

**TRINITY UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH U.S.A.
“THE TRINITY OBSERVER”**

APRIL, 2012

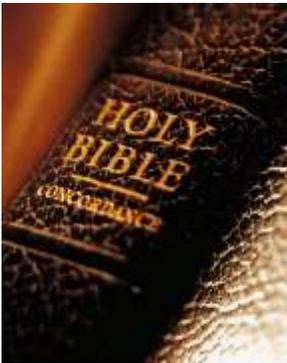
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News from the Pastor's Desk

April showers bring May flowers!

Hopefully by now you have received my letter of introduction. I am in the process of holding one-on-one meetings and it is my prayer to meet with each and every one. There is so much I want to share with you but I thought I would begin with some thoughts about what it means to be a multicultural congregation and give a brief description of multiculturalism.

First, I will begin with what the bible says about multiculturalism:

- *Genesis 9:12-13* – And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come. I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.” **(God’s message has been inclusive from the beginning!)**
- *Genesis 12:1-3* – God told Abram to “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” **(God is directing Abram to leave behind what is comfortable—his traditions; a willingness to dismantle old structures of injustice, oppression and patterns of social exclusion.)**
- *Matt: 28:18-20* – Jesus spoke to his disciples saying, “Go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” **(Jesus is instructing us—his disciples to go out and touch all the nationalities.)**
- *Acts 1:8* – “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.” **(The ministry of multiculturalism cannot be accomplished without the power of the Holy Spirit—we need God’s help.)**
- *Acts 2:1-4* – “...all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the spirit enabled them.” **(We have to be intentional about speaking and listening to diverse voices and broadening our worship experiences.)**
- *Rev. 7:9-10* – “After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.” **(The existence of a multicultural congregation is preparation for life in the heavenly realm—a foretaste of heaven on earth.)**

What is a Multicultural Church?

- What most people consider to be a multicultural church is in actuality a multiethnic church. The latter is a church where diverse groups of people gather to worship in the style of the dominant group. What is the difference? In a word; power! Multiethnic churches desire diversity but do not necessarily want changes in culture, music, budgets, boards and traditions. They want the blessings without the challenges.

- A Multicultural church recognizes that the demographics of the nation are rapidly changing and the United States is becoming increasingly multicultural:
 - more interracial couples and families;
 - more 2nd and 3rd generation immigrant children speaking English only;
 - more urban dwellers who desire to live, work and minister in a multicultural setting;
 - a generation of younger believers who do not hold the same baggage of racial and cultural segregation;
 - Diverse and unique definitions of a “normal” family.

In a realized multicultural congregation:

- The work of diversification is **intentional**.
- The church is **committed to reconciliation** and is open to difficult conversations that have a healing purpose. In other words, they want to face up to the difficult work of self-examination and look at racism and white-privilege, etc.
- There is a direct connection between multicultural ministry, anti-racism and justice.
- There is a leadership structure which empowers the diverse groups by electing diverse cultural voices into the decision-making structures of the congregation.
- The church recognizes and is prepared for the **worship experience to change, grow and diversify**.
- The church has to move beyond renewal and look towards **reinvention!**
- The church learns to view others as our partners; not our projects.

I hope this brief description was helpful. I look forward to hearing your thoughts about what it means to you (both the blessings and the challenges) to be part of a multicultural congregation. Please write or email your comments to revlawsond@yahoo.com.

Liturgist for April

April 1, 2012—Rosaline Brown

April 5, 2012—Various

April 8, 2012—Delphine Holland

April 15, 2012—Delphine Holland

April 22, 2012—Monica Bradley

April 29, 2012—Monica Bradley



Special Care

Members & Friends

Ron Auger

Peggy Brack

Celestine Bronson

Betty Elford

Violet Flaming

June Foltz

Dr. Alfred Gwillim

Connie Hutchins

Helen Johnson

Ann Lomax

Roy Olson

Marjorie Rutherford

Phyllis Scales

Larry Shoup

Joan Shirey

Larry Tilley and

Charlie White

***Please Keep our Special
Care People in Your Prayers.***

SUPPORT OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

Iran, Afghanistan, Germany, Korea, or right here in the United States, young men and women have put their lives on hold, so that we can be protected from the evils in the world. We need to support the troops wherever they are serving. We can make their lives a little more like home, by sending them some small items from home. Check out the list that is available and please make a donation. Thank you!!



Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the May newsletter will be April 20th, 2012





Alfred Litherland	2 nd
Andrew Offrink	4 th
Shawntera Fischer	4 th
Barb Wesley	6 th
Richard Holland	9 th
Maxine Storey	10 th
Nancy Dunlap	14 th
Betty Shaw	14 th
Peggy Brack	15 th
Loraine Clark	18 th
Lisa Graham	23 rd
Gay Grover	24 th
Randall Terrell	27 th
Alice Shirley	30 th



Belated Birthday to
 Jim Dixon March 16th
 Linda Ryan 24th



Larry & Anne Shoup	5 th
Herb & Jacquelyn McClennan	6 th
Denny & Sharon Bonney	16 th
Charlie & Pat White	27 th
Jim & Denise Dixon	30 th

Soup Kitchen Volunteers:

We would welcome anyone who would like to help provide support to our community by volunteering to work at the North End Soup Kitchen on Stewart Avenue in Flint. The Deacons coordinate this event and usually go one Friday afternoon per month from 2:00 to shortly after 5:00pm. We do food preparation and serving. If you would like more information, please contact Margaret Bausack. **We had to cancel our date for April, so our next date is May 18th.**





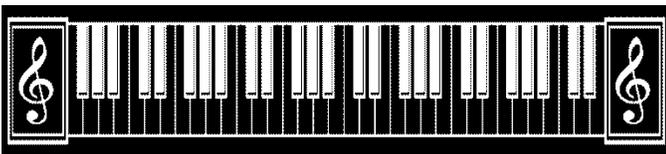
An Afternoon of Music

On May 20, 2012, we will have an opportunity to enjoy “An Afternoon of Music”, with **Moshe Benson**. Moshe was the guess musician in February during our morning worship. The adult Sunday members discussed what a wonderful experience we would have if we brought Moshe back to Trinity to enjoy his music in a more relaxed setting. It would also serve as a fundraiser which will assist with his traveling expenses to Europe this summer.

We are planning for a great afternoon. The program will begin as 4 o'clock pm until 6, o'clock pm. Each church family is asked to bring some type of finger food for our refreshments, with beverages being provided.

Bring your checkbook for the donations to Moshe. Finally, bring a friend or two with you who will enjoy an “Afternoon of Music, with Moshe Benson”.

For additional information or questions, feel free to contact Rosaline Brown @ 810-238-1936.



Thank you, and hope to see you then.



Trinity United Annual Spring Rummage Sale

Friday & Saturday

April 20th & 21st

Held in the Multi-purpose Room from 9am-5pm

Both days.

Come and see all of the useful items that are for sale, that are slightly used.

Don't forget to bring your items into the church

After Easter Sunday

April Calendar Items:

5th Anniversary Planning Committee Meeting – Monday, April 9, 2012 at 11am
New Member Class – Thursday, April 12, 2012 at 10:00am
Communion Servers Training – Sunday, April 15, 2012 after worship
Spring Bowling League – Wednesday, April 18, 2012
Rummage Sale – April 20 & 21, 2012
Pastor on Vacation & Study Leave – April 16 through April 29, 2012
Session Meeting – Monday, April 30, 2012 at 4pm

SERMONS For April 2012

April 1, 2012	Mark 15:33-39	“The Centurion Told You”
April 5, 2012	Mark 14:10-25	“Truly I Tell You” (Maundy Thursday)
April 8, 2012	John 20:1-18	“I Told You So”
April 15, 2012	John 20:19-31	“Believe”
April 22, 2012	Guest Preacher	Rev. Phil Olson
April 29, 2012	Guest Preacher	Rev. Phil Olson

Schedule of Events for Lent 2012



Palm Sunday – Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

April 1, 2012

Maundy Thursday – Celebration of the Lord’s Supper (by *Intinction*)

April 5, 2012 at 6:00pm

Easter Sunday - Easter Breakfast, Served by the Men’s Group at 9:00am.

Free- will offering taken at Breakfast

April 8, 2012 at 10:30am Worship



No coffee hour after worship on Easter.

2012 Nominating Committee Gets Started

Members of the Nominating Committee began its work at the training for Nominating Teams held at the Presbytery meeting on March 6th at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Flint. A second training led by Rev. Desiree Lawson was held on March 25th after worship service.

On April 15, 2012 a minute for mission will be presented by Patricia Rice. Members will be invited to make recommendations for persons to serve as elders and deacons for the class of 2015 and auditors for 2012. As you prayerfully consider your recommendations, we ask that you pray the following prayer:

God of grace,
Pour out your Holy Spirit on your [servants],
that they may be your faithful servants in the church.
Give them prudence and sound judgment,
wisdom and courage
to order the life of the church
in obedience to your Word.
Nourish them in the life of the Holy Spirit,
that they may exercise the ministry of discipline
with humility and compassion.
Guide them in governance,
On this mission and in every court of the church,
that they may be servant leaders following Christ
who came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life to set others free.
Give them joy in their walk of faith
and a sure sense of your abiding presence
for their work of ministry.

Revised from "Prayer for Elders," Book of Occasional Services, PC(USA)

A copy of *Job Descriptions for Church Officers* can be obtained from any member of the Nominating Committee. The members are Rosaline Brown; Karen Fischer; Craig Hardy; Kathy Henderson; Margaret Tilley; Georgia McCall, chair; Patricia Rice, co-chair and Rev. Desiree Lawson, ex-officio member.

We thank you for your prayer as we fulfill our call to serve.



Church Women United in Greater Flint
New Dimensions Workshop

“Building a World Fit for All God’s Children”

Friday, April 13, 2012

(Please note: This is a date change from our published calendar; location below is also new.)

Unity Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church
5255 S. Linden Rd., Swartz Creek 48473

Registration 9:30 am - Program 10 am - 1 pm

Luncheon Reservations (\$6.00):

Lottie Dabbs, 810-785-2217

Chairperson: Barbara Shackelford, 810-785-5869

Attendees are encouraged to bring any of these school supplies for UMCOR School Kits:

unsharpened pencils	2-1/2 inch erasers
24 count box of crayons	blunt scissors
hand held pencil sharpeners	
30 centimeter (12 in.) rulers	
pads of paper - spiral or top bound pads	

SPEAKERS and TOPICS

- **Brenda Evans and Barbara Shackelford:** “Office of Safe & Drug Free Schools” - K-12 prevention programs in mental health, violence, substance abuse and other behavioral problems, including bullying, facilitated by trained school staff or other professionals.
- **Henry Younger:** “Safe Passage” - Mr. Younger is a retired Flint police officer who now serves as coordinator for the Flint Board of Education/Flint Community Schools program “Working Together to Create Safer Schools and Communities.”
- **Cheri or Larry Carlson:** Youth Haven Ranch, with locations in Rives Junction, Michigan, and Arizona, is a non-denominational Christian outreach program with a single purpose of meeting the needs of disadvantaged youth - free of charge. Week after week, all throughout the year, children from all kinds of difficult circumstances find here a place where they feel secure enough to relax and have fun with other kids their age.
- **Rev. Dr. Margie Crawford:** Pastor at St. Clair First United Methodist Church, on programs of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) ministering to children in countries around the world, specifically Haiti and Liberia, when tragedy strikes. School Kits, Health Kits, and Sewing Kits are important contributions to these ministries.





**Domestic Violence
AWARENESS**

“TURN UP THE VOLUME”

Domestic Violence Awareness Walk-A-Thon

The Ladies of My Sisters’ Keepers and The Gentlemen of My Brothers’ Keepers will bring awareness to the **silent killer** that plagues so many people of our community. We “The Flint Keepers” invite you to partner with us as a church, an organization or even a family to “Sound Off” as we walk in honor of victims and survivors of **Domestic Violence**.

The walk will take place on April 7th at Flint Northern High School, G=3284 Mackin Rd., Flint. Registration begins at 8am and the walk begins at 9am.

There will be a brief ceremonial luncheon immediately following the walk at 11:30am. This event is free of charge, but donations will be accepted.

Come out and support PATRICIA’S PROMISE, ending Domestic Violence.

If it rains, the event will be held in the gymnasium; otherwise we will walk the track.

For additional info, contact Rosaline Brown, 810-238-1936.



**BOWLING
LEAGUE**

BOWLERS WANTED

We are still looking for bowlers for the Church Bowling League. The cost is \$60.00 (\$10.00 per week for 6 weeks) plus shoe rental. We bowl on Wednesday nights at 6 o’clock at Town & Country Lanes on Miller Rd. Bowling starts on April 18, 2012. If interested, contact Denise Dixon.

Fifth Grade Assignment

Wouldn't this be great if it was taught in every school?

A fifth grade teacher in a Christian School asked her class to look at TV commercials and see if they could use them in 20 ways to communicate ideas about God.

Here are some of the results: scroll down.

.....

God is like

BAYER ASPIRIN

He works miracles.

God is like

Tide

He gets the stains out others leave behind.

God is like

A FORD

He's got a better idea.

God is like

GENERAL ELECTRIC

He brings good things to life

God is like

COKE

He's the real thing.

God is like

Wal-Mart

He has everything.

God is like

Hallmark Cards

He cares enough to send His very best.

God is like

ALKA-SELTZER

Try him, you'll like him.

God is like

Scotch Tape

You can't see Him, but you know he's there.

God is like

DELTA

He's ready when you are.

God is like

Allstate

You're in good hand with Him.

God is like

V0-5 Hair Spray

He holds through all kinds of weather.

God is like

Dial Soap

Aren't you glad you have Him. Don't you wish everyone did?

God is like

The U.S. POST OFFICE

Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor ice will keep Him from His appointed destination.

God is like

Chevrolet...the heart of America

God is like

Maxwell House Coffee...

Good to the last drop.

God is like

B o u n t y

He is the quicker picker upper...

Can handle the tough jobs.. and He won't fall apart on you.

*Blessings from our church
to your church.*

