

Trinity Tidings

June 2003

Birthdays

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

Joint Meeting

The Worship and Music Committee and the Pastoral Relations Committee will have a joint meeting on June 11 at 6:30. Among the topics of discussion will be the worship surveys completed in February. If you have any concerns or compliments that you want conveyed during the meeting, please see Phyllis Fischer (Chair of Worship and Music) or Sharon Campbell (Chair of Pastoral Relations) before the meeting.

Pastor Leslie's New Office Hours

(Effective beginning June 15)

Monday: Usual day off. (Available as needed, or for emergencies)

Tuesday: 9:30-5:00 Office and Bulletin Preparation

10:30-11:45 Bible Study Offered

Wednesday: 9:30-11:30 Lectionary Group

12:30-6:00 Office (Bible Study Prep, Sunday School Prep)

6:30-7:30 Choir (in season), Bible Study (Summer?)

7:30-9:00 Available for evening meetings, as needed

Thursday: 9:30 - 5:00 Sermon Preparation (Morning), Visiting (Afternoons)

(1st Thursdays: Thornville Ministerial Association Meeting 1:00-3:00 PM)

(3rd Thursdays: Clergy Lunch Bunch 11:30AM - 1:30PM)

Friday: 9:30 - 5:00 Office, Sermon Preparation, and Visiting

Saturday: Available as needed

Sunday: 8:30 - 1:00 (Teach Topical Class or Lectionary Based Class)

Hours may be adjusted to accommodate evening meetings. There may be days when I will work from home, but will always be available through my local phone number (246-5453). As always, I am available for emergencies, surgeries, funerals, etc., no matter when they happen.

Announcements

May 25: 10:30 AM Honoring Our College Graduate, Teachers and Childcare Providers

June 1: 11:00 AM Reception to honor Jerry Blackstone on his 90th Birthday

June 1: **Trinity Summer Worship Hours will change to 9:00 AM for Sunday School and 10:00 AM for Worship.**

June 8: 8:00 AM Trustees Meeting

11:30 AM Evangelism and Outreach Committee Meeting

June 3: 7:30 PM Search Committee Meeting (This meeting happens every first Tuesday of the month)

June 11: 6:30 PM Pastoral Relations and Worship and Music Committee Joint Meeting

June 12-14 Ohio Conference Annual Gathering, Heidelberg College, Tiffin, OH

June 15: 8:15 AM Father Child Breakfast

June 21: 8-11 AM Trinity Third Saturday Breakfast (We will have these every 3rd Saturday)

June 21: 5-9 PM Summer Fling Thing at Pastor Leslie's House (RSVP Sheet in the Social Hall)

June 28: 9 AM Trinity Work Day-- Interior Cleaning and Organization

5 PM Volleyball at St. Michael's UCC, Baltimore

July 12: 8-12 Blood Drive (See Scott Wilson for details and to volunteer)

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

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!

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.

May Treasurer's Report

Offerings for May	
(avg. of \$983.12 avg. per Sun.)	\$ 3932.50
Other Income	1059.85
Total Income	\$4992.35
Expenses	\$5503.52

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.

Joint Youth Group and Family Activities: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

The Youth from Trinity UCC (Thornville), Trinity UCC (Baltimore), St. Michael's UCC (Baltimore) and Baltimore United Methodist Church will have activities once a month that will rotate from church to church.

Birdhouses and Birdfeeders for Sale: In May, a small group of youth gathered to make birdfeeders and birdhouses at Lee Shriner's home. The rain and the Baltimore Prom deterred other youth from attending. We had a good time and ended with a devotion, read by Peggy Shriner. A huge THANK YOU goes to Lee for opening up his home to us the week before his wedding! The youth from each church will finish the birdfeeders and birdhouses on their own and they will be for sale-- **minimum donation \$5.00**. The money raised will help off-set the funds needed for the Youth to have a Retreat at Camp Akita September 5-7, 2003. Watch for the birdhouses and birdfeeders to be **available for sale June 1 and June 8**. They will make great Father's Day gifts!

Family Volleyball Game and Cookout: June 28 from 5:00-7:30 PM, the Joint Youth Group will have a volleyball game and cookout for everyone-- youth and their friends and families (that includes those of us with no children too!) The Volleyball Game and Cookout will be hosted by St. Michael's UCC, located on Bickel Church Road in Baltimore. Each church is supplying a part of the refreshments for that day. Trinity (Thornville) has been asked to bring Condiments and Table Service (Plasticware and paperplates). **Each church needs to RSVP with the total number of people coming by June 22.**

Youth Luau July 13: (Time to be announced later) Trinity will sponsor the Youth Luau, however we will meet once again at St. Michael's in Baltimore. Peggy Shriner has some fabulous plans and we can look forward to a good time.

Youth Lock -in August 15-16: The Youth will have a Lock-in at Baltimore UMC located at 200 Market Street in Baltimore. Details will be forthcoming, however we are looking forward to some devotion time, Peggy's Mystery Game, other games, a movie and discussion, lots a fun and probably limited sleep. We will have breakfast together in the morning and then go home. Look for more details in the Tidings and at church.

Youth Retreat at Camp Akita September 5-7: Definitely mark your calendars for this one! We will be raising money throughout the summer to help off-set the funds for going, however it promises to be lots of fun. At this point, we know we will have swimming and canoeing (weather permitting), games, nature hike and devotional time. We are trying to arrange to use the Ropes Course as well. It promises to be a lot of fun! We will begin the evening of the 5th and return the morning of the 7th. Again, watch for more details.

If all of that were not enough, St. Michael's UCC has invited us to join their church for a weekend in Hudson, OH. **August 1 and 2**, we will travel to Hudson, take advantage of hiking and other activities in the nearby State Park, and spend the night with former members of St. Michael's who live there. The next day we will go to **Six Flags** in Aurora, OH. (Six Flags used to be Sea World and Geauga Lake Amusement Parks). There are now three parts of Six Flags; a water park, an amusement park, and (I believe) the former Sea World of Ohio is still active. Gospel artist, Kirk Franklin will perform at 4:00 PM at Six Flags. The concert and all three parks are included in the discounted admission charge. In order to secure the admission charge of \$20.50, there needs to be a total of 20 people attending the weekend. We will need to have a confirmed number of participants from Trinity by July 13. There will need to be a 5 youth to 1 adult ratio. Please RSVP to Peggy Shriner.

As a fundraiser for the Youth Group, to assist them in raising the funds needed for the Camp Akita Retreat, I will dye my hair either Orange, Blue, Red, or Yellow-- You get to choose. How? I will put four containers in the Social Hall with one color on each container. Each week, you can add money to the container of your color choice. Whichever color has the most money by August 3 wins. I will dye my hair that color for the next Sunday! You have to be there to see it, because the color is temporary and will be gone the next day. Help the kids and let's have some fun this summer.

New to the Library

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

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. Sun 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 its people, and especially for the hospital for malnourished children.

Thank you again for your support!
Bev

New Law Requires Your Attention

(Edited version, Reprinted from First Congregational Church Newsletter)

A new federal law has put the responsibility for informing clergy about illnesses squarely on the shoulders of the people who are ill. As of April 15, 2003, pastors will no longer be able to call and get information about your condition or even whether you are in the hospital. This is done, to protect everyone's privacy, but it does mean we will have to make some changes.

If you want to have a visit or prayer for yourself, or a family member, it will be necessary to phone the church or Pastor Leslie at 246-5453, and let her know. Hospitals will no longer be able to provide any information at all-- about your condition, or even whether you are in their care-- unless you request it upon admission. So, if you should have to be hospitalized, be sure to let the hospital administration know that they can share that information with your pastor and church. And take time to have someone call Pastor Leslie and let her know. She will be happy to come and visit you and bring you prayers and words of hope.

Summer Fling

Everyone is invited to the 3rd Annual Summer Fling Thing at Pastor Leslie's home. Each year, Pastor Leslie and Pastor Toni host an Open House/ Cookout for the congregations they serve. It is an opportunity for us to share our home and to introduce the people we love to one another. Please come-- bring the kids-- and a lawn chair. We will have fun and you will get a chance to meet some of the wonderful people of Broad Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and they'll get to meet the ever marvelous folks from Trinity!

WHEN: June 21 5:00-9:00 PM

WHERE: 3098 Briar Ridge Road Columbus 43232 614-236-1985 or 740-246-5453

WHY: Because we love you and want to have a party!

RSVP with Pastor Leslie (so we know how much food to prepare) 246-5453.

See you there!

Trinity United Church of Christ
20 West South Street
P.O. Box 251
Thornville, Ohio 43076
740-246-5644
<http://trinityucc.ocucc.org>

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

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 box 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 May and June 2003

May 4, 2003	Acts 3:12-19 Luke 24:36b-48 I John 3:1-7* "Eyes Wide Open"	June 8: Pentecost (Wear Something Red) Ezekiel 37:1-14 Acts 2:1-21* Romans 8:22-27 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 A Day of Celebration: Baptism Confirmation and Communion
May 11, 2003	Psalms 23 I John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18* "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us"	June 15: Father's Day
May 18, 2003	I John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8 Acts 8:26-40 "Love Lifted Me"	Psalms 29 Romans 8:12-17 Isaiah 6:1-8* "Here Am I, Send Me"
May 25, 2003	Acts 10:44-48 I John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17 "You've Gotta Have Friends"	June 22: Mark 4:35-41 Psalms 9:9-20 I Samuel 17:32-49* "Sticks and Stones"
June 1: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 John 17:6-19* "Somebody's Praying For Us"	June 29: II Samuel 1:1, 17-27 Psalm 130 Mark 5:21-43* "Daughters"	