

Trinity Tidings

February 2003



Birthdays

Dwight Joseph	Feb. 4 th
Matt Ortman	Feb. 4 th
Mabel Drumm	Feb. 5 th
Olivia Renner	Feb. 7 th
Elaine Roberts	Feb. 8 th
Leanne Kelley	Feb. 9 th
Erin Kennedy	Feb. 9 th
Josh Clatty	Feb. 11 th
Johnny Kelley	Feb. 17 th
Christopher Ortman	Feb. 19 th
Michelle Wright	Feb 26 th

Upcoming Events

Trustees Meeting	Feb. 9 th
Evangelism & Outreach	Feb. 9 th
Conformation	Feb 15 th
Christian Education	Feb 19 th
Youth Group	Feb 22 nd
Search Committee	Mar 4 th
Ash Wednesday Service	Mar 5 th
Bowl for Kids Sake	Mar 29 th

African-American History Month: A Celebration

In 1926, noted African-American historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson, provided a platform for African-Americans as well as other ethnic groups to celebrate the very existence and many accomplishments of the African-American people. Though Dr. Woodson is best remembered for establishing "Negro History Week", now celebrated as African-American History Month, he was first and foremost an educator. As a teacher and later a principal and dean, he discovered that instructional materials included little, and usually negative information about African-Americans. As a result, Woodson was determined to do something about education that he said "does others so much more good than it does the Negro..." (The Mis-education of a Negro: Woodson, 1933).

During the month of February, the life and works of Africans and African-Americans are studied and celebrated by families, congregations, schools and many institutions across the United States. Though seventy years have passed and the celebration of African-American History Month still takes place, we all realize that serious consideration and study of the history of a people cannot be limited to one month. Let us recognize and celebrate the gifts of all people everyday, not just once a year.

Partial List of African-American Inventors, Inventions and Patent Dates (from various sources)

A.P. Ashbourne	Biscuit Cutter	1875	O.E. Brown	Horseshoe	1892
L.C. Bailey	Folding Bed	1899	J.A. Burr	Lawn Mower	1899
A.J. Beard	Rotary Engine	1892	J.W. Butts	Luggage Carrier	1899
A.J. Beard	Car coupler	1897	W.C. Carter	Umbrella Stand	1885
G.E. Beckett	Letter Box	1892	J. Cooper	Elevator device	1895
L. Bell	Locomotive smokestack	1871	Clarence Elder	Occustat	1976
M.E. Benjamin	Gong and signal chairs for hotels	1888	G.F. Grant	Golf Tee	1899
A.B. Blackburn	Railway signal	1888	B.F. Jackson	Gas burner	1899
Henry Blair	Corn Planter	1834	J.L. Love	Pencil Sharpener	1897
Henry Blair	Cotton Planter	1836	Garrett Morgan	Gas Mask & Traffic Signal	1923
Sarah Boone	Ironing Board	1892	Norbert Rillieux	Sugar Refining Process	1846
C.B. Brooks	Street Sweepers	1896	H. Spears	Portable shield for Infantry	1870

The Practices of Faith in the United Church of Christ

As many of you are aware, Pastor Leslie worked in the national setting of our denomination for nearly ten years. In that time, she often entertained questions about the United Church of Christ and what we believe. She has been asked by the Consistory to share information on our history, what we believe, and the mission imperatives of our denomination. She will be leading a UCC identity class during Lent for anyone interested in learning more about our denomination.

For the benefit of each member and those of our friends who receive the Tidings, she will provide some of that information here. Over the next twelve months she will reproduce individual titles from the Practices of Faith Series, produced by the Local Church Ministries Worship and Education Ministry Team of the UCC. The series includes the following twelve titles:

Baptism, Communion, Confirmation,
Gifts of Ministry, Healing and Reconciliation,
Marriage, Membership, Mission,
Prayer, Scripture, Stewardship, and Working for Justice.

Baptism:

Foundation: "In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, the United Church of Christ recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion." – From the Preamble to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ.

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ..."--Acts 2:38

"For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ Jesus have clothed yourself with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." --Galatians 3:26-28

What does Baptism Signify?

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Through baptism a person is joined with the universal church, the body of Christ. In baptism, God works in us the power of forgiveness, the renewal of the spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be Christ's people always.

How Does Baptism Take Place?

Baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the sign and seal of our common discipleship. Since baptism is God's gift, the Holy Spirit is called to be upon the water and those being baptized. The act of baptism also marks the beginning of new life of discipleship with Christ, the human response to that gift.

Why is Water Used?

Water is an essential element of baptism. Water is a prominent symbol of cleansing and of life in the Bible—the water of creation, the great flood, the liberation of Israel through the sea, the water of Mary's womb, the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, the woman at the well, and Jesus' washing of the feet of the disciples. That is why water is visibly present in the service. In the United Church of Christ, the mode of baptism is a matter of choice. Some traditions use sprinkling, some pouring, and some immersion.

Who is Baptized in the UCC?

Infants, children, youth and adults. For infants and children, as well as for youth and adults who have never been baptized before, baptism marks their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of God's grace and forgiveness, and the beginning of their Christian faith and life.

Taylor's TUCC Points

This month there is so much to do—that's not much different from all the others months, except this month is special—Advent and Christmas are over, the marathon is over, Lent is not quite here—during Epiphany, I get to have a little “ordinary time”. Yes there is much to do, but most of all this is a month in which I can finally reflect. I can reflect on what God is doing and has done in our common life as Trinity. I can reflect on the blessings we receive from one another. I can reflect on the accomplishment of finishing the half-marathon and looking forward to training for the full Columbus Marathon this Fall. I have the opportunity to sit in my church office, listen to the children in the hall (they have asked me to play hide and seek, but I told them we would have to wait until I finished this article), watch the snow fall and be happy.

I also have the opportunity to reflect on the ways in which men and women who came before me fought, died and sacrificed so that I can sit here, write to you and reflect on the past, present and future. I remember when my parents would tell us to read about African-American history because it wasn't taught in school. I remember the role books have played in my life, since the beginning of my life. I reflect on how our experiences shape us and prepare us for what we will yet encounter. I am amazed at how good God is every time I look at you on Sunday morning. I see a congregation of diverse opinions, diverse church experiences, diverse cultural experiences, diversity in our ages—from 5 month old Nathan Young to everyone else—what a mighty God we serve that can put all of us together in one place to offer God our greatest praise!

We must always take time out of our busy days, weeks and months to spend some time reflecting on what God has given us. We can spend some time reflecting on the ways in which we can respond to God's grace and goodness. We have the opportunity to give back to God, our church, the community, and the world. We have the opportunity to share our gifts. Isn't that what Epiphany is really about? Sharing our gifts, making the love of Christ known in the world, and engaging in the type of ministry to which you have been called in order to make the world a better place.

As we take time to reflect, pray for peace and justice; pray for the courage to dare to believe that love is stronger than hate; pray that we will always show forth the love of Christ, the hope for tomorrow, and the faith to carry us through each day; and remember to be thankful for all that God has done.

Well, JJ and Elizabeth and some of the other Thornville Pre-school children are ready for me to come out and play. What a wonderful gift they are.

See you in church!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Leslie

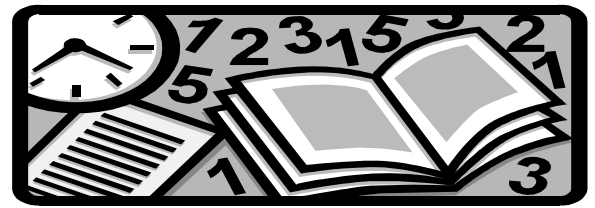
Haiti

Dear Friends,

I will be traveling to Haiti March 21-29. This is a medical mission group that will be treating people in small villages. The group consists of 15 Doctors, nurses, and loving people. Several years ago we collected school supplies and I would like to do this again, with your help. No scissors or sharp objects can be accepted, but notebooks, crayons, pencils, erasers, etc. would be greatly appreciated and will go directly to the children of Haiti. I'll place a box in the social room for any donations.

Thanks for your support!

Bev Geiger



January Treasurer's Report

Offerings for January	
(average of \$815.31)	\$ 3261.25
Other Income	1277.03
Total June Income	\$4538.28
Expenses	\$4742.53

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The logo for Trinity United Church of Christ, featuring the word "Trinity" in a large, elegant, black serif font. The text is centered within a rectangular frame that has a light gray background and a thin black border.

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

Texts & Titles for July

February 2: First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Second Reading: I Corinthians 8:1-13
Third Reading: Mark 1:21-28*
"By Whose Authority?"

February 9: First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31
Second Reading: I Corinthians 9:16-23
Third Reading: Mark 1:29-39*
"This is What We Do"

February 16: First Reading: Psalm 30
Second Reading: Mark 1:40-45
Third Reading: II Kings 5:1-14*
"Lord, Make Us Whole"

February 23: First Reading: Isaiah 43:18-25
Second Reading: II Corinthians 1:18-22
Third Reading: Mark 2:1-12*
"With A Little Help From Our Friends"