

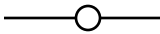
# Trinity Tidings

## Taylor's TUCC-Points

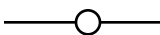
November is the time of year when we traditionally focus on Stewardship—on caring for the church with our time, talent and treasure—with our wisdom, wealth and work. It is the time of the year when we build a budget for the coming year and act in faith, knowing that the resources needed for the mission and ministry of our church are all available within the resources of the members and friends of Trinity United Church of Christ.

### Events Calendar:

- Nov. 3rd:** Harvest Home, All Saint's Day, Stewardship Campaign begins.
- Nov. 5th:** Stewardship Cmte Meeting, 7 pm.
- Nov. 6th:** Choir Practice, 6:30 pm; Worship and Music Cmte, 7:30 pm.
- Nov. 10th:** Trustees Mtg, 8am; Evangelism & Outreach 12:00
- Nov. 11th:** Veteran's Day.
- Nov. 13th:** Choir, 6:30 pm.
- Nov. 15-17th:** "God is your Belay."
- Nov. 17th:** The Rev. Bill Hulteen, Interim Association Minister will be our guest preacher
- Nov. 18th:** Consistory, 7:30 pm.
- Nov. 20th:** Choir, 6:30 pm; Mission Cmte, 7:30 pm.
- Nov. 24th:** Consecration Sunday, Youth Group Meeting, Thornville Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, 5:30 pm.
- Nov. 27th:** Choir, 6:30 pm.
- Nov. 30th:** Hanging of the Greens.



- Dec. 1st:** First Sunday of Advent. Bring a friend to Church Today!
- Dec. 9th:** ASA Challenge



At the Stewardship Committee meeting last week, we developed a budget that appears to be near \$75,000. At first glance, that seems like a lot of money. When I did some of the math, I realized that it is an achievable goal. We have approximately 50 families that contribute regularly to our church. If each family gives \$30 per week, that would equal \$1500 per week in income. \$1500 per week for 52 weeks is \$78,000! (To be precise, each family would need to give \$28.84 per week to reach \$75,000). Some of our families can contribute more than \$30 each week, some cannot give that much—but that's why we are doing this together. We all contribute to the mission and ministry of our church. I would encourage us to become a tithing church—to give 10% of our annual income. (Another way to think about it would be \$2 for every \$1,000 of our annual income, each week.) We already do this with other ministries—we have given a tithe of our annual income over the needs of the budget and given that to our UCC church in Huntington, WV. We have been the recipients of the tithe of another church. This is our opportunity to give truly give God our best—our individual best and our collective best.

**"If God brings you to it,  
He will bring you through it."**

- Leslie Taylor

## What do we get for our money?

That's one of those frequently asked questions that I love to answer. We have the opportunity to enjoy a beautiful building in which to worship. We have a talented choir and organists to bring praise to God through their ministry of music. We have dedicated teachers and childcare providers who get to use creative Christian Education materials. We have an upgraded electrical system and fire alarms for our safety. We have plans for additional improvements to our physical space. We

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will have more on-site pastoral presence and pastoral care. All of that is wonderful and an important use of our financial resources, but we also have the opportunity to give to our wider church and our community. We are invited by our baptism to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and shelter the homeless. We are invited to visit those who are sick and in prison, bring comfort to the lonely and heart-broken and to be a voice for those who have been silenced by society.

### What is OCWM?

What is Our Church's Wider Mission and why do we need to contribute to it? The first thing to say about OCWM is that it is our contribution to the mission and ministry of our denomination. Each church, each conference contributes to this fund and it is the basic support for each of the ministry units of the denomination. There are now four Covenanted Ministries that rely on the support of local churches and conferences of the United Church of Christ. They are Local Church Ministries, Wider Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries and the Office of the General Minister and President. (I will write about the work of each of these Ministries in upcoming issues of the Tidings.) Salaries and benefits for those staff people—professional staff and support staff are all paid through our gifts to OCWM. A portion of our OCWM is retained by the Ohio Conference. The salaries and benefits and the resources produced by our Conference and

Association staff are all made possible because of our contributions to OCWM. Every resource we receive from the national and/or the Ohio Conference offices—our Confirmation material, some of our Christian Education resources, our Evangelism resources, the Stewardship resources, and so much more are all created by and distributed through the resources that are made possible through our giving to OCWM. The various guests we have had this year, Rev. Nancy Nelson Elsenheimer, Ms. Mary Seymour, Rev. Cynthia Speller, and Rev. Bill Hulteen (on Nov. 17) were all available because of our contributions to OCWM at no additional cost to our church. OCWM is more than just money for salaries, benefits and resource production and distribution—it is an important part of our commitment to the United Church of Christ. It is an important part of being a supportive member of the wider church family. Our contributions each month remind us that we are not alone—we have 1 million other sisters and brothers in ministry with us.

We have set a goal for OCWM each year of \$2350. That amounts to \$47 per year per family in the church. Forty-seven dollars per year is ninety cents per week! I think we can do better than that! Wouldn't you agree that the denomination and all the support that it provides us is worth at least \$5.00 per month? If each of us were able to contribute \$5.00 per month toward OCWM, our annual gift would be \$3,000.

I would invite you to prayerfully consider your gifts to the ministry of our church—to the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. November 24 will be our Consecration Sunday. It will be our commitment day—our commitment to God and to our church.

See you in church!  
Pastor Leslie



### November Readings

**November 3rd:** "Give God The Best of Our Leadership"

Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7,33-37; Matthew 23:1-12\*.

**November 10th:** "Give God the Best of Our Finances"

Matthew 6:19-21; II Corinthians 8:1-7; Malachi 3:7-12\*.

**November 17th:** The Rev. Bill Hulteen, Interim Association Minister, Central Southeast Association will be our guest today.

**November 24th:** "Give God the Best of Our Service"

Consecration Sunday/ Thanksgiving Sunday. Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Matthew 25:31-46\*.

\*Sermon Text

**October Treasurer's Report:**

Income:

Offerings (avg. \$881.25 per Sunday)	\$3,525.00
Other Income	<u>1,338.10</u>
Total Income	\$4,863.10

Line item expenses: \$3,742.22

**Summary (October 2002):**

Also in October, \$163.00 was received for Our Church's Wider Mission and \$79.00 for Neighbors In Need.

Capital improvements expenses in October totaled \$6,454.18 electrical up-date in sanctuary and various other electrical work in other parts of the building.

**Epiphany Ministries of Ohio**

I want to thank you for your support of my volunteering with Epiphany Ministries of Ohio. Epiphany is like the Walk to Emmaus, but designed for incarcerated and troubled youth. This past weekend (Oct. 24-27) I spent a meaningful weekend with 18 young people who are in need of our prayers and letters of support. For those of you who wrote letters, thank you. I can tell you that those letters and the prayer chain and many other expressions of Christian love truly overwhelmed these young people. While I cannot tell you personal information about these children, I can tell you that their ages ranged from 13 to 17 years old. Many of them have been in foster care or detention centers since infancy. You would have been moved to see the way in which these young people transformed before our very eyes—

allowing the walls they had built up around their hearts, slowly melt away and allow the tears of pain flow down their cheeks. Thank you for such a wonderful opportunity. The Lay Director of the next Epiphany Walk (scheduled in March) has asked me to serve as one of the Spiritual Directors again. With your permission, I would be honored to serve in that capacity again.

**Youth Group News**

Trinity Youth met at 5:00 p.m. Sunday evening, Oct. 28, at Trinity Church. The evening began with socializing games: "Guess the number", "How's your math", and "To tell the truth".

Elizabeth Eisamon, a senior at Sheridan High School and member of Heath United Church of Christ, through a video presentation and

discussion, told about her experience at a summer workcamp. Located in Florida, the week long camp included: working at a Habitat site, helping lead a VBS for Spanish speaking children, and clearing some land for a future building site for Christian Outreach, International who sponsored the workcamp.

Mrs. Shriner read an article about an intergenerational group of UCC volunteers from congregations in Ohio, Indiana and New Hampshire who worked at a workcamp in Pineville, West Virginia this summer. The article was printed in the Ohio Conference newsletter.

At devotions, the group was asked to consider how it might feel to go hungry as they heard an account written by a 14 year old boy of his experiences with a 30 hour famine. This activity is sponsored by World Vision.

Cider and doughnuts rounded out the evening.

**I AM MY CHURCH\***

My church is composed of people like me. I make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am. Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will do great work, if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver. It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I bring them. It will be a church of loyalty and love, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these traits.

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Therefore with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want my church to be.

\*Taken from the newsletter of Northwest Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

### **Thornville Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service**

On November 24 at 5:30 PM a wonderful event will take place. We will gather as a community to give thanks to God for the opportunity to live in this community, to worship in our differing ways in freedom, and to thank God for the people of Thornville. Each year, we gather together to celebrate and praise God for all that God has done in our lives and in the lives of those we know and love. We gather together to thank God for what God has done in the lives of strangers. Join us as we gather for a light supper of soup and breads at either Trinity UCC or Grace Lutheran (we'll confirm later). From there, we will all go to the Thornville Food Pantry and bring an offering of non-perishable food to stock the shelves and provide food for those in the community who do not have enough to eat. After that, we will gather at Thornville United Methodist Church for a worship service. It will be a tremendous experience and I hope to see everyone there.

### **Stroke Notes**

Well, I am still training. I am in

better shape than I have been in a long time. My clothes are getting to be too big and I can now play a game of elbow tag with children who range in age from 5 to 50!

At my last dentist appointment, Dr. Crawford asked me how my training was going. I told him that at times it was slow, but I still walked nearly everyday. He then told me something that will keep me flossing and walking. He told me that there is a connection between oral/dental health and heart health. I asked how. He informed me that oral bacteria enters our blood stream and can damage the heart or cause heart attack by attaching to fatty plaques in the coronary arteries and contributing to clot formation. Coronary artery disease is characterized by a thickening of the walls of the coronary arteries due to a build up of fatty proteins. Blood clots can obstruct normal blood flow, restricting the amount of nutrients and oxygen required for the heart and brain to function properly. Researchers have found that people with periodontal disease are almost twice as likely to suffer from coronary artery disease and/or stroke as are those without periodontal disease. Periodontal disease is not just bleeding gums and bad breath—it is a real health hazard.

I am still raising money. I have collected \$1100 of the \$3500 goal. Thank you for all of you who have contributed money and prayers—both help me reach my goal. The new deadline is December 9, although the American Stroke

Association will continue to take contributions after that date, and even after the marathon. Please keep me in your prayers (and the American Stroke Association in your checkbook!)

Healthfully Yours, Pastor Leslie

### **Christmas Pageant 2002**

Rehearsals for the Children's Christmas pageant have now started. Rehearsal times are Sundays at noon and Thursdays at 6:00pm. If you wish to participate please try to attend at least one rehearsal per week.

Thanks,

Mary Renner

### **In God we Trust**

A friend of mine was invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the water-way, and cars costing more than her house. The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live.

The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely. As the three of them were about to enter

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an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment. Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him.

There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts. Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure.

How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She causally mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value.

A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before!

What was the point of this?

"Look at it." He said. "Read what it says."

She read the words "United States of America."

"No, not that; read further."

"One cent?"

"No, keep reading."

"In God we Trust?"

"Yes!"

"And?"

"And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it!

God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by?

When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him.

For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me.

Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!

When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up, and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I can not change. I read the words, "In God We Trust," and had to laugh.

Yes, God, I get the message. It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in

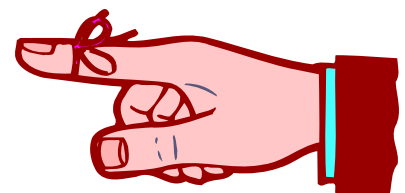
the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful!

### **Donate Soup to Feed the Hungry.**

Click For Cans™ is an easy way for you to help your favorite NFL™ team in Tackling Hunger™ with Campbell's® Chunky soup! Just click on your team's helmet and we'll donate one can of a Campbell's® soup up to a total donation of 5 million cans.

To participate, visit the Campbell's Chunky Soup Web Site at [http://chunky.nfl.com/click\\_for\\_cans.html](http://chunky.nfl.com/click_for_cans.html)

**Have an item  
you want to  
include in the  
next Tidings?**



**Send your events,  
birthdays, news,  
facts, figures, dates  
and locations to  
Mary Renner.**

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**Trinity United Church of Christ**  
20 West South Street  
P.O. Box 251  
Thornville, Ohio 43076

**Non Profit Organization**  
**U.S. Postage Permit 8**  
**Thornville, Ohio 43076**

Phone: (740) 246 5644  
<http://trinityucc.ocucc.org/>



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Trinity is a family of faith that welcomes all people to experience and share the love of God through worship, study, nurture and care.

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**Have an idea or item of interest  
for the next newsletter?**

Please contact Mary Renner at (740) 246 5987 for more information. The newsletter is published the first week of every month. Deadlines for submissions are the last day of the preceding month. All entries are preferred in a computer text format such as Microsoft Word.

Please send submissions to:

Trinity Tidings  
P.O. Box 792  
Thornville, Oh 43076

Or through email to:

[mmrenner@columbus.rr.com](mailto:mmrenner@columbus.rr.com)

CONNECTING WITH THE SPIRIT PRESENTS...

**“God is your Belay”**

Senior High Fall Youth Event

November 15-17, 2002

Pilgrim Hills Camp



**For further info check the FYE Web Site:**

[www.fye.nieus.com](http://www.fye.nieus.com)