

TRINITY'S GOOD NEWS

Volume 1 Issue 10

October 2011

Dear Friends and Family at Trinity,

Karen, the kids, and I took a quick vacation to Colorado to visit family and play in the mountains this past month. We all had a blast scrambling over rocks, crossing mountain streams, and hiking with backpacks with straws coming out of them (Marilyn and Benen were especially intrigued!). But when we returned to Carthage, something really surprised us. It wasn't the lack of mountains or rough rocky terrain. We were shocked by the lack of green! In Colorado, valleys were filled with green grasses and evergreen trees climbing up to the timberline, but here, the green has all but left us. Fields of corn have withered and have been cut, the beans are yellowed and dry, the leaves on the trees in our yard have changed and cover the ground, and the grass... well, it hasn't been green for months! It's enough to send one into despair... but there is hope.

Someone recently reminded me of the verse from Isaiah 40:8 – *"The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever."* Some of this withering and fading is caused by heat and drought, and some is just the change of the seasons, the natural order that God has created. Yet there is one thing that is not affected by the seasons. It doesn't wither from heat or lack of water. It isn't knocked out by the frost. It doesn't change with the seasons. *"The word of our God will stand forever!"*

We all go through drought and change. The loss of a loved one. A health issue. An argument or disagreement with family or friends. Emotional stress. There are times in our lives when the beautiful colors can fade to blah. When it comes to grass and flowers, we know that spring will come... but when it comes to our lives and our hearts, sometimes we are left wondering.

In these times, hear the voice of Isaiah – *"The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God will stand forever!"* In these times, look to God's word, open your Bible, send your roots deep into the waters of God's grace. For Jeremiah writes, *"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord... they shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit"* (Jeremiah 17:7-8).

May your roots find nourishment in God's grace this fall and whenever the grass withers and the flowers fade.

God bless,
Pastor Adam

October Birthdays

- 10/01 Debbie Housewright, Kristin Huls
10/03 Jody Miller
10/04 Arlis Dittmer
10/07 Kameron Miller
10/08 Connie Flesner
10/11 Philip Weid
10/14 Jessica Ruhs
10/16 Stephen Weid, Melissa Moore,
Stephen Hartweg
10/17 Karen Gronewold
10/19 Darlene Harrell, John Malloy
10/21 Karol Carr
10/22 Brenda Seaver, Gerald Brown
10/24 Brad Schardon, Jack Ufkes,
Dave Vincent
10/27 Caitlin Clostermery, Kenny Sargent
10/29 Bailey Boyer
10/30 Carol Schoch, Karen Dichsen

October Anniversaries

- 10/04 Dean & Angie Fecht
10/07 Michael & Melissa Moore
10/21 Ron & Susie Schulz
10/22 Alan & Debbie Housewright
10/23 Matt & Brooke Schaer

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 August 31, 2011

Current

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$94,100
Amt. Received YTD - \$82,907
Amt. Spent YTD - \$87,800
Current Fund Balance: (\$3,629.29)

Benevolence

Amt. Budgeted YTD - \$12,553
Amt. Received YTD - \$14,521

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

Hand & Bath Soap

Laundry & Dish Soap

Baby Food & Formula

Paper Towels, Kleenex & Toilet Tissue

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

BUILDING RENOVATION UPDATE

As of September 11, 2011, the amount given for the building renovation totals \$66,550. This amount has surpassed our second goal of \$65,000. To date we have spent \$82,971. With the other funds that we have available we should be able to complete this project. Please continue to support the Welcome Center fund so we can continue to pay off the \$49,234 left in borrowed funds. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

September 8, 2011

Present: Erin Biery, Kirby Fecht, Connie Flesner, Dave Hartweg, Galen Krieg, Terry Redenius, Mary Sargent, Delmer Schlueter, Jack Ufkes, and Pastor Adam Dichsen.
Absent: John Adkins and John Dittmer

President Jack Ufkes called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Pastor Adam led the devotions and the period of study for the life and work of the church. We will reflect on one of these devotional texts each month. Erin Biery will lead the devotions on Proverbs 22:6 next month.

The minutes from the regular meeting of August 8, 2011, were reviewed. Kirby Fecht made a motion to approve the minutes. Galen Krieg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Petitions and Communications

Pastor had received a thank-you letter from Stephanie Watson for the care and compassion shown the Hancock County Nursing Home the last 41 years. He shared a note with an update of Pastor Hale's family and their mission. Pastor also received a thank-you from a family for the help from the Shepherd's Pantry. Connie read a thank-you note from Francesco Manuel.

Pastor also shared the invitation for the installation of Rev. Dr. S. John Roth as Bishop of the Synod. It will be held Saturday, October 15, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Springfield. The reception will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church.

Pastor's Report

Pastor shared his written report of the month of September. It included updates of the youth group, confirmation, the Sunday School Rally and the Faith Stepping Stones. The notable happenings were numerous and include the steeple dedication and PALS reading at the elementary school.

Financial Secretary's Report

The Financial Secretary's Report dated August 31, 2011, was reviewed. Dave Hartweg discussed the miscellaneous receipts. Delmer Schlueter made a motion to approve the Financial Secretary's Report as printed. Pastor Adam seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Hartweg presented the Treasurer's Report dated August 31, 2011. Discussion followed. The current income is down. The Church Mutual hail claim should be settled soon. Kirby Fecht made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Mary Sargent seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education (Erin Biery) –Erin reiterated that the Sunday School Rally will be Sunday, September 11, as Pastor discussed in his report. Pastor discussed the "Playground Venture" and passed out a possible "blueprint" idea. Dave discussed that prayer garden was an original idea for that area between the two buildings when the Welcome Center was built. The thought was the area would be landscaped as a place where people could go since the church is often locked. It was put on the back burner since so much was owed on the Welcome Center. Discussion included perhaps both ideas could be incorporated.

Evangelism (Connie Flesner) –Connie reminded the council the Matt Dibler concert will be held Sunday, October 30. Roadside clean-up will take place sometime in October as well.

Fellowship (Mary Sargent) –Mary reported there will be a potluck on Sunday, September 18 for the Steeple dedication. Refreshments are taken care of for September.

Finance (John Dittmer) –Pastor reported John has been watching the funds. There will be a Finance committee meeting soon.

Memorial (John Dittmer) –no report.

Property (Delmer Schlueter) –Delmer reported that work should be done Saturday if there are no complications. The round

windows also need some other repairs. Dave and Jack also discussed the towers, the insurance, and Serve Pro. Dave Hartweg made a motion to pay Inspired Heights the initial \$7,000 material deposit, if we have the money available. Kirby Fecht seconded. Insurance said the check was issued today. No further discussion. Motion carried. Delmer Schlueter made a motion to fix the four deteriorating round windows. Dave Hartweg seconded. Motion carried.

Social Ministry (Galen Krieg) –Galen reported that Financial Peace will meet on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Flyers are around town and information has been on the radio. Galen will be the teacher. The First Christian Church has had discussion to offer scholarships for this.

Regina's church computer crashed before the delivery of the last newsletter. Since it was under warranty it has been fixed. The PA system also broke down and was repaired. It will be delivered in the morning.

Stewardship (John Adkins) – The question was raised could we go to e-mail for the pledge cards and mailings. We are unsure of the date for the stewardship banquet.

Worship & Music (Terry Redenius) –Terry brought a carpet sample for the sanctuary. It is a similar color to the current carpet with an updated look. It blends quite nicely with the carpet from the Welcome Center.

Youth (Kirby Fecht) –Kirby added to the Pastor's report about the Youth meeting on the first and third Sundays. Feeding the FaithFULL has been going well so the kitchen sink will need to be updated. Kirby made a motion to add the additional sink, faucet and garbage disposal. MaryAnn Garrelts and Evelyn Briley will be consulted. Erin Krieg seconded. Motion carried.

Ministerial Alliance (Pastor Adam) –High School Bible study is held during Wednesday lunch hours at Calvary. Hunger Fest is set for October 23 at the Presbyterian Church. The community Thanksgiving service is Sunday, November 20, at the First Christian Church.

Old Business:

Bibles –Pastor reported that we could get 50 Bibles at the price of \$25. We have about 43. An order will be placed at the beginning of October. They will be dedicated on Reformation Sunday.

Other – Discussion was held about the use of the Welcome Center and its charges. The Executive Committee will meet to discuss procedures and talk with the Petersons.

New Business:

Pastor Adam discussed that the 90-day trial period for the secretary will be over September 20. Delmer Schlueter made a motion to raise the salary to \$9.00 per hour. Mary Sargent seconded. Motion carried.

The staff support committee will talk with the employees.

Share the Harvest will be held on Sunday, October 9, at the Minor Garrelts farm.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 13, at 7 p.m.

Since there was no other business, Galen Krieg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Kirby Fecht seconded. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Flesner, Council Secretary

Thank You

Words cannot express our thanks for all the calls, cards, and prayers from our brothers and sisters here at Trinity during the passing of our mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother Thelma "Tee" Dycus. A very special thank you to Pastor Adam Dichsen for his constant presence and words of hope, promise, and comfort during this very difficult time. We are all truly blessed and surrounded by love.

Susie & Ron Schulz, Joshua Schulz, Jeremy Schulz, Jennifer & Cory Clostermery, and Caitlin, Jacob, and Cara Clostermery.

Choir News

Choir will be rehearsing each Wednesday evening from 7:00-8:00 p.m. We would like to welcome any new members who would like to join us.

Pew Bibles

We are about ready to place an order for Pew Bibles. If you would like to purchase Bibles in Memory/Honor/To Glory of God, please fill out a form and submit it with \$25 per Bible by October 2. Forms are on the table in the Welcome Center. The pew bibles will be dedicated Reformation Sunday on October 30.

Share the Harvest

As summer winds down and combine gear up, make sure you have our Share the Harvest "Harvest Celebration" on your calendars for Sunday, October 9th. We'll be at the Garrelt's farm again this year for worship, food, games, and a great time for fellowship. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Jerry Bartell or Merlin Gronewold.

Reformation Sunday Chili Dump and Concert

Join us for food, fellowship and faith through music on Sunday, October 30, at 5:00 p.m. here at "Old Trinity". We will have a "Chili Dump" at 5:00 p.m. in the Welcome Center. Please bring a quart of chili and we will mix them all together to get a delicious tantalizing soup to enjoy. Then at 6:00, go with us to the Sanctuary for a concert with Matt Dibler. Matt has been in our area before sharing his faith through his music. A free-will love offering will be taken.

Ladies Bible Study - Oct. 13th. At 7 pm

The group is starting a 9 month session on the gospel of Mark. At present the members are all of the "older" generation. We would welcome ladies of all ages because discussion with different viewpoints make the sessions more interesting.

We meet the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 pm in the parish hall. The Oct 13th session will introduce us to Mark 2:1-3:35. The theme verse is "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." Mark 3:35.

Please feel free to join us as we ask questions and look for answers.

Doris Holtsclaw (357-2737)

HUGS

The HUGS (Helping Us Give Support) Cancer Support Group will meet on Sunday, October 9, 2011, at 5 PM at Craig and Jetty Calvert's home in Carthage (1918 East County Road 1670). At the stoplight in Carthage, turn north on Rt. 94. Go to Sherwood Oaks on the right side of the highway. Turn into Sherwood Oaks and go to the last road in the section. Turn right again and watch for the sign on the left.

This is the yearly wiener roast provided by the HUGS Board. Come and enjoy the friendship and support from the Board and others.

HUGS supports people impacted by cancer by offering monthly meetings for fellowship and education. Financial assistance is also available through HUGS. For example, any resident of Hancock County who is undergoing cancer treatment is eligible for up to \$150 a year in the form of either a gas card to be used at any Casey's General Store or a gift certificate redeemable at any Hancock County pharmacy for medications or supplies. Additional assistance may be granted in cases of greater need, if funds are available. Funds are received from donation, township drives or memorials.

For more information about HUGS or to donate or request an application for financial assistance, contact Florine Dixon at Memorial Hospital, 217-357-8565, or Jetty Calvert at 217-357-3884.

Church Fall Party

Come on out for a congregation fall party at Brent and Angie Ufkes'. We'll roast hot-dogs, gather around a fire for fun and

fellowship, and go on hayrack rides. Party beings at 5:00. Hotdogs are provided, but please bring a side or dessert to share.

Youth News

The youth group has begun with a bang this year with some great events and new youth from Trinity and the community. Many thanks to our leaders, Asthon Gronewald, Dillon Darbyshire, Kirby Fecht, Maddie Owak, Sarah Foust, and Steph and Suzan Stott, for being great role models and offering ideas and leadership. Also, we have joined with Pastor Kurt and the youth of Immanuel, allowing us to build bridges and make new friendships. Coming up in October...

- 10/2 – Youth campfire and hayrack ride at Immanuel. Meet at Trinity at 5:00.
- 10/16 – “Re:Form” – Come ready to get your hands dirty as we take a stab at clay modeling and learn about how God forms and re-forms us. Meet at 5:00.
- 10/30 – Serve at “Feeding the FaithFULL” soup kitchen here at Trinity with the Methodist Youth, followed by fun and games. Meet at 11:00.

Sunday School – “Growing in God”

Sunday School in underway for our kids this fall with a new theme, “Growing in God.” We are living out the promise we made to the children and families of our congregation in baptism by encouraging them to “Grow in God” and celebrating with them along the way. Ways we encourage our kids to “Grow in God” are by coming to Sunday School, bringing friends, memorizing Bible verses, and taking time as a family each night to do the “Faith 5” (share highs and lows, read a Bible verse, talk about it, pray together, and bless one another). As kids “Grow in God,” we celebrate with them along the way with prizes. Come join us at about 10:15 with music and opening, then head to the classes to be dismissed at 11:00.

Adult Education

We have just started a new study, “The Greatest Story.” Come take a look at God’s story, from Genesis to Revelation, and see how YOU are a part of the story! We meet in the library from 10:30-11:30.

Dinner Theater – “Nun crackers”

We are taking another trip to Rock Island for a dinner theater show on Thursday, December 8. We will see “Nun crackers,” a group of loveable and irreverent nuns who get back in the habit and set out to offer their own special gifts for the Christmas season. Cost is \$40. Sign up in the Welcome Center.

Mission in the form of Meals – “Celebrating Christ’s Love...”

Every Tuesday night for the past few months, a celebration has taken place in 11 homes in Carthage and around the countryside. Members of Trinity have volunteered to prepare and deliver meals to 14 shut-ins, widows, and widowers. The meals are made at home by four families per month. Each family rotates through making a main dish, side dish, salad, or dessert. At 4:30, they gather in the Fellowship Hall, divide up the food into containers, and head out to deliver them. In the homes, the meals and fellowship are met with smiles, much appreciation, and often the question, “What can we do to thank you?” The answer? “Give thanks to God! We are living out our mission, to ‘Celebrate Christ’s Love by Welcoming, Encouraging, and Serving God’s People!’” So, in 11 homes in Carthage, around the countryside, in kitchens, in the Fellowship hall, and in cars driving around town, a celebration of Christ’s love is taking place. If you would like to join the celebration, please contact Angie Fecht or Linda Hartweg. And thank you to the many who have participated and prayed for this ministry!