

TRINITY'S GOOD

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2011

Dear Friends and Family at Trinity,

Look out! I'm about to mention two words that may strike fear in the heart of any church member. Two words that may send your eyes spinning. Two words that may have you reaching to protect your pocketbook. Here they are... "*Building Campaign!*" That's right. I said it. Building campaign. In my year and a half here at Trinity I have learned that we are very successful at building campaigns. In recent years, we have seen a beautiful sanctuary renovation, we built a fantastic Welcome Center which lives up to its name as it welcomes and serves the community, and we are in the midst of renovating the exterior of the sanctuary and steeples. Each building campaign has been generously supported through prayer, volunteering, and financial giving (in the past 18 months we have given over \$100,000 to pay off the Welcome Center mortgage 17 years ahead of schedule and keep us right on track with the current renovations!). Soooo... I think it is the perfect time for another building campaign, *but please keep reading!*

As I mentioned in my annual report, we have an incredible facility here at Trinity – a wonderful place in which to worship, learn, fellowship, serve, celebrate, and welcome the community... but it is just a building. What about the Body of Christ that does the worshipping, learning, fellowshiping, serving, celebrating, and welcoming within these walls? From conversations with God and many of you, I am convinced that the time is right for a building campaign that does not focus on brick and mortar, but on flesh and blood. A building campaign that builds up the Body of Christ within these walls. A building campaign that strengthens this body to live out our mission, "*to celebrate Christ's*

love as we welcome, encourage, and serve God's people!"

What will this building campaign look like? How will we take on such an endeavor? In this past month's readings, when Jesus called his disciples, he called them to "Come and See." *God is calling us to do the same!* Come and see! Come to worship, to the Lord's Table, get on your knees in prayer, and open your Bible to see what God has in mind. In all of these places we discover that God has a dream. God has a dream that the blind will see, the lame will walk, the hungry will be fed, and all of this happens through God's transforming grace. God's dream is that every heart, every life would be transformed, thus transforming the church (the Body of Christ), thus transforming the world! This is God's dream, and *as followers of Christ it is our responsibility to help make God's dream a reality!*

This February, come and see and come and listen as we discuss what such a building campaign would look like. I will preach a sermon series on three things all buildings need: foundation, pillars and beams. What is their function in a building? What is their function in the Body of Christ? How do we put them in place?

Please, come and be a part of this building campaign. We have a beautiful structure of brick and mortar, but it is just a building. It is a building that achieves its purpose when the building within, the flesh and blood of the Body of Christ, is making God's dream come true. Let's join together with God, the architect of our lives, and build up this Body of Christ!

God bless,
Pastor Adam

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/01 Lydia Gutting, Marisol Sebastian
2/02 Sandi Watts
2/03 Kim Krieg, Jacob Clostermery
2/04 LeAnn Fecht, Jacob Ufkes,
Delmer Schlueter, Elton Holtsclaw
2/06 Jared Schwartz, Carl E. Hartweg
2/09 Scott Shipman, Benen Dichsen
2/11 Aaron Brodie
2/12 Jesse Holtsclaw
2/13 Jerry Bartell
2/14 Cindy Menn
2/16 Cory Clostermery, Leanne Pollock
2/18 Kyle Kirby
2/19 Brad Ufkes
2/20 Helen Seigfreid, Jolene Gronewold
2/23 Ethan Johnson
2/24 Trey Geissler
2/25 Carol Vest
2/27 Angie Ufkes
2/29 Alex Bentzinger

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2/08 Bill & Tiana Kirby
2/10 John & Linda Hartweg
2/14 Lawrence & Marjorie Harrell
2/24 Mark & Traci Harrell
2/27 Eric & Tonya Boyer
2/28 Melvin & Dorothy Wetterich

TRINITY PRAYER MINISTRY

This ministry at Trinity is for anyone who wants to join us in prayer one day a week. Come to the Welcome Center at **7:00 a.m.** on Wednesday mornings. Prayer request slips are located in the pew racks. They may be filled out and put in the collection plates, or you may call Connie Schulz (357-6667) or the church office (357-2468) to request prayer. These names are used for the Prayer Ministry only and not in the prayer chain or Sunday morning prayers.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS BY HEALTH MINISTRY TEAM

The nurses of Trinity will be doing blood pressure checks for the congregation on the second Sunday of each month in the Welcome Center. These checks will be held before and after church.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of December 31, 2010

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$146,715
Amt. Received YTD - \$118,395
Amt. Spent YTD - \$137,028
Current Fund Balance – \$1,263

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$19,135
Amt. Received YTD - \$20,505

Thank you for your faithful giving as together we live out our mission of Celebrating Christ's love as we welcome, encourage, and serve God's people!

DONATIONS FOR SHEPHERD'S PANTRY

The food pantry could use the following items that aren't always available each month from the state food pantry system:

Boxes of dry milk
Syrup
Laundry Soap
Baby Food & Formula
Paper Towels & Kleenex

Shepherd's Pantry would appreciate any donations that members are able to make. Thank you for your help.

BUILDING RENOVATION UPDATE

As of December 31, 2010, the amount given for the building renovation totals \$27,520. To date we have spent \$29,120 for the brick work and windows, leaving an amount due of \$1,600 for this part of the project. Please continue to support this fund so we can avoid borrowing funds. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY 13, 2011

Present: Merlin Gronewold, Mary Sargent, Dave Hartweg, Shawn Gutting, John Dittmer, John Adkins, Galen Krieg, Linley Bartell, Erin Biery, Kirby Fecht, Connie Flesner and Pastor Adam Dichsen. Absent: Delmer Schlueter.

Merlin Gronewold called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Linley Bartell led the devotions. Kirby Fecht will lead the devotions in January.

The minutes from the regular meeting of December 9, 2010, were reviewed. Linley Bartell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mary Sargent seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Petitions and Communications

Pastor Adam had received a thank-you note from the Doug Jones family for the use of the church. They greatly appreciate the support and care they have received in this difficult time.

Financial Secretary's Report

The Financial Secretary's Report dated December 31, 2010, was reviewed. The unbudgeted receipts included prepaid pledges, the Welcome Center, Thrivent for the food pantry, Shepherd's pantry, Craft and Bake Sale, Bibles, wreathes, and Sunday School. Kirby Fecht made a motion to accept the Financial Secretary's Report as printed. Linley Bartell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Hartweg presented the Treasurer's Report dated December 31, 2010. Discussion followed that included the transfer of the choir director's salary. It went to the organ fund in 2009 and the tower fund in 2010. Shawn Gutting made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. John Adkins seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education (Erin Biery) –Erin reported that the Christmas program went very well. Thanks to Pastor Adam, Karen Dichsen, Susan Stott and Linley Bartell for their hard work. Sunday School is now getting back into the swing of things. Pastor reported that 15 people met the first week in the Good Grief group and 12 the second week for a total of 17 participants. The weather has played a part in the last week. It has been a good success. With the growing number of young children between ages 0-3, a Cradle Roll would like to be implemented. A list would be put on a bulletin board to encourage us to pray for these young ones. Newsletters would be sent to the homes with information about growth and development not only physically, but emotionally and spiritually as well. Discussion was held at the Finance meeting to support this outreach to encourage and empower their Baptismal promises.

Evangelism (Connie Flesner) –Connie discussed that the Christmas open house went well. She thanked all who helped in any way. A total of \$608 was raised for the Ministerial Alliance. Pastor and Connie had met during the week to discuss the responsibility of the committee. A system to send notes to visitors will be worked out. The committee would like to support a concert again during the year. Pastor reported that PASS GO (Parents after Something Special, Going Out) will be held on Friday, February 11, from 6-8 pm. Pastor has talked with Kathy Ehler to develop a time for young couples with children to have an evening out and babysitting available at church. Pastor and Connie also discussed an upcoming project for Lent involving nails. John Dittmer volunteered some flat-head nails that will work wonderfully for this ministry.

Fellowship (Mary Sargent) –Mary reported that two people attended the last movie. The next movie, *Fireproof*, will be February 19. The meal will be at 5:30 and the movie will begin at 6:00. There are openings for fellowship refreshments. The annual

meeting will have the potluck in the Parish Hall and the meeting in the Welcome Center. She will need help setting up. Pastor discussed the YAYAHs, the Young and Young at Heart group. They will go ice skating on Saturday, February 12 in Macomb.

Finance (Shawn Gutting) –Shawn reported that the Finance Committee met on Tuesday, January 11. Several items were discussed and proposed. The portfolio grew 6% in 2009 and 9½% in 2010. Mike Jurgens will meet with the Church Council and the Finance Committee at 6:00 on Thursday, February 10. Shawn Gutting made a motion, on recommendation of the Finance Committee, to give \$200 to Ramo Stott's mission work in the Philippines. John Dittmer seconded. Motion carried. Shawn Gutting made a motion, on recommendation of the Finance Committee, to reimburse Pastor Adam \$171.31 for items not picked up from the Angel Tree. Linley Bartell seconded. Motion carried.

Shawn discussed a request from the Relevant Ministry from the Gulf Coast that the Youth had helped this past summer. They are conducting a capital campaign to hire a second intern to help them. They currently have 2 employees and 1 intern. They have asked 20 churches to give \$200 per month for a total of \$2400 to help with this. Shawn Gutting, on recommendation of the Finance Committee, made a motion to give a one-time donation of \$250. We could revisit this project later after we see how their work continues. Dave Hartweg seconded. Motion carried.

Shawn discussed that the dues to Kiwanis Club for Pastor Adam had been paid by the church. Pastor has helped with the Builder's Club at the Middle School and the Toy Share project among several others. It is a great way to tell the community about our church and what is happening here. For instance, Share the Harvest was discussed and then Carla Mudd became involved with our celebration. Shawn Gutting made a motion

to pay the \$120 dues for Pastor for Kiwanis Club. Linley Bartell seconded. Motion carried.

The Cradle Roll was discussed. The newsletters and items would cost \$600 to outreach to 30 children as they go from 0-3 years old. Shawn Gutting made a motion, on recommendation of the Finance Committee, to purchase these materials with \$300 from the Marie Fecht Outreach Fund, since some of the families are not members, and \$300 from the Special Fund. Connie Flesner seconded. Motion carried.

Memorial (John Dittmer) –no report.

Property (Delmer Schlueter) –Pastor asked about the van repair. The "hammer method" to start the van is questionable at best. Shawn Gutting said he would take care of getting the starter and the van window repaired.

Social Ministry (Galen Krieg) –Galen reported that several Financial Peace University programs were in the area starting in January and February. On the recommendation of the past leader, it would be best to spread these out. The packets are here and ready to go when the time is right.

Stewardship (John Adkins) –John explained the offering envelopes.

Worship & Music (Linley Bartell) –Linley reported a substitute organist will be needed on February 20. The new choir folders have arrived. A pianist will be needed for April for rehearsals and the Easter services.

Youth (Kirby Fecht) – Kirby reported that the skiing numbers were low. Three went skiing and five attended. They stayed at Holy Trinity in Dubuque. Perhaps next year it will be an intergenerational event. The High School Bible study is going well. Fourteen attended yesterday's second lunch, which has almost tripled the numbers last year. Pastor reported the Christmas

party held on January 2 was very nice. The SouperBowl of Caring will be held on Sunday, January 30. A separate offering of donations of money or food will be held for the Shepherd's pantry. The soup kitchen, Feeding the FaithFULL, will also be that day.

Ministerial Alliance (Pastor Adam) –Pastor reported the Ministerial Alliance met last week and talked about the Lenten services and community services. It was a council consensus that we like having our own Lenten services.

Pastor's Report –Pastor discussed his written report. We have an incredible building and have raised \$91,000 to pay off the Welcome Center and the renovations. Now we have an incredible opportunity to build our Body of Christ. We have our GIFT (Generation in Faith Together) and now we have the "GIFT Center", a great facility for Sunday School, Sewing, Bible study, Feeding the FaithFULL and much more. It's not just our dream but God's dream and it is our responsibility to make it a reality.

Old Business:

Church Building –Delmer has taken the decorative pieces to Dighton so they will be ready when the time comes.

Bibles—We have purchased 65 Bibles. Fifteen were for the Library and 50 are for sale. We have sold 45 and received monies to cover 40. Pastor and Merlin will share more about the pew Bibles at the annual meeting.

Soup Kitchen—Ashton Gronewold, Maddie Owak, and Pastor Adam are heading the Feeding the FaithFULL. What is the purpose of the soup kitchen? To feed people, they are hungry! Yet we also want to reach out to them, know their names, and boost their faith. It will be a restaurant style, with visiting, a greeter, and waiters. It will be Sunday, January 30. Cooking will be 11-1; serving will be 1-3 and clean-up will be 3-4. If all goes well, we can do this for a couple of months with a temporary permit. If we

continue, we will need a few modifications for the health code. Ads will be in the paper, radio and the shopper.

New Business:

Annual Meeting—A reminder was given for the annual meeting and potluck to be held on Sunday, January 23, 2011, following the worship service. Dave Hartweg will serve as chairman for the Nominating Committee of 2011-2012. Merlin will ask other members to serve with him. Kirby Fecht and Connie Flesner will run for another term. Jack Ufkes and Terry Redenius will also run for a three-year term each. The Audit Committee is council appointed. Dean Fecht, Ryan Kohl and Stephanie Stott are the current members. They also serve a three-year term.

Other – Transfer: John Adkins made a motion to accept the transfer of Pastor Adam Dichsen and Marilyn Dichsen to Trinity. Shawn Gutting seconded. Motion carried.

An expression of thanks to Linley Bartell and Merlin Gronewold for their years of service to the church council was given. A blessing and prayer was given by Pastor Adam.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 10, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

Since there was no other business, Galen Krieg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Kirby Fecht seconded. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Flesner
Council Secretary

ADDRESS CHANGES

Eileen Logan
719 Questover Drive
Carthage, IL 62321

John & Denise Schwartz
610 S. Marion Street
Carthage, IL 62321

CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

Karen, Marilyn, Benen, and I want to thank you all *so very much* for the love and generosity you have shown to us this Christmas! We are so grateful that God has brought us here with you to “*celebrate Christ’s love as we welcome, encourage, and serve God’s people.*” May the Lord bless and keep you into a new year of God’s surprising grace! God bless, Pastor Adam

BE LIKE JESUS LOCK-IN, CONCERT & SERVICE EVENT!

On March 25-26th, all 3rd-8th graders are invited to the “Be Like Jesus” 24 hour servant event. Participating in service to the Metro St. Louis community, the event will be filled with music, serving, games, and fun. We depart Carthage at 3:30 on Friday and meet at Faith Lutheran Church in O’Fallon, IL, for food, games, and commissioning for our service. We will have a lock-in at the church and wake up on Saturday to head out in service. Youth will be divided into small groups by gender and age and are led by high school and college youth with the assistance of participating adults. All activities will be done in small groups. Some of our service activities include: making fleece blankets, collecting food for the food pantry, yard work, purchasing items at Walmart for helping organizations, and much more. Service projects will impact the local, national, and global community. Saturday evening, we will finish with a concert and celebration, then return to Carthage by 10pm. This is a great way to teach young people of the simple things they can “Be Like Jesus” and share God’s love with others! Contact Pastor Adam if you are interested in participating or chaperoning.

THANKS FOR THE GOLF BALLS!

Wow, Matthew 21:22 says, “Ask and you shall receive...” God wasn’t kidding! I asked for 168 golf balls for a project and you responded! I have reached my goal and then some! Thanks for you help and be looking for them in a sermon down the road. God bless, Pastor Adam

PASS GO!

Parents... how about a date night this Valentine’s Day? Karen and I have been reading about how important it is both to a marriage and to a family to have regular date nights... but then life happens! I suspect it’s similar for you, so Trinity would like to help. We want to encourage you to PASS GO (Parents After Something Special Going Out). Drop your kids off at the church and head out for some “you” time. Babysitting will be available from 6-8pm on Friday, February 11th at Trinity. Please RSVP at the church office by Wednesday, February 9. Now, make some plans and *PASS GO!*

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

We will be holding an orientation for those interested in becoming members of Trinity. The orientation will be on Sundays, February 6th and 13th, with lunch at 11:30 and discussion from 12-1. The new member welcome will be during worship on February 20th. If you are interested, please let Pastor Adam know.

ODD JOBS?

Ecclesiastes 3:13 says, “It is a gift from God to be able to eat and drink and experience the good that comes from every kind of hard work,” but sometimes, it is hard to find work. Some church members and others in the community have come to me looking for help with finding work as a source of extra income. My first thought was to offer some work around the church, but our staff does an excellent job and others enjoy giving their time, talents, and treasures through volunteering. So, the council recommended that I go to you. Would any of you have any jobs to be done around the house or farm that you would be willing to hire someone to do? Or, are you looking for some extra work to help pay the bills? If so, please come let me know and I will help get you together. Just another way to celebrate Christ’s love!
– Pastor Adam

NEW MEMBERS IN DECEMBER

This past December, we welcomed five new members to the family of Trinity. Dave Vincent became a member through the waters of Baptism and his wife Ronda (daughter of Loren and Connie Schulz), affirmed her Baptism. The Vincents are from Bonaparte, Iowa. Also welcomed as new members through Baptism were Lacie Anne and Landon Robert Gronewold (children of Rob Gronewold) and Kyen Lee Mayes (daughter of Alyssa Mayes and granddaughter of Loren and Connie Schulz). *We welcome you into the Body of Christ and into the mission we share!*

FEEDING THE FAITHFULL

When our youth group returned from Mississippi last summer, they were moved by their experience of serving in a soup kitchen and wondered, "Why don't we start on in Carthage?!" Well, after planning and praying, we are going to give it a try! Sunday afternoon, January 30, we will open up the fellowship hall for "Feeding the FaithFULL." It will not be your typical cafeteria style soup kitchen. Through the Shepherd's Pantry and state assistance, we trust that all have the ability to have food on their tables, so the main purpose of "Feeding the FaithFULL" is not to fill bellies, but to touch hearts. It will be restaurant style, where our guests are welcomed by a hostess and seated at a table. A waiter or waitress will welcome them, visit with them, and take drink and food orders from a small selection on the menu. Our goal is to welcome and lift up our guests as beloved children of God, making a relationship that will nourish their spirits even when their stomachs are hungry again. If you are interested in helping in any way, from cooking, serving, greeting, visiting, cleaning, planning, etc., just let Kirby Fecht, Ashton Gronewold, or Pastor Adam know.

TRINITY MOVIE NIGHT - "FIREPROOF"

On February 19th, come and see a different sort of Valentine's Day movie. Fireproof is the story of a heroic firefighter that rescues lives for a living, yet is allowing his marriage to die. He takes a challenge, far greater than any burning building, to seek God's help, turn his life around, and rescue his marriage. Whether you are married, divorced, single, or widowed, come see the power of love when God is the foundation of our relationships. Join us at 5:30 for a potluck meal, watch the movie at 6, and stick around for the discussion to end at 9.

TRINITY FAMILY UPDATE

January has been a month to recognize the gift of life in various ways. We grieve the loss of Gary Vest as he entered life eternal on January 18. We also celebrate with Ryan and Sarah Kohl as they welcomed their daughter, Elizabeth, into their arms on January 12. Elizabeth and her new cousin, Kenneadi (daughter of Darin and Emily Kohl) will be baptized on February 20.

YOUNG ADULT'S OUTING

Young adults (and young at heart) are invited to join us in Macomb for ice-skating and pizza on Saturday, February 12th. We will meet at the church at 5pm, head to the ice skating rink at Ball Fore Family Entertainment Center on the west edge of Macomb (\$2), then head to Aurelio's for pizza. Please join us for a fun night of fellowship!