

# Trinity Tidings

August 2003

## Congregational Meeting

August 10

Immediately following service. There is only one agenda item and that is whether or not the congregation wants us to move forward with the plans for SOCRATES.

## Ice Cream Social

Trinity UCC will hold its annual Ice Cream Social on August 9 from 4:30-7:30. Come for homemade ice cream, chicken and noodles and lots of food, fun, and fellowship!

## Breakfast

The Third Saturday Breakfast will be held this month on August 16 from 7:30 to 11:00 AM. \$4.00 for all you care to eat! We have fun and provide good food! We need you to help cook, serve, clean and EAT! Please come and support this ministry-- if you can't cook, come eat. We also need donations of sausage, pancake mix, eggs, juice, milk, and coffee. Please see Paul Robison for schedule and needs.

## Thornville Community Vacation Bible School

Treasures of the Nile

August 4 - 8, 2003

5:00 - 8:00p.m.

Light dinner will be served.

Grace Lutheran Church

Ages 4 - 6<sup>th</sup> grade

For more info call Kathy Skillman, 743-3264



*Helping prepare the homemade noodles for the Trinity UCC Ice Cream Social.*



## Tidings News

Starting in August the Tiding will be mailed on the 20<sup>th</sup> of every month. The new due date for submitted articles will be the 15<sup>th</sup>. If you or your committees have any activities to announce or information to pass along to the congregation we would love to post them for you. All articles or announcements should be submitted by disk to Mary Renner or sent to [mmrenner@columbus.rr.com](mailto:mmrenner@columbus.rr.com)

If you have any questions please contact Mary Renner.

## Taylor's TUCC Points

Where were you when the lights went out? In July, after all the rain, I was without lights for two days. No electric stove, no lights, no coffee maker, no microwave oven, no air conditioning, no television, no telephone (except my cell phone), no computer, no security system, and I had to manually open and close the garage door.

What was I to do? I had to eat out or make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and drink water from the tap. (Well, the sandwiches were good, the water was gross.) It's amazing the things I took for granted. The only thing I could do was to open the windows, burn candles and read by candlelight. It was actually quite wonderful. The house was quiet. I even think I relaxed a bit more. There were no other distractions-- all I did for those two days was read by candlelight and talk to Toni.

What first was a terrible inconvenience, turned out to be a blessing. I had the opportunity to pray for long periods of time without being interrupted. I had the opportunity to read for fun and read for church without the interruption of the television. I had time to reflect on what was important and to define the priorities in my life. I continued my summer long chore of cleaning out the junk in the basement and the garage. (De-junking our lives takes time doesn't it? It amazes me the stuff we hold on to from our past-- good and bad.)

What would you do if you had two days to spend in the quiet and in the dark? Would you be frustrated by not being able to use so many modern "conveniences" ? Would you enjoy the solitude? Would you spend the time with God? With your family? With friends? As the summer storms came and went, I prayed for those for whom the storms brought more than solitude-- those who lost their lives, homes and/or crops to flooding.

Let us pray for the opportunity to meet Christ in the peaceful quiet of our lives.

See you in church!

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Leslie*

## Stewardship

When I was cleaning out some files at home, I found this booklet and thought it would be useful to us in these days.  
--Pastor Leslie

Stewardship and You: How to use your time, health, talents, relationships, property and the Gospel in a partnership with God.  
(Reprint Channing L. Bete Co., Inc. 1995)

What is a Steward? One definition states that a steward is a person who manages the affairs of a household or an estate for the owner. In the Christian sense-- a steward is the manager of the affairs of God on earth. God has made each of us a steward-- and has given us abilities and talents that are unique. We should use these abilities and talents to serve God.

Everything we have is given to us by God: Time, Health, Talents, Relationships, the Gospel, Property, and Environment.

A Christian steward serves God out of love and gratitude for these gifts knowing that it's NOT how much we have but what we DO with what we have that is important. "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." (1 Peter 4:10)

Human life is the first and greatest gift of all and carries great responsibilities with it. Life itself is stewardship. As Christians, we know that our lives are sacred trusts. We are the stewards of those lives; God depends on us to use them to accomplish God's purposes.

## Stewardship (continued)

**Stewardship of Time:** When God gives us life, we don't know how much time we have to use that life. But, whatever time we have is a gift from God, and we must use it wisely in every activity throughout the day. We must budget our hours so that we are able to give our time to fulfill God's plan.

**Stewardship of Health of Body and Mind:** God gave human beings superior minds-- to be used to fullest capacity in discovering God's plan, in understanding self and others. We were also given bodies in which to accomplish God's work-- bodies to be treated with respect (taken care of), not abused (harmed). We present our bodies and we renew our minds as offerings to God.

**Stewardship of Talents:** God gives all people potential talents when they are born. Each of us can share in God's plan in his or her own way. The Bible tells us that if we use our talents wisely, we will be better able to use them and will develop others-- but if we don't, we may lose even those talents we do have.

**Stewardship of Relationships:** Our relationships with others are a gift from God and a measure of our stewardship for God. At home-- providing Christian education for our children, living and growing together as a family. At work-- showing our co-workers the example of Christian behavior and supportive caring. In church-- participating with others in worship, projects, etc., and forming friendships.

**Stewardship of the Gospel:** As Christian stewards, we have been given three ways to exercise our partnership: To receive the Gospel-- we experience the Gospel as an act of faith in God. To share the Gospel-- We bring God's message into the world, that all who believe in God will have eternal life. To reflect the Gospel-- We show others by our daily living how we accept our responsibilities as Christians.

**Stewardship of the Environment:** In the beginning of time, God created all that know and much that we do not know about the earth. God declared the creation-- all living animals, plants, human beings, the water, the soil, the mountains, the air-- all that is and God declared the creation "good". We were created as stewards of this creation-- to protect the environment and to use our natural resources wisely and with care. When we recycle, conserve energy, limit our uses of dangerous chemicals and products, we are doing our part to be stewards of the environment.

**Stewardship of Property:** We bring nothing into this world...and we take nothing out of it. Everything that we have while we are here comes as a gift from God. In appreciation, we choose to share a portion of these gifts. The stewardship of our property is an ongoing process. We give regularly and systematically in proportion to the gifts which we are given-- the talents which earn us our possessions. Because we love God, we gladly dedicate these gifts to God's service, and give a worthy portion for the care of people in need.

Giving money to the church is a symbolic act-- the offering of ourselves in service and devotion to God. Giving is a practical matter, too, because the offering makes it possible for the church to pay its bills and carry out its mission in Christ's name.

**How much should I give?** The Bible says that we should set aside our "first fruits"-- that our offering to God should be the first portion we set aside, not what remains. Some people give by proportion (for example \$3 or \$5 per week for every \$1,000 of annual income). Others set aside a percentage of their income. The Old Testament guideline for giving was the tithe (usually 1/10). How close do you come to the giving expected of the early Christians?

**What are the rewards for stewardship?** We seek no "rewards" for our stewardship; we do it with the joy of serving God. Yet we know that God does reward stewards by filling their needs in life; by giving new opportunities to care, to share, to participate in the wholeness of life. Stewardship is the responsibility of the Christian life, making our prayers, worship, study of scriptures, Christian action truly sincere.

So, our whole life is a partnership with God. We cannot "give" anything to God; but we can "fulfill" God by using our gifts wisely and sharing with others. Each of us can live as God's steward. "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required..." (Luke 12:48)

Let us give with joy to the mission and ministry of our church!  
Pastor Leslie

# SOCRATES

## What is SOCRATES?

SOCRATES is the School-Age Childcare program that we hope will start at Trinity United Church of Christ this Fall. You will be asked on August 10 to affirm or reject the proposal to have a Before-School and After-School Childcare program in our church for children in grades Kindergarten through 5.

## Why are we doing this?

Many children are left at home alone to wait for school busses in the morning and many of these same children return home after school to an empty house until their parents come home from work. They have to fix their breakfast and lock the house before they go to school. They come home and have to do their homework, fix a snack, and perhaps play by themselves or, sometimes, with other children in the neighborhood. For the parents, their anxiety begins when they leave their child home alone in the morning, they relax about 9:00 when school starts. Around 3:30, the anxiety returns when they realize that school is out and their child will be home alone until they return. They worry if their children are safe, if they are susceptible to crime and drugs—yes, even in Thornville.

I think this is an important ministry for us because, as a church, this program does several positive things for the children, for the parents and for the community.

### *For each individual child, we hope to:*

- provide a nurturing and supportive environment
- enhance self esteem and respect for others
- promote a varied cultural awareness and appreciation
- promote self motivation
- develop social skills and non-violent means of problem solving
- provide opportunities for creative learning
- enhance academic achievement

### *For the parents, we hope to:*

- provide a safe, accessible, affordable program
- provide competent, responsible staff who understand and meet the needs of the children
- promote significant communication between parents and teachers

### *For the community, we hope to:*

- respond to the concerns of the community by sharing and building upon existing community resources
- give the community a feeling of pride

The benefits the children of Thornville receive are increased safety, reduced risk-taking, and improved learning. We are here to help children succeed. Please support this new ministry.

According to a report developed by the US Department of Education, "the after-school hours are the time when juvenile crime hits its peak, but through attentive adult supervision, quality after-school programs can protect our children. In communities with comprehensive programs, children are less likely to commit crimes or to be victimized, and are less likely to engage in risky behavior such as drug, alcohol and tobacco use."

School-age childcare programs also can help to improve the academic performance of participating children. For many children, their reading and math scores have improved, in large part because the programs allow them to focus attention on areas in which they are having difficulties. Many programs, including SOCRATES, connect learning to more relaxed and enriching activities, thereby improving academic performance as well.

## SOCRATES (continued)

### The Potential of SOCRATES and School-Age Childcare Programs, in general:

- Preventing crime, juvenile delinquency and violent victimization
- Preventing drug, alcohol and tobacco use
- Decreasing the amount of television watched
- Improving children's grades and academic achievement
- Increasing children's interest and ability in reading
- Improving school attendance, increasing engagement in school, and reducing the drop-out rate
- Increasing homework quality
- Increasing aspirations for the future
- Improved behavior in school
- Better social skills
- Improved self-confidence
- More effective use of funding
- Greater family and community involvement

If you have any questions about the program please contact Pastor Leslie.

If you know of youth who will need childcare either before school, after school, or both: **PLEASE CALL ASAP!** (246-5644 or 246-5453).

We know the need is there, but we do not yet know if parents want their children in SOCRATES: School-Age Childcare at Trinity UCC. **The Consistory wants to know that the community is interested before we move forward.**

### Youth Lock-In!

The Joint Youth Group Planning Committee (Pastors and Youth Leaders from Trinity UCC-Thornville, Trinity UCC, St. Michael's UCC, Baltimore UMC, and the Lutheran Church in Baltimore) are holding a Youth Lock-In!

When: August 15-16 (7:45 PM to 9:00 AM)

Where: Baltimore United Methodist Church 200 Market Street, Baltimore

Why: To have fun one more time before school starts

What to Expect: Concert by The Millersport Praise Band

An opportunity to meet and share with youth from Baltimore, Millersport, Thornville, Glenford and ... An opportunity to have fun, share your faith and be blessed!

RSVP: By calling Peggy Shriner at 743-2193 or Pastor Leslie at 246-5453

### Youth Group News

Please save all of your AOL or other demo discs for Peggy Shriner.



### Youth Group News

The lawn of St. Michael's Church was the setting for the youth luau held Sunday evening, July 13. Hawaaiian music, lais and bamboo torches set the mood.

The youth were challenged with four relays: Hula girl/Hawaaiian boy dress-up, a bucket brigade, marble pick-up with your toes and a beach ball relay. During devotional time, the group was divided into four teams. Each team was assigned a "characteristic type of church" from which they were to prepare a short skit. Discussion followed the skit presentations.

Following the activities, the youth were treated to a create your own kabob and milkshake. The fun-filled evening was enjoyed by 30 youth and 16 youth leaders and parents.

A Lock-In is planned for August 15 at Baltimore United Methodist Church. The evening will begin with the Millersport Praise Band performing at 8:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required for the lock-in. See Peggy or Pastor Leslie for a registration form.

*"Do not be afraid, only have faith."*

**Mark 5 : 3 6**

## ***The Fear of Illness, The Power of Prayer***

JUDY CHAN

Six missionaries are serving with Global Ministries in China and Hong Kong, areas affected by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). When overseas staff are in situations that are potentially threatening to their well being, (most often situations of military conflict), Global Ministries, in consultation with partner churches, gives missionaries the option of returning to their home countries. Global Ministries extended this option to the six effected missionaries. All of them declined to exercise that option. Judy Chan, remained in Hong Kong, and worked with the Hong Kong Christian Council and the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong, to give faith, hope and love to people of Hong Kong who may be "meeting difficult circumstances, facing suffering and sinking into helplessness." They created and distributed a "Call to All Christians" suggesting prayer actions which said in part,

*We pray:* That the Lord give peace and life to those in fear. That the Holy Spirit move the people of Hong Kong so that they can pass through the hardship by mutual help and love.

That everyone offers a helping hand to those meeting hardship because of illness. That God grant his grace to the medical staff in the front-line, to teachers and staff in the services.

*We say to all:* "Peace be with you!"

Pray for those afflicted and those caring for people suffering with SARS.

*Judy Chan serves with the Hong Kong Christian Council and is responsible for the ecumenical radio and broadcasting ministry.*

*"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for..."*

**Hebrews 11 : 1**

## ***A Vision of Hope***

SCOTT COUPER

Albert Luthuli served his people as a proud Zulu chief. He also lived out his strong Christian convictions as deacon in the Groutville Congregational Church. During apartheid, Luthuli was one of the leaders of the civil rights movement in South Africa and was banned and censured for his outspoken views. Author of "Let My People Go" and Nobel Peace Prize winner, statesman, politician deacon teacher and chief, he regularly preached about his hopes in the Groutville Congregational Church. Presently, Dr. Albertinah Luthuli, M.D., daughter of Albert Luthuli and member of the Groutville congregation, chairs a committee which faces a new ministry challenge. The South African area, where the church is located leads in the number of people affected by HIV/AIDS, but the church is blessed with many nurses, and volunteers. They have developed a program which provides relief, comfort, and solidarity to the suffering at the bedside in their homes. The Chief Albert Luthuli Legacy Project is to be launched in late 2003 which will teach the principles of Chief Luthuli, and at the same time, enrich the new legacy of the church's ministry.

Pray for the ministry of the Groutville Church as it influences its community and the world.

*Scott Couper is Global Ministries pastor of the Groutville Congregational Church in Durban.*



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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 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.

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### **Texts & Titles for August 2003**

August 3: John 6:24-35  
Psalm 51:1-12  
II Samuel 11:26-12:13a\*  
"The Bread of Consequences"

August 10: Ephesians 4:25-5:2  
Psalm 130  
John 6: 35, 41-51\*  
"The Bread of Life"

August 17: I Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14  
Psalm 111  
Ephesians 5: 15-20\*  
"The Bread of Wisdom"

August 24: I Kings 8:22-30  
Psalm 84  
Ephesians 6:10-20\*  
"What to Wear"

August 31: Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-9  
Psalm 15  
James 1:17-27\*  
"Teach Our Children Well"