

The Tower

Vol. 17, No. 1 Trinity United Methodist Church, Iron Mountain, MI www.imtrinity.org July & August 2017

Pastor's Ponderings...

CLAIM THE FLAME! It's all about *allowing* the power of the Holy Spirit to claim your life so that you have the strength and the courage to share God's grace and your love for others...

Jesus loved us so much that he answered one last question from his disciples before ascending into Heaven, saying: "...you **will** receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you..." Acts 1:8. In this Trinity United Methodist community, we receive that Holy Spirit power through our baptisms and our participation in the life of the church.

For Pentecost Sunday (June 4) a crew of people created a Pentecost flame for ALL the people who participate in the life of the church through their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their joy, and their witness...you know who you are! Each flame has a name on it...the name of a living person who has a history with and a connection to Trinity UMC. All 548 of those flames were taped to the walls of the Sanctuary so that the gift of the Holy Spirit showed up...visibly and tangibly...in our place of worship.

The colors, the sense of flames moving on the walls has given us a great way to see just how many, many people are led by the Holy Spirit to worship, pray, and live as disciples of Jesus together here, with each and all of us. (Pictures are posted on the church website: www.imtrinity.org. It's beautiful!)

Such a gift! On Father's Day Sunday, the people in worship were invited to walk by all of the walls and choose particular flames to take home with them. We were encouraged to let the Holy Spirit move us as we each '**Claim the Flame**' for particular names that draw our attention. That may be family members. Or people you've known for a long time. Or even people you've never met. That's how the Holy Spirit works!

Those in worship that day were encouraged to take as many flames off the wall as they wanted and then to '**Claim the Flame**' on behalf of the

people named on their flames. Put them on your refrigerator in the kitchen. The dashboard of your car. The mirror in your bathroom. The wall of your cubicle at work. In your Bible...wherever you can see that person's name and **pray for them**. It can be a simple prayer...*Holy Spirit...Thank you for your power in the life of _____.* *May he/she feel your love and use your power... Amen.*

This has been such a rich and rewarding experience that we decided to share with all of those who receive *The Tower*. You will see on page three a flame that has not yet been claimed. This is your chance to '**Claim the Flame.**' This is your person to lift up in prayer...to wonder about, maybe even to contact if you are so moved. Know that you are being prayed for as well. We are all caring and sharing, claiming and naming each other through the Holy Spirit!

If your prayers inspire you to find out more about the people on your flames, please feel free to contact the following people who can give you information, including whatever we have in the church phone directory: Joyce Erickson at 774-9279, or Pastor Geri and Sally Verley at 774-2545.

You may be moved to send someone a card. Or call and invite them for coffee. That's the Holy Spirit working in and through you and the others at Trinity as we support and encourage each other in our faithfulness to God.

Praise be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

Pastor Geri



...actively invite...

Please join us in celebrating the life of Marilyn Phillips on Saturday, July 29 here at Trinity. Visitation will be from 1:00-2:00, with a service at 2:00, followed by fellowship, snacks, and desserts. In lieu of gifts or flowers, and in honor of how Marilyn served others, please show an act of kindness in her memory.



Farewell to Greg and Diana Hunt!

Greg and Diana Hunt will be moving away this summer. We're having a farewell gathering in their honor on Sunday, July 30 following the 9:15 a.m. worship service. Please come and wish them well!



United Men in Ministry will have a fundraising cookout at Econo Foods, Saturday, August 12 from 9:30 to 4:00.

Eat, Stay, and Pray—Community Prayer Service, Wednesdays, 5:45 to 6:15 p.m. This is an ecumenical prayer opportunity in the Sanctuary. A chance to pray to God. To listen for the Spirit of God. To be together in the hope of Jesus Christ. It's open to our community meal guests and available to all the folks at Trinity who are not able to make it to church on Sunday mornings...and for anyone who wants a chance to pray in community during the week. If Sunday morning worship is a chance to get closer to God, then check it out and see what God can do on Wednesday nights!

"Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at his disposition, and listening to his voice in the depth of our hearts." —Mother Teresa



Who are the United Methodist Women?

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. For more information, please call Marge Hodgins at 774-5579.

...intentional faith development...

Trinity UMC's Vacation Bible School "Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God" is Monday to Friday, August 7 to 11, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Ages four to high school are welcome. Pre-registration is encouraged; call the church office, 774-2545. And volunteers are needed, too. Please call the church office or let Joyce Erickson, 774-9279, know if you can volunteer to help.

**VBS at Quinnesec UMC:
'Standing Firm for God Against the Lion'**

Quinnesec United Methodist Church and Calvary Lutheran Church invite the children of our church to Vacation Bible School, July 10-12, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. It will take place at Quinnesec United Methodist Church, 677 Division St., Quinnesec. For more information, please call QUMC at 774-7971.



Our Church Picnic is Sunday, August 27 at Lake Antoine. Watch your Sunday bulletins for more details.

Opportunities to be of Service:

Summer brings some special, seasonal opportunities to serve God through this Trinity UMC.

For example:

1. Pulling weeds in the flower beds (which are lovely this year!)
2. Helping Don Yuhasey with ushering—he'll fill you in on how to do it. Please check the available dates on the sign-up clipboard in the Gathering Room.
3. Bringing fans up to the Sanctuary from the Fellowship Hall on those hot and steamy Sundays for a more comfortable worship experience. (There are plenty of electrical outlets along the walls.)

Feel free to step up and help! If you have questions, check with Pastor Geri or Sally in the office...774-2545. Thanks for whatever you can do, in the name of Jesus!

Serving in Worship in July and August

Offering Counters:

July 2
July 9
July 16 Tami & Mary Slagle, & Joyce Trevillian
July 23
July 30

August 6
August 13
August 20
August 27



Liturgists:

July 2	9:15	
July 9	9:15	Barbara Sandberg
July 16	9:15	Lea Varda
July 23	9:15	
July 30	9:15	
August 6	9:15	Kyle Shemanski
August 13	9:15	Nathan Ruble
August 20	9:15	Drew Champagne
August 27	9:15	Jill Noyce

Projection System Operators:

Greg Hunt
Kyle Shemanski
Maddie Ryan
Dean Laitinen
Dean Laitinen

Cameron Mulka
Kyle Shemanski
Maddie Ryan

Junior Worship Leaders: See the sign-up sheet at the door of the Junior Worship room.

Ushers: See the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room.

...exploring the life-changing message of Jesus...

Preacher's Corner

There are those who maintain that *the primary gateway to the soul is the ear. By definition, the disciples of faith are first and foremost listeners. The very word 'disciple' means 'the one who listens and learns.'*ⁱ We will spend the month of July listening for the voice of Jesus. As always, the Bible gives us insight and instruction for tuning the ears of our hearts, like the receivers on radios, to the Jesus channel. Through our baptism, our hearts and souls are already calibrated to receive the words of Jesus...we just have to learn how to recognize his voice among all the other voices and noises which surround us. As we come to recognize His unique and loving voice, it can become as familiar as our own heartbeats.ⁱⁱ The voice of Jesus can soothe and calm us. Inspire and enliven us. Heal and save us. Let's listen for it together.



July 2, Luke 24:36-49, Psalm 33 'Be Not Afraid'
July 9, John 20:24-29, James 2:19-21 'Imperfect Pitch'
July 16, John 21:1-14, Hebrews 5:7-14 'Chattering Teeth'
July 23, John 21:15-19, John 3:8 'Listen to the Wind'
July 30, Acts 9:10-19, Romans 10:8-18 'Have They Not Heard...'

The LORD is my solid rock... Psalm 18. In August, we will consider the way our lives are built on the solid rock foundation of God's promises. We'll use the Psalms to remind us of God's steadfast nature, calling each of us to be steadfast as well in our commitment to Jesus and the Church. While you're on vacation and re-creating for the summer, go ahead (if it's legal!) and pick up a rock that you can bring into worship in August to share with the congregation. We'll arrange rocks in the altar area to make visual the way God tends to us, even in the rockiest times of our lives.

August 6, Psalm 18 'God is Good!'
August 13, Psalm 61 'God Lifts Us Up...'
August 20, Psalm 27 'Shelter in the Storm'
August 27, Psalm 19 'Rock On!'

Come and be blessed by the words of God for the People of God. Thanks be to God!

ⁱ Sweet, Leonard and Frank Viola, *Jesus Speaks: Learning to Recognize and Respond to the Lord's Voice*, W. Publishing, Nashville, 2016 p. xv.

ⁱⁱ Ibid, p. xiv

...connect with others...

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Please pray for them on their special day.

- July 1 Bill Verrette, Wilma Verrette
Tony Cavaliere
2 Megan Flaminio, Kristy Ryan
3 Frank & Betsy Trumbell
4 Rick Thompson
6 Charlotte Hosking
10 Jeff & Jessica Simon
11 Patrick & Katie Kennedy
Doug & Iris Machus
13 Aimee Tatangelo
14 Kayle Ahola
15 Tom Turner, Ryan & Becky Person
16 Robert Teikari, Debi Tirschel
17 Chris Bruns, Nathan & Daniele Ruble
18 Shane Barnes, Beulah DuCharme
19 Keith Granger, Mariann Waldbillig
Terry & Koni Lindholm
20 Jerry Reddinger, Carly Smith
22 Dolly Richards
23 Ward Trevillian, Todd & Lea Varda
24 Cindi Strehlow, Jan Thompson
Neil & Carol Annear
25 Brad Harry, Vance & Dorleen Uhazie
26 Marsha Bonicatto, Jill Noyce
Dennis & Pam Smart
27 Elijah Champagne, Paul Grenier
Chris James
29 Cathy Lesandrini, Daniele Ruble
30 Mike & Chris Bruns
Robert & Kim Hostettler
31 Scott & Kim Thiry

Hospitalized since our last issue: Carol Annear, Sue Paternoster, Barbara Sandberg, Stacy Summerfield

Our condolences to Cheryl Quick, whose father, Gilbert Witte, died June 14.

Congratulations to Chris and Stacy Summerfield on the birth of a daughter, Brynlee Marie, on June 6. Grandmother is Janis Nord. Great-grandparents are Jon and Alice Nord.

Congratulations to Steve and Roxanne (Freeman) Hudson, who were married March 21.

Henry Darrel Ruble was baptized on June 18. Henry was born January 31, 2017 to Nathan and Daniele (Rose) Ruble, and he has a brother Luke and a sister Abby.

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

Please pray for them on their special day.

- Aug. 2 Devlin Hilyard, Nolan Hilyard
3 Renèe Grenier, Henry London
5 Nick Laydon, Tony Tatangelo
6 Paige Fortner, Tammy Hodgins
Beverly Lindberg, Steve Mulka
7 Michael Phillips, Tony & Aimee Tatangelo
8 Amanda Hindes, Kim Hostettler
Stanley Ritsema
9 Robert Constantini, Daunte Fortner
Keith Mashak
10 Janis Nord, Jennifer Rietveld, Isabella Smart
12 Brad Reddinger, Adam & Kristy Ryan
13 Jill Baciak
15 Beverly Carollo, Chris Champagne
Hunter Fortner, Bella Hayes, Gus Hayes
16 Alaina Reddinger, Nathan Ruble
Gaylyn Ziehm
17 Robert & Deidre Teikari
18 Brad & Melissa Reddinger
19 Derek Rose, Greg & Lori Sorensen
20 Ian Driscoll
21 Jay & Kerri Harry, Jack & Jill Noyce
22 Steve Cavaliere
23 Timothy Recla, Virginia West
24 Mark & Courtney Edlebeck
25 Paul Langer, Dawn Riutta, Piper Strehlow
26 Judy Thompson, Joy Waldbillig
27 Chris Langer, Kim Mariucci
29 Larry Bonicatto, Steve Davidson
Kennedy Richards, Robin Rose
Jesse Wahlstrom, Bruce & Kathryn Bilgreen
30 Tim & Nannette Harris
31 Alice Nord, Heidi Reddinger
Chris & Stacy Summerfield

Congratulations to Dan and Devon (Rose) Rushford, who were married at Trinity on June 24.

“Dear Friends: Thank you for your donation of \$299.45, and for designating Bay Cliff your February Mission of the Month. This gift will be used to provide therapy and activities for children who attend the camp, helping them to learn independence and to live fuller and more successful lives”

--Tim Bennett, Director, Bay Cliff Health Camp



**8:00 and 10:30 worship
will return on Sunday,
September 10.**

Celebrating Our 2017 Graduates:



Lucas James Cavalieri is the son of Steve and Debby Cavalieri. He is a graduate of Iron Mountain High School. In high school, Lucas participated in chorus, band, cross country, and track. He was also a member of the honor society, and the varsity, environmental, and key clubs. He helped with horseback riding for the handicapped and Kids on the Block puppet troupe. Lucas will attend Northern Michigan University for his bachelor's in physical therapy. He will then go on to Michigan State University for his doctorate in physical therapy.

Megan Lehane DeLano is the daughter of Bud and Denise DeLano. She's a graduate of Marquette University. She will be receiving her Master's Degree in Physician Assistant Studies. In the fall, she will be relocating to Salt Lake City, Utah, to work as a Reconstructive Plastic Surgery PA-C.

Paige Fortner is the daughter of Kirk and Laura Fortner, and granddaughter of Barbara Clemo, and Joe and Karen Fortner. She is a graduate of Iron Mountain High School. In high school, Paige participated in basketball, volleyball, and softball. She was a member of YAC, Key Club, Science Olympiad, Tri-Hi-Y, student council, and was vice-president of her senior class. She was a member of the North Dakota mission team her sophomore year, and has volunteered at the DCHS emergency department, and at the VA Hospital. Paige will attend St. Norbert College in the fall, majoring in nursing.

Sierra Fortner is the daughter of Derek and Kristin Fortner, and the granddaughter of Joe and Karen Fortner. She is a graduate of Kingsford High School. In high school, she participated in volleyball for four years, and soccer and track for one year. Sierra plans to attend Northern Michigan University in the fall to pursue a degree in radiography.

Marchella Mariucci is the daughter of Tino and Kim Mariucci of Norway. She is a graduate of Norway High School. She is the sister of Gino and the granddaughter of Joe and Karen Fortner. Marchella has participated in sideline and competitive cheer for four years, has been a member of YAC and chorus, and has held down a part-time job. She has been on the honor roll and was Student of the Week. She will be attending Bay West in Iron Mountain to become an x-ray technician.

Cameron Mulka is the son of Steve and Wendy Mulka. He is the grandson of Henry and Joyce London. Cameron is a graduate of Kingsford High School. In high school, Cameron has participated in band, jazz band, football, tennis, cross country, track, baseball, swimming, and basketball. His volunteer work at church includes operating the projection system and helping with the meal program, and he went on the North Dakota mission trip. He will attend Michigan Technological University and major in electrical engineering.

Congratulations to Cameron Mulka, who was awarded our 2017 Marie Bleecker Scholarship for graduating high school seniors.

“Dear Rev. Geri Hamlen & Trinity children:
Thank you for your Penny Jar donation to our loan closet. We are especially pleased to see children caring to help us help others during their illness by making available medical equipment and supplies for their use and comfort. May God bless you.”

Kay Mattson
Dickinson County Cancer Unit

In The Daily News...

The Dickinson County Cancer Unit Loan Closet would like to thank the Sunday school children of Trinity United Methodist Church for their awesome donation to our organization. These children gave weekly to a “Penny Jar.” Over time, the money built up, and through the guidance of their teachers, they made the decision to give their monies to the Cancer Loan Closet.

Negative perception of our young people seems to run rampant when, in fact, we are blessed with many wonderful children.

We are truly appreciative for Trinity's Sunday school donations and proud of their religious students for their compassion to those who are battling catastrophic illnesses. God bless you all.

--Diane L. Schabo, President,
Dickinson County Cancer Unit Loan Closet



Greetings from the Iron Mountain Area Clergy Association, aka IMACA:

We are distributing the generous offerings given by the people of this area during the Holy Week worship services in April. It is our honor to disburse them back to the community through the special programs that are working so hard to feed, shelter, support, encourage, and befriend those who are standing in need of those things and so much more.

We give thanks for your efforts to uplift and enrich the lives of those who seek and use your services. God bless you....

Trinity UMC received \$100 from the disbursement of these Holy Week funds. Praise be to God!—Rev. Ed Laarman, IMACA Secretary

...exploring the life-changing message of Jesus...

Camp Michigamme

Do you know that there is a cabin at Camp Michigamme called the Iron Mountain Cabin? Yes, Trinity has accepted the joy of adopting that cabin (Escanaba used to tend to it), and we are working with First UMC in Iron Mountain to see if they are willing to formalize their commitment and support for that cabin.

There are many United Methodists in Dickinson County who care a lot about what happens at that very special place. For example:

Wakefield UMC gave money to Camp Michigamme to buy a heater for one of the cabins, and the Iron Mountain/Escanaba cabin got it! Yay for reliable heat. Of course, there is always more to do. For example:

The signs at Camp Michigamme still say Escanaba Cabin. The new name, Iron Mountain Cabin, will probably never get any traction until there are actual wooden signs that call it by that name. Do you know anyone who would be willing to make wooden signs—one for the wall of the cabin and another for the sign, with an arrow pointing in the right direction? If we can get the signs, then at the District Annual Meeting in November, we can have a ritualized ‘changing of the name,’ so the rest of the District knows what’s going on.

The foundation challenges of our newly-adopted cabin are such that it is not going to be used this summer, in spite of the new heater. Camp Director Erica is going to see about getting a professional estimate on what needs to happen to the foundation in order to make that cabin safe. She’ll forward the

estimate to Trinity, and we’ll see about putting it out there in hopes of raising some money.

Many of you have fond memories of Camp. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Pastor Geri, and she’ll put you in touch with the right people. In the meantime, Camp is open and waiting for you, the children, and anyone who needs a break.

Thanks for all you have done on behalf of Camp Michigamme over the years. Director Erica said to tell you to come on up any time. There’s always room for people who want to help or just to rest. Room and food! Go, Camp Michigamme!
(See *July’s Mission of the Month* on page 8.)

...intentional faith development...

*Day of Inspiration (formerly “Learning Fair”)
sponsored by the Marquette District of*

The United Methodist Church

**October 7, 2017, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. EDST
Marquette Hope Connection Center
Featuring Ray Buckley**

Ray Buckley is the interim Director of the Center for Native American Spirituality and Christian Study. Buckley has served The United Methodist Church as a staff member of The United Methodist Publishing House, Director of the Native People’s Communication Office (UMCom) for nine years, and Director of Connectional Ministries for the Alaska Missionary Conference.

Most recently Buckley wrote *Hard to Dance with the Devil on Your Back* and contributed to *New Dawn in Beloved community*. Also, he is the author/illustrator of five books: *God’s Love is Like...*, *The Give-Away: A Christmas Story in the Native American Tradition*, *The Wing*, *Christmas Moccasins*, and *Dancing with Words: Storytelling as Legacy, Culture, and Faith*.

He is also the author of *Creator Sang a Welcoming Song*, and *Walking in These White Man Shoes*, children and youth resources for the Women’s Division School of Missions. *The Give-Away* was selected to appear on the CBS Christmas Eve special, *An American Christmas*, produced by the National Council of Churches. His stories, poetry, and art have appeared in numerous journals, periodicals, books, and museums.

Buckley has taught in Nigeria, and Ghana, and served as a lecturer in Native American studies for several universities.

Author/illustrator and speaker Ray Buckley is of Lakota/Tlingit/Scots descent and lives in Alaska.

...transform our community...

July's Mission of the Month is the Iron Mountain Cabin at Camp Michigamme

By Nathan Ruble

The Trinity congregation has taken over one of the cabins at Camp Michigamme. This cabin is in need of structural and aesthetic repairs.

The floor and foundation need major attention to make the cabin safe. The doors and windows all need to be replaced or touched up. Heating the cabin is one major item on the cabin list that has been completed. The inside and outside will need to be painted or stained in the near future.

Please consider giving to this Mission of the Month. (*See article on page 7.*)

August's Mission of the Month is the Hermansville United Methodist Church

(Excerpts taken from the 2017 Mission of the Year flyer)

In addition to being our August Mission of the Month, the First United Methodist Church of Hermansville is the Marquette District's Mission of the Year.

The church was built in 1898, destroyed by fire in 1903, and subsequently rebuilt. With money raised through our Mission of the Month and the District's Mission of the Year, the Hermansville church will receive a partial new roof, new gutters, and a protective covering for their windows. Any money left over will be used to repair water damage to an interior wall.

As the only Protestant church in Hermansville, they wish to remain a viable presence in the community. Thank you for giving to this Mission of the Month.

Feeding America Trucks Here This Summer

By Chris Langer

Feeding America traveling food trucks are coming here to Trinity on Saturday, August 19 and Saturday, September 16. Food distribution will start around 9:00 a.m., but it all depends on the weather and when the trucks arrive at the church. These will be our sixth and seventh semi-trucks.

I'm looking for volunteers to help with these trucks, so please call me at (906)239-6096. It has always turned out well, and lots of fun will be had, for sure. And to God be the glory, always.



The North Dakota mission team would like to thank our congregation for supporting us throughout the years. Your support is so important to this mission being successful.

This is trip number 13, and we are so excited to add a new project to our trip. Through generous donations, we were able to purchase a large playground set to honor Marilyn Phillips, who inspired us to give wholeheartedly and to share the love of Jesus, as we work and play with the people of the Spirit Lake Nation. Thank you so much to all who gave.

During the week, we will be able to put the playground set together, play with the children, and possibly put new roofs on a house or two. A full report will be in the September Tower.

--Blessings, Diana Hunt, team leader

The Vital Church Initiative is an educational program designed and used by the Michigan Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church since 2011 to inspire and challenge local congregations to let the Holy Spirit move them towards renewal, renovation, and liveliness.

Trinity UMC is in the first Upper Peninsula group of churches to participate in VCI. (They were working out the kinks before bringing it this far north!) This is an example of your apportionment dollars at work here in our very own church.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the people on the teams. Their phone numbers are in the church directory, or call the office, 774-2545.

Vital Church Initiative Reading List:

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations by Robert Schnase

'George Bullard Life Cycle of Churches' by George Bullard, available on the internet

Renovate or Die by Bob Farr & Kay Kotan

Worship Ways by Thomas Bandy w/ Lucinda Holmes

Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times by Peter Steinke

Unbinding the Gospel by Martha Grace Reese

Simple Church by Thom Ranier & Eric Geiger

The Externally Focused Church by Rick Rusaw & Eric Swanson

VCI Team Members:

VCI Away Team: Moira Cowling, Pastor Geri, Jack Noyce, Kristy Ryan, Emily Ritsema

VCI Home Team: Celeste Bancroft, Nathan Ruble, Sally Verley

...mature as disciples...

**Finance Committee Report Given at the June 11
Worship Service** By Frank Trumbell, Chair

First, the Finance Committee appreciates the financial support the membership of Trinity United Methodist Church has provided. Without that support, the programs and missions provided by Trinity would not be possible.

At the May meeting of the Finance Committee, the representative from the Staff Parish Committee brought a request and a concern voiced to members of their committee:

The request was that offering totals from the previous Sunday's giving be in the bulletin, along with the amount needed to meet expenses:

There is a fine line between informing the congregation of the financial condition of the church and seeming to be badgering the congregation to give more. Our Treasurer is providing bi-weekly information in the bulletin on giving and what is required to meet our budgeted expenses, and the Finance Committee feels that that information sufficiently explains how the giving is/isn't keeping pace with expenses. The Treasurer also lets the congregation know when it is required to borrow more from the operating expense loan to cover expenses.

A concern was expressed that, with the new software being used to keep track of membership and giving, who has access to the financial records of the giving units of the church?

The church secretary, who handles membership, and the financial secretary have different passwords that allow them access to only that part of the software that allows them to do their job, and they do not share their password with anyone else.

The Finance Committee is extremely concerned about another aspect of the church's finances, and we are fairly confident that other members of the church are also.

In order to meet the expenses of running the church (salaries, utilities, etc.), since the giving to the General Fund (i.e. operating expenses) has fallen way short of actual expenses to date, the church has had to borrow to pay bills. The operating expenses loan at First National Bank has grown to \$20,650. This is the second year that Trinity has used an operating expense loan to cover expenses.

Prior to last year, money was borrowed from the Designated Fund to cover expenses. This is a

practice that is not in line with The Book of Discipline, which addresses this in at least two places:

1. "Contributions to benevolence shall not be used for any cause other than that to which they have been given."

2. "Contributions designated for specific causes and objects shall be promptly forwarded according to the intent of the donor and shall not be used for any other purpose."

Towards the end of 2015, the Finance Committee recommended to the Church Council that, starting on January 1, 2016, the Designated Funds be separated from the General (or operating expense) Fund, and that an operating expenses line-of-credit be established with our bank. The recommendation was adopted by the Church Council.

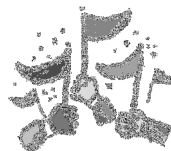
It was hoped that the need to access the operating expense loan would be infrequent. It has not worked out that way.

The Stewardship Committee will be considering a 12-month stewardship program in an attempt to increase giving to the General Fund.

The church's budget is pretty bare-bones—it is a two-page document. A task force is being formed whose four-person membership will be a representative from the following committees: Finance, Staff Parish, Worship, and Trustees. The task force will go through the budget to see if and where expenses can be cut and savings can be had.

If anyone would like a copy of the budget, they are available in the church office. It will give you an idea of what the task force will be working with as a starting point.

Thank you for this opportunity to share some of the requests and concerns the Finance Committee is dealing with, and please, if you have any questions, contact any member of the Finance Committee. If we can't answer your question immediately, you can have confidence that we will find an answer and get back to you as soon as possible.



***Fly Your Freedom Flag
with Pride! Help pay
down the loan by
remembering, honoring,
and celebrating your
loved ones.***

Annual Conference Report

By Bruce and Beth Clark

Annual Conference was held June 1-4 in Traverse City. Over 2,000 pastors, laity, guests, and staff attended. With the beginning of the new Michigan Area Conference, it becomes harder to find a place to be able to host all of us.

As always, conference is a wonderful place to meet old friends and make new friends. We enjoyed wonderful worship and music (Pastor Geri played her violin with the Praise Band). It is always so impressive to see all of the fantastic work the United Methodist Church is doing in our country and around the world!

As we move to make a new conference for the entire state of Michigan, several issues were discussed: a new Plan of Organization, a nine-district plan, and the creation of a legal and financial task force to implement this plan. All of these were approved to continue moving forward to the new conference.

Several social issues were discussed. We affirmed the biblical call to be peacemakers, including restriction of first use of nuclear weapons. Two other resolutions calling for clergy adherence to The Book of Discipline regarding human sexuality were defeated.

We also approved five constitutional amendments to the constitution. Most of these were simply word changes. The General Conference at their meeting approved these and wanted each conference to affirm them.

Thank you again for this opportunity to represent you. We will be making a report in church in the near future. Any question, please feel free to contact us at (715)696-3773, or Pastor Geri.

Minutes of the Church Council Meeting, June 19, 2017

Roll Call: Ruth Carlson, Lucy Shampo, Pastor Geri, Dean Laitinen, Jack Noyce, Frank Trumbell, Emily Ritsema, Joyce M. Erickson, and Lea Varda

Emily called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. Pastor Geri opened the meeting with talk about all the flames with names of all the people associated with Trinity. Great conversations have started among the congregation with the names. It is God's intention for us as Christians to get to know one another and build our faith community. Pastor shared a reading from 1 Corinthians 1.

The Agenda was reviewed. May minutes were reviewed. **Frank made a motion to accept the minutes, Joyce seconded. Minutes accepted.**

NURTURE

Worship Team –The team met June 11. They are working on special music for the summer worship schedule. A CCLI license has been obtained to legally use musical selections for worship. Sunday, July 30 is Greg Hunt's last day as Choir Co-Director. More computer operators for worship are needed.

Pastor Parish Relations Committee – A going-away party for Greg and Diana Hunt is planned for Sunday, July 30. Marvin Harry resigned from PPRC. Larry Marlett is recovering from a hand injury. People around Trinity are stepping in to help him out until he heals.

Membership – Joyce is working on the 1st and 2nd year membership lists, making calls and visits to those people on the lists. There has been the baptism of Henry Ruble, and interest from a couple of people about becoming members.

Christian Education – Pastor handed out a note about a Christian Education Opportunity. DAY of INSPIRATION (formerly "Learning Fair"), October 7, 2017 1 p.m.-5 p.m. at Marquette Hope Connection Center, featuring Ray Buckley.

Sunday School – Vacation Bible School is tentatively scheduled for August 7-11 at 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Anyone with VBS questions or who wants to volunteer should contact Joyce Erickson.

Youth Group – No report.

Coffee & Connection – Looks like all is going well.

United Methodist Women – The Mini-Fair is planned for Saturday, October 21, 2017. The Mini Fair will focus on the luncheon, the Country Kitchen (homemade foods), and the Trash & Treasure. UMW's District meeting is Tuesday, October 3, 2017 in Newberry. UMW reading lists due the second week in September.

OUTREACH

Community Meal Program – Joyce wanted to thank those people who stepped in for her week of meal prep while she was away caring for her mother.

Mission Trip – The team is off being the hands and feet of God in North Dakota.

United Men in Ministry – No report.

Feeding America – The dates for the community truck distribution are Saturday, August 19 and Saturday, September 16.

Camp Michigamme – Currently there is no contact person from Trinity. Pastor Geri has reached out to the First United Methodist Church to seek their interest in the Iron Mountain Cabin. Foundation challenges for the cabin need professional help. The camp director is looking into it. It will not be used until repaired.

A couple of wooden signs are needed to mark the Iron Mountain Cabin.

WITNESS

Website – Dean states the website is up and running well. The site could use someone to commit to updating information on an ongoing basis.

Communications – None.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCING REPORTS

Treasurer's Report – The General Fund balance was very low at the end of May. \$1,600 was borrowed from the revolving line of credit. That loan balance is \$20,650. The Trustees made the last payment on the Pew & Floor Restoration loan. That loan balance is \$0.

Finance – Frank had presented some requests from the Finance committee. **Lucy made a motion by the recommendation of the Finance Committee to the Church Council to use \$5,000 of Marie Bleecker Funds to repair the church parking lots. Joyce seconded. Motion carried.**

Jack made a motion by the Finance committee recommendation to set aside \$3,000 of Marie Bleecker funds to be used for Camp Michigamme scholarships. Lucy seconded. Motion carried.

Jack made a motion from the recommendation of the Finance Committee to request the amount of \$900.95 from the Sprague Fund to be used in the General Fund. Lucy seconded. Motion carried.

The Finance Committee is in discussion with the Endowment Committee to make a change to Section 2 of the Endowment Fund. Proposed change – The Endowment Fund shall receive and hold **individual** bequests and gifts **exceeding** \$_____ made to the church not otherwise designated.

Stewardship/Generosity Team - Church picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 27 at Lake Antoine. Freedom Flag fundraiser has begun to free us from the debt of the revolving loan. Discussion has begun for the 2017-18 Pledge Drive. The team is looking to recruit new team members.

Endowment Committee – No report.

Trustees – Lucy stated the choir room carpet is stretched and cleaned. And roof repairs are in process.

Leadership/Nominating Committee - Pastor Geri is currently working on filling openings for the Stewardship/Generosity Team, Camp Michigamme contact person, someone for the Endowment Committee, and members for the Nominating Committee.

Vital Church Initiative – Pastor Geri handed out a list of VCI team members and a list of the books they are reading. The teams continue to gather, talk, and pray.

PASTOR'S TIME – Rev. Scott Harmon will serve as the new Marquette District Superintendent, effective July 1, 2017. August 7, 2017 he will visit Trinity. The Wednesday Prayer meetings have been attended by as many as 20 people. Trinity is reaching out and sharing Jesus with people in the community. The funds to support the Community Meal are becoming low. Pastor Geri reported that her time at Annual conference was a wonderful time. There was a lot of new energy and creativity moving through the conference. 2016 reports of Michigan churches states that 2/3 of Michigan churches are bringing in more money than they are needing. Trinity is in the other 1/3. God will inspire us to move out of this 1/3.

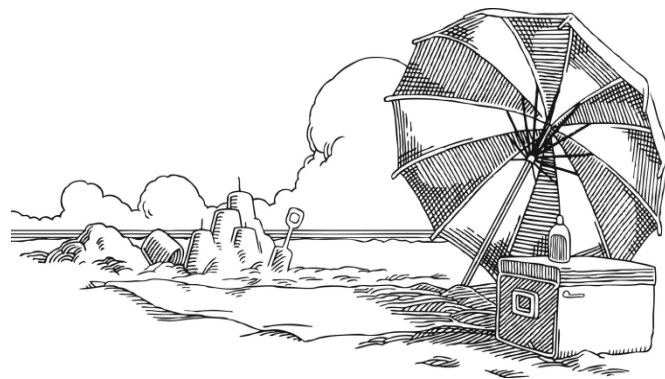
Lucy offered up a prayer of health and healing for Genean and Keith Granger, Joe Fortner, and Betsy Trumbell.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting: Monday, July 17, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by Lea Varda

Let all the peoples
PRAISE YOU!

Psalm 67:3



Minutes of the Council Meeting, May 15, 2017

Roll Call: Pastor Geri, Emily Ritsema, Scott Ritsema, Ruth Carlson, Gail Croci, Jack Noyce, Frank Trumbell, Adam Ryan, Lucy Shampo, Marsha Bonicatto, and Lea Varda.

Emily called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Geri began the meeting, referring to her article in the May/June Tower about measuring effectiveness and three things we need to know in order to carry out our church's unique mission. 1. Why do people need Christ? 2. Why do people need the church? 3. Why do people need *this* particular church?

Lucy made a motion to accept the agenda. Ruth seconded. Agenda accepted. Marsha made a motion to accept the April 2017 minutes. Lucy seconded. Minutes accepted.

NURTURE

Worship Team—The sermon series is going well. The music is fitting in well with the sermons. May 28, Pastor Geri is on vacation, and Joyce Erickson will be speaking. June 4, Pastor will attend Annual Conference, and Drew Champagne and Scott Ritsema will fill in.

Pastor Parish Relations Committee—Bill Verrette sent a letter to inform the Council that he will be stepping down as chair and as a member of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee.

Membership—Joyce Erickson is working on the membership list and contacting those not recently present at worship. Four new members were received and two children were baptized on May 14.

Christian Education—Children's Penny Jar: \$200 to the Brother's Keeper Fund for Trinity to distribute for the needs of the homeless who come to Trinity looking for help. \$100 to the Dickinson County Cancer Unit Loan Closet (aka DCCLC) to help people with cancer here in Dickinson County. \$200 to the First Lutheran Church of Iron Mountain, which handles the backpack program for elementary school children. Seventeen children from Woodland Elementary School benefit from receiving food for the weekend through this mission. \$100 to Miracle Messages (www.miraclemessages.org). This is an organization that makes You Tube videos so that homeless people can find their families—mostly here in the U.S., but they are reaching out around the world, too.

Sunday School—Children's classes ended May 14. Adult classes end May 21. Vacation Bible School plans are still up in the air.

Youth Group—The group meetings have followed the Sunday school schedule. Some of the youth are preparing for the mission trip and the last cinnamon roll sale until fall.

Coffee & Connection—Bonnie Fortier reports all is going well.

United Methodist Women—UMW's Spiritual Growth Retreat had great attendance. Trinity was well-represented with about 10 women attending. A June UMW meeting is planned. UMW made a contribution of \$650 to pay down the revolving loan.

OUTREACH

Community Meal Program—The program continues to do well financially.

Mission Trip—Team members continue with trip-planning and necessary paperwork. Fundraisers are going well. May 21 is the last cinnamon roll sale until fall.

United Men in Ministry—The May 13 Car Care Clinic serviced more than 39 vehicles. Great conversations and refreshments were served to those who waited.

Feeding America—Funds have been set aside for the trucks. Distribution dates to be determined.

Camp Michigamme—Nathan Ruble sent an email reporting on the needs for the Iron Mountain cabin. Camp Michigamme work bee dates are planned in June. Camp Michigamme Day is June 17. Pastor Geri will be attending Elementary Camp this year.

WITNESS

Website—Everyone is encouraged to visit the TUMC website and give feedback.

Communications—Council members signed a thank-you for Bill and Wilma Verrette for the gift of the automatic door openers.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCING REPORTS

Finance—Frank reports that members of the congregation would like more information on the weekly giving and the amount of giving needed each week to cover church operating expenses. There have been questions and concerns about the Servant Keeper software. Frank will address the congregation with

answers to these concerns. Cole Grenier has begun entering the weekly giving units, and all is going well. Sally enters the membership data, and it's going well. Each has their own password. Pastor has chosen not to have access to the software. **Lucy made a motion to the Church Council that all loose monies and undesignated offering envelopes in the offering plates will go to the General Fund. Jack seconded. Motion carried.**

Frank handed out a letter that was sent to the Conference Treasurer to see about recalculating apportionments for 2015-2017. Thank you to Pastor Geri for finding mistakes and past misunderstandings, and for working with the Conference to make these corrections.

The Finance Committee thanks the United Methodist Women for their \$650 contribution to the General Fund. Pastor Geri requested Marie Bleecker funds to match her contribution of \$230 to the Liberia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. **Marsha made a motion to match Pastor's contribution to the Liberia Conference of The United Methodist Church. Ruth seconded. Motion carried.**

A document has been created for tracking and reporting yearly sales tax for Trinity.

Gail Croci and Chris Bruns are newly-added offering counters.

Treasurer's Report—Jack reports that April giving was more than April operating expenses, and he was able to pay down the revolving loan by \$1,000. Apportionments are paid up to date. Trustees continue to pay down the pew loan each month. Budget Task Force 2018 consists of Dean Laitinen (Pastor Parish Relations Committee), Lucy Shampo (Trustees), Drew Champagne (Worship), and Frank Trumbell (Finance Committee).

Stewardship/Generosity Team—The committee helped set up and serve cake at the Endowment Celebration on May 7. They are planning to have a meeting soon.

Endowment Committee—They will meet June 12. The new members are getting acquainted and comfortable with committee responsibilities.

Trustees—The leaking portion of the roof can be repaired. Parking lot bids are in process. Suzanne Harry and Ann Musgrove redecorated and did some updating in the bathroom near the overflow room. It

looks great! The carpet in the choir room will be stretched and cleaned.

Leadership/Nominating Committee—Dean Laitinen is being nominated to be chair of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee, since Bill Verrette has resigned. Tony Flaminio has resigned from the Endowment Committee, and they are looking for a new member. Nathan Ruble resigned from Camp Michigamme. Mike Laydon resigned from the Finance Committee and the Church Council. He will attend the meetings by invitation only. **Frank moved to approve Dean Laitinen as chair of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee. Ruth seconded. Motion carried.**

Vital Church Initiative—Bill Verrette and Bob Waldbillig have resigned from the VCI team. The last meeting in Marquette went well. Engaging presentations and the energy and excitement from the VCI teams is great. It's a good example of how our apportionments are coming back to Trinity.

NEW BUSINESS

Graduation Sunday is May 21. High school graduates: Lucas Cavalieri, Paige Fortner, Sierra Fortner, Marchella Mariucci, and Cameron Mulka. The \$250 2017 Marie Bleecker Scholarship recipient is Cameron Mulka. College graduate: Megan DeLano.

PASTOR'S TIME

Pastor Geri requested \$230 matching money from the Marie Bleecker Fund for contribution to the Liberia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church to assist in pension and pay equity. This is on half of 1% of her salary. This is an Annual Conference practice/resolution that gets forgotten about and then resurrected every four years.

Pastor ended the meeting reading Isaiah 57:14-15 about being humble and contrite.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, June 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by Lea Varda



**O give thanks to
the Lord,
for he is good;
his steadfast
love endures
forever! Psalm 118:1**

Minutes of the Trustees Meeting, June 12, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Blair Daugherty. Also present: Marsha Bonicatto, John Erickson, Pastor Geri, Jon Harry, and Lucy Shampo.

Pastor Geri began with thoughts about our use of Pentecostal flames with names of all 351 members, plus 189 in contact with us. She offered up a prayer.

The agenda was reviewed.

Minutes of the May 8, 2017 meeting were approved by a motion from John and seconded by Lucy.

OLD BUSINESS

Front stained glass window cleaning will be done by a professional cleaner, not to exceed \$200. **John moved and Marsha seconded.**

Choir room carpet has been stretched by Northern Carpets. Marsha cleaned the carpet.

The roof leak will be addressed by Markell Co. They say the cover is intact, but some brickwork at the wall/roof junction needs attention, as heavy rains/wind drives rain in there. Not to exceed Markell's \$500 estimate.

Two parking lot re-seal quotes were reviewed. The Fahrner quote was accepted as meeting our needs. Attention to sealing by the wall foundation and three coats of seal after repair of spots in both lots. Quotes: \$8,560 from Fahrner, and \$7,376.50 from Asphalt Doctor. Trustees will request \$5,000 of Bleecker funds to help with this. The parking lot has been a concern for several years, as low spots have caused icy conditions, creating falls. Jon Harry has handled these contacts.

Garbage can situation: John Erickson will check with custodian Larry Marlett about the feasibility of using a dolly to move garbage to the street, and possibly store the cart and garbage bags in the shed. Get rid of unsightly cans and rack behind the church.

Discussion of Servant Keeper software ensued. Input from those familiar with the system feel we should keep using the one we have.

NEW BUSINESS

We need to help place fans in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

Custodian Larry Marlett injured his hand at home. We will line up a substitute to mop the floor after Wednesday meals. It would be good to help Larry with lawn mowing, also, for the next several weeks.

Pastor's Time:

During Sunday's heavy storm, water appeared in the parsonage basement at the floor/wall junction. No moisture appeared from the window well. A dehumidifier is in use.

Pastor reminded us of the intent of the Vital Church Initiative study process and the importance of recognizing and meeting needs of all those we can reach.

The next Trustees meeting will be July 10, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by Lucy Shampo

Minutes of the Trustees Meeting, May 8, 2017

Members present: Blair Daugherty, Lucy Shampo, Marsha Bonicatto, and Pastor Geri Hamlen.

Since there were not enough members present for any votes, discussion was held on the following topics:

The asphalt work on the parking lots.

The roof leak.

Bud and Denise DeLano have offered to work on the garden at the entrance to the Gathering Room again this summer, and Marsha will work on the other areas.

Lucy volunteered to be Trustees rep for the Budget Task Force that will work on tweaking the 2018 budget.

Thanks and praise were given to Suzanne Harry and Ann Musgrove for painting and refurbishing the bathroom off the overflow area.

The choir room carpet will be re-stretched on May 16, and Trustees will have to empty the room for this process.

Lighting for the Carpenter Avenue sign was discussed, and also possible lighting of other dark areas of the building using ground spotlights similar to those used at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home.

Other items discussed were proper use of the automatic openers and the use of them when the doors are locked. Also discussed was the design and use of the garbage can stand at the north side of the building.

There is a balance on the floor loan of \$275.40, and that will be erased with the June payment.

Full minutes of the Trustees meeting are available in the church office.

Minutes taken by Marsha Bonicatto



PSALM 68:3, NRSV

Trinity United Methodist Church
808 Carpenter Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Iron Mountain, MI 49801
Permit No. 81

July & August 2017



Independence Day

Trinity United Methodist Church
808 Carpenter Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801-4704

Vol. 17, No. 1, July & August 2017

THE TOWER is published 11 times a year by Trinity United Methodist Church for distribution to its members and friends.

Pastor.....Rev. Geri Hamlen
Choir Directors.....Greg Hunt & Emily Ritsema
Organist.....Sue Saxon
Pianist.....Jean Larson
Custodian.....Larry Marlett
Nursery Attendants.....

Sally Verley, Barbie Jo Slagle, & Ian Driscoll

Secretary.....Sally Verley
Sunday Worship.....9:15 a.m.

Nursery Available Each Sunday

Office Hours.....Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Friday, 8 a.m.-noon

Website..... www.imtrinity.org

Phone 774-2545.....Fax 774-3123

Email.....imtrinityumc@gmail.com

The Men of Prayer meet on the last Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. On July 31, we'll meet at Quinnesec UMC, and on August 28 at Grace UMC in Norway. The children have VBS. The women have circles. Men need something, too! Come and check it out. We'll compare notes on life and where God is working things out. Prayer time will then be followed by Holy Communion. Come and see what it's all about. For more information, please call Scott Ritsema, (906)282-4549.

Our Vision Statement

Trinity United Methodist Church
actively invites people to *explore* the
life-changing message of Jesus,
connect with others, *mature* as disciples,
and be *sent* to transform our community.