

Trinity Times

AUGUST
2018

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the dog days of Summer when the temperature and humidity rise, we all too easily find ourselves either before a fan or enjoying the coolness of the air conditioning. When sweat begins to form on our brows, we thirst for an ice-cold beverage. When the sun beats down on us on our back porches in the evening, we enjoy the coolness of ice cream and other summer treats. In this time of year, we know what it is to thirst and need refreshment.

Perhaps then we can understand the Psalmist then when the author writes, *As the deer pants for the waters, my soul longs for you, O God!* In the summer, we pant for the ice-cold tea, lemonade, and/or adult beverage. In our summers of need, we pant for the grace and power of Almighty God. When the heat is stifling and overbearing, we search for relief before fans and air conditioners. When the world is oppressive and overwhelming, we search for relief before the Compassion and Lordship of Jesus Christ. We know what it is to thirst and seek relief in summer, we also know what it is to thirst and seek relief in the close embrace of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Simply put, we know what it is to pant and thirst after God!

What name and/or face can you put on the stifling and overbearing “trouble?” Perhaps it is the absence of God of which the Psalmist continues to write, *when shall I come and behold the face of God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, “Where is your God?”* Which of us has not experienced a time when God seems distant and far off and the relief we have sought is the renewed presence of God?

Perhaps it is a time of limitation as the Psalmist continues, *these things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival. Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?* Which of us has not experienced a time when we find ourselves physically or mentally unable to do the things we could before, and relief is being able to do them again?

Perhaps it is a time of conflict or attack, again the Psalmist writes, *why must I walk about mournfully because the enemy oppresses me?” As with a deadly wound in my body, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me continually, “Where is your God?”* Which of us has not experienced a time of being attacked spiritually or even physically at the hands of those around us, being taunted, slandered, and insulted for our loyalty and faithfulness to God?

Whatever name and/or face you put on “trouble,” the solution is always the same, *as the deer pants for the water, so too does my soul pant for God.* God alone provides true relief from the stresses and troubles in life. God alone gives courage for our fears, forgiveness for our guilt, peace for our anger, and love in our trials. God alone is our relief and God alone satisfies our longings. So, in this summer season when the heat and humidity cause us to reach for the lemonade and ice tea, let us remember that in every season of trial and difficulty, let us pant and yearn for God, for God alone is Faithful Love, and God alone is Saving Might!

In Christ,
Rev. Mark

Congregational Meeting

The Finance Committee presented a motion, which was approved by the congregation, to accept a bid from Ashtabula Steel Erectors to demolish Trinity's property at 1330 W. Prospect Rd. The cost is \$13,500 plus the cost of asbestos removal as needed. Both the house and the garage will be demolished and the property restored.

The Nominating Committee presented Kathy Depp to fill the Deacon vacancy for the class of 2020. Kathy was duly elected as Deacon.

Mary Belding, Clerk

Report from Transformation Group

This Transformation group is entering the last three months of our 18 month transformation process. What a journey this has been for each of us!

In the beginning, it felt like 18 months was a huge commitment. With Rev. Mark's loving leadership, we have made this journey- step by step, day by day.

The work we have done has not always been easy. We have begun tearing down walls of fear with which we have unknowingly surrounded ourselves. It has been both scary and exhilarating.

This process has us all learning to build relationships. New, stronger relationships within Trinity and relationships in our community.

As we look back where we started, we are joyfully looking forward to see where God is calling us to move ahead.

With shared blessings,

Dale, Kathy, David, Beth, Maryann, Joyce, Mary, and Mark

Financial Report 2018

Income: Offerings	\$ 6,053.00
From Investments	\$ 10,000.00
Total	\$ 16,053.00

Expenses:	\$ 11,457.72
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Difference	\$ 4,595.28
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As you see, we had to take \$10,000 from investment accounts in order to pay all the bills for June.

At the end of June we had \$8,590.03 in the operating fund.

Lois Fassett

Community Council

Community Council held their annual July “meeting” at Spring Hill Winery.

We will be hosting two weeks of summer lunches commencing Monday, August 6th through Friday, August 10th and Monday, August 13th through Friday, August 17th. 11:30 a.m. to Noon. Anyone interested in helping out, supplying an extra snack or sharing a lunch with everyone, please join us.

We will be collecting spice and baking staples through cash donations in a can placed in the back of the sanctuary. All monies collected will be used to purchase large sized spices, flour, sugar, etc. for G.O. Ministries. G.O. Ministries supplies those in need of a meal on a daily basis.

Also we have been in contact with Children Services regarding needs of children taken in on an emergency basis. They have a need for supplies of personal hygiene and school necessities. We will be meeting with a representative from Children Services in August or September.

Pam Bloom

TRINITY CHURCH PICNIC—AUGUST 26TH —LAKESHORE PARK

Fellowship is preparing for the Church Picnic on Sunday Aug. 26th at Overlook Pavilion. Church service will be at 10:30, with pot-luck to follow, please bring a dish to share.

Beverages and hot-dogs will be provided. Bring your own table service.

I can't believe summer is almost over.

Nancy Sabo



Our Youth Group will be resuming their activities on September 16th. We will be meeting following worship and ending at 1pm. All young people from 6th to 12th grade are welcome to attend. We will be having a time for lunch, fellowship, bible study, worship and mission. Please contact Rev. Mark in the church office to sign up.

Dear Liz,

I think you left the shipwrecked island before the end of the Vacation Bible School, so I want to catch you up on all the great things we did. We had two groups of mates, those who have not completed Kindergarten (there being 3 of them) and those who finished Kindergarten through the fifth grade (there were 10-12 of them).

Those two groups travelled through four stations. Jane Planisek had help from Beth Adams and Becky Keefe and led the groups in making really awesome crafts.

Snacks were served by Nancy Sabo with help from Peg LaDu and Kate Williams and Kathy Fassett. The food was not only yummy, but cute!

Each group had a Bible lesson each day. Sarah Williams led the older group, while Joyce Kren led the young ones. Everyone learned how Jesus rescues us when we are lonely, worried, struggling, do wrong and when we feel powerless.

Rev. Mark led games with the older group, and Lindsey Hall and Beth Ramos led the younger ones. Those mates really know how to play!

We were together as a group twice each day, playing games, singing, and dancing wildly. What fun we had!

Photo journalist, Mary Belding, documented the whole experience and put on a daily slide show. Liz Mong was our media technician.

Beth Dougherty, Dee Fassett, Lindsey Hall, Maryann Jordan, Billy Mong, Kate Rought, and Pat Strock helped shepherd the crews where they needed to be.

We even stayed for lunch when our day was completed. Several local restaurants provided food for us (Applebees, Red Lobster, Tony's Dog House, Georgio's Pizza, McDonalds and).

Kathy Depp, Sue and Terry Karvonen performed badly needed trimming and weeding on the island.

Being shipwrecked on this island turned out to be a great experience. I was glad to hear you made it home safely. Maybe we'll see you again next year. We had such a great time this year-I can't wait until next year!

Fondly, Tom

PS: Ruth Ann Ayers, Barb Beatty, Laura Lue Dougherty, Pauline Headman, Barb Jeffries, and Marj Kenny helped with registration.

And a HUGE amount of planning and decorating was done by Rev. Mark, Alicia Burkhart, Beth Dougherty, Lynne Mukina, Thursday Ladies, and many of the aforementioned folks!

Thanks to everyone who contributed we couldn't have done it without you.





New Members

Rev. Mark will be starting a new members class this fall. The class will involve 4 hours of study with Rev. Mark and is for the baptized and the un-baptized. Please contact Rev. Mark in the church office to sign up and begin the process.

500 NOTEBOOKS IS OUR GOAL!

Benefits the Ashtabula Area City Schools!

Please bring in as soon as possible! We will keep you updated on the amount we have collected.



Children's laughter is definitely a good reason to welcome them into all aspects of church life, for sure! Children aren't just the *future*, they're the *present*. If church is a place for anyone, it's got to be a place for children. How could anyone argue otherwise?

A Church without Children is like a roast potatoes without gravy. A few things to consider when welcoming children into our Church:

- When we welcome kids, we are making their parents feel welcome too.
- When we welcome kids, we invite them to experience God in community with us
- When we welcome kids in church, we strengthen relationships across generations

Our sanctuary should not be a sanctuary from children it should be a sanctuary for children. Children are cherished parts of our spiritual lives, not distractions from it.

I have seen a bond forming within the members of this Church and the children that attend. God IS Good!

We especially love having kids involved in the whole service on Sundays, in all their wriggling, noisy glory, so please don't worry if you or anyone with you makes a bit of a racket – we're glad to have you with us!

The next time you have the opportunity to converse with our young families, *Say a kind word to the parent who is losing sleep and working hard to raise a family and say "I'm thankful you are here, God bless you and your family."*



August 2018

DEACON ON CALL: KAREN REITER 992-8658

LITURGIST: 8/5 P. LaDu, 8/12, 19, 26 H. Shiflet

USHERS: Sabo/SMITH TEAM

This is the day which the Lord hath made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it! Psalm

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 Deacons Mtg.	2 10:00 Prayer Group/ Thursday Ladies	3	4 10:00 –11:00 am Transformation
5 COMMUNION 10:30 Worship Fellowship A.W.	6 Community Lunch 11:30-12:00 @ Trinity	7 Community Lunch 11:30-12:00 @ Trinity 8:00 Alanon	8 Community Lunch 11:30-12:00 @ Trinity 6:30 Card Ministry	9 10:00 Prayer Group/ Thursday Ladies Community Lunch 11:30-12:00 @ Trinity 6:30 Prop./Fin. Mtg	10 10:00 Brown Bag Ladies Community Lunch 11:30-12:00 @ Trinity	11
12 2 ^d A MEAL COLLECTION 10:30 Worship CE Meeting A.W.	13 Community Lunch 11:30-12:00 @ Trinity	14 8:00 ROMEOS@ Deb's Community Lunch 11:30-12:00 @ Trinity 8:00 Alanon	15 Community Lunch 11:30-12:00 @ Trinity 6:00 Comm. Outreach 6:30 Card Ministry 7:00 Session Mtg.	16 10:00 Prayer Group/ Thursday Ladies Community Lunch 11:30-12:00 @ Trinity	17 Last Community Lunch 11:30-12:00 @ Trinity	18 10:00 –11:00 am Transformation
19 10:30 Worship	20 LAKESIDE 1st day of school! Make it a great year!	21 8:00 Alanon	22 GENEVA 1st day of school! Make it a great year! 6:30 Card Ministry	23	24	25
26 10:30 WORSHIP @ Lake Shore Park /Overlook Pavilion Picnic following Bring a Dish to share.	27 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!	28 8:00 ALAnon	29 6:30 Card Ministry	30	31	