

TRINITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

“THE TRINITY OBSERVER” NOVEMBER, 2013

5151 Lennon Rd.
Flint, Michigan 48507

Office: 810-720-5152

E-mail: trinityunitedpc@yahoo.com

Website: www.trinityunitedpc.org

Newsletter: trinitynewsletter@yahoo.com

The past six weeks has been filled with lessons from God. We have been focused on Stewardship while learning what it means to give sacrificially of our time, talent and treasure. Our theme was taken from 2 Samuel 24:24, ***I will not offer unto the Lord that which costs me nothing.*** The attendance at 9:15am Sunday morning Bible Study has surpassed my expectations! God is certainly doing a new thing at Trinity United and we are responding favorably. We are coming together, praying together, studying together, worshipping together and taking a more active role in the life of the church in ways we have not done before. Since we began this campaign, I have witnessed a renewed energy within the congregation. We have taken seriously the words of Scripture and we are putting great thought into what God is revealing to us both corporately and individually.

In other words, we are growing spiritually. God is taking God's rightful position—front and center in our hearts; and is no longer on the margins of our lives. God has our attention and it is my prayer that we continue to build on what we are experiencing now. We are learning what it means to stand on the word of God in the midst of a crisis. The sermon from October 20, 2013 entitled “Taking the Lead” was based on Joshua 3 where the Israelites were preparing to cross over the Jordan River. Like us, they were facing a crisis of belief and the task in front of them appeared impossible and insurmountable. But God gave Joshua the steps to take in order to manage the crisis. God said we must first wait on God. Let's not act on our own speed but wait for God's leading. Secondly, we must trust in God's leadership. We may have *good* ideas but the Lord has *God* ideas. Thirdly, we must sanctify ourselves. This means that we must enter into a time of prayer and dedication where our focus is on living clean and listening to discern what God will have us do. Lastly, we are to take that first step of faith. We must be willing to put our faith into action and obey the will of God. The thought of

taking that first step may cause great fear and trepidation. This is how you know that God is stretching you and your faith muscle is being exercised.

The Lord told Joshua, *“Do not be afraid. As I was with Moses, so shall I be with you.”*(Joshua 1:5) In the same way, just as God was with Joshua, we must remember that God’s Holy Spirit is always with us. We will cross over and we will get to the other side—together!

Blessings,

Pastor Lawson

Updates from the Session

- **VITA Program (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program)**: The session voted to allow Maxine Storey to run a 5-week tax trainer program. This program will take place the first three weeks in December and the first 2 weeks in January on Tuesdays from 10am to 1pm in the Multipurpose Room.
- **New Communion Table** – We are in the process of looking for a new communion table. As you know, the marble table currently being used is extremely heavy and it makes it challenging to move in order to use the space for special presentations. We will keep you posted.
- **Multipurpose Hall Rental**—As part of our Capital Campaign efforts, the Property Team has agreed to place a Hall Rental Sign on the front lawn advertising the rental of the Multipurpose Room. The purpose of this is to earn more income to pay on the mortgage principle. Property will be looking for volunteers to assist them with monitoring the building during these events.
- **Per Capita** – Per Capita for 2014 will be **\$24.03**. Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Said another way, it the glue that holds Presbyterians together. Because every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PCUSA’s system of government, the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system should be shared by everyone as well. Our local presbytery; The Presbytery of Lake Huron collects per capita from its churches, retains its portion to undergird the work of its mission and ministry and sends on the portions for the Synod and General Assembly. Per capita payments for 2013 have not been paid in full. If you have not paid yours, please do. The payment amount for 2013 is \$23.81. Thank you.
- **Celebration of the Lord’s Supper**: Due to Pastor Lawson’s Thanksgiving vacation plans falling on the first Sunday in December, the Session voted to move the Celebration of the Lord’s Supper to the second

Sunday. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper on Sunday, December 8, 2013.

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER (Focus on Stewardship: Time, Talent & Treasure)

November 3, 2013 James 1:17-18; Psalm 24:1 **DEDICATE IT ALL TO GOD**
November 10, 2013 Proverbs 3:9-10; Acts 20:35b **GENEROSITY**
November 17, 2013 Isaiah 12:1-6 **A JOYFUL RESPONSE**
November 24, 2013 Jeremiah 23:1-6 **A RIGHTEOUS BRANCH**

CALENDAR ITEMS

NOVEMBER

- Officer Training – Saturday, November 9, 2013 from 9:30am to 2:30pm
- Fall Bowling League Ends – Wednesday, November 20, 2013
- Harvest Dinner – November 24, 2013
- Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday – November 28 & 29, 2013
- • Hanging of the Greens – November 30, 2013 @ 10:00 AM

DECEMBER (CALENDAR ITEMS)

- First Sunday of Advent – December 1, 2013 (*Guest Preacher*)
- Presbytery of Lake Huron Meeting at Flushing Pres. – Tuesday, December 3, 2013
- Second Sunday of Advent – December 8, 2013 (*Celebration of the Lord's Supper*)
- Annual Reports Due – December 13, 2013Worship
- Third Sunday of Advent – December 15, 2013
- Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 22, 2013
- • Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Tuesday, December 24, 2013 at 6pm.
- Christmas Holiday – December 25, 2013 (Office Closed)
- Communion Server Training After Worship – December 29, 2013

THANK YOU FROM FINANCE TEAM

The Stewardship Soup Suppers were held for the second year in a row and it was once again a wonderful way to learn about an important part of our church life. Stewardship involves time, talent, and worldly goods. Trinity United is on its way through the Stewardship Season with enthusiasm, along with the realism needed to support the church in all three areas.

The Finance Committee thanks the congregation for the support of the four Stewardship Soup Dinners held in early October. There were two to four tables of Trinity people for each evening of good fellowship, good food, good learning, and good sharing of ideas for the future of Trinity. Special appreciation goes to the soup donators Sharron Alexander, Jerry and Sharon Auger, Terry and Margaret

Bausack, Shirley Hale, Craig and Roberta Hardy, Jane Harger, Janet Hartzell, Richard and Delphine Holland Mary Krist, Phyllis Scales, Bob and Betty Shaw; and to the bread and cookies donators Jerry and Sharon Auger, Eddie and Gwen Barney, Greg and Jill Bolduc, Waldo and Beverly Bronson, Sharon Burton, Herman Graham, Janet Hartzell, Gayle Kettler, Chris and Cindy Lyttle, Jackie McClellan, Levi and Sue Smith, Helen and Tamara Sanders, Ron and Alice Shirley. Everyone stayed to help with clean-up and left saying that the Stewardship Soup Suppers were a success.

Many topics were discussed in small groups, primarily concentrating on the positive aspects of being a part of Trinity United, on changes that might enhance the church experience as well as other concerns. You will hear more about what went on after a report goes through session and on to the congregation. This truly was a conversation between congregation, leaders, and clergy.

DEACONS

1. The Deacons' meeting for November will be on the 17th and the December meeting will be on the 15th.
2. The Soup Kitchen dates for the remainder of the year are November 15 and December 20. Please know you are welcome to join us from 2 to 5pm at the North End Soup Kitchen on Stewart Ave.
3. VG's has changed their Community rewards program. We no longer are allowed to turn in receipts to them. Instead, the program requires that you register online with your VG's card number or you can register on paper at the store. Then when you use your card at the store, the points will transfer to the church account. Another big difference between the old program and this one is that points transfer only 6 selected weeks during the year.
4. We continue to collect new and used clothing for elementary aged children. So, if you see any good bargains at Goodwill, Salvation Army or garage sales, please remember us.

Lastly, we appreciate all that you have done to support the Deacons. You are awesome.

HARVEST DINNER

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 24th

Please
Bring
A Dish
To
Pass

Following Worship

Lynwood & Marie Barry

~~~~~

#### **Birthdays**

|                                |                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rev. Desiree Lawson.....4      | Sharon Bonny.....22     |
| Phyllis Scales.....4           | Harold Ryan .....27     |
| Russell Auger.....10           | Delphine Holland.....30 |
| Olivia Thomason (child).....12 | Connie Hutchins.....30  |
| Diamond Storey (youth).....18  | Patricia Miller.....30  |

~~~~~

Acolytes

Monica Bradley
Undrea Fischer

~~~~~  
Ronald & Alice Shirley, Tim Graham, Maxine Storey, Mary Krist, Kathy  
Henderson, Mr. Cleveland Mance of Detroit (uncle of Karen Fischer), Karen  
Fischer, Annie Lomax @ Genesys Rehabilitation Center, Sharon Bonney,  
Richard Holldand, Bernice Revada (sister of Addie Terrell & Georgia McCall),  
Charles Atwater, Barbara & Don Wesley, Larry Shoup, Sharon Thomason,  
Donna Jones, Denny Bonney, Michael Jackson, Katie Granberry, Ruby Fizer,  
June Foltz, Larry Tilley, Connie Hutchins, Jean Lyttle, James Bonney, Arlene  
Gullett, Addie Terrell, Joan Shirey, Dr. Alfred Gwillim, Roy Olson, Margaret  
Pepler, Betty Elford, Jesse Cook, Patricia Miller, Abbey Park, Rm. 119. 3221 E.  
Baldwin Rd., Grand Blanc, MI 48439

**Hanging of the Greens**  
**Saturday, November, 30<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00am**

