



## Trinity United Methodist Church 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

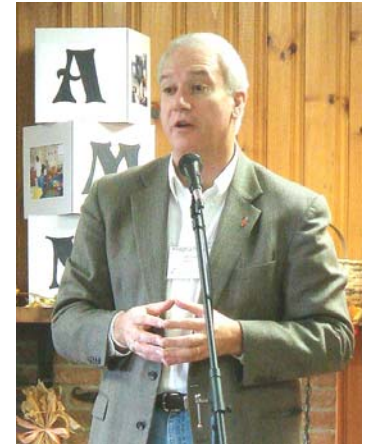
*"I lift my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from?"*  
*Psalm 121:1 NIV*

### Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008

It's not too late to sign up for Trinity's 50th anniversary celebration. Contact Mary Agnew at 724-745-0296 or [MLAgnew@msn.com](mailto:MLAgnew@msn.com) today!

#### Saturday

- ✚ 5:30—Hors d'oeuvres and gathering; viewing of Trinity history on DVD in Fellowship Hall
- ✚ 6:00—Covered Dish Dinner (bring a favorite side dish, vegetable, salad or dessert to share—meat, beverages, bread and rolls will be provided) in Fellowship Hall. A free will offering will be accepted to cover expenses.
- ✚ 7:00—Trinity's Music Ministry program featuring the newly formed Trinity orchestra, Bells, choir, duets, soloists and more!



Bishop Tom Bickerton  
photo courtesy Mary Agnew

#### Sunday:

- ✚ 9:30—Contemporary Worship with Bishop Tom Bickerton preaching and some former Trinity pastors participating in the service
- ✚ 10:30—Hospitality time in the Gathering Room
- ✚ 11:00—Traditional Worship with Bishop Tom Bickerton preaching and some former Trinity pastors participating in the service
- ✚ 12:30—Brunch in Fellowship Hall. A free will offering will be accepted to cover expenses

*Several former Trinitarians will be joining us to celebrate this important date in our History. Come and share this wonderful celebration.*

TRINITY UM CHURCH  
530 CENTER CHURCH RD  
MCMURRAY PA 15317  
Phone/Fax: 724-941-4770  
E-mail: [tumc1@verizon.net](mailto:tumc1@verizon.net)  
Website: [www.trinitymcmurrayumc.com](http://www.trinitymcmurrayumc.com)

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit  
Postage Paid  
Permit #127  
McMurray PA  
15317

## Sunday School Happenings

### Summer Sunday School Coming:

Summer Sunday School will begin June 8 and run through August 28. This class is combined to include preschool through 1st grade. Cokesbury's One Room Sunday School material is used. It has a variety of activities and includes options for the varying ages.

The same teacher is not there every Sunday due to regular teachers taking a break in the summer and people being away for vacations and such. It also gives parents an opportunity to be a part of our Sunday School program here at Trinity by volunteering to teach. **We are asking that parents of children in those grades (and older grades if you are willing) please sign up to teach one Sunday during the summer.** We'd love to have enough volunteers so you can teach with a partner. In addition, we have Katie McNamee, our aide in the preschool class who is always willing to help. We are inviting any youth who'd like to aide the teachers to sign up, too. You can sign up to teach

or be an aide on the sign up sheet at the table in the Narthex or by calling Lisa Hester (724-743-0832). This is a great opportunity to get to know children and youth, plus other parents in our church.

### A Special Thank You!

I'd like to thank all of our Sunday School teachers of children, youth and adult. All year they were dedicated, creative, reliable, and cared for their students. These are the special people who have shared their love of God with their classes: Wynne Keatley, Katie McNamee, Leslie Dunst, Sandi McMahon, Karen Meyers, Kelly Kiger, Mary Lou Lazear, Sue Hornack, Julie Martik, Don Wareham, Debbie Devine, Sharon Ward, Elaine and Mark Bardzil, Mark Troscinski, Mike Johnson, Joy Walker, Charlie Yarger, and Jay Wysocki. If you see these people, please take the time to thank them!

Lisa Hester  
Sunday School Director

## Vacation Bible School 2008 Is Coming!

June 23-27, 2008 — 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

The curriculum has been chosen and it's a fun one!

Come feel the power at:

### "Power Lab: Discovering Jesus' Miraculous Power"

Your children will experience new friends, amazing crafts, wacky snacks, mind-blowing Bible adventures, hyperspeed games and incredible music! Every activity uses science to show the power of Jesus—it's cool, it's fun and it's powerful!

Registration starts soon! Cost is \$7 per child or \$10 per family.

**Volunteers are needed!** Are you crafty? Creative? Musical? Do you love to act, tell Bible stories, teach children, cook, do science experiments, take pictures or just need some fun this summer? Then you are just who we are looking for! **If you can lend us your talents and enthusiasm, please see any of our team of directors: Kendra Troscinski, Wendy Stark, Amy Beaumarrriage, or Pastor Dave.**

## Odds and Ends

### Deadlines:

Parish Happenings – Wednesdays at noon!

Highlights: July/August Highlights—July 9

### 2008 Flowers & Bulletins:

Provide these for a Sunday in honor, memory, etc. of someone. Sign up on the charts in the Narthex by the "light box". Cost: Flowers @ \$20 - Bulletins @ \$10. Contact Eileen in the church office for more information.

### Blood Pressure Screening:

Blood Pressure screening is done on the first Sunday of every month in the pastor's office between services. It is important to take care of your body—and this is an excellent way to identify heart problems.

### Thank You's Received:

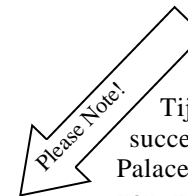
The Serena Family would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, calls, visits and food at the time of Dru's passing and Pat's recent surgery. Thank you also to Pastor Dave for his support with the many visits and prayers at a difficult time.

Dear Trinity Church Members,

We would like to thank everyone for generously supporting and donating to our "Love Drive". We were able to ship four large boxes of school and health supplies plus an additional three hundred



Page 15



dollars to the Purple Palace orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico. Our charity project was a success thanks to your generosity. The Purple Palace Home is a very worthwhile mission. If you would like to see pictures or newsletters visit: [www.thepurplepalace.org](http://www.thepurplepalace.org). Thanks again. Sincerely, Katy Sharman, Carly Ellis, Andrea Zu-loaga, & Emily Matthis

### Welcome New Members:

Laura Mulhern	Charlie Kiger
Susan Rump	Jack and Sandy Levin
John and Debbie Devine	Hobe and Kim Moore

### Confirmation Class:

Dillon Devine	Lindsey Moore
Julia Devine	Robert Ward
Darby Kern	Caleb Wysocki

### Sermon Recordings Available:

Beginning on Easter, the Sunday morning sermons have been recorded and are available as podcasts on the internet. Follow the link on the church web site to listen to streaming audio or on iTunes, by searching keyword **tunc podcast**, and you can select the sermon you want to hear. To receive weekly updates, subscribe via iTunes.

In addition, audio CD's, each containing several sermon recordings, are available upon request. For more information, contact Craig Anderson (email: [craiganderson@myself.com](mailto:craiganderson@myself.com)).

**Roberta Circle** will be having summer vacation. We will begin our meetings again on September 25, 2008, with a luncheon at Gail's house. Have a great summer.

**Mark your calendar now for the Washington District Picnic—Sunday, August 17!**

Pastor – David S. Evans  
Youth Director/Administrative Assistant – Ken West  
Church Secretary – Eileen Glass  
Highlights Editor – Mary Agnew  
Webmaster – Jackie Campbell  
Asst. Webmaster – Mary Agnew

## Prayer Corner

### 4th Saturday Prayer Vigil:

The next 4th Saturday Prayer Vigil will be held on Saturday, June 28. This is an opportunity for you to take one-half hour and spend it alone with God praying for your church, your family, your concerns, and praising God for all of his blessings. You can either call Eileen in the church office or sign up on the sheet in the Narthex on Sunday, June 22. Come to the church or go to a private place where you can meditate.

### Pray for Our Missionaries:

Each Sunday there is a Missionary and a Mission Focus listed in the Parish Happenings for you to pray for. If your birthday falls on a Sunday, why not send a birthday card to the missionary who shares your birthday!

### Requesting Prayer:

Do you feel that you are in need of prayer either for yourself or a loved one? To request prayer, you may contact either Pastor Dave or Eileen in the church office. You can also go to Trinity's website: [www.trinitymcmurrayumc.com](http://www.trinitymcmurrayumc.com) and request prayer. Your request will be forwarded to the appropriate people. Of course, you can request anonymity if you wish.

### Prayers for Members and Friends of Trinity's Congregation:

Each month a group of Trinity families and friends that are listed in the Church Directory are selected at random to be prayed for. Pray for the following families during the month of June. You can either take a family or two each day and pray for them, or pray for the whole list each day or once a week—your choice. But, please do pray for each person listed below at least once during this month. It will make a difference in your life and in theirs. God does answer prayers!

Sean & Lisa Bowen; Maddox, Avary, Gannon	Dean & Ellen Hill; Emily, Dean & Ben
Matthew & Beth Burke; Sarah & Daniel	Betty Johnston
Bob & Vicki Clarke; Ashley & Jordan	Marty Kelly
Ron & Jolene Donati	Jeff & Connie Lewis; Ashley & Paige
Jeff & Kristin Goehring; Carly	Christopher McAndrew
Bernie & Jill Griffin	Kay Mangieri; Katelyn & Erin McAndrew

### The Year of Jubilee

*Count off seven Sabbaths of years—seven times seven years—so that the seven Sabbaths of years amount to a period of forty-nine years. Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement\* sound the trumpet throughout your land. Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you...and is to be holy for you. Do not take advantage of each other, but fear your God. I am the Lord your God. Follow my decrees and be careful to obey my laws, and you will live safely in the land. If one of your countrymen becomes poor and is unable to support himself among you, help him as you would an alien or a temporary resident, so he can continue to live among you. (selected verses from Leviticus 25 NIV)*

\***Yom Kippur**, known in English as the *Day of Atonement*, is the most solemn and important of the Jewish holidays. Its central themes are **atonement and repentance**. Jews have traditionally observed this holiday with a 24-hour period of fasting and intensive prayer.

## Youth News—Ken West, Youth Director

### 2008 Summer Schedule for Youth Groups

June 1	Picnic	3:00 to 4:30 p.m.
June 8★	Game Day at Church	Jr/Ms Youth 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Sr Youth 6:00 to 7:15 p.m.
June 18	Mini-golf or Bowling	12:30 to 2:00 p.m.
June 25	Movie Day Out	Time & movie TBA
July 2	Progressive fast food lunch	12:30 to 2:00 p.m.
July 9	NO Youth Group	ASP week
July 16	Gladiators	12:30 to 2:00 p.m.
July 23	Hershey Park	All day—exact time TBA
July 30	Service at World Vision Warehouse—Sewickley	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
August 6	Water games	12:30 to 2:00 p.m. at church
August 13	Wild Things Game	Time and cost TBA
August 20	Pool Party	12:30 to 2:00 p.m. at Ward's home

★ **NOTE: All meetings and events, EXCEPT June 8, are for both Youth Groups!**

August 24	Regular Sunday evening schedule resumes
	5:00—6:00 p.m. MS/JR Youth
	6:00—7:15 p.m. SR Youth

### Barnabas Picnic

On June 22nd following the 2nd service from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., those participating in the Barnabas program will get together to find out who their Barnabas partner is. Contact Ken if you are not able to attend.

**Appalachia Service Project  
July 6 to July 12, 2008  
Claiborne County, Tennessee**

Trinity's ASP group will be traveling to Tennessee on July 6 to repair homes in that region. (To find Claiborne County on the map, it is near Tazwell.) The center where they will be staying is Heritage Baptist Academy.

This year, participants are being asked to pay a total of \$200 for the trip. This amount is due June 30. Please remember to pay your balance as soon as you are able.

ASP forms are still available from Ken.

There will be a Car Wash on June 7th in the upper lot of the church from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please plan to be there to help. If you are unable to help, please let Ken know.



*There is still a 10# bag of sausage patties available to anyone that would like to purchase it. The price is \$33—call Ken.*

**Interfaith Hospitality Network Week at Trinity – June 15-21 2008**

*Sign up on the chart in the Narthex to volunteer, or*

<b>To volunteer...</b>	<b>call:</b>	
Drive the Van	Mark Troscinski	724-942-4750
Prepare Meals	Kim DiBiase	724-941-4889
	or Amy Fornear	724-942-2418
Be an Overnight Host	Joann Rose	412-854-3836
Prepare a Dessert	Mary Alice Harrison	724-941-6921

**Volunteers are also needed to help with setup in the Scout Bldg. on Saturday, June 14 beginning at 10:00 am and with takedown on Sunday, June 22, 12 noon.**

*The Witness Team encourages anyone who has not been involved in this experience to step into the life of the homeless during this week with some form of interaction. These families appreciate the time you can spend, either with the children or the adults.*

**Peters Township Community Day**



Trinity will have a booth at Community Day in Peterswood Park, Saturday, June 28. This is one of Trinity's outreach programs, and volunteers are needed to help staff the booth: hand out information about Trinity, work the Fish Pond, and bake and sell snacks for the attendees.

A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex, or you can contact Eileen to volunteer. Time slots are broken into 2 1/2 hour segments. Adults and children are invited to participate. It really is a fun day for all.

Through Recipe for Hope you play an active role in alleviating hunger. Recipe for Hope helps you respond by taking a few simple action steps: Pray, send an email or write a letter to your member of Congress, or bring cans of food to your local church. It's that simple to make a difference in the fight against hunger. Join today in observance of the upcoming **National Hunger Awareness Day on June 3.**

UMCOR works through its Hunger/Poverty programs to relieve hunger. By providing the most vulnerable with empowering agricultural training, microcredit and enterprise development and supplemental food programs, UMCOR is helping to reverse the hunger crisis. Help the hungry with your gifts to [UMCOR's Hunger/Poverty Program, Advance # 982920.](#)

And, **please pray** for those who are hungry, displaced, sick, or in poverty because of these and other natural and human-made disasters, and for the workers who minister to them.

*Following is a letter received from Tina Whitehead. Tina has visited Trinity several times informing us of her visits and contacts in Israel/Palestine. Tina has a great passion for the people in that area and has felt called to minister there. She will be returning to that area this summer and needs our support.*

Dear Friends,

Over the past 2 years I have been in contact with our General Board of Global Ministries, having gone through the application process to be sent as a missionary to Palestine/Israel. In 2006-2007 I spent 7 months in E. Jerusalem, volunteering with Sabeel, a Palestinian Christian peace organization, and also with Educational Opportunities, serving as a liaison with Holy Land tour groups.

As a result of my work there, Sabeel has requested GBGM that I return in an official capacity, working with tour groups, helping prepare educational materials and assisting with the preparations for their international conference which will take place in Nazareth and Jerusalem in November 2008. GBGM has approved the position, but the bottom line is that they have no money to send mission personnel at this time.

In the past, I have turned to the Conference and to individual churches to help cover the costs of this work. I have been overwhelmed by your response and support. And now I come to you again. I have just learned that I will be returning to East Jerusalem July 3 with the intent of staying until mid-December. I estimate a need for approximately \$3,000 in addition to moneys that I have been promised or that I have on hand. This is needed not just to cover expenses there (travel, foreign language classes, daily needs), but also to help in maintaining my home in Oakmont. I have been assigned an **Advance Special # by the WPA Conference: MS0099001 (personal support) and SS0020001 (program).**

Over this past year I have served as a resource on over 50 occasions, including teaching at both Annual Conference and our School of Mission, and speaking at churches and district events throughout the conference. I have shared my experiences and attempted to help our Church come to a better understanding of the Palestinian people and of the contemporary situation in Israel/Palestine. I hope to continue in this capacity when I return.

I very much appreciate your prayerful consideration of this request. I strongly believe that this is a call that God has placed on my heart and want very much to be faithful to this call. Your prayers and support can make this happen.

*Thank you. Tina Whitehead*

## ***Opportunities to Advance the Work of Christ Throughout the World***

The majority of Trinity's family and friends will not be going on mission trips either in the US or other parts of the world. But, even with the rising cost of gas, most of us have \$5 or \$10 of expendable money that we can donate to help other United Methodists who have gone and who will be going into the mission field, either to do good works or to strengthen others faith in Christ.

On the next 2 pages, there are several opportunities listed where you can help others spread the love of Christ in works and faith. And, remember, **100% of your money will go to the designated projects.**

Make your checks payable to "Trinity United Methodist Church", mark the Advance # & project on the memo line, and place it in the offering.

### **UMCOR**

#### **China: Amity Foundation Helps China Survivors**

Amity Foundation, a member of ACT International and long-time UMCOR and Global Ministries partner, is on the ground helping China earthquake survivors get relief. Amity is working to provide food for about 16,000 people and will distribute 8,000 tarpaulins and quilts-with specific focus on the severely affected provinces of Gansu, Sha'anxi and Sichuan. Long-term recovery plans include the rebuilding of 600 homes, 10 schools and five clinics, as well as the rehabilitation of destroyed water and irrigation systems. [UMCOR Advance #982450, International Disaster Response, China Earthquake.](#)

#### **Myanmar: Cyclone Nargis Recovery**

UMCOR's partner Action by Churches Together (ACT) is working with local partner organizations, to provide clean water, food and non-food items to more than 100,000 people affected by Cyclone Nargis, according to an ACT news release issued on May 16.

The release further stated that assistance for emergency shelter will be provided for about 340,000 people along with at least 10 days of food aid for approximately 68,000 people. ACT members are also planning distribution of non-food items for about 112,000 people.

UMCOR's primary partners in this response, including Church World Service, are part of ACT's network of church and faith-based agencies working together to bring relief to the people of Myanmar. The greatest needs are for water, food, emergency and permanent shelter and medicine. [UMCOR Advance #3019674, Myanmar Emergency.](#)

#### **Event: Recipe for Hope Campaign**

Hunger is on the rise. Food prices are soaring worldwide and more low-income people in the US are visiting local food banks to feed their families-according to Bread for the World (BFW), a national Christian movement that seeks justice for the world's hungry people. United Methodists can respond to the hunger crisis by participating in BFW's Recipe for Hope: Responding to the Hunger Crisis campaign beginning now through June 17.

## ***Fifty Years of Saying, "Yes" to Jesus***

Dear Members and Friends,

On June 8, 2008, Trinity Church will celebrate 50 years of people saying "yes" to Jesus. This reminds me of the story told of the rather pensive and calculated decision of George Lyon of Scotland when he asked Catherine Macdonald to marry him after forty four years of courtship. He was sixty years old when the words were said, "will you marry me?" One very inquisitive reporter asked Catherine why she felt George waited so long to propose. Her reply is classic. "He is a bit shy, you know."

Many of us are incredibly shy when it comes to talking with someone about our faith and trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior. The number of years we have been believers, in themselves, are not an ingredient in the determination to witness. We actually become more and more accustomed to silent responses the further we journey from the day of our salvation. Our dependency on living the life of a Christian as a witness and the occasional special revival service, camp meeting, or Sunday morning invitation affords us a level of comfort which seems to diffuse the one-on-one sharing that should happen on a day to day basis.

There are a number of points I need to emphasize in regard to our universal call to share our faith. First, we are all called to witness to what Jesus has done for us in regard to salvation and

guidance throughout our lives. Second, God does not expect us to step outside our personalities when we witness. If you are an introvert or quiet natured person, God does not expect you to knock on doors, witness to people on elevators, or stand before a large group of people pouring your heart out. But if you are an extrovert, God needs you to knock on those doors and aggressively share the Good News. In reality, most of us fall between the stated extremes of the personalities noted. Third, share your testimony with people in your life. Relate how and why you came to Jesus and what Jesus is currently doing in your life. Fourth, read the Bible every day and become very familiar with passages that are proven tools for solid witnessing. You might even want to mark or highlight the key scriptures. Fifth, allow the Holy Spirit to direct you and depend on His guidance and empowerment in regard to the person that needs to hear the Good News. Finally, keep your eyes on Jesus, meet His expectations, and prepare to receive a blessing as the person you share Him with says "yes" to Jesus.

May the blessings of the past 50 years be the foundation for the blessings of the next 50 years in all of our lives as we continue to say "yes" to Jesus.

*Blessings,  
Pastor Dave*

## ***Trinity Weekday School***

Another year has come to a close for Trinity Weekday School. The month of May was an exciting time, filled with many activities. We had our May Luncheon, our field trips to the Springhouse, and our end of the year School Picnic. The end of the school year is always a bittersweet time for us, especially when our students move on to kindergarten. In some cases, it is the "baby" of the family whose older siblings also went to TWS. We will miss these families.

If you have any new neighbors that move in over the summer months with little ones and they are looking for a preschool, we still have a few openings. Have them call Barbara Luckhardt at either 724-941-4771 or 724-941-1298.

## Health Ministry

### FOR TEENAGE DRIVERS AND THEIR PARENTS: FREE VIDEO GAME

Daimler Chrysler Group, MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving), National Safety Council and AAA have joined together to make the "ROAD READY STREETWISE" website. Parents and teens can explore this site together to educate themselves about the risk teenagers face on the road.



Go to [www.roadreadyteens.org](http://www.roadreadyteens.org) TeenPage and find:

- Road Ready Street Wise Video Game: This game has six levels of difficulty. Real life challenges such as the impact of other teenagers within the car, night time restrictions, or distracted drivers are built into the game.
- Road Ready Quality Check Quiz
- MADD Multimedia Show
- State Licensing Laws
- State Laws

On this site is a guide for parents with practical guidelines for parents of new drivers. Also within this site is a link onto "Parent-Teen Contract" for a copy of a working contract made between parent and new driver.

Other links include the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety site with additional information including their vehicle rating.

This is an interactive site that deals with serious issues. According to this website, "Traffic crashes are the number one killer of teenagers. In fact, on average, one teenager dies each hour, each weekend in the United States. One-third of all 16-year-old licensed drivers will be involved in a motor vehicle crash." If parents and teens work together in educating themselves about driving risks and safety practices, perhaps the number of accidents can be reduced.

### CHILDREN AND GRIEF



Many Children experience significant losses. Some losses might include the death of a grandparent, favorite aunt or a parent. Locally, the Highmark Caring Place provides professional grief counseling for children. This free service is provided for children of all ages. The Highmark Caring Place has a very informative website with information on grieving children as well as contact information. If you have questions about how to help a child who has experienced the death of someone close, you may want to contact the Highmark Caring Place.

Informative brochures available on their website include:

- ✓ Saying Goodbye: Preparing a Child for a Funeral
- ✓ Responding to Children in Grief and the Questions They Ask
- ✓ Questions Grieving Children Ask
- ✓ The Grieving Children in the Classroom
- ✓ Is There Anything I Can Do? (for teens)
- ✓ Is There Anything I Can Do? (for adults)
- ✓ Caring for Yourself as You Care for Your Grieving Child
- ✓ Coping with Grief at the Holidays
- ✓ Telling Your Children: Talking with a Child When a Parent Is Diagnosed with a Terminal Illness
- ✓ Creating Connections When a Parent Is Diagnosed with a Terminal Illness

Contact:

Highmark Caring Place  
620 Stanwix Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
888 224 4673  
<http://www.highmarkcaringplace.com/information/>

Church Council Report—Cont'd from pg. 10

growth in ministries at Trinity and the participation of our members in these ministries. There are many ministry opportunities occurring each week with sign-up sheets in the Narthex for new ministries and events. We have great need for prayer in our church family for persons undergoing physical and stressful events in their lives and for the many ministries we are providing and new ministries we are planning. Please keep these intentions in your prayers as well as the work currently being done on our Facilities Planning. More information on facilities planning will be forthcoming within the next month.

*See you at Trinity, where it's happening.*

*Bob Wild  
Church Council Chairperson*

### Peters Township Food Bank

In honor of Pentecost and Penguins, unscramble the following "P" foods and then donate them (and others!) to the food bank! With the rising gas prices, more and more people need our help to feed their families.

- Pauent tubret \_\_\_\_\_
- Pcesna \_\_\_\_\_
- Pztersel \_\_\_\_\_
- Ptaas \_\_\_\_\_
- Ppocnr \_\_\_\_\_
- Psae \_\_\_\_\_
- Pzzai ceusa \_\_\_\_\_
- Pkciels \_\_\_\_\_
- Ppprees \_\_\_\_\_
- Pttooa (ds haem) \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: 1. Peanut butter, 2. Pecans, 3. Pretzels,  
4. Pasta, 5. Popcorn, 6. Peas, 7. Pizza sauce,  
8. Pickles, 9. Peppers, 10. Potato (mashed)

As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.  
*Matthew 14:15-21 NIV*

## Church Council Report—May 2008

The Trinity Church Council met on Tuesday, May 13, 2008. A summary report of the meeting follows:

In terms of “Old Business”, Church Council will send a letter of commendation to Gail and Deve Brunson for the outstanding job they did in getting our Church pictorial directory published and distributed. The final product is extremely well done and a tribute to our church family. We are still in very early planning of the “Neighbors in Christ” ministry. This ministry seeks to develop neighborhood groups based on where our church members live. We have offers by some to host a neighborhood group. The Sunday Worship schedule is in the very early stages of planning. As planning proceeds, our church family will be closely kept informed with possible options. Pastor Dave has had concerns raised about there not being an adult Sunday School hour and that the children & youth Sunday School is held at the same time as the contemporary service. Anyone wanting to become involved in this planning effort or wishing to provide comments should talk with Pastor Dave or Bob Wild. A new member’s page in the monthly “Highlights” is being planned. We would like to have a short article on new member’s families and include their picture to help everyone get to know our newest members. Anyone interested in taking a lead in this new ministry, please see Pastor Dave or Bob Wild.

The membership report noted that we had one baptism to celebrate: Daniel Wilson Burke, son of Beth and Matthew Burke. **For the first 19 weeks of 2008, our average attendance at worship is 219, up by 24 compared with 2007.**

In terms of new business, a motion was passed to forward \$220 to the Washington District Office to support programming within the District. A request was received from District Superintendent La Mar Carlson for one dollar per member attending worship. Rev. Carlson was remembered in prayer for God’s healing grace following his stroke on Sunday, May 11, 2008. A second item of new

business was a motion passed to create a line item of \$750 in the 2009 church budget for a group breakfast and graduation gift to seniors within our church family graduating from high school and college.

Church Council was also advised that “pod-casts” of Pastor Dave’s Sunday sermons are now available on the Trinity web page. You can listen to these sermons by going to the website: [www.trinitymcmurraymc.com](http://www.trinitymcmurraymc.com). More information about the “pod-casts” is included in this issue of the “Highlights” - see page 15.

Don’t forget about the two Habitat for Humanity opportunities we have as a church family. A group from Trinity will be going to Grove City on Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup> to participate in Bishop Bickerton’s “Blitz-Build.” Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Pastor Dave. The second opportunity supports the Washington County **Habitat for Humanity Program** by having members of our church family volunteer our time, talents and resources for four Saturdays each summer in building pre-fab/modular home units that can be shipped to locations that have been destroyed by natural disasters. Trinity would be partnering on four Saturdays with Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. The dates for this partnership with Our Redeemer Lutheran Church are **Saturday, June 14, 2008, Saturday, July 12, 2008, Saturday, August 9, 2008, and Saturday, September 13, 2008**. Forms for those interested in participating in this volunteer effort are on the information table in the Narthex.

Our next meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2008 at 7:30 PM.

We have a great church family at Trinity that is so generous with their time, talents, and resources in serving our God. We are truly blessed by God and our belief that all things are possible through prayer and love. This shows by the continued

Cont’d pg. 11

## Dinner for Eight — New Groups Starting July 2008

Everyone is invited to participate - singles and couples. Groups of eight will be paired up - couples will be together in a group. **Each group will meet for dinner on a schedule of their choosing for 6 months.**

The host for the month:

- determines the location, usually the host's home
- decides if there will be a theme, e.g. Italian, Chinese, Bar-B-Que
- provides the main course and the beverage
- determines what other members of the group will bring.

Other members usually bring the rest of the meal, e/g/ appetizer, bread, vegetable, dessert. This is a great opportunity to meet and get to know other members of your church family. Please sign up for a time of fun, fellowship and great food!

### Dinner for Eight Registration:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please return above completed form to the church office, sign-up on sheet in Narthex, or call Gail Lynn at 724-941-8847 to register by Sunday, June 22.

## WE HEARD YOU!

The Natural Church Development Team and the Passionate Spirituality Team wish to thank those who provided input during the SWOT analysis process that took place during April and May. The Passionate Spirituality Team will inform the congregation about the responses gathered from the process in early summer.

The Natural Church Development initiative is a tool that churches worldwide are choosing to use to monitor the overall balance, health and scope of ministries supported by their congregations. Trinity was one of the first churches in western Pennsylvania to use the process, and the NCD Team is pleased to report that our church has been strengthened by the initiative. We look forward to an on-going use of the process as it helps us to be the church that God is calling us to be in both the communities around us and in the world.

The basis of the Natural Church Development process centers on eight quality characteristics of healthy churches. These eight qualities are: empowering leadership, gift-oriented ministry, passionate spirituality, functional structures, inspiring worship, holistic small groups, need-oriented evangelism and loving relationships. Currently, the NCD Team and the Passionate Spirituality Team are guiding the congregation in exploring spiritual opportunities and experiences to enhance our understanding of the holiness that seeks, surrounds and encourages us as we live every day of our lives.

Look forward to more GOOD NEWS (a term sometimes used for God's word that is carried in our hearts and minds)!

# CALENDAR