

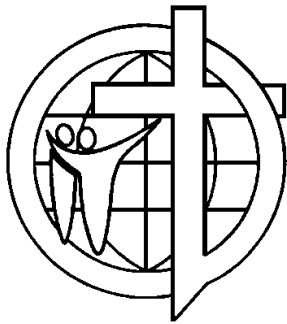
The Trinity Times

Vol. 29, No. 5

May 2009

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
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Plainville, CT 06062
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On the Internet:
www.Trinity-Covenant.net

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

Anita Nyberg, *Office Secretary*

And Where Our Members Are
Our Ministers

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY IS MAY 31ST

In the Covenant Church, Discipleship and Confirmation ("D/C") is an extended course of study to lead teenage students to become sure about (confirm) what it means to be a Christian and how to live the Christian life - "in other words, what it means to be a disciple of Christ." This is a two-year curriculum in which students meet weekly with the pastor, complete regular assignments, attend worship, submit sermon outlines, and engage great questions of life and faith as they encounter the Old Testament, New Testament, and Church history.

Our students this year have been especially ambitious, completing two years of study in a single year, and are anticipating Confirmation Sunday this coming May 31st. We would like you to anticipate it with them and to join in the celebration on that day. We will come together for our Morning Worship Service at 10:45 a.m., and in that setting we can participate together with our Confirmands in affirming Christian faith.

A reception is to follow the service in our Fellowship Hall. Please join us!

APRIL 26th IS "MINISTRIES-TO-CHILDREN SUNDAY"

For several years our Christian Education Commission has hosted "Compassion Sunday" to highlight the ministry of Compassion International and provide Trinity members and friends the opportunity to sponsor children through this Christian humanitarian organization. Through Compassion, children in our Sunday-morning KidsTime ministry continue to sponsor Catherine Damas in Tanzania.

This year, April 26th is a day to consider and learn about the ways we can help children through *several* ministries. During our Morning Worship Service we'll have a video presentation, and Trinity children will be sharing about these ministries. God clearly calls us, as a church and as individuals, to meet the needs of the poor, to care for children, and to work for justice. It is our prayer that God will use this day of reflection and learning to stir our hearts to do good in His name, to bless us with a willing spirit to act, and strengthen our resolve.

"Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." Psalm 82:3-4

KIDSTIME NEWS

Ministries to Children Sunday – April 26th – Kids Host Coffee Hour

* **The KidsTime children will host the coffee hour** after church this day, with the free-will offering to be donated to our sponsorship of Catherine Damas from Tanzania. During worship, we will make a brief presentation about Compassion International and its ministries, and also include some information about other ways we can make a difference in the lives of children, in Christ's name.

Vacation Bible School this summer at Trinity is now officially the week of July 20th

* Mark your calendars and start spreading the word!

* It is not too late to volunteer!

* On Sunday, April 26th, we will begin collecting donations for our craft center.

If you are able to help out, select a slip or slips with the requested item(s) you would be willing to donate, and bring it/them back to Trinity by May 24th.

* **Craft preparers:** June 7th after church will be the first craft prep session.

Bring a bag lunch to eat before we get started. TBA: another session in June and a final one the week of July 6th.

THANKS TO ROB JONES FOR NEW PARSONAGE FURNACE

Trinity member Rob Jones, an HVAC technician, recently completed a professional installation of a new furnace in the church parsonage. The old furnace had served faithfully for (as near as we can tell) about 48 years (nearly half a century!), and we've benefited greatly from its long life. Installing a new furnace involved removing the old unit – requiring some dismantling and hauling of its large bulk – and bringing in the new unit, along with many yards of new piping, valves, fittings, a hot-water heater, and thermostats, and integrating them all into the house's existing plumbing system. Our many thanks to Rob, and to wife Monique and children Jordan and Faith for letting us have him for the hours it took to complete the project.

STATUS ON CHURCH-BUILDING RENOVATION PROJECT

Speaking of upgrading church properties (see the previous news item), our church-building renovation project has been progressing in recent weeks and moving toward conclusion of Phase 1. New, energy-efficient windows have been installed throughout our Fellowship Hall, kitchen, and downstairs restrooms. New exterior doors have been installed on the east (front) and north and south sides of our building. The upgrade to our electrical service has been completed (pending final approval from the electric company). And a number of formerly-all-wood interior doors are being fitted with glass panels.

One remaining portion of the project is the removal of eight pews from our church sanctuary, the carpeting of the floor in that part of the sanctuary, and the placement of new, upholstered, stackable chairs and a portable partition to accommodate new classroom/meeting space. This portion of the project is scheduled for the week of April 27th.

COUNCIL “CHURCH VITALITY” RETREAT SET FOR MAY 16th

In recent months at Trinity we have been giving attention to the subject of church vitality. A number of Trinity members have attended seminars on the subject, we've had two recent sermon series on the matter, and the issue has been the subject of past articles in this newsletter. Our Church Council has also been carrying on an ongoing discussion of it.

That discussion will continue on Saturday, May 16th, when the Council meets for a “Church Vitality” Retreat here at Trinity. We will be viewing video presentations and reviewing hardcopy materials from our denomination's Office of Congregational Vitality, assessing the present state of our church life at Trinity, and preparing a presentation for our congregation – you! – in the near future. We ask you please to be in prayer for our Council members as we seek God's guidance in advancing our church life toward even greater church vitality.

“FOOD FOR FRIENDS” ...

... is the name of a new group in Plainville offering free meals to those in need. Organized by the Plainville Conference of Churches, “Food for Friends” is a response to the economic downturn that has left many families struggling. One way to help is to offer a free hot meal one night a week for families and individuals who could benefit from it.

The group has been up and running for many weeks now, and has determined it is best to have one central location and gathering time for meals:

Food for Friends now regularly offers a free hot meal on Wednesday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Congregational Church of Plainville, 130 West Main Street (747-1901). All who would benefit from this outreach are welcome to attend.

The Plainville Conference of Churches includes Church of Our Saviour, Episcopal; Congregational Church of Plainville; First United Methodist Church; Grace Lutheran Church, Redeemer’s AME Zion Church; and Trinity Covenant Church. **Teams of people from participating churches prepare and serve the meals on a rotating basis. Trinity and Church of Our Saviour have joined together to form a team, and the next time we will be hosting a meal is on Wednesday, May 20th.**

If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact Ruby Harper (747-3391; rubyharper27@comcast.net).

CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETINGS

The East Coast Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church is planning to hold its Annual Meeting in York, Pennsylvania, on Friday and Saturday, May 1st and 2nd. Representatives from the Conference’s 74 churches (which populate the east-coast states from Virginia to Maine) will gather at St. Paul’s Wolf’s Evangelical Covenant Church. (A congregation that recently joined the Covenant, St. Paul’s Wolf’s is one of the newest churches in our denomination and yet also the oldest, dating from 1763!)

Richard and Marilyn Anderson will be attending as Trinity’s delegates. Pastor Dave will also attend, and will be part of the Conference Ministers’ Annual Meeting the day prior. The conference-wide gathering begins on Friday afternoon with various workshops followed by dinner and the Annual Meeting Worship Celebration and Communion Service. The Business Session will take place on Saturday. For more information on the Annual Meeting, you can visit <http://eastcoastconf.org>.

PARTNER WITH A COVENANT CHURCH IN “BUSH” ALASKA

For over 100 years our denomination, the Evangelical Covenant Church, has served various ethnic groups throughout Alaska, with special emphasis on the remote communities of rural Alaska. Of the 19 Covenant Churches in Alaska, 13 are in Western “Bush” Alaska, where there are no roads in or out. Of these 13, ten are small and unable to support a pastor without some help. Alaska exerts many challenges and hardships on those who are called to minister to the peoples of the Last Frontier. In addition to serving in a remote location with long and dark winters, pastors and youth workers ministering here are confronted constantly with issues of teen suicide, extreme substance abuse, domestic violence and sexual abuse. Also, many serve communities that lack the basics of modern sanitation and housing.

We, the East Coast Conference of the Covenant, have committed to help one of our sister churches in Alaska. Our adopted church is located in Koyuk, 90 air miles northeast of Nome. Koyuk has a population just under 300 at last census. The pastor and his wife, Wass and Jean Mute, will appreciate any assistance we can give them. But just what can you do? I’m glad you asked. Here are some ideas:

- ❖ **Encouragement:** Write a letter (Pastor Wass and Jean Mute, P.O. Box 53098, Koyuk, AK 99753) or e-mail (jg_mute@yahoo.com) or place an occasional telephone call (907/963-2016) to let them know you are praying for them. Find out their birthdays and anniversary and let them know we care.
- ❖ **Care packages:** Since everything must be flown in, simple things are very expensive. You can send anything that is non-perishable (nuts, dried fruit, box mixes, paper products, toiletries, etc.). Be creative! The post office has fixed-rate boxes that you can fill up and ship for \$9.95 or \$12.95 depending on the size you choose.
- ❖ **Mission teams:** If you would consider being part of a construction work team, contact the conference’s vice chair for missions, Thomas McCullough, at thomasbmccullough@yahoo.com for more information. It will be a trip you will never forget.
- ❖ **Financial:** Most of the bush pastors must find other means of supporting their family because the church is unable to provide a sustaining salary. If your church has a missions committee, perhaps they would put the Koyuk church in their mission budget. Or maybe, as an individual or family, God will lay it on your heart to send a donation.
- ❖ **Donate Air Miles:** Many people accumulate free air miles. Please consider donating some to the Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska (ECCAK) to help a bush pastor and family get away for R & R.

UPCOMING GATHERINGS AT THE PINES

Please take note of these upcoming mind- and faith-growing opportunities at Pilgrim Pines Conference Center in beautiful southern New Hampshire:

- May 22-25, Family Work & Worship Weekend
- June 24, Camp Squanto begins (with weekly sessions through mid-August)
- June 27, Mayflower Family Camp begins (with weekly sessions through mid-August)

Promotional/registration brochures are available in the church office. In addition to church-centered retreats, the Pines carries on a great service to seniors in the broader public as a hosting site for many Elderhostel “Adventures in Life-Long Learning” programs held during most months of the year. For fees and information on these and other programs, please call the Pines at 603/352-0443. You can also visit www.pilgrimpines.org, or e-mail info@pilgrimpines.org.

TIME TO PLAN FOR CAMP SQUANTO

Registration brochures for Camp Squanto this summer are available! Camp Squanto is that portion of Pilgrim Pines that hosts camping experiences for children and youth (those entering grades 2-12 this coming fall) from late June through mid-August. Camps are one week long, except for a three-day camp for 2nd-3rd graders, and a one-month “Teen Leadership Challenge” for 11th-12th graders. “Camperships” to help cover registration costs may be available. Loads of information, including online registration, are available at www.pilgrimpines.org/CampSquanto.htm.

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 St., Newington, CT 06111
- * Mary Eschenbrenner, 12 McKernan Drive, Plainville, CT 06062
- * Judith Johnson, The Gables of Guilford, 201 Granite Road, Apt. 115, Guilford, CT 06437
- * Annie Larson, 88 Scott Swamp Road, Apt. 313, Farmington, CT 06032
- * Ruth Lunn, 424 Lake Avenue, Unit 1, 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

PREPARING FOR, AND SERVING ON, SUNDAYS IN MAY AND JUNE

VOLUNTEER CUSTODIANS

May

3 Freitas Family
10 Freitas Family
17 Freitas Family
24 Freitas Family
31 Freitas Family

June

7 Edie, Isaac & Abbey Chandler
14 Dick & Claudia Peterson
21 Ruth Bernadt & Ruby Harper
28 Manny Saxon

NURSERY CAREGIVERS

May

3 Marilyn Anderson & Ruby Harper
10 Jen Leander & Mary Lou Freitas
17 Joan & Amanda Charneski
24 Edie Chandler & Nancy Johnson
31 Jackie Damon & Monique Jones

June

7 Cathy & Brandy Simons
14 Sherry Eschenbrenner & Ruth Bernadt
21 Renee Cortland & Marilyn Anderson
28 Ruby Harper & Ann DeFrancesco

USHERS

May

Audrey & Stanley Kasakowski

June

Jay Leander & Everett Selander

COMMUNION PREPARERS

May

Mal Cummings & Ruth Bernadt

June

Audrey & Stan Kasakowski

COMMUNION SERVERS

May

Ruby Harper, Ted Cortland,
Mal Cummings, Donna Lee Carlson

June

Eddie & Stefanie Crane
Anita Nyberg, Carol Nilson

BIBLE READERS

May

3 Jordan Jones
10 Nancy Johnson
17 Donna Lee Carlson
24 Abigail Chandler
31 Kristen Mathew

June

7 Joan Charneski
14 Everett Selander (op)
21 June Anderson
28 Carol Nilson (op)

LEADER/PIANIST FOR HEALTH-CARE CENTER SERVICE

June 4

Mal Cummings, leader

Margaret Carlson, pianist

DATES OF NOTE AMONG TRINITY FOLK

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Amanda Charneski
- 4 June Anderson
- 8 Henrique Freitas
- 8 Hannah Platt
- 9 Dana Gronowski
- 12 Margaret Carlson
- 15 Jennifer Leander
- 20 Sandra Soucy
- 26 Daneen Peterson
- 26 Amy Mongillo

- 27 Larry Harper
- 27 Kristen Mathew
- 28 Kyle Dougherty
- 29 Myrtle Pipeling

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Larry & Ruby Harper
- 9 David & Linnea Pearson
- 12 Joseph & Heidi Maar
- 14 Robert & Diane Dougherty
- 25 Richard & Claudia Peterson

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Virginia Keller
- 10 Annie Larson
- 11 Kara Blandino
- 12 Kate Ersevim
- 20 Joan Charneski
- 20 Eric Dougherty
- 23 Gregory Simons
- 27 Linnea Pearson

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Robert & Sandra Soucy
- 20 Donald & Ruth Goranson
- 22 Anil & Linda Mathew
- 25 Dale & Nancy Johnson
- 26 Jay & Jennifer Leander
- 28 Terri Bentley & Rit Grzeszczak

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