

TRINITY IN TOUCH

*Trinity United Methodist Church
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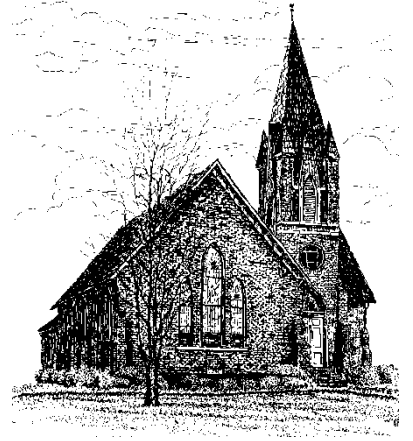
Secretary e-mail: tumcyork@bellsouth.net

Program Director: tumcprog@bellsouth.net

Church School: 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship: 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30am – 1:30pm (Closed Fridays)



November 29, 2011

From the Pastor

In case you haven't heard, the buzz around the church building has to do with doors--doors being open that should be shut, doors being unlocked that should be locked, and doors being locked at times when they should be unlocked. In some ways it is a security concern--it is not safe for the staff to be in the building while there may be someone who has snuck in with no good intent. It is not good stewardship to have the possibility that someone can come in and carry off things belonging to the church. I know that it is a shame that the church has to lock its doors when nobody is present, and that people can't simply come in off the street and spend time in prayer in the Sanctuary. It's a shame, but it is the way things are right now. We served a congregation a number of years ago where someone broke in and destroyed all of the chrismos that the ladies had worked for months to make. The hurt and shock took a long time for this congregation to get over. It is awfully easy to walk out of a door and think that it is shut or locked and not check it, but let me ask you to make a special effort to leave the building secure when you leave it. Some doors are hard to close, and some doors seem to be locked when they are not, but a little care can help us all be safer.

When we started worrying about these doors and it was suggested that I write about our need to be careful, I asked Anna how I could turn this idea into an Advent theme. She reminded me that Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote that Advent is a time when Jesus stands at the door and knocks and waits for us to let him in. As you may have heard me say, the Faith Explorers Class is studying Bonhoeffer's book, God is in the Manger for the next few weeks as an Advent study. Bonhoeffer writes with such depth and such simplicity that he is able to touch our hearts in profound ways. His picture of Advent as Jesus waiting outside the door for us to let him in resonates with me in many ways. Of course, I am aware of the irony of writing one paragraph about keeping doors locked and the next about Jesus waiting for us to let him in. But there's a thought here that we need to examine. Jesus tells a parable about the sheep and the shepherd, in which he talks about those who sneak into the sheep fold rather than entering through the gate. It may be strange to think that it is easier for people to get into our building than it is for Jesus to get into our hearts--but it is often because we create more difficult barriers for Jesus. We know that when we let him into our hearts and lives we will never be the same. We know that we will change, growing into his image. We know what when we let him really enter our lives we may find ourselves in difficult places, working in situations that are outside our comfort zone, and with people who are completely different from us! We don't want to be different from the rest of the people around us; we don't want to stand out from the crowd.

The other troubling thing is that we really want people to come to church. We don't want to turn anybody away when we have worship or fellowship activities. We used to talk about "Open hearts, open minds and open doors." I get nervous when people who have been regular in their attendance begin to miss worship or church school. I feel really good when people we haven't met begin coming. I am always glad to welcome visitors and to greet folks whom we have not seen in a while when they return to worship. We want people to come and feel welcome. But, we still worry about vandalism and unexpected visitors at times when the building is closed and quiet. So, just as I have asked each one to be careful about doors and locks and tight closings, I also am asking each one to be very deliberate in inviting people to worship, church school, the Christmas parties and the children's play and the cantata. I am asking each one to be deliberate in looking around the congregation and seeing faces that you don't know and introducing yourself. In a few weeks we will have visitors for the cantata--make them feel at home. If we are inviting Jesus into our lives, we will want to invite others to be with us so that they can invite Jesus into their lives as well.

I often joke about being the "doorkeeper;" meeting and inviting people into the building. I would invite each of you to become a doorkeeper as well, securing the doors when we are not around, and inviting folks in when there is something that can touch lives. I would also invite you to listen to the one who is standing at the door of our hearts and knocking. Listen, invite him in.

God bless each one, Gene Feagin, Pastor

Sunday, December 4 – 2nd Sunday in Advent

Scriptures: Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8

Sermon: “Who Are You Waiting For?”

SUNDAY, December 4

- Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
- Fellowship Time..... 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday School..... 10:00 a.m.
- Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
- Play Practice.....4-6:00 p.m.
- Cadette Troop 3311 6:30 p.m.
- Lay Reader: Alice Smith
- Nursery Infants: Terri Alford & Robin Johnston
- Children’s Church: Kathleen Messer & Rusty Graham
- Toddler Church: Brad & Stacy Hanna
- Acolyte: Grace Smith

MONDAY 5

- Morning Circle @ Trinity 10:00 a.m.
- Circle #2..... 7:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 7

- Soup Supper following York Christmas Parade.....5:30-7:00 p.m.
- Children’s Choir..... 6:00 p.m.
- Advent Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
- Adult Choir..... 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY 8

- Advent Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
- Play Practice..... 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY 10

- Dress Rehearsal 9-11:00 a.m.
- UMM Chicken Stew Sale..... 11:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, December 11

- Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
- Fellowship Time..... 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday School..... 10:00 a.m.
- Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
- Finance Committee Meeting 4:00 p.m.
- Children’s Christmas Play & Supper 6:00 p.m.

USHERS FOR DECEMBER: *Kenny Cloniger, Kevin Smiley, Lee Alford, Basil Childers, Johnny Eite, Kelly Pursley, Bud Jones

FIRST SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP/NOV: FRIENDS Class

TRUSTEES/DECEMBER: Ken Cushman & Mary Sue Burns

ALTAR GUILD/DECEMBER: Liz Brown & Robbie Miller

WELCOME VISITORS/DECEMBER: FRIENDS Class

VISITOR CARDS/DECEMBER: Susan Jones

PATH FOOD FOR DECEMBER: Canned Meat – any kind, any size.

Sunday School Attendance November 27:	108
Worship Attendance November 27 (9:00am):	32
Worship Attendance November 27 (11:00 am):	111
Operating Fund received November 27.....	\$3,764.00
Operating Fund received up to November 27.....	\$284,138.10
Budget goal up to Nov. 27 (\$6,732.00 x 48).....	\$323,136.00

MEMORIALS

To the Operating Fund in memory of:

Ernie Ulbricht by Jim & Pat Hodnett.

Mary Shuler by Sean & Barbara Coady; Janet Broadwell.

Lois Smith by Betty J. Jones; Donnie & Mary Jane Shuler; Denise Mitchell; Dick & Jan Sweigart; Henry & Rachel Smith; Lee & Terri Alford; John & Frances Howe; Keith & Janet Parham; The Bible Study Class.

To the Mississippi/Katrina Fund in memory of Lois Smith by Kenny & Ellen Jones.

HONORARIUM in honor of Bud & Suzanne Jones from Friends.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our prayers are with Irene Williams, John Smith, Geneva Warren, Helen Brindle, Margie Castillo, and Isem Pennington.

Also, we remember Jack Sammitt, stepson of Brad Childers; Jim Brandon, friend of Evelyn Johnsey; Blanche Stewart friend of Susan Jones; Floyd Jackson, father of Nancy Childers.

Our sympathy is with Reid Smith and his family following the death of Reid’s mother Lois Smith, on Tuesday, November 22.

As we get enter December and you begin your year-end planning, now would be a good time to check up on your giving to the church. It would also be an excellent time to think about an extra gift to help the church. Jill can tell you whether or not you are up to date on your pledge, so that you can catch up if you are behind. Any extra gifts toward the ministry of the church would be very welcome as we approach the end of the year. Thanks for your faithfulness and support.

The Mission Team, as in the past, is asking TUMC to provide Christmas gifts for clients of the Adult Enrichments Center of York (formerly York Adult Day Care). Sign-up sheets are posted on the Mission Bulletin Board. Thank you for your support.

SUPER SOUP SUPPER after the York Christmas Parade on December 7. Come in out of the cold and enjoy heart-warming vegetable soup, spicy chili, or comforting potato soup. Of course cornbread muffins, crackers, brownies, ice cream and tea are included. Circle #4 will serve from 5:30 until 7:00; the cost is \$4.00 per person or \$15.00 per family.

ANNUAL UMM CHICKEN STEW FUNDRAISER
SATURDAY - DECEMBER 10 - 11AM UNTIL
\$6.00 PER QUART
THE TRINITY UMM WILL ALSO BE RECEIVING ANY TYPICAN
GOODS TO BE DONATED TO PATH

Bazaar Items may be seen during church office hours in the Boy Scout Room. Items will be sold at a 20% discount.

Please plan to join us this Advent for a study of Mike Slaughter’s book, Christmas is Not Your Birthday. This little book is subtitled, “Experience the Joy of Living and Giving Like Jesus.” The question that this book touches on is how we can live responsibly as followers of Christ in a world where Christmas has been hijacked. This study will be offered several times a week—the FRIENDS Class and the Faith Explorers’ Class will be studying it during the Sunday School hour through Advent. Gene Feagin will be leading two sessions—Wednesday nights at 6:30 and Thursday mornings at 10:00. Please feel free to come to whichever session suits your schedule.

The Committee on Finance will begin meeting in early December to finalize the 2012 budget. Each group within the church that has a budget is asked to take a few moments to review your budget and spending for 2011 and submit a proposal for 2012 that reflects your needs. If you have some dreams and hopes for expanding your budget, or some special projects that you would like to have considered, please submit them as an addendum so that we can look first at current needs and then at extras. Jill will help you review current spending. Please have your proposal for the 2012 Budget submitted to Jill or to the Finance Committee by December 7th.

ALICE’S CORNER

Children’s Play Practice will continue on Saturday, Decembr 2 from 2-4 and Sunday, December 3 from 4-6. **Needed** Mrs. Claus apparel – red shirt, red sweater or with or without fur. White or red apron. Call Alice if you have something we could borrow!

Many, many thanks to everyone who participated in the 2nd annual “Running of the Turkeys”. Your participation helped PATH, your health, and hopefully you enjoyed a great beginning to your day. Special thanks to Leann Mellon our Trinity coordinator. The amount donated to PATH will be published when all money is calculated.

All Adults are invited to join the Trinity Travelers at their Christmas Luncheon at Springlake Country Club on Wednesday, December 14 at noon. The cost is \$12.50. Please make reservations and pay with Jill in the church office by this **Thursday, December 1.**

All youth grades 6-12 are invited to participate in “Mission-Christmas Cheer” on Wednesday, December 21. This is a day of community service with other local church youth to help those in need. Time is 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. Sign up with Alice if you plan to come!

POINSETTIAS



We plan to decorate the church again this Christmas with poinsettias from Stacy’s. The cost per plant is \$11.25 inc. tax. Please turn in your order, with check or cash, to the church office no later than **Monday, December 5.**

(Plants may be picked up after the Chancel Choir Program on December 18.)

In memory of:

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In honor of:

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Given by:

Number ordered: _____ Money/Check Enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to Trinity UMC