, Fellowship Hall | 31 9am Staff Meeting, Fireside Noon NA, Library Noon Bible Study, Fireside 3:15pm YET, Congress 6:30pm Adult Ed, Fireside | <h1>March</h1> <p>At Trinity UMC</p> <p>For Sunday Schedule See Next Page</p> | | |

March Sunday's At Trinity UMC

| Sunday | Sunday | Sunday | Sunday |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>7 Third Sunday in Lent 8:15am Nursery Opens 8:30am Worship 9:15am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room 9:30am Sunday School *Nursery, 0-2 Years *Pre-School-Early Kindergarten, Awakenings Room *K-3rd Grade, Horizons Room *4th-6th Grade, The PIT *7th-12th Grade, The Alley 9:30am Adult Education *Membership, Library *Jerusalem's Stones are Crying Out, led by Bud Chrysler, Discovery *Who You Callin' a Bully?, led by Bill Chowning, Fireside I I am Worship 1pm GR Peace with Justice Guiding Committee, Fireside 3pm UMW Winter Tea, Parlor 4pm Kindermusik Village, Sound Beat Classroom 4pm Celebration Ringers, Sanctuary 4pm Wesley Singers, Choir Room 5pm Celebration Singers, Choir Room 5pm Wesley Ringers, Sanctuary 5:30pm Gathering Meal, Fellowship Hall 5:45pm Carol Choir, Choir Room 6:15pm Jr. High and Sr. High Youth</p> | <p>14 Fourth Sunday in Lent One Great Hour of Sharing Daylight Savings Time Begins 8:15am Nursery Opens 8:30am Worship 9:15am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room 9:30am Sunday School *Nursery, 0-2 Years *Pre-School-Early Kindergarten, Awakenings Room *K-3rd Grade, Horizons Room *4th-6th Grade, The PIT *7th-12th Grade, The Alley 9:30am Adult Education *Membership, Library *Who You Callin' a Bully?, led by Bill Chowning, Fireside *Islam Principles, led by Ali Metwalli, Discovery Room I I am Worship 12:15pm Children's Council, Library 5:30pm Christ Care 5:45pm Jr. High and Sr. High Youth</p> | <p>21 Fifth Sunday in Lent 8:15am Nursery Opens 8:30am Worship 9:15am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room 9:30am Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall 9:30am Sunday School *Nursery, 0-2 Years *Pre-School-Early Kindergarten, Awakenings Room *K-3rd Grade, Horizons Room *4th-6th Grade, The PIT *7th-12th Grade, The Alley 9:30am Adult Education *Islam Principles, led by Ali Metwalli, Discovery I I am Worship (New Members Join) 4pm Spiritalk, Fireside 4pm Celebration Ringers, Sanctuary 4pm Wesley Singers, Choir Room 5pm Celebration Singers, Choir Room 5pm Wesley Ringers, Sanctuary 5:30pm Gathering Meal, Fellowship Hall 5:45pm Carol Choir, Choir Room 6pm 5/6er's Event 6:15pm Jr. High and Sr. High Youth</p> | <p>28 Palm/Passion Sunday 8:15am Nursery Opens 8:30am Worship 9:15am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room 9:30am Sunday School *Nursery, 0-2 Years *Pre-School-Early Kindergarten, Awakenings Room *K-3rd Grade, Horizons Room *4th-6th Grade, The PIT *7th-12th Grade, The Alley 9:30am Adult Education *Coffee Chat, Library *Islam Principles, led by Ali Metwalli, Discovery I I am Worship 4pm Celebration Ringers, Sanctuary 4pm Wesley Singers, Choir Room 5pm Celebration Singers, Choir Room 5pm Wesley Ringers, Sanctuary 5:30pm Christ Care, Fireside Room 5:30pm Gathering Meal, Fellowship Hall 5:45pm Carol Choir, Choir Room 6:15pm Jr. High and Sr. High Youth, Drama Rehearsal</p> |

Chicago or Bust!

February 26th - March 1st, Matt Parrott, Nichea VerVeer Guy and Terry Gabbert traveled to Chicago for the Simply Youth Ministry Conference. This conference is put on by Group Publishing and is the biggest conference of its kind in the United States. With over 2,500 participants, 100's of education opportunities, hands on workshops, industry leading speakers and innovative worship teams this was an opportunity they could not pass up.

Matt and Nichea already use Group Publishing materials frequently in their education and programming, so with the annual conference being so close to home this year it was the perfect opportunity for them to attend. If you see Matt, Nichea or Terry around, please stop and ask them how the conference went, and what great new ideas they brought back with them. It will be even more exciting to see how these new ideas incorporate with our already growing and innovative Children and Youth ministries.

Save the Date for Trinity's Family Camp!

**Memorial Weekend, Friday, May 28 -
Monday, May 31
Albright Park Camp, Reed City, MI**

For some 30 years, Trinity has been enjoying this adventuresome weekend preparing for the start of summer. Albright Camp has made some amazing improvements since last spring and it will again be offering us a great venue for family fun!

Horse drawn hayrides, S'mores by the bonfire, biking the White Pine Trail, canoeing and kayaking the Hersey River and more!

The 10-person cabins, small cabins and lodge have had major makeovers and offer accommodations for every need, from comfortable, motel-type 4 person cabins to 10-single bed cabins for larger groupings. Camp sites for tents, trailers and motor homes are available as well. There is even a 'Chef' on staff and new venue offerings for the greater community.

Visit the display in the parlor beginning April 4 for information about the new camp revisions and registration for this fun weekend!

Simply Relevant: Relational Bible Series for Women - HeartSpa

**Mondays at 6:30 p.m. beginning April 12, 2010
(April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 17, 24)**

Every woman will feel welcome!

Simply Relevant: HeartSpa is a friendly and fun way to introduce others to Jesus--and strengthen life-long relationships with Him.

Women will experience 6 sessions on spiritual refreshment as they learn to rest in Jesus, reflect, rejoice, and be renewed in God's love.

Great for mature Christians and new believers, *Simply Relevant* is a perfect entry point for women who have never studied the Bible before. All the Scripture is included in the book and women well-versed in Scripture will be renewed by the series, too.

Study book is available in the church office for \$8.

Questions? Contact Nichea Ver Veer Guy
(orangeclt00@aol.com, 616.456.7168, 616.451.7058)



Community Ministries

Your Money and Time at Work in Community Ministries

Surprise! This is NOT a request for money or volunteers. It is simply written to let you see how what you offer of yourselves to Community Ministries is used. Please know that we work very hard at being good stewards of the gifts you give to us and consider it a blessing that we/Trinity have been given this opportunity to carry out what has called all of us to do, care for others.

In terms of money, we run a tight ship and have kept our budget at a fairly constant level for the past several years, not an easy feat as prices rise on all of the things that are required by the program; food, craft supplies, and so many other things. The large increase this year is due to the grant income and expense of the YET Program through United Way. No matter what our hoped-for budget is, we spend only what we bring in. The funding you provide either through the Trinity pledge from the Trinity budget or by your individual donations and support of our fundraisers is greatly appreciated and forms the core of our program. Without that support what we can do would be greatly reduced.

But so much of the resources we use are hidden... like all the people required to serve meals three times a week to children and youth that otherwise might not get a balanced meal... or a sit down time with adults who care about them. And how about all of the unsung heroes that drive or walk kids to Trinity programs or special events? Many of our volunteers take the extra time to go to things that are important in our kids' lives, i.e. their basketball games or a performance. Prayer partners pray daily for several kids. That is a huge commitment! Not to mention all those in the wings

volunteering with special things that arise, our fundraisers and job shadowing to name a couple. Some of our regular weekly volunteers are tireless in what they offer of themselves to our kids. So many of you have so many talents that no one knows about (patience, commitment, sewing, cooking, etc.) that you so willingly share with the families of our neighborhood.

Because of the financial and people support, the kids of this neighborhood are able to explore and experience many new opportunities. They learn to cook, use computers, get exercise, play games, (yes, so many of our kids don't have simple toys and games to play at home), they learn to cooperate and problem solve, they are hopefully learning to make positive decisions for their lives. They have seen Lake Michigan, Blandford Nature Center, The Meijer Gardens, GR Public Museum, camp, biking, outings to the YMCA, Bounce Party and much more. Participants are always encouraged in their academics and higher education... tutoring, college applications, financial aid applications, and career exploration.

Yes, this month's article is all about gifts and talents that we have all been given by God and everyone working together to share what we are given to make a program, Community Ministries, where kids can come and feel loved. A big thank you to Trinity United Methodist Church for what you have blessed us with because you have been blessed!



-Donna Shirey

Save the Date!

Friday, April 23, 2010

As promised, Community Ministries is happy to announce the return of our gospel choir performers as requested from last years annual fundraiser. Many of you attended and were moved by the meaningful music presented that you suggested we should repeat the concert. The choirs have agreed to return and we have added a couple of other groups. Ottawa Hills High School Choir will join with Central High School, The New Spiritual Reflections and the Whatever Four or More Choral Group to present a highly inspirational night of music. We await word on another female choir known for excellence in the community. Please plan to attend and bring your family and friends. Tickets will be on sale in April.



Meet Our Interns



My name is So-heon Park. I am from South Korea, and I am a junior at Calvin College. I am majoring in International Relations and French. I came to the U.S. when I was 16 years old. I went to American high school in Missouri and Iowa as an exchange student for 2 years. It was little hard to be away from my family who are in Korea, but I choose to come here to learn American culture and get the education. I got a chance to serve Trinity Community Ministries through the Comenius Program at Calvin. I am very happy to meet staff members and kids. I hope to learn understanding how organization works and how to work with kids while I am interning. I am going to France for my first semester and Washington D.C for another semester next year.

After graduation, I might go to graduate school in the States or go back to Korea or work for NGOs. I want to get to know and be helpful to this community.

I'm Kristina Russie, and I am a junior interdisciplinary major studying Religion and Theatre at Calvin College. I hail from Minneapolis, MN and cherish the times when I get to go home to visit my family (especially my two young nephews). I am really excited to work with Trinity this semester and I hope to learn and grow as I bring my own talents, enthusiasm and vivacity to Community Ministries.



The Altar Fund Needs Your Help

The Altar Fund is money that Trinity Staff uses to assist people either from our own congregation or people from the community that are in need of financial assistance. You would be surprised at the number of requests we receive on a regular basis. This is a difficult time financially for people and for the agencies that offer help. Many people have lost their jobs, are ill, or simply don't have the skills to manage their money. We have developed a well defined process to screen requests working with ACCESS and other agencies in town to verify information given so as not to use our funds unwisely.

Sometimes in the end we can only offer to pray with a person or to talk with them and provide resource information. Sometimes, we fortunately are able to assist with real needs like paying an electric bill or helping with the deposit for a new apartment. Our funds are very low at this time and our requests are high. If you would like to help in supporting a much needed mission area of the church, please put your money in an envelope marked Altar Fund and either place it in the offering plate or mail it in.

Thank you.

Trinity In Touch

March 2010

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Lent Events



March 7: Third Sunday in Lent *The Most Misquoted Verse in the Bible* -FWL, 1 Corinthians 10:1-5, 12-15

March 14: Fourth Sunday in Lent One Great Hour of Sharing *The God Whisperer* -CSL, Psalm 32

March 21: Fifth Sunday in Lent *Spoilsports and Saints* -FWL, John 12:1-8

Saturday, March 27: *Easter Egg Hunt and Sidewalk Chart Art* 11 a.m.

March 28: Palm/Passion Sunday *Did You See I Waved?* -FWL Luke 19:28-40, Luke 23:1-49

April 1: Maundy Thursday Service with Communion 7 p.m.
 New Maundy Thursday Drama written by Frank Lyman:
Unless a Grain of Wheat....

April 2: Good Friday Service at 12:15 p.m.
 Tenebrae Service of Diminishing Lights
 Ritual on the Seven Last Words of Jesus

Saturday, April 3:
United Methodist Women Holy Saturday Breakfast 9:30 a.m.

April 4: Easter (No Communion)
Bringing Back the Alleluias Dialogue
 Sermon by CSL and FWL
 Luke 24:1-12