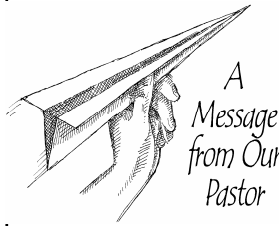


# Trinity Christian UCC

## Aug.-Sept.2011 Newsletter

### Skippack, PA



Thirty-two years ago, on July 29, 1979, members of Trinity Lutheran Church of Farmington, NM gathered in the afternoon for the Ordination service of a 27 year old recent graduate of seminary in Gettysburg, PA. In the congregation were his wife and three daughters. This was the first, and as far as I know, the only son of the congregation to be ordained into pastoral ministry.

The color of the day was red. The sponsor was the first pastor of Trinity Church and was pastor when this young man began attending the church at age 13. The preacher was the person who had been pastor at Trinity Church when the young man began at seminary. There was laying on of hands by the pastors and bishop who had gathered that day. One month earlier the new pastor had been called to serve a two point parish on the Kansas/Nebraska state line. An entire professional future lay ahead.

Well, ... that was thirty-two years ago and much has happened in the life of this pastor in that period. Through it all, the call to pastoral ministry has been constant and God has been faithful. Today, I serve with you in the ministry of Trinity Christian UCC. (*It did not occur to me until writing these words that both churches at the beginning and now have been named Trinity!?*).

In the stories we have been reading on Sunday mornings about the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob we have found that there is a messiness that characterizes the lives of even key figures in the history of God's design of salvation. Jacob, the deceiver, has been our "hero" for several weeks and it has been amazing to see how God has extended blessings to all people through such an unlikely person. (*See Genesis 24-35*)

In the same way the Lord works through you and me to bring divine blessing to those whose lives we touch day to day. Amazing. Humbling. Uplifting.

Along the journey of the last 32 years I have been in and out of parish ministry. In 1988 I received a masters degree in pastoral counseling while being co-pastor of a four point parish. After that I worked as a therapist in a mental health practice seeing individuals and families. From there I served as a social worker for several years with Wake County, NC Social Services. I was self-employed as a residential contractor and real estate broker for several years. In between I served a couple of congregations. Most recently, before coming to Skippack, I was the manager of a million dollar a year property maintenance company which I did for four years. Then, the call to return to pastoral ministry reared up again and in a most unlikely way I was called to Trinity Christian in February of this year.

I am delighted to be here. I thank God almost every day for this opportunity to lift up Christ with you. My prayer is that God will bless us to draw new people to faith as we discover new ways to lift up the work of death and resurrection to the people who live around us in Skippack and throughout the scope of the United Church of Christ. This can be an exciting time for us at Trinity as there are more people than ever who live as though a relationship to the living God has little or no relevance to their lives. Each Sunday service I strive to have an experience of the life changing joy of knowing the Lord and his good intentions of salvation into eternal life for all people. If you miss Sunday worship, I pray you will ask yourself, 'What did I miss today at church?' It is my goal that you and I will have such a dramatic experience of the presence of God that we cannot help ourselves but to overflow with an invitation to others to join us week by week.

God has never let me down. I have wavered in my confidence over the years, but God has never let me down. Up hills and down valleys, through thick and thin, the Lord has been my rock since that day so long ago on July 29, 1979. I look forward to many, many more years of pastoral ministry with you as we unite to lift high the cross that promises life and hope to all God's unlovely people.

May you know the Lord as your rock and stay in whatever the years may bring to you.

*Pastor Michael*

## Consistory News.....from Harry Crossgrove

As we proceed through the months of June, July, and August many things go on hiatus and people go on vacation, but the work of the church never stops. During our July meeting there were many discussions and decisions that were made. First and foremost, August 15<sup>th</sup> 2011 brings two important due date for all church committees to meet. First it's that time of the year to look at your committees responsibilities for the church budget. Please review your section of the budget and submit it to Maryann Ricci and the Finance Committee so they can submit the completed budget for Consistory Review at our September meeting. The second thing due on August 15<sup>th</sup> is your committee suggestion of your committee's responsibilities for the ongoing bylaws revisions. Please get them to me by the 15<sup>th</sup> so we can meet and put together our revisions in-time for the November Budget Meeting.

There are a few items that have been acted on at last month's meeting. First of all it was brought to our attention that we have not service the church building's air-conditioning system for many years and it was probably not operating as efficiently as it should. Consistory approved to have the air conditioner units serviced at a cost of \$300 plus the cost of any coolant that is needed to fill us up.

We then took a look at the ongoing concern about the cracks in the black-top around the church. We had received 2 bids for the job. One bid came from Desolis Paving for \$3500 and one from A & H Paving for \$1800. A & H Paving also submitted a bid to reseal and reline the driveway in addition to filling the cracks for a total of \$5375. Through discussion it was decided that getting whole job done by A & H Paving might be beneficial, but it would exceed our financial abilities without a congregation vote. A Congregation meeting was held to concerning this manner. At this meeting it was discussed that due to the fact that we are looking into the conversion to gas energy, (which would require us to dig under the black top, possibly damaging our newly sealed driveway) that we would hold off on the sealing of the driveway and just accept the bid of A&H Paving for \$1800 and consider resealing after a decision on gas conversion occurs. Either way it is felt we will have to either convert to gas or replace our aging underground oil tank with an above ground tank in the near future.

Property Committee announced that they are looking for bids on and oil provider, conversion from oil to gas, taking down a dead tree behind the parsonage, as well as work to be done on the second floor of the parsonage.

As you will see in the other reports in this newsletter, there are a lot of things happening here at Trinity in the near future. To make them as successful as possible we need as many members of the Congregation as possible to attend and support these functions. The most pressing need is the upcoming Vacation Bible School run by the Christian Education Committee on the week of August 15<sup>th</sup>. The plans are just about finalized but they can use all of the church support that you can give. If you can at all help out either financially or with your time please see Diana Polec.

Without all of us working together most of the church's functions would not exist. I would like to personally thank all members of Trinity for all that they do to help Trinity move forward and grow in the Skippack area and surrounding Communities

I hope you and your families are able to relax and rejuvenate during the remaining time we have this summer.

Yours in Christ,  
Harry Crossgrove

**August-September**



**New 2011 Trinity Photo Directory**

Save the Date!!!!!!

Hi all, it has been 4 years since our last Photo Directory. With the fact that we now have Pastor Michael with us, Consistory felt it was time to look into getting our directory redone. I have taken the lead and met with a representative from Lifetouch publishing and decided to continue with them again this year. Looking at the schedules we have settled on Friday December 2, 2011 from 3-9 PM and Saturday December 3, 2011 from 10 – 2. The times might change slightly but the dates are set. This would be perfect for getting family photos in time for Christmas. All Photos taken will receive a free church directory and a free 8x10. In the coming weeks there will be a bulletin insert and information on photo prices for you to look at and help to make choices. There will be activity pages so anyone with pictures of church functions from the past year or so please see that they get to me. We will also be taking pictures of all committees and groups sometime in September. If anyone would like to be a part of the planning and compilation of the church directory, I would welcome the help. More information will follow as we get closer.



**Skippack Days 2011  
Saturday October 1, 2011**

It's that time of the year for us to start looking at the church's festivities for Skippack Days. There have always been a lot of ideas thrown around in the past and as always we would like to make our involvement as successful as possible. Our festivities currently consist of a flea market, food service, and parking. There are endless possibilities that many of you have shared in the past and we would love to incorporate them, but we need your help. If you are at all interested in helping plan or support the church on Skippack Days please give me a call (610-584-0843) or send me an e-mail ([hcrossgrove@yahoo.com](mailto:hcrossgrove@yahoo.com)). We need to meet soon to start the planning process to make this year as successful as possible.

## Shalom, ya'll! **ISRAELI BREAKFAST AND TRAVEL LOG**

You are invited to share memories from Annemarie Evans' recent trip to the Holy Land through a traditional Israeli breakfast and travel log on Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall after the 9:30 am worship service for food and photos.

Please RSVP to [annemarieevans@bellsouth.net](mailto:annemarieevans@bellsouth.net) by September 1<sup>st</sup> so she will know how many folks to expect.

Feel free to invite friends and family members who might be interested in visiting Israel. We would like to plan a trip to the Holy Land in the summer of 2013 to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Trinity Christian Church in Skippack. Ya'll Come! Shalom!

### Altar Flowers:

Flower envelopes are now available on the bulletin board in the stairwell of the church, for the months of July, August, September. If you take an envelope, kindly try to pay the \$23.00 the following week. This is to be placed in the offering plate.

Thank you,

The Worship Committee



### Trinity Church School Rally Day

It's hard to believe that the summer is coming quickly to an end, and in only a few weeks the Sunday School will be starting up once again for a new year of special programs, lessons, and songs for the children of the church.

Rally Day will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 11. For those of you who have been attending our program, we say "welcome back". But we also encourage everybody to invite other children to come out as well and join the fun!

Ned Schillow, Superintendent



## Social Committee

*The Social Committee is off for the month of August as we look back on what we did last year and finalize all of our plans for the upcoming Social Season. This past season we experienced a "Night at the Academy Awards" where we took a look at different movie genera's through food and fellowship.*

*Starting in September the Social Committee will take a tour of the great World Festivals. From Oktoberfest to Chinese new-year to Earth Day we will take a look at different cultures and the celebrations that they have. Please join us on our journey. We are in need of your help. We would like to thank the congregation for their continued help with cleaning up after the function but we could use some help and new ideas for the planning and set-up parts of our functions. If you are at all interested in participation of lending you ideas please feel free to contact any one of us. Our final list with dates for the whole year will be available in the next few weeks in the church bulletin as well as the next newsletter.*

## WASHINGTON'S TROOP RETURN

THE SKIPPACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE-HOLDING THEIR 6TH ANNUAL Revolutionary Encampment and Living History Event to commemorate the Continental Army's Encampment in September 1777. Held at the Indenhofen Farm: Route 73 and Evansburg Road in Skippack Village.

Date: Saturday September 10 10AM-5PM

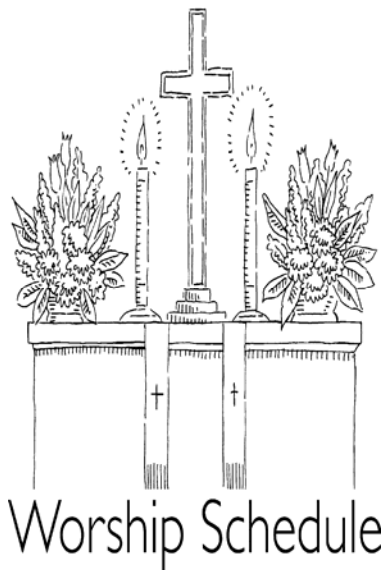
Sunday September 11-11AM to 4PM

Visit with the Revolutionary soldiers, and their surgeon, blacksmith, and cook. Talk to Betsy Ross on Sunday from 1-3PM. See a dowser search for water underground; quilt making; wooden barrel making, tin punch; colonial toys and games.

Douglas Stupinski, author of "A Glimpse of Freedom," will speak on influences and effects of the Revolutionary War in our area.

Come participate in the one room schoolhouse. Bring the kids!

Food will be available. Donation for parking.



**For your prayers and preparation for  
Sunday worship:**

- August 7    Genesis 37:1-28    Psalm 105  
August 14    Second Coming "Days of Elijah"  
August 21    Romans 12: 1-8    Matthew 16: 13-20  
August 28    Romans 12: 9-21    Matthew 16: 21-28

**RALLY DAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2011.  
CHURCH SCHOOL 9:00 AM  
SERVICE 10:15 AM**

**Outreach Committee**

**From Marge Brown.....**

**As a way to reach new people in our area, we have tried to publish correct information about our church services and activities. There are many newspapers in the surrounding towns. Most of them also have online editions. Some are conglomerates, so hopefully we can reach many readers. Pastor Michael Evans is leading the way in encouraging us to bring new members into the church. We are considering which type of events the community would enjoy attending on our church grounds. This would give them a chance to see who we are and what we do in worship services.**



**Please let us know your ideas and suggestions.**



Important  
announcement!!!!

The parking lot at the church  
will be repaired on  
Monday, August 8, 2011

Please do not drive in the parking lot that day.

Call Pastor Michael if you need  
any assistance. @ 610-635-6752

Thanks!

## *Vacation Bible School*

*August 15-19, 2011*

*6:00-8:00 P.M*



*This year's theme:*

## *The Big Apple*

Join us and bring your friends!  
For information please contact

[TrinityVBS@live.com](mailto:TrinityVBS@live.com) or

Register on line @ [trinityskippack.org](http://trinityskippack.org)

**Trinity Christian UCC  
P.O. Box 538  
2009 Church Road  
Skippack, Pa .19474  
610-584-4054**

### **The Stairs**

**Oh long and dark the stairs I trod,  
With stumbling feet to find my God.  
Gaining a foothold bit by bit  
Then slipping back and losing it.  
There came a certain time when I  
Loosened my hold and fell thereby,  
Down to the lowest step my fall  
As if I had not climbed at all.  
And as I lay despairing there,  
There came a footfall on the stairs  
And 'lo' when hope had ceased to be,  
My God came down the stairs to me.**

*Unknown*