

# The Tower

Vol. 17, No. 2 Trinity United Methodist Church, Iron Mountain, Michigan www.imtrinity.org September 2017

## Pastor's Ponderings

The news is so much in the news right now.  
Fake news.  
Faulty journalism.  
Biased reporting. Accusations and recriminations are flying over the air waves and the twitter-verse and through the virtual highways and by-ways.

Aren't you glad that you are a disciple of Jesus in the midst of all this confusion? We already know that we can't know the whole story on anything. We already know that God's invisible grace and power is working in everything, all the time, whether we see it or not.

Paul said it so well... 'for now we see in a mirror, dimly...' Cor. 13:12. We already know that more will be revealed, in God's good time. Not on our 'need to know' basis. Think about it:

The disciples of Jesus didn't know that Jesus was going to die on the cross, but they dedicated their lives and time to following him, learning from him, witnessing to his miracles, and being in community with other people who knew and loved him.

The disciples of Jesus didn't know, when they saw Jesus dying on the cross, that there would be a joyful resurrection time, three days hence. No, they were frightened. They were grieving. They felt abandoned and alone. They even went into hiding so no one would know that they were still around.

But Easter dawn broke. The stone was rolled away. Christ is Alive!

The disciples of Jesus didn't even know for sure how to react to the resurrection of Jesus but when the Holy Spirit came upon them, with tongues like flames and the sound of a rushing wind... they were invigorated. Challenged! Joyful... They didn't know the hardships and the persecution and even martyrdom that would follow. But they knew that Jesus said: ***Be not afraid.***

And they knew that God was in charge.

And they knew that all the destructive powers of this world—past, present, and future—would

not succeed, because the victory of God in Jesus Christ is already complete. We just have all of these skirmishes and battles still to deal with as we wait for history to play out, in God's good time. While we wait, we can pray for the rest of the world to catch up with God's desire for peace on Earth, good will towards all people everywhere.

When the news from imperfect sources starts to bother me with confusion and even fear about what may or may not happen next... I remember God's goodness, love, and mercy. Paul goes on in 1 Cor. 13:12 to say... 'Now I know only in part; then I will know fully even as I have been fully known.' God knows us fully. God knows the depth of the world's need and heartache... fully and completely. Jesus died and rose again so that we can be filled full with hope, hope eternal... and live in faith and love, knowing that '...the greatest of these is love.' There is nothing false about that!

May the love of God, the communion of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always. In His name....

*Pastor Geri*



## 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.

...actively invite...

**United Methodist Women's** general meeting will be a potluck at noon on Thursday, September 7. All women of the church are welcome.

**Important Dates for United Methodist Women**

Reading lists must be in to Moira Cowling by September 15. If you have read any books, please turn in a report. Our unit mission objectives also need to be sent in by September 15.

Your Special Membership Recognition and Five-Star Giving need to be in to Ann Musgrove by the time of our September 7 meeting.

God's Country Cooperative Parish's needs/wish list is printing of the back of the registration form for the October 3 Annual Meeting.

**The Marquette District United Methodist Women's Annual Celebration is Tuesday, October 3 at Newberry UMC.** Registration starts at 9:30 Eastern Time. Guest speaker is Randy Hildebrant, Church and Community Worker at God's Country Cooperative Parish (GCCP). Cost is \$10 and includes a BBQ lunch. Registration forms are on the wall across from the church office and are due September 15. On the back of the registration forms are GCCP needs lists.

**Cinnamon roll sale, September 24!** Cinnamon roll sales are the last Sunday of each month, and are a fundraiser for the 2018 North Dakota mission trip. Suggested donation is \$2 each. Purchase them between and after services. Pre-orders will be taken anytime. Call the church office, 774-2545, or call/text Cindi Strehlow at (906)221-1094.

**DS Installation and Celebration, September 16**

A special celebration to welcome District Superintendent Scott A. Harmon will be held on Saturday, September 16, at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time at Wesley United Methodist Church in Ishpeming.

The day will include an installation service with our Bishop, David Bard, in attendance, with fellowship time to follow.

Rev. Harmon asks that each church bring a small rock (no bigger than a golf ball) or a small baggie of sand or soil to the event as a representation of its location in the district. He will collect and combine them to commemorate his tenure as a District Superintendent.

A light lunch will be provided. Everyone is welcome, and hopefully each church will be represented.

Please let Pastor Geri know if you want to go, and we will see about carpooling.

**Charge Conference, September 24**

Our annual charge conference with District Superintendent Rev. Scott Harmon will be Sunday, September 24 at 11:50 a.m., following the 10:30 worship service. Lunch will be served afterwards.

Charge Conference is a time each year to highlight ways that we have grown as a congregation and ministered to our community. There are also business items that need to be voted upon for the upcoming year.

Everyone is welcome. All professing members of Trinity United Methodist Church can vote.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee will meet at 9:30 a.m. that day with Rev. Harmon, in the Conference Room next to the office.

As part of the church conference in September, Rev. Harmon wants those who are attending to share a little of what makes their faith community—Trinity UMC—the special place that it is.

\*What do we do really well in our witness to the transforming love of God in Christ Jesus?

\*What do we wish we could do better?

\* In what ways have we observed our community changing?

Our answers will help Rev. Harmon understand our congregation's focus and better identify what moves us to be Christ's hands and feet in the world.

**Endowment By-Law Change:**

The Church Council, the Finance Committee, and the Endowment Committee support the following revision to Section 2 of the Endowment Fund agreement. This change will be put forward for a vote at the Church Charge Conference on September 24.

**Section 2, as it is now:**

The Endowment Fund shall receive and hold bequests and gifts made to The Church not otherwise designated.

**The proposed change is:**

The Church Council shall have discretion over undesignated gifts up to \$10,000. The first \$10,000 of any undesignated single gift shall be placed at the discretion of the Church Council, with the remainder to be designated for the Endowment Fund.

This change will clarify the Church Council's ability to determine the best use of any undesignated gifts up to \$10,000 with the Endowment receiving any excess over that amount.

## *Serving in Worship in September*

### Offering Counters:

September 3  
September 10           Tami & Mary Slagle, & Joyce Trevillian  
September 17  
September 24

### Liturgists:

Sept. 3           9:15 a.m.   Lea Varda  
Sept. 10          8:00 a.m.   TBD  
                  10:30 a.m. Nathan Ruble  
Sept. 17          8:00 a.m.   TBD  
                  10:30 a.m. Jill Noyce  
Sept. 24          8:00 a.m.   Deb Saul  
                  10:30 a.m. Scott Ritsema

### Projection System Operators

Dean Laitinen  
Jon Harry  
Maddie Ryan  
Jon Harry  
Kyle Shemanski  
Jon Harry  
Dean Laitinen

Junior Worship Leaders: *Please see the sign-up sheet outside the Junior Worship room.*

Ushers: Sept. 3, Jack & Jill Noyce; other Sundays, TBD

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

### **Preacher's Corner**

Since Easter, the preaching at Trinity has focused on trees, children, flames of grace, listening for Jesus, the rock of God's love, and now in September, we will move to a four-part series about the Sacrament of Communion. The Table of our Lord serves as a reminder, a reunion, a rejoicing in the unity of our community with the past, the present, and the future. This month, we will learn more about the deeper meanings of the Holy Meal, through the common elements of bread and cup. Regardless of denomination or Orthodox branch of Christianity, there is remarkable agreement on the key prayers and movements of the Sacred Meal. Come and find out more about this blessed gift from Jesus through the words of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Sept. 3 (last 9:15 worship), 'Setting the Table'  
Matthew 14:13-21, Genesis 2:4-18

Sept. 10 (two worship times), 'Invitation to the  
Table' Matthew 10:40-42, 11:25-30

Sept. 17, 'Blessing the Table' Matthew 5:1-12, John  
6:27-35

Sept. 24 (Charge Conference) 'Extending the Table'  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Matthew 26:26-30

**Don't forget the Community Prayer Service  
here at Trinity, Wednesdays, 5:45-6:15.**

### **Welcome, New Members!**

On Sunday, August 23, two people accepted membership into our church. Please help to make them feel welcome.

**Carol Calcari** has lived kitty-corner to the church for many, many years. She watched the comings and goings at Trinity and finally decided to check us out. I first remember meeting her at the Community Meal on Wednesday nights. She came to the Wednesday Prayer Meeting, the exercise class, the Joy Crafters, the Lydia Circle, the Ruth Circle, Sunday morning worship, and became convinced that becoming a Methodist and joining our community was a great idea. Welcome, Carol...we are so glad that you walked across the street.

**Patty Ronan** of Goodman, Wisconsin, has been involved with a variety of churches in her lifetime. She came to Trinity UMC as a helper at the Feeding America mission and as a volunteer for Light at the Inn. She attended the adult Sunday School class and learned more about John Wesley, and felt her heart 'strangely warmed' in that special way that the Holy Spirit works. She is one of those people who likes to sit in a different place each Sunday morning as she joins us in worship, so keep your eyes open. She just might be sitting next to you one of these days. We're so glad you found us, Patty. Welcome!

...connect with others...

### September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Please pray for them on their special day.

- Sept. 1 Madison Powell  
2 Scott Lutey, Craig & Marsha Olson  
Paul & Karen Paupore  
4 Madeline Ryan, Mike & Sue Youngberg  
5 Brian Bancroft, Sue Constantini  
Marie Harris, Brandon & Felicia Aman  
Derek & Kristin Fortner  
Marvin & Carolyn Harry  
Dale & Lucy Shampo  
6 Steve & Wendy Mulka  
LeRoy & Barbara Sandberg  
Kevin & Joy Waldbillig  
7 Rosemary Carlson  
8 Marguerite Reiten, Nick Sorensen  
9 Larry Marlett, Shelley Moore  
Brad & Cindi Strehlow  
10 Charlotte Ryan  
11 Scott & Kelly Lutey  
12 Carolyn Clay-Pineda, Dorleen Uhaize  
Bruce Wilcox  
15 Shirley Allen, Ryan DuCharme  
June Hostettler, Alyssa Maki  
16 Ellsworth Carlson, Greg Sorensen  
Maggie Strehlow  
17 Donna Bailey, Mark Herman  
Grace Laydon, Brian Mashak  
18 Renèe Swanson  
20 John Erickson, Reece Fortner  
21 Bob & Sue Constantini  
22 Jan Davidson, Brian Nord-Grenier  
Ed Riutta, Joanne Rowell  
23 Emma Bilgreen  
24 Eann Wahlstrom, Emma Wahlstrom  
Brandon & Alyssa Maki  
25 Michael & Kathy Smith-Rota  
27 Jennifer Gauthier, Luke Powell  
29 Kyle Mulka

**Hospitalized since our last issue:** Donna Bailey, Joyce Erickson, Chris James, Dolly Richards, Louise Roberts, Barbara Sandberg, Beverly Wright

**Our condolences** to Joyce Erickson, whose mother Ella Marlin died July 31.

**Our condolences** to Lucy Shampo, whose sister Mary Kinney died August 12.

**Our condolences** to Steve and Wendy Mulka and family on the death of their brother-in-law Allen Simmons to cancer on July 30.

**A new leaf in memory of Jeff Freeman** has been added to the Endowment Fund Recognition Tree in the Gathering Room.

**“Dear Pastor Geri:** Thank you for awarding me the Marie Bleecker scholarship. You have strengthened my faith and brought guidance to my high school years. I love and cherish the time I have spent in our church. I wouldn’t be the man I am today without it. Love and thanks.” —Cameron Mulka

**“Pastor Geri,** thank you for all you did to help facilitate and coordinate things for our mother Marilyn Phillips’s memorial service. We are so grateful and appreciative. It was such a memorable, wonderful day.” With gratitude, Linda, Barb, Donna, and families

**“Trinity United Methodist,** thank you so very much for your support over the years. Getting through my schooling has been very trying at times, and knowing I was in the members’ thoughts and prayers was what I needed to persevere. I am heading out to Salt Lake City to start my career and will think of your gifts fondly and return the favor to others out there. Thanks again!” –Love always, Megan DeLano

**“Thank you** for your gift totaling \$328.08 for the Annual Conference Offering, to benefit the Haiti Hot Lunch Program and the Bishop Judith Craig Children’s Village. May God grant you a sense of hope and joy as you continue your support for mission.”—Roland Fernandes, General Treasurer, General Board of Global Ministries (*This was our May 2017 Mission of the Month.*)

**Thank you** to the Stewardship/Generosity Team for putting on the church picnic. In spite of the cold and rain, we had fun in the church Fellowship Hall. Almost 50 people enjoyed good food, good conversation, and a variety of generations!



*...transform our community...*

### **September's Mission of the Month...**

#### **Our Brother's Keeper Fund is Running Low!**

Over the past three years, Trinity UMC has provided more than \$5,100 in assistance to local people through our Brother's Keeper Fund. This includes rent deposits, utility bills, gas, food, and other special needs. Your generosity has made a difference in the lives of more than 60 families. Today, however, the balance in the Brother's Keeper Fund has dropped below \$100.

Please remember that this is a local mission that helps your neighbors you see at the grocery store and walking around town. Thanks for whatever you can offer this worthwhile ministry. (Please designate 'Brother's Keeper' or 'Mission of the Month' on the envelope you use for your giving.)

#### **Feeding America Truck, September 16**

By Chris Langer

A Feeding America food truck will be here at Trinity on Saturday, September 16 at 9:00 a.m. This will be our seventh semi-truck, and we'll distribute a lot of food.

I'm looking for volunteers to help with this truck, 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.

#### **August 19 Truck Brought Help for Many**

By Chris Langer

A Feeding America semi-truck came to Trinity on Saturday, August 19.

The truck brought 20,467 pounds of food, soap, and paper products. One-hundred-ninety cars came through, and 573 individuals were served. We also helped Abundant Life Church, Caring House, St. Vincent DePaul in Iron Mountain and Florence, Alpha Omega House, and others.

Police were here to provide traffic control—no tickets were issued.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers (17 from Trinity UMC and 19 others) who helped that day. Thank you to the Finance Committee for approving my request for Marie Bleeker funds to help pay for the truck. Thank you to an individual who gave money to pay for the soap and paper products on the truck. God bless you all.

**Trinity family, the meal program needs your help!** As much as we try to cut corners & be thrifty, the funds in the meal account are getting low. Our awesome kitchen crews put together approximately 500 meals a month. If you would like to make a donation to the meal program, please know it is greatly appreciated. Donations can be given to Sally or mailed to the church office. Thank you for your continued support of our meal program.

**The Car Care Clinic** helps those in need have basic car care done. The next clinic is set for Saturday, September 30 at First Covenant Church in Iron Mountain. Volunteers are still needed.

You don't have to work on the cars, because there are other opportunities, including serving food, visiting with the car owners, cleaning out/detailing the cars, and praying for the workers and the car owners

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room. For more information, please call the Trinity UMC office at 774-2545.

*...intentional faith development...*

**'Day of Inspiration' sponsored by the Marquette District of The United Methodist Church**

**October 7, 2017, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. EDST at the Marquette Hope Connection Center**

Registrations are due September 27 for the October 7 'Day of Inspiration,' featuring Ray Buckley, 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.

Tell Pastor Geri if you're interested in attending the 'Day of Inspiration' to see about carpooling.

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*.

(Continued on page 6)



## ...intentional faith development...

### Lay Servant Class, October 7, 14, or 15

A Lay Servant class has been scheduled to piggy-back on Ray Buckley's talk (see previous page). Ray wrote the book that is used for the Lay Servant Ministry advanced class *Dancing with Words*. Conference Lay Servant Director John Hart says that attending the 'Day of Inspiration' would count as part of that 10-hour advanced class, and then the balance of hours would be earned at a class on October 14 in Gladstone or October 15 in Newberry. So now, Advanced Lay Servants up for renewal and those who have taken the Basic class who wish to qualify as Advanced have a dual purpose to attend the Day of Inspiration on October 7.

Please tell Pastor Geri if you're interested in attending the 'Day of Inspiration' and/or Lay Servant Class, to see about carpooling.

### Day of Inspiration (Continued from page 5)

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.

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

### Coming Summer 2018—

Cindi Strehlow and Kristy Ryan have volunteered to organize Vacation Bible School. They will need volunteers to help plan and work on it, so please be thinking about participating in this wonderful event for our church children. It's a great way to not only serve your church, but have fun doing it! You can contact Cindi at (906)221-1094, or Kristy at (906)779-5282.



## ...transform the world...

### Mission Trip Notes By Diana Hunt, Team Leader

Year 13 found us up bright and early once again! On June 18, our team members gathered in the church parking lot, loaded our gear into four vehicles, and circled up for a prayer and blessing. We thank Pastor Geri for getting up extra early to send us off.

This year marked my third year leading the team. It still seems strange to not have Marilyn Phillips with us physically, but she is always with us in spirit. This

year we decided to honor her by purchasing and building a playground set! Thank you to the many people who made donations to make this possible.

As always, we were warmly greeted by missionaries Mike and Libby. It is always exciting to see changes that take place while we are gone. This year, they converted the old tool shop into a dorm, so there are more places for teams to sleep! There is a new basketball court, and while we were there, a new walk-in freezer was being installed.

Our team this year included Blair Daugherty; Rick and Ann Musgrove; Adam, Kristy, Logan, Maddie, Lizzy and Charlotte Ryan; Jen and Riley Gauthier; Scott Ritsema; Maddie Koski; Casey Hansley; Joe Kennedy; Piper and Maggie Strehlow; Libby Lee; Hunter Schultz; Pan Pansch; Kelly Wagner; Kris Mulder; Matt Weimeyer; and me.

This year, we were blessed to work at three work sites, as well as work with the children at the day camp in the afternoon. The day camp is in its third year and running pretty smoothly! The children are bused in by either Mike or one of his assistants and fed a warm meal. Then they move on to various activities that are planned for each day. What a blessing to see not only the young children coming, but also the teenagers. This program is making a difference in their lives! In the mornings, we split into three teams—one that built a very large handicap ramp, one that roofed a two-story house, and one that built "Marilyn's Playground."

It is such a blessing to have watched some of our youth grow stronger in their faith and skill set through this mission. I remember when Logan was on his first mission, way back when he was 13 or so, and did not even know how to swing a hammer! He has now led our roofing team for two years! He has done such a wonderful job! We are always asked where did we see God, and though there are many times during each mission that I see God, I think I saw him most this year in watching Logan give instructions to Adam as they worked together the last day to finish up the roofing project.

On behalf of the mission team, I want to say a heartfelt "thank you" to all who supported us through the years. Without the support of our congregation, this mission trip would not happen. I am so honored to have taken the reins from Marilyn, and this year as Greg and I move on to our next phase in life, I turn the reins over to Kristy Ryan and Jen Gauthier. They have helped guide me so much through these last three years. The teams have truly been the hands and feet of Christ! Mission trip #14 will be happening June 17-21 next year. Contact Kristy, 779-5282, or Jen, 221-2840, if you are interested.

*...mature as disciples...*

**Sunday School starts September 10 at 9:00 a.m. for everyone ages 3 to high school.** We'll meet downstairs for cake and the kick-off celebration!

**Adult Sunday School** begins September 10 at 9:15 a.m. They will use the book, Change Your Words, Change Your Life: Understanding the Power of Every Word You Speak, by Joyce Meyer.

Cost of the book is \$10, and copies can be picked up in the office. Come and grow as a disciple of Jesus!

### **New Communion Steward Wanted**

Ruth Ann Badini would like to train someone to take over her Communion Steward job. After more than 20 years, she needs a break. The job can be done on your own schedule, and Ruth Ann will train anyone who's interested. Please contact Ruth Ann at 776-0852.

**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.

### **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

*...stewardship/generosity...*

**Trinity's Cup Overflows with Blessings!** "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows!" Psalm 23:5. God is generous to us!

Can you list the ways God has been generous to you? In September, there will be a Generosity Corner at the church where we can share our gratitude lists with each other. Come to worship to find out more....

### **'Hammer Out the Debt' Campaign**

By Lea Varda, of the Stewardship/Generosity Team  
We're having a Hammer Out the Debt campaign to help raise money for our church's general fund. Every time you give extra money to the general fund, you are helping us move toward paying off our loan.

This fundraiser is a little different than the Paper Poinsettias and Paper Easter Flowers. Each hammer purchased will be displayed with only the amount of money given to hammer out the debt.

In order to play along, please turn in your enclosed 'hammer' form by September 24.

### **Budget Task Force**

By Bruce Clark

The purpose of this group within our Church is to brainstorm ideas and then make recommendations to the Finance Committee for reducing expenses and increasing financial contributions from our membership.

Our operational expenses at Trinity UMC have exceeded the church's income over the past several years, resulting in our need to take out a loan. The current loan balance is near \$18,000, so we need to put our house in order.

We are very interested in hearing any ideas that you may have to help our efforts. Specifically, if you wish to express your thoughts, please contact me in person or call me at (715)696-3773 to schedule a 'one on one' meeting at your convenience and location. Alternately, you may contact any of our team members listed below. Please be assured that the information gathered in these constructive meetings will be held in confidence.

Most people are used to a predictable regular income as they plan their spending. However, this is not the case here at Trinity...or at most churches. Giving varies from week to week and from season to season. The bills, however, come like clockwork! Fluctuations in giving create fund shortages when the bills come due.

We will soon be talking to you about considering the use of electronic transfer for your valuable regular contributions. Many of you will find this most convenient, especially for those who might wish to regulate and streamline their budgets.

We look forward to finding meaningful resolutions to our budget issues. We are most appreciative of your generosity and support. God's peace to us all. The Budget Task Force:

Bruce Clark (715)696-3773

Lucy Shampo 774-7683

Dean Laitinen 396-4339

Drew Champagne (920)309-7495

Kristy Ryan 779-5282

**2017 Freedom Flags to Pay  
Down Our Operating Expenses Loan**

**In memory of**

Archie Betti; Joe (Dad) & Elizabeth Anderson; June Hudson; & Joe Anderson (brother)  
From Greta Betti

Susan Calcari  
From Carol & Bob Calcari

Our family members  
From Gail Croci & Donna Bailey

Terri Chapdelaine  
From Denise & Bud DeLano

Duaine "Red" Harding  
From Mary Ann Harding

Leslie & Jane Larsen  
From Lee & Susan Larsen

Andy Liscomb  
From David & Arlene Liscomb

Jimmy London, my brother, who was killed at Pearl Harbor  
From Henry & Joyce London

John D. Noyce  
From Ruth Noyce

Our parents—Laurette & Richard Trevillian, & Clara & Herman Plonke  
From Larry & Carol Trevillian

Edna Yuhasey  
From Guy & Joyce Yuhasey

Our parents—Frederick G. & Claire Carlson, & William & Edna Yuhasey  
From Elaine & Don Yuhasey

**In honor of**

Our children & grandchildren: Norm, Pam, Trevor, Taylor & Natascha, Nancy, Annika, Mike  
From Wesley & Ann Hanson

Scott Ritsema  
From Emily Ritsema

Two brothers/brothers-in-law  
From Lucy Shampo

**In celebration of**

Independence Day  
From Marsha & Larry Bonicatto

Greg & Diana Hunt  
From Pastor Geri Hamlen

The North Dakota Mission Team  
From Greg & Diana Hunt

The Hyrkas family  
From John & Maria Hyrkas

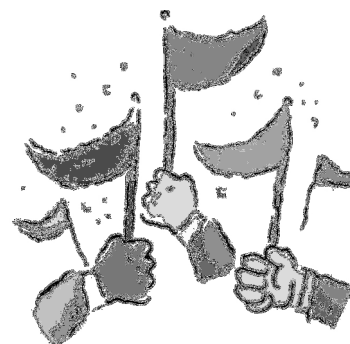
The ministries & people of Trinity UMC  
From Dean Laitinen

Our children & grandchildren  
From Jack & Jill Noyce

Trinity United Methodist Church  
From Ed & Jane Patrick

Trinity United Methodist Church  
From Frank & Betsy Trumbell

My children, Nicole (AJ), Courtney (Mark), & Ryan; & my granddaughter Eleanor Jo  
From Lea Varda



*Many thanks to all of the generous gifts to the Freedom Flag project. The display in the Gathering Room was a joy to see through the month of July.*

*A total of \$3,875 was given and helped to decrease the Operating loan by \$2,680, which decreased the loan to \$18,370.*

*We are still in debt, but it's a blessing to know that so many people care enough to give the extra that they can towards drawing down this uncomfortable loan. Thank you, and thank you again!*



## **Minutes of the Church Council Meeting, August 21, 2017**

Roll Call: Lucy Shampo, Bruce Clark, Blair Daugherty, Dean Laitinen, Jack Noyce, Kristy Ryan, Scott Ritsema, Adam Ryan, Gail Croci, Cindi Strehlow, and Lea Varda

Adam began the meeting with a prayer. The agenda was reviewed. Additions were made, and Lucy motioned to accept the agenda with additions. Scott seconded. Agenda accepted. July minutes were reviewed. A correction in the Treasurer's Report was made. Jack motioned to accept minutes as corrected. Dean seconded. Minutes accepted.

### **NURTURE**

**Worship Team** – Scott shared a conversation with a young man interested in joining the congregation and choir.

**Pastor Parish Relations Committee** – Dean reports that Sally's nursery Child Protection certification is good to the end of the year. A certification class is being scheduled in 2018. Dean plans to seek out individuals to become trainers for the Child Protection training. Having a trainer located in the area will be beneficial to the church. The committee is in the process of doing evaluations on the Pastor and paid staff for the Charge Conference meeting in September.

**Membership** – No report

**Christian Education Team** – No report

**Sunday School** – Sunday school classes begin Sunday, September 10 at 9:00 am. Classes include Preschool – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The adult class will be using the book Change your Words, Change your Life: Understanding the Power of Every Word You Speak by Joyce Meyer. VBS – June 2018 is in the works.

**Youth Group** – No report

**Coffee & Connection** - Bonnie reports all is going well.

**United Methodist Women** – Lucy reports that the UMW General meeting is September 7 with a noon lunch. The District Annual Meeting is October 10 in Newberry. The Mini Fair will be held at Trinity October 21.

### **OUTREACH**

**Community Meal Program** – The number of meals served have remained about the same. A kitchen inspection from Feeding America is scheduled on August 22, 2017. The Meal Program is the Mission of the Month in October. The meal funds are getting low.

**Mission Trip** – The last Sunday of each month, September—May, has been scheduled Cinnamon Roll Sunday. Diana Hunt is passing team supplies,

paperwork, and other necessary items to Kristy Ryan and Jen Gauthier.

**United Men in Ministry** – The next Car Care Clinic is scheduled September 30, 2017 at the Covenant Church in Iron Mountain. Volunteers are needed 7 am – 4pm.

**Feeding America Truck** - August 19 delivery at Trinity served approximately 200 vehicles supplying food to 500 people. A total of 24,000 pounds of food was distributed. The food that was left over was delivered to various organizations like Omega House, St. Vincent DePaul, Caring House, and Florence Salvation Army. In addition to the \$1,500 for the truck, additional funds were secured to purchase paper products and toiletries for distribution. Next truck distribution is Saturday, September 16, 2017.

**College Student Ministry** - No report

**Camp Michigamme** – Pastor received a letter from Tom Brown, and the Pastors from both Escanaba churches have raised the funds to support the old Escanaba cabin. There are other opportunities for Trinity to offer support to the camp.

**Light at the Inn** - Trinity coordinators presented the Trustee committee information on the upcoming 2017-2018 shelter season. Committee coordinators and volunteers continue to attend trainings and educational opportunities for supporting the rotating shelter. Another host church has joined the rotation.

### **WITNESS**

**Website** – Dean reports an audio file has been added to listen to sermons. Scriptures from the sermon will be listed, as well. There is an opportunity available for someone to take this job of keeping the website up-to-date with the latest information.

**Communications** – A letter was received from District Superintendent Rev. Scott Harmon. In preparation for the Church Conference in September, Rev. Harmon wants all of those who are present to share a little of what makes their faith community – their church – the special place where this happens.

\*What do they do really well in their witness to the transforming love of God in Christ Jesus?

\*What do they wish they could do better?

\* In what ways have they observed their community changing?

Our answers will help Rev. Harmon understand our congregation's focus and better identify what moves us to be Christ's hands and feet in the world.

### **Leadership Development and Resourcing Reports**

**Finance** – Bruce reported that the Budget Task Force has had great discussions on reducing expenses and generating revenue. The next meeting is August 31. The task force plans to have information and ideas to

recommend to the Finance Committee in September. The proposed change in the Endowment wording on undesignated gifts is going to be voted on at the Charge Conference in September. **Jack motioned that the Church Council puts forward and approves of the following words: “The Church Council shall have discretion over undesignated gifts up to \$10,000. The first \$10,000 of any undesignated single gift shall be placed at the discretion of the Church Council, with the remainder to be designated for the Endowment Fund” as a change to the Endowment document to be voted on at the Charge Conference. Kristy seconded. Motion passed.** The congregation is encouraged to attend this meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report** – July giving was greater than July expenses. The Freedom Flag fundraiser reduced the revolving line of credit by \$2,680. The loan balance remains at \$18,370. The meal program funds are running low.

**Stewardship & Generosity Team** - Church picnic is August 27. Families with children and youth were sent letters inviting them to the picnic to register for Sunday school and join other children for games and activities. Lucy made a motion to approve recommendation by the Finance Committee to the Council to approve the \$250 from the Marie Bleecker fund requested by the Stewardship Team for the church picnic. Kristy seconded. Motion passed. The team is heading up a fundraiser to “Hammer Out” the TUMC debt. This is similar to the Flag Fundraiser and Paper Poinsettias. A four-month plan is in motion as part of the Twelve Month Plan for Stewardship.

**Endowment Committee** – Jack motioned that the Church Council puts forward and approves of the following words; “The Church Council shall have discretion over undesignated gifts up to \$10,000. The first \$10,000 of any undesignated single gift shall be placed at the discretion of the Church Council, with the remainder to be designated for the Endowment Fund” as a change to the Endowment document to be voted on at the Charge Conference. Kristy seconded. Motion passed.

**Trustees** – The committee is preparing for winter. A bench has been added to the garden outside as a memorial to Diane Davidson. A new structure has been built to contain and conceal the trash cans outside.

**Nominating Committee** – One additional member is needed for the Pastor Parish Relations Committee. The 2017 Nominating Committee Report for 2018 was passed around at the Council meeting for members to confirm or not their current position for 2018.

**Vital Church Initiative** – The team continues to meet and have discussions. Next meeting is August 24.

**Old Business** – Jack congratulated and expressed appreciation to Pastor Geri for all her research of the last five years of Trinity’s apportionments that were reported incorrectly. The conference agreed to take a second look at them and gave a credit of \$3,911 to pay the 2016 balance and toward the 2017 payments. Going forward payments should be more realistic for our congregation.

Lucy requested that we keep the following people in our prayers: Ruth, Donna, Barb, Joyce, and all those needing healing and comfort due to sickness and loss. Congratulations to Jack & Jill Noyce on their 46<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!

Adjournment at 8:12 pm. Next meeting: Monday, September 18, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

### **Minutes of the Church Council Meeting, July 17, 2017**

Roll Call: Adam Ryan, Blair Daugherty, Jack Noyce, Dean Laitinen, Pastor Geri, Gail Croci, Frank Trumbell, Lucy Shampo, Cindi Strehlow, Kristy Ryan, Scott Ritsema, and Lea Varda.

Adam called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. Pastor Geri reminds us that not all churches are struggling. The United Methodist Churches are showing great strength in terms of new churches. 510 new UM churches started up in America between 2013 and 2015. Pastor reminds the committees as they meet to refer to the Cultivating Goals for God 2017 and see how we as a church are doing. Pastor handed out a copy of the Bible verse Philippians 4:13 (CEV) Jesus gives me the strength to face anything!

The agenda was reviewed. June minutes were reviewed. Frank made a motion to accept. Jack seconded. Minutes accepted.

### **NURTURE**

**Worship Team** – Sunday, July 30, special worship service with Phil Lynch, and Greg and Diana Hunt’s going away party. Adam and Drew have discussed adding the words from the song booklets to the projection screen during the sing-a-long time between Sunday school and worship.

**Pastor Parish Relations Committee** – The next meeting is July 18.. Discussion about finding the appropriate nursery certification training for Sally. Larry has recovered from his injury and has resumed his duties at church. Thank you went out to all those who have stepped in and helped during Larry’s absence. More help will be needed when he takes vacation time. Cultivating Goals #7 & #8

**Membership** – Pastor has four individuals interested in becoming members.

**Christian Education Team** – No report

**Sunday School** – Planning a teacher meeting before the fall classes begin. Searching ideas for affordable curriculum and class structure. Cultivating Goal #7

**Youth Group** – No report

**Coffee & Connection** – Bonnie reports all is going well. Everyone seems to be enjoying the coffee, lemonade, and cookies, especially chocolate ones. Cultivating Goal #5

**United Methodist Women** – A potluck General meeting is scheduled for September. Mini-Fair is Saturday, October 21. UMW gathers to celebrate missions, fellowship, and outreach. Cultivating Goal #3

## OUTREACH

**Community Meal Program** – Many hands made light work when volunteers showed up to step in for Joyce's scheduled Wednesday meal. Much appreciation to the El Capitan Supper Club for the meat donation. Cultivating Goal #8

**Mission Trip** – The trip went well. Part of the team built a playground set at the Ministry Center. The youth worked hard and enjoyed their time being part of the team. Trinity is being viewed by people as a church that does not sit within the building, but a church that goes out into the world. The Mission Team is encouraged to put a photo and article in the paper to share the mission with the community. Cultivating Goal #2

**United Men in Ministry** – Inviting more volunteers to help with the Car Care Clinic. The next one is September 30 at First Covenant Church. Adam said thank-you for all the diapers his office received from the diaper drive. They are being distributed and are well received and appreciated. Cultivating Goal #3

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

**College Student Ministry** - No report

**Camp Michigamme** – Adam will be in contact with the camp to follow through with the needs of the Iron Mountain Cabin. New signs are still needed to identify the Iron Mountain Cabin.

## WITNESS

**Website** – The website is an ongoing process. The audio is now working on the site. Pastor is currently updating the website to include the Newsletter/Tower articles. She occasionally puts her sermon on the website, too. There is an opportunity for someone to volunteer to help keep the website current and up-to-date with information.

**Communications** – None

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCING REPORTS

**Treasurer's Report** - The General Fund balance was low as of June 30. \$400 was borrowed from the loan. The Freedom Flag fundraiser brought in \$2,100 in June, which was used to pay bills and keep the revolving loan at \$21,050. Already in July, the Freedom Flag fundraiser has brought in \$2,780, which will be used immediately to reduce the loan to \$18,270. Hopefully, with reduced expenses in the summer and five Sundays in July, we won't need to borrow any more money. A gift of \$900 for pew restoration has been received. Since the project is done and paid for, the Trustees will retain the funds for future projects.

**Finance** – Giving statements for the first two quarters of 2017 will be printed soon. Sales tax reports are available for groups/individuals to track for 2017. Bruce Clark will replace Frank on the Budget Task Force. The Finance Committee continues to work with the Endowment Committee to make a change in the wording in the bylaws regarding undesignated gifts to the church. Cultivating Goal #4

**Stewardship** – Church picnic scheduled August 27 at Lake Antoine. Deciding where to hold worship that Sunday. Church or park. Bruce and Beth Clark have volunteered to help the committee with the 12-Month Plan for Stewardship. Cultivating Goals #3

**Endowment Committee** – No report

**Trustees** – The parking lots will be resurfaced in mid-August. The Trustees continue to observe and repair little things around the church to make the worship experience comfortable and safe.

**Leadership/Nominating Committee** – Continuing to fill in the empty positions on the committees.

**Vital Church Initiative** – Continuing to read and reflect on the required book list.

**Light at the Inn** – Trinity coordinators will approach the Trustee committee to set up the use of the church for the 2017-18 revolving homeless shelter.

**Pastor's Time** – There are four youth in confirmation class learning about and deciding if they would like to be confirmed as disciples of Jesus.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm. Next meeting: Monday, August 21, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

Minutes taken by Lea Varda



## **Minutes of the Trustees Meeting, August 14, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Present: John Erickson, Blair Daugherty, Lucy Shampo, and Pastor Geri. Also present were Cindi Strehlow and Kristy Ryan.

John opened the meeting with a prayer. Agenda addition: A request by Cindi and Kristy to use the church again this winter for Light at the Inn. Minutes of the July 10 meeting were accepted. There was no quorum present. Discussion ensued, though no notes were taken.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Blair is working with D&L regarding the noisy heater in the Gathering Room.

John cleaned the stained glass windows behind the choir loft.

Heat register covers need to be sandblasted and painted.

John will check with Zam's.

Blacktop has been done. Jon Harry took a photo of cracks that should be sealed. He will work with Fahrner to address this issue.

Elevator issues are awaiting quotes for needed repairs.

Blair will contact Otis and attempt to locate another elevator contractor, if necessary.

Blair is building an enclosed waste container to replace the old one.

D&L will give us quotes to fix the roof heat exchanger and basement air mover.

John will work on lights for the outside sign and ways to highlight the rest of the building.

Blair is working with D&L on the leaking furnace valve.

We need to monitor the snowplowing, so as to have a better idea of budget needs.

We need to create a procedure for all preventative maintenance schedules.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

A memorial bench is in place in the garden by the south wall. It was given by Mike and Chris Bruns, in memory of Chris's mother, Diane Davidson.

Cindi and Kristy spoke regarding the use of our church for the Light at the Inn homeless shelter, as was done last winter. Our questions included: What concerns were raised last winter? None; everything went well. How many guests did we receive? We had one or two over the three weeks that we served. No problems were encountered by the custodian, as all cleaning was thoroughly completed by the Light at the Inn crew.

Trustees will discuss this with the rest of our members at the September meeting to pursue a vote when we have a quorum.

Pastor's Time:

A Pokemon game site meets on the sidewalk near the corner of Carpenter and E.

We are requested to look around for people willing to serve on Trustees. Lucy will be done with a long-served term at year end.

No Communications. Note—Charge Conference is September 24 at 11:50 a.m. Blair has papers to fill out for the meeting. \$500 was paid to Markell for roof repair (sealing space at wall edge). They also cleaned the drains.

Balance of Trustees account: \$6,621.84 as of July 30, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. The next meeting is September 11 at 6:00 p.m.

## **Minutes of the Trustees Meeting, July 10, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Blair Daugherty.

Present: Blair Daugherty, John Erickson, Lucy Shampo, and Pastor Geri.

Since there were not enough Trustees present to vote, we discussed:

a. Parking lot paving will be done in August. The church parking lots will be off-limits for a Thursday and a Friday when Fahrner is doing the work.

b. After paving is complete, John E. and Blair will build a new garbage container to facilitate garbage bags.

c. Markell Roofing completed sealing the mortar on the flat roof. They also cleaned the roof drains. We need to check the drains periodically, especially after the heavy rains we've been having.

d. A valve in the furnace room leaks. Blair will contact D & L to look at a repair.

e. The heating unit above the double doors still squeaks. Blair and John E. will address the problem.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

We accepted the request from the Freeman/Reddinger family. A memorial plaque has been put on a pew, and a leaf will be put on the Giving Tree with Jeff Freeman's name. \$900 in pew money will be in the Trustees Account.

Trustees Account balance as of June 30, 2017 was \$5,815.26.

The next Trustees meeting will be Monday, August 14, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes taken by Lucy Shampo

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

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

# September 2017



**Trinity United Methodist Church**  
**808 Carpenter Ave.**  
**Iron Mountain, MI 49801-4704**  
**Vol. 17, No. 2—September 2017**

**THE TOWER** is published approximately 10 times a year by Trinity United Methodist Church for distribution to its members and friends.

Pastor.....Rev. Geri Hamlen  
Choir Director.....Emily Ritsema  
Organist.....Sue Saxon  
Pianist.....Jean Larson  
Custodian.....Larry Marlett  
Nursery Attendants.....

Sally Verley, Ian Driscoll, & Kane Driscoll

Secretary.....Sally Verley  
Worship *through September 3*.....9:15 a.m.  
Worship *starting September 10*...8:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School *starting September 10* 9:00 a.m.  
Adult Sunday School *starting September 10*.....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](http://www.imtrinity.org)  
Phone 774-2545.....Fax 774-3123  
Email.....[imtrinityumc@gmail.com](mailto:imtrinityumc@gmail.com)

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**The Men of Prayer group** meets on the last Monday of each month. Their next meeting will be on Monday, September 25 at 7:00 p.m. at Abundant Life Church. We are partnering with the other United Methodist Churches in the area. 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 fall schedule starts  
Sunday, September 10.**

**Worship: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.**

**Sunday School for ages 3 to  
12<sup>th</sup> grade at 9:00 a.m.**

**Sunday School for adults at  
9:15 a.m.**

**Nursery available for ages 3 & under during the  
10:30 service only.**

