

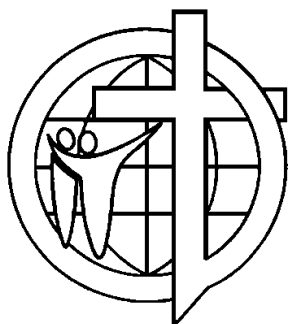
The Trinity Times

Vol. 29, No. 6

June 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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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

SPECIAL DAYS IN JUNE FOR MINISTRY & FELLOWSHIP

We welcome your participation in the following special events coming up at Trinity. You can read more about certain events on the following pages. Here are the highlights:

SUNDAY, JUNE 7th

Following on our 9:30 a.m. KidsTime and 10:45 Worship Service is our **VBS Craft-Preparations Lunch Party**. Everyone is welcome! Please bring a bag lunch and join in getting crafts ready for our Vacation Bible School (coming July 20th).

SUNDAY, JUNE 14th IS

CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY AND THE DAY OF OUR CHURCH PICNIC

KidsTime children will meet at 9:30 a.m. on June 14th for our last Sunday-morning meeting of the season. Then come celebrate with our children and youth as we worship together at 10:45 a.m. The children will take on many leadership roles, offer special music, and otherwise participate with all of us in a **Special Praise Service**. We welcome you ... and bring a friend!

Then just after our Praise Service, we'll join together in our **Annual Church Picnic!** In recent years we've been off-site for this gathering, but this year we're having it right here on our church lawn. More details to come soon, but plan on the date.

ON JUNE 21st, WORSHIP MOVES TO 10:00 A.M.!!!

It's Father's Day. It's the first day of summer. And following on the conclusion of this season's KidsTime ministry on June 14th, **Trinity begins its summer-season Sunday schedule on June 21st**. From this day on and into September, our Morning Worship Services will be held on **Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

We also have special guests joining us. Please read on ...

OUR CONFERENCE SUPERINTENDENT IS COMING JUNE 21st

Howard Burgoyne, superintendent of the East Coast Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church, is to be our guest minister on Sunday, June 21st, at our 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service. He is to bring the sermon for the morning, and also to lead us in a time of dedication of our newly renovated church-building facilities.

Also planning to join us for the morning are our architect and building contractor, the people most directly responsible for the actual renovation design and construction. And we warmly invite you to plan to join in the festivities of the morning!

UPDATE: COUNCIL “CHURCH VITALITY” RETREAT OF MAY 16th

Trinity’s Church Council held a one-day “Church Vitality” retreat on Saturday, May 16th. The topic of church vitality is a major theme for our church during 2009, a theme finding expression in a number of ways, including two sermon series (so far!), the attendance of several church leaders at church-vitality seminars in recent times, and even in the “revitalization” of our church building in our soon-to-be-fully-completed renovation project.

The bulk of our Council retreat in May we spent in viewing and engaging in dialog about the “Veritas” church-vitality workshop. John Wenrich, director of congregational vitality for the Evangelical Covenant Church, has spent the last two years traversing the country presenting “Veritas.” John’s presentation has now been recorded onto DVD, and those Council members who had not previously attended a workshop had the opportunity to view it. (If you would be interested in viewing the 3.5-hour “Veritas” presentation [all at once or in segments], please see Pastor Dave.)

We will continue exploring church vitality as the year progresses. Our Church Council has been in and will continue its discussion of it, and we plan to share our observations with the congregation in the near future. John Wenrich’s office is also preparing “EPIC” (“Empowering People, Inspiring Change”), a “Veritas” follow-up workshop, which we will have the opportunity to attend later this year. 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.

EAST COAST CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

The 2009 Annual Meeting of the East Coast Conference (ECC), the regional conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church, was held in York, Pennsylvania, on May 1 and 2. We met at St Paul's Wolf's Evangelical Covenant Church, a congregation first formed in 1763 and which joined the Covenant two years ago. A majority of the 74 churches in the ECC were represented; we were Trinity's delegates. Pastor Dave attended meetings of ECC ministers as well as the ECC meetings, consisting of Friday-afternoon seminars, a Friday-evening worship service, and a Saturday business session.

We were energized and inspired by our attendance at the Annual Meeting. John Wenrich, our denomination's director of congregational vitality, led the Friday seminar we attended and spoke at the evening service, and Adrienne Reedy, a Christian-music recording artist from the Covenant Church in Easton, CT, led the worship team. Superintendent Howard Burgoyne talked about his vision for the future: dozens of new churches planted and over a hundred ECC churches serving their membership and others in their communities. Associate Superintendent Peter Sung, whose main responsibility is church planting, told about several new churches planted during the past year in the Boston area, in Maine, and in Harlem in New York City. Peter Ahn, pastor of the Covenant Church in Fort Lee, NJ, spoke about his congregation's work through visits to South Africa where they are ministering through the establishment of a non-profit corporation to serve needy people. Tom McCullough, outgoing vice-chair of the conference board, spoke of the ECC's commitment to provide ongoing support to Wass Mute and his wife, Jean, serving a small church in Koyuk, Alaska.

A main focus within the ECC – and within the Evangelical Covenant Church as a whole – is church revitalization. Across the country, there is a good deal of growth in newly planted churches, but many established churches, like ours, need to be energized to catch the vision for change and growth. That's why our own Church Council is assessing our church's ministry and working on ideas for spiritual renewal and continued growth.

Even in difficult economic times, financial support of the ECC has been strong, particularly from new church plants and from established churches who have changed their denominational affiliation to the Covenant. All these newer churches have committed to give at least 5% of their operating budgets to the ECC. Established churches tend to provide lower levels of support. Nevertheless, church giving to the ECC in 2008 was up 40% over the previous year.

Heads of two ECC agencies, Pilgrim Pines Conference Center and the New England Seafarers Mission, reported on their ministries. Dave Cairns talked about the coming summer season at Camp Squanto, a summer camping experience many kids from Trinity have enjoyed over the years. He also spoke of plans for growth of the Pilgrim Pines ministry. Steve Cushing told about visiting ships' crews when they dock in the ports of Boston and Providence, and also described the services offered to crewmembers when they go to the Mission: phone cards to call home and e-mail services, assisting with justice issues between crewmembers and their shipping-company owners, handing out various knitted hats and other items from individuals, and ministering to seafarers' spiritual needs.

In York we could feel the new momentum within the East Coast Conference as we pick up speed in pursuit of our mission. As conditions and opportunities change, there is a need to adapt and improvise in order to move forward, with both strong support for established churches and a broad program of planting new churches within the Northeast.

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the ECC will be held at the Monadnock Covenant Church in Keene, NH, and at Pilgrim Pines in Swanzey, NH.

Marilyn and Dick Anderson

KIDSTIME NEWS

- **Recap of Ministries-to-Children Sunday (held on April 26th)**

The KidsTime children did a great job hosting the coffee hour, and nearly \$100 was raised in support of Catherine Damas (the child our children sponsor through Compassion International). Thanks to the congregation for your support! We hope you have been finding new ways of making a difference in the lives of children.

- **Children & Youth Sunday on June 14th!**

The children and youth of our church are ready to take on leadership roles in our Worship Service. From greeting us when we come through the doors to singing songs of praise, they will help lead us in worshipping our God. Come and celebrate all God has done for us – and all that He has done through our children’s ministry this year.

Families should have received an email that describes how each child/youth will be able to be an active participant in the Worship Service. Please let Allison Platt know if you WILL NOT be there (or if you did not receive the e-mail).

- **Church Picnic – Fun For All Ages**

We are blessed to have Monique Jones preparing and leading the games on June 14th. Be ready to have some fun!

- **VBS is Coming July 20th**

- * Mark your calendars and start spreading the word!

- * It is not too late to volunteer!

- * **Craft preparers (and anyone willing to lend a hand!): June 7th after church will be our Craft-Preparation Lunch Party.** Bring a bag lunch to eat before we get started. TBA another session in June and a final one the week of July 6th.

- * **Decorations:** Mary Lou is looking for **camping-theme donations**. Items can be returned to you at the conclusion of VBS. Just let us know!

**REVITALIZING PROPERTIES:
FIRST THE CHURCH BUILDING, NOW THE PARSONAGE**

In last month's newsletter we included an update on our church-building renovation project, now winding down to the last finishing touches. As that planned project concludes, however, we now have an unplanned project at the parsonage, namely the need for a new roof.

The roof, which has served us well for many, many years, has become worn to the point of allowing minor leakage, and is due for replacement. Three stages of work are needed: (A) Masonry work on and flashing around the chimney. Through the generous contribution of a family in Trinity, this work is already paid for and is to take place in the next few weeks. (B) Tree service to trim large limbs from two maples near the house. This work likewise is set to happen in the coming days. (C) Replacement of shingles and related weatherproofing. This is the largest expense of the project, in the neighborhood of \$10,000. (Roofing costs have notably increased recently because shingles are a petroleum-based product, and as the price of oil has increased, so has the price of shingles.)

Separate from this project, you may also have heard that the parsonage interior recently experienced water damage requiring replacement or renovation of most of the first floor's flooring. The good news is that our insurance company has approved the damage claim. The other news is that we need to cover the \$1,000 deductible.

We raise this matter here to inform you about developments in our church properties, and also to alert you to the financial need, now anticipated to be about \$11,000. Please know we are aware these are challenging financial times for many. Yet we are aware, too, that this roofing concern needs to be addressed in the current warm-weather season. Our Church Council has approved proceeding with the work. As you may be able, we would welcome your financial contribution. Checks can be made out to Trinity, with the words "parsonage roof" on the memo line.

FATHER'S DAY 2008 ADDENDUM

Last Father's Day I was honored and proud to speak about Joe Freitas as husband, father, brother, son, uncle, Christian, teacher, mentor, landlord, coach and friend to many. However, I do not speak as proficiently as I can write, and so I appreciate this opportunity – as the next Father's Day is nearly here – to clarify two important points. The first is that when I spoke, I pointed out that Joe had taken in tenants at an apartment we rent out after he had been told by an irreputable source that they were "probably drug dealers." My point was *not* that he would ever support drug dealers! My point was that he does not listen to gossip nor does he judge people. The renters have turned out to be great tenants! The second thing I would like to stress is the relationship Joe has with the seniors in our church. You are all such genuine, positive, sound role models for him, and I believe that he becomes an even better person every day. We truly look up to you all, and pray that we too will be there for our 50th wedding anniversary! So to all the men I say that "Father's Day" should be an "Appreciation of Men Day," not solely for fathers, but for the many men who serve in many roles in our lives.

Thank you,
Mary Lou Freitas

PICTURES FOR THE NEW RESTROOM

Earlier this year when construction of the new handicapped restroom was nearing completion, some friends brought several pictures for possible use on that restroom's walls. Our project architect, Michael MacDonald, was asked to select an appropriate picture from among those, and the matted and framed picture of flowers he chose has been hung on the east wall of the restroom. Consideration was given to hanging additional pictures, but the decision was made to have only one picture. We thank those who shared pictures with us. Those pieces we did not use are inside the church-lobby closet on the right side and may be reclaimed by their donors.

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:

- June 24, Camp Squanto begins (with weekly sessions through mid-August)
- June 27, Mayflower Family Camp begins (with weekly sessions through mid-August)
- August 21-23, One on One Father/Child Weekend

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.

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 JUNE AND JULY

VOLUNTEER CUSTODIANS

June

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

July

5 Edie, Isaac & Abbey Chandler
12 Rob & Monique Jones
19 Rob & Monique Jones
26 Manny Saxon

NURSERY CAREGIVERS

June

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

July

5 Mary Lou Freitas & Jen Leander
12 Joan & Amanda Charneski
19 Edie Chandler & Nancy Johnson
26 Jackie Damon & Monique Jones

USHERS

June

Jay Leander & Everett Selander

July

Manny Saxon & Mal Cummings

COMMUNION PREPARERS

June

Audrey & Stan Kasakowski

July

Donna Lee Carlson & Ruby Harper

COMMUNION SERVERS

June

Eddie & Stefanie Crane
Anita Nyberg, Carol Nilson

July

Joe Freitas, Richard Peterson
Carol Valauskas, Rob Jones

BIBLE READERS

June

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

July

5 Abigail Leander
12 Mal Cummings (op)
19 Anil Mathew
26 Jon Platt

PIANIST FOR HEALTH-CARE CENTER SERVICE

June 4

Mal Cummings, leader

Margaret Carlson, pianist

DATES OF NOTE AMONG TRINITY FOLK

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Virginia Keller
- 10 Annie Larson
- 11 Kara Blandino
- 12 Kate Ersevim
- 20 Joan Charneski
- 20 Eric Dougherty
- 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

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 13 Samuel Chandler
- 14 Katie Mongillo
- 21 Edie Chandler
- 22 Peter Maar
- 22 Sue Keller
- 22 Judy Jennings
- 24 Carol Valauskas
- 25 Jean Cummings
- 30 Matthew Blandino
- 31 Charles Schadler

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Michael & Kate Ersevim
- 17 Robert & Monique Jones
- 20 Bill & Doris Gadzik
- 29 Richard & Marilyn Anderson

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