

Trinity Christian UCC

November, 2011 Newsletter

Skippack, PA



The Almighty is Calling: Give Thanks and Praise



A
Message
from Our
Pastor

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Spelled out above is a prayer we might make on a Sunday morning with the presentation of our gifts at the altar. The money we place in that plate is but a token of our appreciation to God for all that God provides for us each and every day. The ultimate gift is, of course, the sacrifice of God's own Son, our Lord Jesus Christ who guarantees us a place in heaven after these short years of earthly life have run their course.

These are difficult economic times. Our American economy continues to struggle from the collapse of three years ago. We are currently stepping our way through the mine field of public job layoffs like school teachers and postal workers. Housing prices continue to be depressed beyond reason. The European Union has just agreed to bailout the national economy of Greece. This morning, a housing bubble was announced occurring in China where thousands of new homes stand empty while housing for the average citizen remain substandard. What shock waves will there be if the most robust national economy in today's world (that of China) goes under like ours did three years ago?

In the sermon on Oct 23 I suggested that God may well be using this time of economical belt tightening and uncertainty to help us sort out our priorities. The message was drawn from Jeremiah 8 in which Jeremiah laments the upcoming destruction of the nation of Israel that was to last more than 2000 years. With the armies at the door the people of God still would not turn their attention to their provider.

The question is, where do we put our time and our money? If an outsider was to look at the agenda of my daily activities and expenditures, would that person see someone who holds serving God as a priority? If you were to hold 10% as a baseline as a measure of giving back as God has blessed us in the first place, on what other items do you spend as much or more money? In the sermon we saw that the SPCA estimate for the first year of care for a new pet is \$1290.00. If you spend money on a pet, do you return as much to the Lord in service of the outreach of the gospel and the care of the suffering of our world as you spend on food and vet bills for your animal? What about the cost of going out to eat or the cost of the multiple packages of cable TV watching? How much do you spend a month, a year? How does it compare with what you contribute to the ministry of the One who is the author and giver of life itself?

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Pastor's message continues.....

November is the month of American Thanksgiving. It is the month we meet as a congregation and lay out a budget for the upcoming year. November is the time we look at what money has been contributed by you to our ministry to see what is important to you. In 2011 we will not have as much money to do ministry as the ministry has cost. Make no mistake about it; every single dollar you contribute through Trinity Christian is important to the lifeblood of our community. I am asking that you reassess your contribution.

Is what we at Trinity do worth the money you are contributing? If not, tell me what you would like to see changed. We are in a transition period where we must ask ourselves what we need to do differently if we are to change lives with the Gospel as Christ has challenged us in the Great Commission of Matthew 28:16-20. This is an ideal time for you to suggest to me or to one of the consistory members what you absolutely believe we need to be doing in the name of Jesus. The definition of insanity is to do the same old things and to expect different results. We must seek the leading of the Holy Spirit to know what NEW things we need to risk in order to draw more women, men and children to Christ in the year ahead.

We have a mighty cause to give thanks to God. Most of us are prospering quite well when you compare our standard of living and health care to places like China, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, Ethiopia and most other parts of the globe. God does ask for a tangible expression of our gratitude. As you prepare for Thanksgiving dinner this year, truly give thanks for the blessings of home, family and faith. Ask the Lord what you may do in return for these blessings.

I believe God has called you and me to be members of this Christian ministry we call Trinity Christian UCC at this particular time. Together we can make an impact on the lives of our neighbors and families where the light of resurrection hope and light are needed so desperately. We can expand our ministry as we move into 2011 but it will take your help. Help me respond to the Holy Spirit. There are many who live among us who as yet walk in darkness of life without Christ. There is much to do. God is calling you to make a priority out of sharing what you have already received at the Hand of the Almighty.

Have a great and joyous Thanksgiving. May the celebration be a blessing you will carry into 2012 and beyond. God is calling. What is your priority?



Altar Flowers:
Flower envelopes are now available on the bulletin board in the stairwell of the church, for the months of November and December. 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



Promoting Trinity and the Jerusalem Food Bank



My thanks to Nancy Gallagher, Marge Brown, Laura Parker and Billie Shaffer for joining me at a booth Sunday afternoon, Oct 23. We represented the church and the food bank at the International Car Show in Skippack. Walking up and down we contacted about 50 people. Our goal was to lift up the presence of Trinity in the community and to raise awareness of the Jerusalem Food Bank.

Jerusalem Food Bank.

We were amazed at the number of people who do not even know there is an area food bank for those in need. Local EMS, State Police, Girl Scouts, etc did not know. We introduced the food bank and gave them literature to pass on. There was also a family in need who had occasionally drawn from the food bank but were unaware of the hours. We offered them encouragement. This was an outreach effort that should surely be duplicated on future occasions. *Pastor Michael*

Outreach Committee News:

On Sept. 22, Trinity Christian and Pastor Evans hosted a dinner meeting of the PA South East Conference. There was good attendance, and Pastor judged it to be quite successful. Many members of Trinity helped with the set-up and serving and welcoming guests.

On Oct. 1, Outreach and Women's Guild had a table for Skippack Days. We were able to give information about our church to many people who wandered about looking at various flea market displays. Our table had the afghans to be raffled off later in the day. Pastor Evans and other gave out church pamphlets to those who came to park their cars and stop to eat at the Ed. Bldg.

Oct. 23, Outreach and Human Service participated in Skippack Community Service Day. (Please read Pastor's note in this Newsletter.)

Next, we will plan a way to make our Christmas program here at Trinity known to the nearby communities.

Marge Brown Committee Chair



**Celebrate Trinity Christian UCC Church's
150th Anniversary
Join Pastor Michael and Annemarie Evans for
A Guided Tour of the Holy Land**

June 18-26, 2013

What is included:

- Round Trip Airfare—overnight, direct from Philadelphia to Tel Aviv, including Airline fuel surcharges of \$514, subject to change
- 7 Nights Accommodations in twin rooms with private baths
 - 4 nights at Prima Royal Hotel in Jerusalem
 - 3 nights at Kibbutz Nof Ginosar Guest House on the Sea of Gallilee
- 16 meals, including 7 breakfasts, one lunch and 8 dinners
- Sightseeing per itinerary (on reverse) in air-conditioned motor coach
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Services of English-speaking tour guide, Ezra Eini
- Porterage of one suitcase per person upon arrival and departure at each hotel
- Tips to hotel staff and waiters

What is not included:

- Airport taxes, estimated at \$100 per person
- Personal expenses, including alcoholic beverages, food, souvenirs, etc.
- Tips to tour guide and driver

What will it cost (estimated based upon 2012 prices):

- Cost per person based upon two adults sharing a room with private bath
 - Between \$2828.00 for 15-19 people and \$2428.00 for 35-39 people (prorated depending upon the number of passengers)
 - Single Supplement = \$590, subject to availability
- Terms of Payment require an initial deposit of \$50 per person for a minimum of ten people. (Michael and Annemarie are the first two!)
(This is due by December 30, 2011 to reserve the hotels and tour guide.)
- Air Deposit of \$100 per person within 21 days of confirmation (Airfare is based upon the entire group traveling together on the same flights and same class of service.)
- Second Deposit of \$200 per person due 180 days prior to departure
- Final Payment due 60 days prior to departure
- All prices reduced by 5% if paid by check or bank transfer. \$25 per person reduction for on-line reservations for groups that request Web page.

Who is going: The trip is open to Trinity members and friends and their family members and friends. The tours require some walking, but are not strenuous. Adults and mature teenagers are welcome.

Count me in! To reserve your space please draft a check for \$50 payable to Annemarie Evans. You can leave your check at the church office or send it to Annemarie directly at 468 Harbour View Drive, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948.

Questions? Call Annemarie at 252-715-1346 or email her at: annmarieevans@bellsouth.net.



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Itinerary for Trinity to Israel

Tuesday, June 18, 2013: Depart Philadelphia Airport about US Airways nonstop flight to Tel Aviv.

Wednesday, June 19, 2013: Arrive Ben Gurion Airport. Meeting and assistance through customs. Meet your guide Ezra Eini and your driver. Make your way up to Jerusalem. Stop for your first view of the "Golden City" from atop Mt Scopus. Drive to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

Thursday, June 20, 2013: We begin this day after breakfast, driving to the top of the **Mount of Olives**, for a majestic view over all of ancient and modern Jerusalem. We walk down the "**Palm Sunday Road**" to the **Garden of Gethsemane** and the Church of All Nations where Christ prayed on the night of His betrayal. Next we enter the Old City make our way to the **Temple Mount**. See the Dome of the Rock and ElAsk Mosque before visiting the **Pools of Bethesda** and walk along the **Via Dolorosa (Way of the Cross) to the Holy Sepulchre Church**. Continue to **Mt Zion** where we will visit the **Room of the Last Supper, King David's Tomb** and then on to the **Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu**. Return to your hotel at day's end for dinner and overnight.

Friday, June 21, 2013: After breakfast we will drive through the New City of Jerusalem to the **Israeli Museum**. Here we will visit the **Model of the 2nd Temple** from the time of Jesus and the **Shrine of the Book**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are on display. Next we will make our way to **Yad Vashem** memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. Our next visit is to **Bethlehem**, City of David and the Shepherds' Field, where the Angel of the Lord proclaimed the birth of Jesus. Returning to Jerusalem we visit the **Garden Tomb** and Gordon's Golgotha before returning to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Saturday, June 22, 2013: Early departure from Jerusalem this morning as we drive through the Judean desert to visit the Mountain fortress of **Masada**, the site of the last Jewish resistance against the Romans in 73 AD. Ascent and descent by cable car. Next there will be an opportunity to bathe in the waters of the Dead Sea - the lowest spot on the face of Earth, followed by a visit to **Qumran**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were written over 2000 years ago. Return to Jerusalem for dinner. After dinner make your way to the **Tower of David Museum** to see the Sound & Light Show telling the story of Jerusalem.

Sunday, June 23, 2013: After breakfast we will make our way out of Jerusalem driving north to the Galilee. Driving along the Jordan Valley to the ancient city of **Beth Shean** for an overview of this remarkable archeological site. Continue to **Ein Harod Spring** where Gideon chose his army to fight the Midoanites. Drive via **Mt Tabor**, regarded as the Mount of Transfiguration, we will stop at **Yardenit**, the traditional site of Jesus' baptism by John before we make our way to our kibbutz guest house.

Monday, June 24, 2013: After breakfast at the kibbutz we will drive north to the **Golan Heights**. Enroute we will stop to visit **Safed**. This mystical city has winding streets filled with galleries and ancient synagogues. We will continue north and stop to visit **Banias** and the site of ancient **Caesaria Philipi**, where Peter made his confession of faith in Christ. Driving through Druze villages in the Golan Heights we make our way to **Kunetra** also known as **Mt. Bental** and overview of the Syrian border. We visit the ancient city of **Katzrin** before returning to our kibbutz for dinner and overnight.

Tuesday, June 25, 2013: After breakfast we will visit the **Museum of the Ancient Boat** and then board a replica for a sail on the **Sea of Galilee**. We will visit **Tabgha** to see the **Church of the Primacy of Peter**. Then we will proceed to **Capernaum** to see the remains of an early church, the ruins of the Peter's house and an ancient synagogue. After we stop for the famous St. Peter's Fish lunch, we will continue the **Mount of Beatitudes-Sermon on the Mount** and see **Kursi** where Jesus cast the demons into pigs that ran into the sea, before returning to our kibbutz guest house.

Wednesday, June 26, 2013: Following breakfast we will load our coach and begin the last day of our journey through the holy land. Drive through Cana to visit the city of **Nazareth**. Then on to Megiddo and the Valley of Armageddon. After exploring magnificent archaeological excavations at Megiddo, we go through the famous water tunnel through the mount to our bus which awaits us at the other side. Then visit the **Muhraka**, site of Elijah's prayer and fire from heaven on the top of Mount Carmel. Proceed to **Caesaria** - the remnants of the city and ancient port built by Herod the Great. After our tour of Jaffa we will make our way to the Tel Aviv beach for our farewell dinner before heading to the airport for our return flight home.

From the Worship Committee:

- The Service, Sunday, November 20th, will be led by the "Praise Team" in Pastor's absence.
- Readers are needed for the lighting of the Advent Candles, see Janet Crossgrove if you are interested.
- There will be 2 services Christmas Eve, the Family Service @ 5:30 PM and 7PM with special music.
- John Becker, Jr. has agreed to be the Head Usher. Please consider volunteering to help him by ushering a week or two.



For your prayers and preparation for Sunday worship:

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| Nov. 6 | All Saints Sunday
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
Revelation 7: 9-17 |
| Nov. 13 | 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 |
| Nov. 20 | Praise and Worship |
| Nov. 27 | 1st Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 64: 1-9
Mark 13: 24-37 |

The Youth Group will be having a "Halloween" Rock-a-thon on Sunday, October 30th from 12 to either 5 or 6.

The youth will be looking for pledges on Sunday and thereafter. Highlights will be a Halloween piñata at the end the rock-a-thon.

In November, the youth will be cooking a Thanksgiving meal for our "shut-ins and/or seniors".

Dates to Remember:

Worship Committee Tues. Nov. 1 at 7 pm
Social Committee Thurs. Nov. 3 at 6:30 pm
Property Thurs. Nov. 3 at 7 pm
Consistory Thurs. Nov. 10 at 7 pm
Hoagie Pick Up Sat. Nov. 12 at 10-Noon
150th Celebration Thurs. Nov. 17 at 7pm
Pastor's Vacation Sat. Nov. 19-25th
Praise and Worship Sun. Nov. 20 at 10:15am
*****Congregational meeting Sun. Nov. 20*****
Thanksgiving Day Thurs. Nov. 24
Office is closed Nov. 24 & 25



November 5th is the last day of Daylight Savings Time! Don't forget to turn your clocks BACK one hour or you'll be an hour early for church on November 6th!



For the month of November

- 11/6 Francis Huguenin
- 11/8 Stanislaw Polec
- 11/9 Bill Mertle
- 11/12 Rick Bogdan
- 11/16 Lisa Dannerth
- 11/19 Allisyn Sauerwald
- 11/21 Marie Souder
- 11/25 Ann Press
- 11/28 David Leva



Happy Birthday to All!!!!

***Trinity Christian UCC
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***Trinity Christian UCC
2011
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, November 20, 2011
After the service in the
Education Bldg.***