



What's Your Story?

I was born in Port of Spain, Trinidad in 1964. My parents are Oswald and Barbara Fitzpatrick. My father is from African descent and my mother from East Indian. This was considered a “mixed marriage” and was generally frowned upon. My parents survived the racism and classism and have now been married for 56 years. My father arrived in the United States in 1968. Shortly after, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. My mother came on year later. Trinidad is located only 7 miles from the coast of South America near Venezuela.

A brief history of Trinidad teaches that in 1498 explorer Christopher Columbus arrived and took possession. Trinidad remained a Spanish possession from the 15th century until the British seized Trinidad in 1797 and negotiated a treaty with Spain. In the years following, enslaved Africans were brought in to work on sugar plantations. In 1802 Trinidad became a British colony.

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After the abolishment of slavery, thousands of indentured servants were imported from India, China and the Middle East. In 1889, Britain joined the smaller Tobago to Trinidad. The islands achieved independence from England in 1962 and became the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in 1976. A visit to Trinidad today would reveal a multicultural melting pot made up of the descendants of settlers from Europe, Africa, Asia, South America and the Middle East.

My sisters and I arrived in America's melting pot, New York City on May 10, 1970. I can remember as a small child in the first grade walking home from school with my sister Denise, who is two years older. We were teased every day because we had an accent and had long braids. Day after day, the teasing continued and later some pushing and shoving. My two older sisters were in high school and they also faced the same discrimination. Their lockers were broken into and their property destroyed just because they were different. What was painful and surprising to us was most of the teasing and hurtful remarks came from people who looked like us.

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In 1972, Boston prematurely began a program of desegregation in the school systems without the benefit of training for its faculty and staff. At the age of 8, I got on a bus and went to a school that was quite a distance from my home and entered a classroom where I was the only person of color. For two years I went to a school where the teacher never called on me, never spoke to me on an individual basis while my classmates stared and pointed. In this environment, I was not a successful student. I kept my head down and never felt good about myself. These two early examples taught me that discrimination and racism both are born out of ignorance and a fear of the unknown. In the first incident of discrimination, it was not about my skin color, but my accent and my hair. In the second incident of racism, it was about my skin color.

In 1973 my parents moved to a more diverse section of Boston where I entered the 4th grade. The classroom was filled with students who were Asian, Latino, Caucasian, African American, Caribbean and European. I finally understood the quote from the Statue of Liberty; *“Give me your tired, your poor*

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your huddled masses yearning to breath free.” In this ethnically and culturally diverse classroom, I was able to breathe free among the masses. This is where I first understood that we have more in common than not. I wasn’t ignored or overlooked; I mattered.

All these different little people were so much like me. We were all scared, looking for love and acceptance. We looked into each other’s eyes and saw similar emotions, similar fears and similar experiences and we bonded. In this environment, I became a successful student. I felt free and safe. This classroom would become a vision of God’s kingdom on earth: a place where all would gather together; a place where everyone mattered.

What is your story? This month, it is my hope that we can begin to share those stories which impacted the way in which we view the world. Our stories have the power to break down walls and build up bridges. I would love to hear from you.



Blessings & Love,
Pastor Lawson

Anniversaries
to
Celebrate



Ronald & Catherine Ainsworth.....20

Birthdays
to
Celebrate



Pat Rice.....01
Rosaline Brown.....04
Joyce Pascal.....06
Oluseyi Adigun.....12
Willie Lomax.....12
Ann Lomax.....15
Betty Epps.....21

If I have missed your Birthday or Anniversary
Please contact me with the correction.

Thank You! Pat Rice



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.***

Nuts & Candies

Don't forget that the finance team still has different nuts and candies for sale during the coffee hour each Sunday. They have some that are in short supply, so hurry before your favorite ones are gone.

All the proceeds will be going to the general fund of the church. This is a church sponsored affair, so please support your church in this way.

Thank You! The Finance Team



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 FOR THE
MARCH ISSUE IS DUE BY FEBRUARY
21, 2012. PAT RICE**

Updates from the Session

New Elders: The session welcomed new elders, Gary Brown, Pat Rice and Bob Shaw and new deacon, Mary Miller. We are grateful for their service and look forward to a new and exciting year.

Pastor Lawson and Elder Waldo Bronson will attend a stewardship conference from March 12-14, 2012 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

February Calendar Items

February 4, 2012 – Liturgist Training from 10am-12p

February 5, 2012 – Worship Committee Meeting
(after service)

February 6, 2012 – Monday Bible Study at 5:30pm

February 9, 2012 – New Member Class at 10:00am

February 13 & 14, 2012 – Rev. Lawson Away at
Pastor's Retreat in Dewitt,

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There will be a service for Ash Wednesday, but it has not been finalized yet. Please check the Sunday bulletins or on our web-site for more information.

# The Newsletter is going Electronically

Starting with the March newsletter, you will be able to go to our web-site: [www.trinityunitedpc.org](http://www.trinityunitedpc.org) to receive the newsletter. Then click on the newsletter button. For the people who do not have a computer, they will still be able to get a copy of the newsletter at church on the first Sunday of the month. Your newsletter will still have a mailing address with your name on it, and will be on the coffee bar in the narthex. Shut-ins will still be sent a copy.

The reason for the change is the technology of putting it out to you and the cost of the mailing which is always going up in price. If you are not able to receive the newsletter and still wish to get it, please notify me at: [patmade2437@comcast.net](mailto:patmade2437@comcast.net).

Also if you have anything to put in the newsletter, please send it to Pat Rice at the above e-mail Address.



Newsletter  
On Line

# DEACONS' CHILDREN'S CLOTHING DRIVE

The Deacons want to thank all the people that have donated to their clothing drive this past year. As winter approaches, the Deacons are stepping up their Children's Clothing Drive, with emphasis on the special needs of our children. Jackets, sweatpants, sweatshirts, underwear, socks, hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves, sizes 5-6 through 12-14 for both boys and girls are needed. Please bring your donations to the church and place them in the School House box, located in the multi-purpose room. Monetary donations can also be made to this cause by marking your check or envelope. Thank You from the Deacons.



Coat Drive for  
School Kids

# **2012 AUDITORS**

Ernestine Jackson, Joan Shirey,  
& Maxine Storey

## **NOMINATING TEAM**

Representative from the congregation:

Rosaline Brown, Craig Hardy, Kathryn Henderson  
and Margaret Tilley

Representatives from Session:

Georgia McCall and Ronald Shirley

Representatives from the Deacons:

Peggy Brack

## **ELDERS AS OF January 2012**

- Class of 2012: Delphine Holland, Mary Krist,  
Georgia McCall, Barbara Wesley
- Class of 2013: Allison Bradley, Waldo Bronson,  
Denise Dixon, Ron Shirley
- Class of 2014: Sharon Auger, Gary Brown,  
Patricia Rice, & Robert Shaw

## **DEACONS AS OF JANUARY**

- Class of 2012: Karen Fischer, Shirley Hale,  
Alice Shirley, Sue Smith,
- Class of 2013: Margaret Bausack, Peggy Brack,  
Jerry Kamrath, & Levi Smith
- Class of 2014: Sharon Bonney, Desiree Fischer,  
Mary Miller & Phyllis Scales

# LECTIONARY READINGS

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**February 5, 2012**

*Mark 1:29-39*

**COMMUNION**

**“This is WHAT I Came to Do”**

**Rev. Desiree Lawson**

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**February 12, 2012**

*Mark 1:40-45*

**“He’s My Friend”**

**Rev. Desiree Lawson**

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**February 19, 2012**

*Mark 9:2-9*

**“True Colors”**

**Rev. Desiree Lawson**

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**February 26, 2012**

*Mark 1:9-15*

**“You Are My Son”**

**Rev. Desiree Lawson**