

Trinity Christian UCC

Lenten Newsletter 2011

FROM THE PASTOR

It is So Good to be here in Skippack !!

By the time you receive this newsletter I will have been your pastor for just over one month. I began February 1 and have been so blessed to have made this move to serve with you. Truly, the Lord is good and moves in His own time. I have never felt so welcomed in any previous parish or living situation. I know part of those feelings have to do with my place on my own spiritual journey. They also have to do with the welcome you have extended to me. Thank you.

I look forward to many years of blessed ministry with you. One of the key Bible verses in Confirmation instruction is Matthew 28:16-20. In this passage the resurrected Jesus commands us to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and teaching all that had been commanded. The promise Jesus extends is that He will be with us always, even unto the end of the age. Response to this Great Commission is our purpose as a community of faith.

You have welcomed me to join your journey of faith. In the time to come we will get to know each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. We will share ups and downs. Yet, always the Risen Christ will be in our midst: He can do nothing less. Together we will follow where He first leads the way.

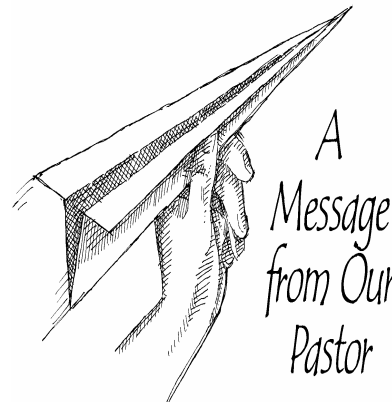
I want you to be so proud of what we are doing in worship and service that you cannot help but invite others to become disciples, joining us in our pilgrimage. Every study confirms that the number one reason a new person comes to a church is because of the invitation of a member of that church. Are you excited about the work of making disciples – persons of all ages who desire to follow Christ in faith walk? If so, share that excitement. If not, call me, talk to me, let's pray for guidance of the Spirit that will fill you with joy in what we are doing as a congregation of God's devoted people.

*May the Lord Almighty bless our praise and service to the glory of God.
It is so good to be here in Skippack !!
Pastor Michael Evans*

Let your Pastor Know:

- *Special School Event*
- *Job Changes/Promotions*
- *Performance in Play or Music*
- *Family Milestones*
- *Anniversaries or Deaths*

Pastor Michael



Community Lent Worship Series

Theme: Encounters to the Cross



Mar. 9	Ash Wednesday	Judas/ Michael Evans/ Wentz's UCC
Mar. 16	Wednesday	Pontius Pilate/ Larry O'Neill / Lower Skippack
Mar. 23	Wednesday	Simon of Cyrene/ John Bhajjan/ Olivet-SchwenkfelderUCC
Mar. 30	Wednesday	The Soldiers/ TBA/ Trinity UCC
April 6	Wednesday	Mary's / Leslie Kearney/ Bethel hill UMC Lansdale
April 13	Wednesday	The Centurion/ Mike Menenses/ Skippack Church of the Brethren

The Ask Wednesday Service, with the disposition of ashes, the celebration of communion and a soup dinner at 6PM prior to the service. All services are at 7:30PM. The host church will also provide a fellowship time following the service. The offerings will be going to three local food banks: Jerusalem Food Bank, Interfaith, and Manna.

The Stewardship Committee would like to announce that there will not be any future soup sales. It has been a successful fund raiser, and we would like to thank Elaine Becker and her helpers for their hard work and dedication. We would also like to thank everyone who bought soup over the years. We appreciated your support.

Another way to help the church financially is through the **SCRIP** program. An order was placed in February with three people ordering a total of \$875.00 worth of gift cards. The church made a profit of \$58.02. Thank you to those that ordered, and if you haven't placed any orders, please consider doing so in the future. With a little planning, you can support the church while going about your everyday shopping. If you want to find out more about the SCRIP program, there is information on the bulletin board outside the church offices and on the table in the church narthex, or you can ask Nancy Gallagher directly.

Consistory News.....from Harry Crossgrove

March:

The first half of this year has seen a whirlwind of activity here at Trinity Christian. We started off the year welcoming the 2011 slate of Consistory members. With five members continuing with Consistory for an additional term, we welcomed Marge Brown to her first term with open arms. We also received the resignation of Elaine Ford from her term and have drafted Max Polec to finish the last year of her term. I would like to thank Elaine for her years of continued support and service of not only the Trinity Consistory but also many other facets of life here at Trinity. Also, at the January meeting we had to take a look at appointing officers for this year's Consistory. After much discussion, the following slate of officers was elected, Harry Crossgrove – President, John Becker III – Vice President, Susan Vogl – Treasurer, MaryAnn Ricci – Secretary, & Janet Crossgrove – Financial Secretary.

The January meeting also saw the Consistory having to deal with the beginning of the change between interim Pastor Charles Maxfield and our new Pastor Michael Evans. Pastor Maxfield served our church tirelessly for the past year as Pastor. He said in his first sermon that his job as an interim Pastor is to get the church ready for change and help to ease the pain of our previous pastor leaving to get us ready for our next Pastor to come. I feel Pastor Maxfield helped this church admirably to deal with the questions and loss of Pastor Jerry as well as help us to get ready for the changes that Pastor Evans will bring as he continues the beginning of what I hope is a long journey with us at Trinity.

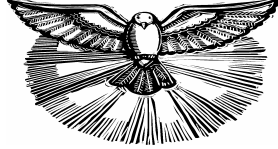
As if we did not have enough to do already, with what I mentioned above, we also had to deal with our normal operating business. In January all of Consistory's actions had to deal with preparing for Pastor Michael Evans to come to us. We approved up to \$2500 for moving expenses for Pastor Evans and his belongings from North Carolina to Pennsylvania. We then approved to present Pastor and Annemarie Evans with Healthcare under the United Church of Christ Health plan (A). The final decision in January was to have all existing Pastor Search Committee member become the new Pastor Relations Committee once Pastor Evans is installed.

During the February meeting we welcomed Pastor Michael Evans to the Consistory and had only one decision that needed to be acted on. A motion was approved to have the entire church property re-keyed since there are many keys that have gone missing through the years. As always if there is anything that you feel needs to be discussed by Consistory please don't hesitate to bring it up to me or any other member of Consistory.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

MARCH :

Confirmation Class



On Sunday, February 27th, the Confirmation Class resumed their class with Pastor Michael. We have three teenage boys and anticipate the Rite of Confirmation on Pentecost.

Youth Group *****

The Youth Group will be participating in a 30 Hour Famine which will take place on Friday, March 26 and ending Saturday, March 27. The group will be asking for donations for their efforts. All proceeds will be going the Jerusalem Community Food Pantry.



APRIL:

Easter Egg Hunt

The Youth Group will be filling eggs on Saturday, April 16 for the Easter Egg Hunt that will be held after Sunday School class on Sunday, April 17 (Palm Sunday.) Keep a look out in the March announcements for updates.

Vacation Bible School

The 2011 VBS Program will be held Monday, August 15 through Friday, August 19. The program is to be determined. Anyone interested in helping with this year's program can contact Diana Polec.

Altar Flowers:

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

The Easter Lilies and Tulip order envelopes will be available at the end of March. Pots are \$6.00. For more information please contact JoAnn Davis @ 215-513-6265.

Thank you,

The Worship Committee



Easter Services/Schedule

<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	<i>7:30 PM</i>	<i>Communion</i>
<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>7:30 PM</i>	<i>Tenebrae Service</i>
<i>Easter</i>	<i>7:00 AM</i>	<i>Service</i>
	<i>7:30 AM</i>	<i>Easter Breakfast</i>
	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>Sunday School</i>
	<i>10:15 AM</i>	<i>Communion Service</i>



Pastor's Installation

Pastor Michael W. Evans and Trinity Christian invite everyone to Pastor's installation as the 11th pastor of our church on Sunday, April 3, 2011 2:30 PM. Reception immediately following the service.

If you could see me now

Our prayers have been answered. I've finally arrived.
The healing that had been delayed, has now been realized.
No one's in a hurry, there's no schedule to keep.
We're all enjoying Jesus, just sitting at his feet.
If you could see me now...I'm walking streets of gold.
If you could see me now... I'm standing strong and whole.
If you could see me now...You'd know I've seen his face.
If you could see me know...You'd know the pain's erased.
You wouldn't want me to ever leave this place...If you could see me now.

Outreach Committee

... **Marge Brown**

Beginning Ash Wednesday evening and going through to Palm Sunday, the Lenten Services on Wednesday evenings provide an opportunity for all of us to "reach out" to friends and neighbors. Please consider inviting someone new to attend with us. These will be held in different churches, but we will host the March 30 service here in Skippack. No matter which ones you may attend, all will be welcome and have a chance to renew their devotion to Christ in preparation for Easter Sunday.

For the Easter week services, we plan to have a nice invitation ready to distribute around the Skippack area. This may be on posters or enclosed with a few Easter cookies. Our Outreach committee met March 3rd. Pastor Michael Evans guided us with suggestions. We will probably ask for Easter cookie donations in a few weeks. Keep us in mind, and we would welcome anyone interested in joining our committee. If meetings are not possible for you, just let Pastor or a committee member know if you'd like to help with something.

Upcoming Social Events!!!!

.....From Harry Crossgrove

At our last committee meeting we planned some of the upcoming events.

- In March we will not be having an event of our own due to the fact that all three committee members are busy with the food portion of the ***Saturday March 12th Gala*** event with the church. We certainly hope to see all of you there, as this has quickly become one of our major fundraisers of the year.
- April will be one of our busier months on the Social Committee. On Saturday April 16th will be hosting our yearly ***Family Night with a Disney Theme*** to fit into our Academy Awards theme. From a youth group request we will be watching "***Finding Nemo***" as we bring to you a meal featuring a pasta bar and ice-cream bar. The price for this meal will be \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 4 – 12. Children 3 and under are free. Please bring your entire family and invite others to this fun family event. As with all other family night events we will have a costume contest with awards given to "Best Disney Themed Outfit" as well as "Most Realistic Disney Character Outfit." We will have awards for both kids and adults so all are encouraged to participate and attend in the contest. As always, the Social Committee needs your help. We are a small group of 3 family members who present these dinners.

We greatly need anyone who would like to help with the planning and presentation of the meals as well as the cleanup. The three of us have a lot of ideas as it pertains to things we could be doing but we cannot get it done with just the three of us. Your help could allow us to expand the social activity program that we offer here at Trinity.

A word from property!

...from Harry Crossgrove

Pastor Michael's new residence is almost complete. We are in the process of moving the washer and dryer lines from the basement to the first floor pantry area to allow a stackable washer/dryer combination to be installed. The washer/dryer unit has been purchased during Lowe's President's Day sale but unfortunately is backordered for the next two weeks. Hopefully by the time it comes in we will be ready for a quick installation.

The final pieces of this stage of the Revitalization will take place when the weather gets nicer in the spring. We still have repairs to the front porch as well as the front concrete retaining wall.

With the bulk of the current parsonage project complete, we are looking to catch up on things that have been pushed aside. John has completed a light-bulb sweep and has replaced many burnt out bulbs. Our next big project will be the re-keying of all church buildings. (We will give plenty of warning as to the day that the locks will be changed to allow everyone plenty of time to plan on meeting with me to exchange old keys for new ones. We will try to contact everyone through church announcements and emails as we try to have this project done by the end of March.)

As always we could use your help by letting us know when you see something that needs to be fixed. Please feel free to contact any member of the property committee with your concerns and we will be glad to make sure we get to your concern as soon as possible.