

# The Trinity Times

Vol. 30, No. 3

March 2010

The Purpose of  
Trinity Covenant Church is:

To invite people to enter into  
personal relationship with Jesus Christ  
and into His family,  
To enable them to grow in  
Christlike character,  
And to equip them for their ministry,  
So as to bring honor to God.



*The Trinity Times*  
is the monthly newsletter of

Trinity Covenant Church  
59 Trumbull Avenue  
Plainville, CT 06062  
(860) 747-0059  
On the Internet:  
[www.Trinity-Covenant.net](http://www.Trinity-Covenant.net)

David F. Chandler, *Pastor*  
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 1-4 p.m.  
(excluding pastoral activities elsewhere)  
and by appointment

Kurt Galvan, *Music Leader*

Anita Nyberg, *Office Secretary*

And Where Our Members Are  
*Our Ministers*

## **"WHAT'S YOUR ONE STEP?"**

For many years, the Evangelical Covenant Church has designated one Sunday each year as "Bringing My World to Christ" Sunday. It's a time when Christians in Covenant churches make a commitment to be regularly praying for those people among their family and friends who, as far as they know, don't have a personal right relationship with God.

This year the Covenant is maintaining this emphasis on prayer, but is giving the campaign a new name, which is the title you see above: "What's Your One Step?"

The idea behind the new name is to help us see that sharing our faith doesn't have to be a complicated process reserved only for those with special spiritual gifts, but rather that – when we cooperate with the Holy Spirit – sharing our faith can be anything we do or say that brings someone one step closer to Christ.

**This year, "What's Your One Step" Sunday is March 21<sup>st</sup>.** On this day we will be distributing brochures during our Sunday Service and including a special time of prayer in which we will focus on praying for people who don't know Jesus. In anticipation of that time, we invite you to make this a matter of prayer right now, thinking of those who, in your circle of family, friends, workmates and neighbors have not yet come to Christian faith.

To learn more, please visit [www.whatsyouronestep.com](http://www.whatsyouronestep.com).



### **UPDATE ON OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

*(The following is a letter to Trinity from Samaritan's Purse, the Christian humanitarian organization that sponsors Operation Christmas Child – the “shoebox Christmas present” ministry in which Trinity participated in the latter portion of 2009.)*

Sharing the Gospel message is at the heart of all that we do through Operation Christmas Child. We are deeply grateful to your congregation for their faithful prayers and enthusiastic participation in the project in 2009. Over 8.1 million shoebox gifts – the most ever – were collected this past holiday season, with the United States contributing 5.2 million of those gifts. Because of churches like yours, boys and girls around the world will now have the opportunity to hear the Good News of God's greatest gift, Jesus Christ!

That's what makes Operation Christmas Child unique. The gift does not stop with the shoebox itself. Children are introduced to Jesus through colorful Gospel booklets handed out during the distributions. Local churches invite them to a follow-up discipleship program that includes a series of engaging Bible lessons. Graduates receive a New Testament to encourage them to learn more about the Savior. As they grow in their faith, these same children become witnesses of God's love in their communities.

One of these children was Oksana Nelson, a Russian girl who received a shoebox at her orphanage ten years ago. The box was the start of great blessings in her life, and today the teenager is passing on those blessings to other hurting kids through Operation Christmas Child. We hope Oksana's video report (online at [http://www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/articles/spreading\\_the\\_message/](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/articles/spreading_the_message/)) will encourage your congregation to know that their gifts are making an impact, both now and for eternity.

Thanks again for the wonderful privilege to partner with you in bringing the joyous news of the Savior to boys and girls across the globe. We would love to hear stories about some of the ways the Lord has used Operation Christmas Child to support your church's mission efforts. Please send correspondence to [occprojectleader@samaritan.org](mailto:occprojectleader@samaritan.org). God bless you!

## **EASTER CHOIR STARTING SOON!**

Music Leader Kurt Galvan invites you to be part of our seasonal Choir for Easter. This year the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus comes on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Please let Kurt know of your interest in the choir. Rehearsals are to begin in the coming weeks.

### **LENTEN SERVICES IN PLAINVILLE**

Lent – the season of 40 days in the Christian Church calendar leading up to Easter Day (which this year is April 4<sup>th</sup>) – began on February 17<sup>th</sup>. The Plainville Conference of Churches has planned a series of Lenten Services to be held at 7 p.m. on the following Thursdays at the following churches, with each gathering to be followed by a reception at the host church.

February 25<sup>th</sup> at Plainville United Methodist Church  
March 4<sup>th</sup> at Redeemer AME Zion Church  
March 11<sup>th</sup> at Grace Lutheran Church  
March 18<sup>th</sup> at Trinity  
March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Congregational Church of Plainville

### **“IRON SHARPENS IRON” MEN’S CONFERENCE COMING SOON**

Attention Men! The “Iron Sharpens Iron” Men’s Conference is taking place at the First Cathedral in Bloomfield on **Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**. All Trinity men are welcome to come. This one-day conference is for men of all ages, with seminars for those in various stages of life starting at age 13. There will be 16 different seminars for men at this conference, and among the guest speakers is the Rev. Barry Black, chaplain of the U.S. Senate. More information will be out soon, or you can learn more at [www.IronSharpensIron.net](http://www.IronSharpensIron.net). Save the date!

### **TRINITY COVENANT YOUTH GROUP – 2010**

Young people ages 9 through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to Trinity Covenant’s Youth Group in 2010!

Our meetings will be on Sunday evenings from 5:30 to 7:00. Kara Blandino will lead worship songs and discussion. A fun game and refreshments will also be part of the evening.

An adult volunteer from a church family will be at each meeting.  
Dates for the Youth Group meetings:

February 28  
March 14

April 18  
May 16

June 13

## **KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THOSE WHO CAN'T BE HERE IN PERSON**

Trinity's Congregational Care & Christian Education Commissions invite you to help us correspond with Trinity members and friends who have limited mobility. Please donate new greeting cards, postage stamps, and stickers (fun decals to adorn the cards) in the box provided in the church lobby, and we'll arrange for our children, youth, and others to fill in the cards and mail them. Thank you!

Ruby Harper, Chair of Congregational Care  
Joan Charneski, Co-chair of Christian Education

## **HELP WANTED**

### **Director for Vacation Bible School July 26-30**

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Good organizational skills
- Willingness to work with a dedicated team

#### ALREADY IN MOTION:

- Committed teachers
- Craft Coordinator in place
- Snack team assembled
- Step-by-step process manual available

#### BENEFITS:

- Reach out to 50+ children about the life, love, and ministry of Jesus
- See how the music encompasses the kids
- Listen to all the fun throughout the week
- Watch everything come together during the week
- A job well done

VBS is in jeopardy this year if we cannot find a coordinator.

For more information see:

Pastor Dave

Mary Lou Freitas

Joan Charneski

## **EASTER LILIES**

The Worship Commission will be ordering memorial lilies to decorate the sanctuary for our Easter Worship Service on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Order forms, with further details, will be available in the March 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> bulletins for those who wish to purchase lilies in memory of loved ones.

## **A SNAPSHOT OF TRINITY'S FINANCIAL STATUS**

Each month Trinity's church treasurer posts a financial statement in the church lobby of how our congregation's monetary giving is keeping pace with our ministries. While the statement is a brief one (condensed to half a page), it does list many line items in order to update us on the status of multiple accounts, and for the average observer it may not be instantly clear what the bottom line is – that is, how much money we have after meeting all our financial obligations.

Our Church Council is concerned that Trinity ran a large deficit in 2009, and the church is notably behind budget even early on in 2010. To keep you informed about this, one more line is being added to the monthly financial statement – a literal bottom line, showing our total assets of all accounts added together after meeting expenses. We encourage you to watch for this statement's posting in the church lobby.

### **To provide that bottom line for you here:**

Trinity's 2009 deficit totaled \$29,524.56. After covering that debt and all 2010 expenses up to mid-February, our church has \$22,081.42 remaining in cash assets. As you can see, we would be unable to afford another deficit year like 2009. We ask you to be in prayer about our church's financial status, and invite you to participate, as you are able and as God leads you, in contributing financially to your church's ministries.

## **SEND A CARD, SAY A PRAYER**

Here are church members and friends who live in retirement communities, who may miss church because of physical challenges, or who are ill or otherwise just need our prayers and a card:

- \* Ruth Bridgwater, Parkway Health Center, 800 SE Central Pkwy, Rm. 109, Stuart, FL 34994
- \* Mary Carrione (Mary Lou Freitas's mother), Newington Health Care, 240 Church Street, Newington, CT 06111
- \* Mary Eschenbrenner, 12 McKernan Drive, Plainville, CT 06062
- \* Judith Johnson, Atria Larson Place, 1450 Whitney Avenue, Apt. 113, Hamden, CT 06517  
(Please note this is a new address for Judith)
- \* Richard Keller, c/o the Simons family, 37 Basswood Street, Plainville, CT 06062
- \* Annie Larson, 88 Scott Swamp Road, Apt. 313, Farmington, CT 06032
- \* Ruth Lunn, c/o Charles Lunn, 11 Lakeside Drive, Bristol, CT 06010
- \* David Peterson, Pilgrim Manor Care Center, Room 22, Missionary Rd., Cromwell, CT 06416
- \* Myrtle Pipeling, 57 Plum Tree Road, Plainville, CT 06062
- \* Emma Selander, 75 Perry Road, Forestville, CT 06010

## **ADDRESS UPDATE**

Ted and Reneé Cortland  
2 Townsend Road  
Farmington, CT 06032      (Phone number remains the same)

## **ALICE IN WONDERLAND BEING STAGED**

The Plainville Choral Society presents *Alice in Wonderland* on Friday, March 12, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, March 13, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Middle School of Plainville. Come see this great kids' show – which is fun for adults, too! Adult tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door; kids \$5. See Mal or Jean Cummings or Ruth Bernadt for tickets.

## **PASTOR DAVE'S SABBATICAL**

**Why is Pastor Dave going to be on sabbatical?** Pastor Dave has been ministering in our church for 15 years, longer than any pastor in almost 70 years. A pastor seldom has time away from pastoral duties. Even on “a day off,” church matters demand attention. A sabbatical provides extended time away from pastoral duties, a time for rest, for study and spiritual growth, and for the deepening of family relationships. Many denominations, including the Covenant Church, recommend a sabbatical every seven years. Our congregation voted last August to grant Pastor Dave a sabbatical, and a committee has been working with him to make that action a reality.

**When will the sabbatical take place?** Pastor Dave will begin his sabbatical on April 19, 2010, and return from sabbatical on July 18.

**How will our church ministries be carried on while Pastor Dave is away?** The Sabbatical Committee is anticipating that our church's ministries will be carried on with full commitment while Pastor Dave is away. A book about pastoral sabbaticals, *Clergy Renewal*, points out that “Often sabbaticals expand lay involvement and energy in the congregation's mission, vision, and goals.”<sup>1</sup> In other words, a pastor's sabbatical can be a time for renewed enthusiasm and participation by the body of Christ in the work of Christ.

This is what we hope will happen in our congregation. The Sabbatical Committee is scheduling visiting speakers as well as worship leaders from our own congregation for Sunday mornings. We welcome your participation in any of our church's ministries or in helping with the many administrative tasks normally handled by our pastor. You can see any member of the Sabbatical Committee to learn how you can join with others in our community to help make this time of sabbatical a time of growth for our congregation.

**How will the sabbatical be funded?** Last September, Pastor Dave applied for a sabbatical grant from the Louisville Institute, which awards \$15,000 grants for a 12-week sabbatical. There is strong competition for these grants. In 2009 nearly 400 grant applications were submitted and 39 grants were awarded (about one grant per ten applicants). In December, Pastor Dave was informed that he was not a grant recipient. The Sabbatical Committee decided to reduce sabbatical costs and ask members and friends of the congregation to contribute to make the sabbatical possible. The goal is \$6,200, of which approximately \$1,200 will be needed for guest speakers; the balance will be for sabbatical expenses. We ask for your prayers as the plans for the sabbatical move forward.

The Sabbatical Committee: Ruth Bernadt, Anil Mathew, Mal Cummings, Claudia Peterson, Judy Jennings, Sandra Soucy; Marilyn Anderson, chair

<sup>1</sup> A. Richard Bullock & Richard J. Bruesehoff, *Clergy Renewal*, p.8.

**PREPARING FOR, AND SERVING ON, SUNDAYS IN MARCH AND APRIL**

**VOLUNTEER CUSTODIANS**

**March**

7 Mathew Family  
14 Claudia & Dick Peterson  
21 Claudia & Dick Peterson  
28 Dale Johnson

**April**

4 Edie, Isaac & Abbey Chandler  
11 Ruth Bernadt  
18 Kristen & Kara Blandino  
25 Dick & Claudia Peterson

**NURSERY CAREGIVERS**

**March**

7 Edie Chandler & Jen Leander  
14 Joan Charneski & Ruth Bernadt  
21 Jackie Damon & Sherry Eschenbrenner  
28 Marilyn Anderson & Ann DiFrancesco

**April**

4 Nancy Johnson & Renee Cortland  
11 Mary Lou Freitas & Ruby Harper  
18 Edie Chandler & Jen Leander  
25 Joan Charneski & Ruth Bernadt

**USHERS**

**March**

Richard Anderson & Scott Peterson

**April**

Richard Peterson & David Blandino

**COMMUNION PREPARERS**

**March**

Audrey & Stan Kasakowski

**April**

Donna Lee Carlson & Jackie Damon

**COMMUNION SERVERS**

**March**

Marvin & June Anderson  
Dale & Nancy Johnson

**April**

Anil Mathew, Jay Leander  
Carol Nilson, Ruth Bernadt

**BIBLE READERS**

**March**

7 Abigail Chandler  
14 Carol Valauskas  
21 Jon Platt  
28 Allison Platt (op)

**April**

4 Anil Mathew  
11 Donna Lee Carlson  
18 Judy Jennings  
25 Nancy Johnson

**APPLE REHAB CENTER SONG SERVICE**

**March 4** Marilyn Anderson, Leader

**April 15** Mal Cummings, Leader

Margaret Carlson, Pianist

Margaret Carlson, Pianist

**DATES OF NOTE AMONG TRINITY FOLK**

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- 6 Nate DeAngelo
- 6 Mitchell Peterson
- 7 Catherine Simons
- 9 Alice Rogers
- 14 Daniel Mathew
- 16 Kristen Blandino
- 16 David Maar
- 17 Juan Rosario

- 20 Brandy Simons
- 22 Bill Gadzik
- 23 Andreia DeAngelo
- 24 Richard LaPlume
- 30 Marilyn Anderson
- 30 Reneé Cortland

**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

- 9 Joe & Mary Lou Freitas

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**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Mary Lou Freitas
- 7 Anna LaVallee
- 14 Mal Cummings
- 16 Michael Ersevim
- 17 Richard Keller
- 21 Richard Anderson
- 22 Claire Cortland
- 28 Stanley Kasakowski

**APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

- 9 Scott & Daneen Peterson
- 28 Elizabeth & Raymond DeFrancesco

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