

Trinity Tidings

May 2003

Birthdays

Brian Foltz	May 2 nd
Alex Foltz	May 4 th
Logan Talbot	May 4 th
Jessica Stewart	May 10 th
Joseph Ortman	May 11 th
Bev Geiger	May 12 th
Gene Kenney	May 12 th
Megan Clum	May 12 th
Bart Clatty	May 14 th
John Ridenour	May 18 th
Estella Mae	May 22 nd
Jerry Blackstone	May 29 th
Jarod Wright	June 3 rd
Lynn Moyer	June 5 th
Alex Wells	June 9 th
Adelyn Brison	June 11 th
Heather Scheuvrant	June 12 th
Rodney Gutridge	June 14 th
Jenny Seum	June 15 th
Joice McGlothlin	June 15 th
Babette Joseph	June 16 th
Jacob Kennedy	June 20 th
Harold Kaser	June 25 th
Nathan Young	June 28 th

Trinity Youth

On Sunday , April 27, Mrs. Shriner, Danielle, Savanna and Pastor Leslie joined Baltimore area youth groups for an afternoon of roller skating. Much enjoyment was derived from socializing and honing our skating skills.

Haiti Update

First let me thank those of you who donated school supplies. I carried them to Port au Prince, the capital of Haiti, then on to the town of Belle-anse where they were given to the parish priest to hand out to the local school children. Everything was greatly appreciated!

This mission group is organized through St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rochester, IN. It has been in operation for about 7 years. This year a dental group went in January and a medical group in March. This team consisted of a surgeon, OBGYN, anesthesiologist who was also a nurse, 2 optometrists, 4 nurses and 4 laymen who filled prescriptions and took temps, which was my job. The whole operation is a tremendous undertaking. The dedication and hard work given by and all those involved is truly overwhelming.

This year we saw over 1, 000 patients in 4 days. About 20 surgical procedures were performed including the removal of lipomas (one weighing about 4 lbs), warts and skin tags removed, a little girl had an extra toe on each foot which were removed, and abscess drained, a hernia repaired, a thyroid cyst drained, a hip tumor removed and a burned child treated. These are all basic medical procedures that are left untreated because the cost is too great in a hospital.

The 2 optometrists took about 2,000 pairs of glasses. The Lions Clubs in Indiana donated all these. Sum glasses help prevent cataract which is a big problem in this very hot climate.

Words can not describe the living conditions in Haiti. Most of the people have no electricity or clean water to drink. It is amazing to me that they have even survived. Yet they are kind gentle, patient and very appreciative of all that is done for them. The majority of the people are Catholic.

I also visited Mother Theresa's hospital for malnourished babies and children. Pictures were not allowed but we were able to hold and feed many of the babies. This experience will remain in my memory forever. Mothers sometimes bring their babies here but some are found in the dumps. I'm sure, were it not for this hospital, all these children would have died.

Please pray for this devastated country and it's people, and especially for the hospital for malnourished children.

Thank you again for your support!
Bev

A HUGE Thank-You!

I want to begin by thanking so many people for working above and beyond during the month of April. I want to thank the Worship and Music Committee for helping to create such magnificent worship services during Holy Week. Thank you to Lori Martin for ordering the Palms for **Palm Sunday** and to the children who led the Palm Procession and prepared us to welcome Christ and begin our Holy Week celebrations. Many thanks go to Mary Louise Conn for coordinating the Trinity UCC- Grace Lutheran joint choir on **Maundy Thursday**. Mary Louise and Trinity choir provided the special music for the noon **Good Friday** service at Olivet Church of the Brethren.

I want to thank Crystal Wilson for coordinating the **Easter Party** for the children on Holy Saturday. Approximately 30 children came to the party and I know the children and adults had a great time. Thank you to all who helped Crystal—Ronda Kennedy, Mary Renner, Lisa Wells, Peggy Shriner, Sheila Vermillion, and all the parents! After the Party, several people gathered for a **workday** to decorate the sanctuary, clean up the flowerbeds and the landscaping in the front of the church. I want to thank Roger and Sharon Campbell, Kathleen Ridenour, Peggy Shriner, and all the other people who helped to make the church beautiful and inviting. A big thank you to Scott and Crystal Wilson for cleaning the church—you had a big job and you handled it with grace. Thank you.

What can I say about the special music for **Easter Sunday**—WOW! I'd like to thank Phyllis Fischer for ordering the Easter Flowers and for playing for the **Palm Sunday** and the **Easter Sunrise Services**. For those of you who were not able to be at the Sunrise Service, we gathered at 6:30 AM, rekindled the Light of Christ, renewed our baptismal vows, and shared Holy Communion. It was a powerful service. We were then treated to a magnificent **breakfast** prepared by Paul Robison, Jim Foltz, and Bart Clatty—the Tremendous Men of Trinity! Thank you guys for a delicious meal. Following breakfast, everyone went to his or her Sunday school classes and then we all gathered again for 10:30 service. What a wonderful day!!! Thank you to all who made everything possible!

As we ended the month of April, the Choir went to sing in the **Choir fest** at St. John's Lutheran Church and proved once again that we may be small, but we are mighty and we certainly have heart! Thank you Choir for your ministry of music. Peggy Shriner and I went to **Amanda Roller Rink** with Danielle and Savannah (and the youth and members of Baltimore UMC, Trinity UCC-Baltimore, St. Michael's UCC-Baltimore). Peggy and I didn't fall and we all had a great time! (Savannah learned how to skate during this party! You go girl!).

Thank you for a wonderful month! Let's continue to invite our friends and family to our church! Let's share the good news of Trinity!

New to the Library

Janette Oke novels: ONCE UPON A SUMMER
THE WINDS OF AUTUMN
WINTER IS NOT FOREVER
SPRING'S GENTLE PROMISE

Scholarship Committees

Applications for both Dorothy M. Lyle Memorial Scholarship and the Dailey/Green Memorial Scholarship are available in the church library. Completed, notarized applications are due to the committee by noon July 1st. A complete list of guidelines for the scholarships is also located in the scholarship folder in the library.

April Treasurer's Report

Offerings for April	
(avg. of \$943.87 avg. per Sun.)	\$ 3775.50
Other Income	1763.29
Total Income	\$5538.79
Expenses	\$5236.34

Also in April, donations were received for the Building Fund, \$25; One Great Hour of Sharing, \$310; and SARA, \$12.90. Our Church's Wider Mission donations totaled \$206.32 in April and are included in "other income" above. We have been notified by both Columbia Gas and American Electric Power that our monthly budget amounts at each company will be raised. Columbus from \$169 to \$343 and AEP from \$255 to \$342.

Taylor's Tucc Points

It's time for Spring Cleaning at our house, perhaps at your house too. Spring Cleaning at our house involves changing seasonal clothes—putting winter clothes away and getting spring and summer clothes ready to wear. The amount of stuff I have amazes me—so this year we are paring down. There are boxes in the basement that have been there for four years—they've got to go. There are clothes that I like but the reality is that I am not a size 10 and won't be by June—they've got to go. I have junk that is cluttering up my life and, you guessed it—it's got to go.

This purging is important. I need to do it to simplify my life. The less cluttered my life, the more I can focus on what God is calling me to do. The less clutter in my life, the more I can relax and play. All three are important for all of us. Do we have room in our lives to listen for what God is calling us to do? Do we have room in our lives to relax and play? I hope so.

The other part of Spring Cleaning is getting the yard ready for the spring and summer. We took turns mowing the grass, cleaned out flower beds, and plotted where the new plants for this year will go. We decided that we will stain the deck this year. In order to do a good job we need to prepare the deck, so we moved the furniture off and put it in the backyard and then I power washed the deck. At first, I wasn't using the equipment correctly. I sprayed the water on the deck and it took off the first layer of dirt, but the deck wasn't clean. Quite by accident, I noticed that when the spray got closer to the planks, the deck almost returned to its original color. The gray color of the wood to which I had become accustomed, was two years of dirt and pollution. It wasn't until I put the spray of water close to the wood that all that dirt was cleaned off. I noticed that when I got really close to the wood, that sometimes it loosened some splinters of wood. The deck really looks great now and is ready to receive the protective stain as soon as we can have several days of sunshine.

As I washed the deck, it occurred to me that this was a metaphor for our life at church and our relationship with Christ. If we just come to church on Sunday, but we don't participate in Bible Study, Sunday school, or other devotional study at home, we are simply washing off the top layer of grit in our lives. When we get close—sometimes even close enough to loosen some of our splinters (challenge our ways of living, thinking, acting, and/or speaking)—then we have the opportunity to be freed up from the worries and concerns in our lives. We can be freed up to be assured of Christ's presence in the midst of the "cleansing". We are free to receive the new covering—the stain—that will protect us throughout our week.

Is it time to do some Spring Cleaning in your life? In our church? I'll share my powerwasher with you and we can both be washed with power!

See you in church!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Leslie

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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 light gray rectangular background, which is itself enclosed in 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 May 2003

* = Sermon Text

May 4, 2003 Acts 3:12-19
 Luke 24:36b-48
 I John 3:1-7*
 "Eyes Wide Open"

May 11, 2003 Psalm 23
 I John 3:16-24
 John 10:11-18*
 "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

May 18, 2003 I John 4:7-21
 John 15:1-8
 Acts 8:26-40
 "Love Lifted Me"

May 25, 2003 Acts 10:44-48
 I John 5:1-6
 John 15:9-17
 "You've Gotta Have Friends"