

## *A Vision of Hope and Vitality*

Have you heard of Dave Ramsey and *Financial Peace University*? Dave is a convicted Christian and syndicated radio talk show host. His *Financial Peace University* is a 13 week DVD program teaching how to become debt free including the home mortgage. The last section of the course teaches about giving money away in the name of Christ who so lovingly and graciously blesses you and me with all we have, beginning with the gift of salvation from the fruits of sin.

Dave Ramsey is a millionaire. Twenty years ago or so he started his climb out of bankruptcy to the heights he has now reached by the grace of God.

Dave's message to the church is that as long as we are in financial debt we will never be able to share the wealth of our blessings. The truth is, the more money we have the more money we can give. As long as we are struggling to pay the monthly bills we will have very little to actually give to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

At Trinity Christian UCC, we believe in "proportional giving." That means we take the Bible seriously when it says 10% of our God given blessings should be directed to support the poor and the outcast in the name of our Provider. "Offerings" are monies above that 10%.

If you believe in what we are trying to do to grow disciples of Christ you will eagerly give of your time and your talents; and many of our members do. If on the other hand, you do not heartily endorse our attempts at spiritual growth and witness you will give your money to other endeavors. Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also said Jesus in Matthew 6: 21.

It is my goal for you to believe that being a part of the community of Trinity Christian UCC will be something of value to you; something worth the investment of your time, talent and money.

Set aside in your mind whatever you think about the United Nations UNICEF for a minute and hear what God would say to us through this one point of reference they offer those who would hear.

UNICEF has determined that thirty-five thousand children die every year of preventable diseases. They say that an investment of \$2.5 Billion, spent wisely, could eliminate these needless deaths world wide. Two and a half billion! WOW, that's a lot of money. It sounds impossible to convince people to give that much even for a good cause.....until you consider that's how much American's spend on chewing gum in one year!!

The acts of grace, of good works, of studying God's Word, and of being the hands and feet of Jesus in today's world is worth more than a year's supply of chewing gum, or cigarettes, or going out to eat.

Help me articulate the unique mission of the Community of Trinity Christian UCC that the Holy Spirit created so many years ago.

Tell me what's important to you about our ministry.

Tell me what you believe God is calling us to do what we are doing and what we may not be doing.

Your mission and your gifts are absolutely vital to what we can and cannot accomplish in testimony to our faith.

Allow me to close with this story:

A woman received an inheritance. She went to her pastor and asked if the church received an unexpected gift, how the money could be used. The pastor thought for a minute and said, "You know, the wallpaper in the ladies restroom really needs to be replaced." The woman wrote him a check for \$500.00 to pay for the cost of the project and gave the rest of her planned \$100,000.00 gift to the local charity that had a bigger dream for how to use the money to do real ministry in the community.

Where is the focus of our ministry as God's special people in this place?

I am excited to be at Trinity Christian in the year 2011. I believe there are some truly exciting days ahead of us as we seek the guidance of The Holy Spirit. There are truly hundreds of people "out there" in our day to day world that desperately yearn to hear what you and I receive every day at the hand of the Almighty.

The Lord has brought us together for an extraordinarily special purpose.

## **SEPTEMBER NEWS:**

**There are many opportunities to serve the Lord. Where is the Lord calling you?**

Sept. 4	11:30 AM Ed. Bldg.	ISRAELI Breakfast and Travel Log Hosted by Annemarie and Pastor
Sept. 5	Noon- 8PM Labor Day	Crossgrove Reunion in the Ed Bldg.
Sept. 7	7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal each Wednesday
Sept. 9 & 10	Let's Go Fishing	Mensch Mill
Sept. 10	8:30 AM 10AM-5PM 4-6PM	Men's Prayer, Vernfield Historical Society Indenhofen Farm BBQ pick up
Sept. 11	9:00 AM *****10:15 AM*****  11AM-4PM	RALLY DAY/Sunday School Service Remembrance of 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11/01 Historical Society Indenhofen Farm
Sept. 14	7-8:00PM	Peter Becker Service. Volunteers are needed to help with the singing.
Sept. 18	9:15 AM  10:15 AM	Prayer and Visioning meeting in the church nursery Baptismal Sunday
Sept. 22	5:30 – 8:30 PM	Hosting Conference Stewardship Dinner  <i>Volunteers needed to serve and participate representing our Congregation.</i>
Sept. 25	10:15 AM	Stewardship of the Earth service. Bring food for dedication at the altar.
Sept. 27	2-8PM	Red Cross Blood Drive BRING A FRIEND!

\*\*\*\*\* NOTE TIME CHANGE FOR SERVICES UNTIL JUNE 2012\*\*\*\*\*



*Preamble to the Constitution of the  
United Church of Christ*

*The United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole head, Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior. It acknowledges as kindred in Christ all who share in this confession. It looks to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers. It affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, it recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion.*