

Trinity Times

"Growing in Christ, Sharing in Love"

A publication of Trinity United Church

A joint congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ

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Elsie Armstrong Rhodes, Pastor

Cindy Reames, Editor

Volume 9 Issue 5

August 2006

Pastor's Pen:

By The Reverend Elsie Armstrong Rhodes

"Are bloggers against hate, or feeding it?" This was the title of an article I recently read online from the *St. Petersburg Times* (originally dated January 16, 2006).

In 2005 Camp Cedarkirk, supported by Peace River and Tampa Bay Presbyteries, extended hospitality to the Muslim American Society of Tampa, for a weekend spiritual retreat (Dec. 30 - Jan. 1). Cedarkirk is a Christian camp intended for community building - a place where people can come together to pray, play, learn ... and overcome barriers.

On December 29, 2005 Joe Kaufman (a web-blogger and the Chairman of Americans Against Hate) made allegations on one of the major news network programs, that the Presbyterian camp (Cedarkirk) was hosting a "jihad terrorist retreat." The church camp directors immediately called local and federal authorities and were assured that there was nothing questionable about their providing the meeting

site for the Muslim American Society of Tampa. But the damage was done.

The camp directors and their children received life-threatening calls and had their patriotism questioned. They had to close the camp and take their children to a safe place.

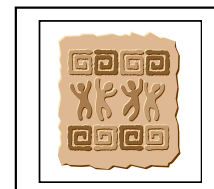
These days it is so easy to get pulled into the downward spiral of fear and distrust. But as people of faith, we must find the strength and courage to resist this temptation. We must hold one another accountable as we seek to bear the fruit of the Spirit - "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23a).

For such a time as this, I pray that we can live as people of hope - committed to realizing *God's* dream of peace, justice, healing, wholeness and well-being for *all* of creation.

With deep gratitude for all of you, the beloved band of believers of Trinity United Church, I remain

Your sojourner in faith,

Pastor Elsie



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Notes from the Covenant Board

Submitted by Gary Pratt, Clerk of Session

The following are highlights from the regular meeting held July 18, 2006 and moderated by Pastor Elsie Armstrong Rhodes.

- ❖ A motion was made and passed that it be standing policy that all stock transferred to TUC toward pledges should be sold upon receipt.
- ❖ A motion was made and passed to hold a Gift from the Heart offering on September 24, 2006.
- ❖ A motion was made and passed to approve the Adult Sunday School Education Calendar.
- ❖ A motion was made and passed to approve Kent Ira Groff, Director of Oasis Spirituality Center as preacher and speaker on November 5, 2006.
- ❖ A motion was made and passed to approve the following volunteer staff for Christian Education: Thom Rhodes, Kathy Pantalone, Lynn Merrill, Lorraine Kimsey, Carol Krueger, Karen VanManen, Cyndy Reames and Kit Bebbington.
- ❖ A motion was made and passed to approve the Fair Trade show to be held on November 11. (Watch for details in next month's issue of *Trinity Times*)
- ❖ A motion was made and passed to approve the Fish & Chips Dinner to be held on October 13. (Watch for details in next month's issue of *Trinity Times*)
- ❖ Also discussed: Planned Giving and Endowment Funds with special guests, Dave Bomgaars, Treasurer of Presbytery of Elizabeth and David Haight, Presbyterian Foundation
- ❖ Also discussed: Report from TUC Auction/Fund Raising Committee; establishing needs analysis team.

PORTRAIT OF PASTORAL MINISTRY (May-July):

- **Worship** preparation (for summer and fall)
- **Pastoral care**, pastoral visitation (of members and friends, neighbors and newcomers)
- **Mission and outreach** (preparing for the "Wellspring" retreat in August)
- **Christian education** (planning for fall, facilitating the "Living the Questions" DVD and discussion series)
- **Leadership development** (I'm enjoying planning worship "in community")
- **Administration** (working with committees in planning and organizing – this is both a blessing and a burden for *all* of us; I'm keeping pace with my goal to de-clutter work, home and "thought" space; I continue to set priorities of time and energy)
- **Wider church work** (working with the Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry, attending Presbytery meetings; I also attended one day of the Central Atlantic Conference/UCC Annual Meeting)

Other Highlights ...

- Attending a family reunion in Baltimore, MD (May 12-14)
- Attending **TUC's Annual Community Art Show** (May 20)

- Attending the **Patriot's Game w/ TUC** fans (May 25)
- Meeting with **confirmands Grant Negri and Scott Pantalone**; hearing their statements of faith (May 30)
- Feeling the power and presence of the Holy Spirit "blowing" through the congregation on **Youth Sunday** (June 4)
- Participating in the **Presbytery-wide worship service** "in the spirit of Pentecost" (June 11)
- Officiating at the **wedding of Derek Kanarek** (my nephew) & **Becca Shell** (June 18)
- Attending the Wisconsin Council of Churches-sponsored **Washington Island Forum, with the Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor** (July 8-14). *Thank you for the gift of this continuing education! It was inspiring, informative and worshipful!*

MEMBERS OF THE COVENANT BOARD – 2006

Kit Bebbington	('08)	732-356-3730
Phil Krieter	('07)	908-707-4031
Lynn Merrill	('09)	908-256-1346
Harry Morgan	('07)	732-469-5994
Gary Pratt	('09)	908-647-6094
Cyndy Reames	('09)	732-271-1885
Karen Van Manen	('08)	908-908-1979
Robert Willitts	('08)	732-564-1508

('xx) indicates year current term of office expires

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION – 2006

President:	Harry Morgan
Vice President:	Phil Krieter
Secretary:	Gary Pratt
Treasurer:	Carol Krueger

Members of the 2006 Pastoral Relations Committee

Harry Morgan	Kathy Pantalone
Phil Krieter	Gary Pratt
Linda Mobus	Karen Van Manen
Joyce Pratt	

Financial Report:

Ralph Pratt, Financial Secretary; Carol Krueger, Treasurer

In June 2006, income received through pledges and offerings toward the operating budget was \$9,905.00. Included in that amount was \$813.00 received for building use (Healthy Bones, Laugh-Out Loud, and Yoga classes).

For July 2006, \$8,249.00 was received through pledges and offerings toward the operating budget. Included in that amount was \$210.00 received for building use (Healthy Bones and Yoga classes). In addition, \$392 was received for special funds: summer Bible study, Sunday morning flowers, genealogy research, and contributions toward the TUC float for the Warren Bi-Centennial Parade (see page 5 for details).

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we continue through the summer months, many of us will find ourselves away from home enjoying some well-earned rest and recreation. The Stewardship Committee would like to remind you to remember to send your pledge or gift regularly throughout the remainder of these summer vacation months. Your regular giving is very important in order for Trinity United Church to be able to remain fiscally responsible in paying its bills.

We have, in 2006, sold over \$18,000.00 of the stock in our Stock Fund. These are monies which were given as pledges over many past years. As a result of several years of passing Faith Budgets (deficit budgets) our surpluses are used up, and it was necessary to begin selling our investments to meet the expenses in our Faith Budget.

Although at first glance it may appear that we are doing well, as our income for the first half of 2006 is \$68,986 and our expenses \$65,699, close to \$12,000 of that income came from selling stock. And we have in July sold another \$6,061.31 worth of stock. Our Stock Fund is now at \$5923 and when that is sold, there will be no place to draw funds from to meet our financial obligations.

We are making you aware of our financial situation in the hope that you will keep your pledge and gift giving up to date.

While you are away, we hope you will find time for worship and when you return, will join us for worship on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

In Christ's service,

Carol Krueger

Treasurer

Stewardship Commission Chair

Special ALL TEAMS' Event - August 8, 2006

"Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy." Proverbs 31:9

Join us **Tuesday, August 8, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.** for our next meeting. Ernie Cottrill will be sharing with us his reflections on his experience attending "Pentecost 2006 - Mobilization" held in Washington DC, June 26-28. This event included workshops, presentations, and lobbying our elected leaders (congress people) in favor of "A Covenant for a New America - overcoming poverty with religious commitment and political leaders."

All who can are encouraged to attend

*The Will of God never takes you
to where the Grace of God
will not protect you*

A Christian Education Minute

Kit Bebbington and Lynn Merrill, Elders

Adult Education Opportunities:

Sunday Morning Adult Education ~ Fall 2006

Adult Christian Education begins on **September 17 at 9:30** with a forum led by a special guest from The Muslim Center of Somerset County.

Other upcoming Adult Education opportunities include a 5-week series in October, led by Pastoral Assistant, Rachel Hackenberg, entitled, *STRUCK FROM THE HIP: A JOURNEY TOWARDS ANTI-RACISM AND SELF-UNDERSTANDING*.

Then in November, we will welcome guest speaker, Kent Ira Groff, Director of Oasis Spirituality Center, to our 9:30am class. He will also be preaching during the morning worship service and then leading an ecumenical program with other churches in the afternoon.

LIVING THE QUESTIONS

No one is without knowledge
except him who asks no questions
~ African Proverb

Living the Questions is a 12-week DVD-based small group study exploring beyond the traditions and rote theologies in which so many people and local churches seem to be stuck. The emphasis is on creating a safe environment where people have permission to ask the questions they've always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice, and to engage in honest dialogue about religious ideas. It's not too late to enter into the remaining discussions. Contact organizer, Karen Van Manen or Pastor Elsie to receive the Participant's Guide, then join the group at 7pm until approximately 9:15 on the following Thursday evenings:

- **August 17: Intimacy with God**
- **September 1: Social Justice**
- **September 21: Kingdom Without Walls**
- **October 5: Lives of Jesus**
- **October 19: Compassion: The Heart of Jesus' Ministry**
- **November 2: A Passion for Christ: Paul the Apostle**
- **November 16: Out Into the World: Challenges Facing Progressive Christianity**

For more information contact Karen Van Manen at kjvanmanen@aol.com or (908) 904-1979. You may also want to visit www.livingthequestions.com.

(Disclaimer from Living the Questions intro: Please be aware that the issues and concepts discussed in the DVDs and written material will challenge many people's worldview and understanding of the divine. For some it will be radically new information. For others, it will be an affirmation of what they've known deep down for a long time.)

GODLY PLAY ~ Bible study for the very young

Submitted by Kit Bebbington

This exciting new education opportunity for our youngest members is set to start September 17, during the 9:30am Sunday school period. The first week will be an orientation for the children, introducing them to Godly Play, followed each week with stories from the Bible. Simple refreshments are part of the "play" as children learn what it means to "break bread" together.

We still have a Wish List of items needed to complete our supplies:

- **25** Shallow, round baskets (approx. 6" or smaller in diameter)
 - **25** Shallow, rectangular baskets (approx. 12 x 18")
 - **1** 9' round rug (or 9 x 12' rectangular)
- OR
- **12** carpet samples for children to sit upon
 - Gold foil wrapping paper
 - Shoe boxes with lids

For more information on how you can help, contact co-coordinators, Kit Bebbington or Lynn Merrill.

ACOLADES TO OUR SUMMER MUSICIANS

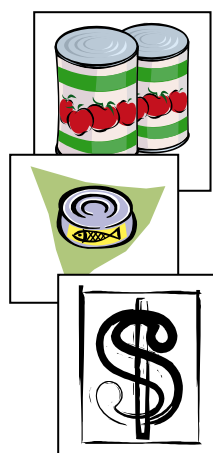
This summer, the music during Sunday worship has been as varied and original as the members of TUC itself. The AcaPals blended in delicious a cappella harmony. Cyndy Reames soared in a "duet" with jazz vocalist Warren Cooper (on tape). Ralph Pratt sang the Lord's Prayer, sharing the gift honed by his years in Ecumenical Chorus. Still to come is jazz pianist, Deanna Witkowski, more music by the AcaPals, a duet by sisters Kit Bebbington and Leona Parker, and the special musical styling of Joyce Pratt and friends. We especially appreciate Jane McCarthy for playing organ and Nicole Negri, for playing piano throughout the services. Thank you, one and all, for lending your talent and spirit and gifts while the choir and musical director, Sue Coslick, were on summer hiatus.

OUTWARD BOUND ~ MISSION AT TUC

Karen Van Manen, Mission Chairperson

FOOD BANK NEWS

In June 2006, \$801.00 and in July 2006, \$390.00 in cash contributions and many bags of groceries were collected for The **Hunger Offering** for the Food Bank Network of Somerset County. The next **Hunger Offering** will be received on **Sunday, August 20, 2006**. However, your contributions of cash and non-perishable food items can be brought into the church at any time. The basket is always kept in the narthex (the little entry way off the sanctuary). Staples such as stews, soups, tuna, pastas and sauces, rice, cereal, vegetables and fruit, peanut



butter, canned meat, and powdered milk fill the bags of those on low incomes.

And remember, your check, written to "Trinity United Church," earmarked "Hunger Offering" goes a long way.

Continued thanks go to Ernie Cottrill and Joanna Marston for delivering our donations to the Food Bank distribution center.

Interfaith Hospitality Network

The Interfaith Hospitality Network of Somerset County sponsors temporary housing for individuals and families. It helps them through the emergency circumstances that caused their homelessness through a period of transitional housing and then to their move to permanent housing. This care is supported by a number of religious communities in Somerset County along with private and corporate partners.

Two area churches that are involved in this program are Pluckemin Presbyterian Church and the Plainfield Quaker Meeting House. Both groups are looking for volunteers to help out during their week of hosting. Marj Bowlby has been very involved with the Pluckemin church while Phil Krieter has helped out at the meeting house.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED



Two volunteers (female or male!) are needed each Sunday. You do *not* need to be a parent to care for our little ones. Contact Karen Van Manen at (908) 904-1979 to volunteer.

"Come let us worship together"

Sue Coslick, Worship Chair and Cyndy Reames, Elder



Numbers that Matter: Worship Attendance

June 4	45 Adults	12 Children/Youth
June 11	39 Adults	8 Children/Youth
June 18 Father's Day	46 Adults	4 Children/Youth
June 25	34 Adults	8 Children/Youth
July 2	23 Adults	4 Children/Youth
July 9	30 Adults	2 Children/Youth
July 16	28 Adults	2 Children/Youth
July 23	27 Adults	5 Children/Youth
July 30	38 Adults	4 Children/Youth

COMMUNION was served to 57 people during morning worship service on Sunday, June 4, 2006 and 32 people on Sunday, July 9, 2006.

People are funny ~
they want the front of the bus,
the middle of the road,

If you are interested in helping, please contact either Marj or Phil for information. You can also get in contact with Jane Madison (jane@tclstile.com; 908-722-7381 evenings) for helping at Pluckemin Presbyterian or Donna Madison (madisontwofish@aol.com) for the Plainfield Meeting House.

TAPE MINISTRY

Coordinator Merl Coslick

Vacations away don't mean you have to miss the sermons. Tapes and CDs of each week are available on the tape table at the back of the sanctuary. You can also listen to them on the Internet through a link on the TUC website site!

Your support is sincerely appreciated. To help in any way (financially, technically, or by tape distribution), contact Merl Coslick, Gary Pratt, Henry Coslick, Thom Rhodes, or Scott VanManen. Won't you consider becoming part of this team?

Jail Chaplaincy

Coordinator Kay Hurd

The Jail Chaplaincy of Somerset County needs the following personal items in individual or regular (not family or hotel) size:

- Shampoo (two in one – shampoo and conditioner)
- Tooth paste
- Deodorant: (stick, not spray)
- White T Shirts, briefs, sox

Please, no razors or toothbrushes. The county supplies these items.

Put your contributions in the collection box in the narthex.

*Bride in our Past, Promise in our Future
Warren Township Celebrates
200 Years*

As part of the community of Warren Township, Trinity United Church is helping to celebrate its Bi-Centennial. Many of our members and friends have already been busy on town activities. But, coming up in September and October, our entire congregation (members and friends alike) will have an opportunity to join in the celebration.

First, in September, we will be marching (or riding) in the Parade, along with our first ever TUC float. The float's design is geared to resemble Noah's Ark, a nod to our involvement with Heifer International. Marchers, will be carrying fish-shaped signs listing the many mission and other activities our members participate in. (For details on how you can help with the float and the parade, see the following piece.)

Then, on **October 22**, members of our choir and Pastor Elsie will be among the leaders of the **Interfaith Worship Service**. Following in the tradition of the Thanksgiving Interfaith Services, this service will celebrate the unique richness of the many houses of worship in Warren with Mayor Garafola offering the welcome and Town Historian, Alan Siegel, as the keynote speaker.

**WARREN BI-CENTENNIAL CALENDAR:
PARADE and ANTIQUE CAR SHOW
SEPTEMBER 10, 2006**

**HELP BUILD TUC's FLOAT
for the
WARREN BI-CENTENNIAL PARADE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 at 1pm**

The design is done and the plans look terrific! The creativity of TUCers is another marvel. The following is what we need now:

- Carpenters (or anyone with a hammer and nails) to turn the drawings a reality.
- Painters to add the finishing touches of color and design.
- Money to purchase supplies of wood, paint, and paper. There is a donation box in the back of the sanctuary.

Time is of the essence so contact coordinator, Yvette Halpin at 732-469-7858 to sign up for your specialty.

And remember, on Parade Day, we will all go together to march or ride on the float, following our regular Sunday Worship service and a special hospitality "meal."

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE AND SERVICE AS
ALWAYS IN ALL WAYS**

Dear TUC family,

As we continue to receive terrifying news, daily, of the crisis in the Middle East, I continue to deliberate how best to respond in addition to "praying without ceasing."

I appreciated reading the UCC-Disciples Middle East statements. If ever you want to know how the wider church is responding to a crisis or an issue, I encourage you to log on to our denominations' websites, www.ucc.org and www.pcusa.org, as well as www.ncc.org and www.wcc.org (National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches).

With St. Francis I pray, "Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace" ...

Pastor Elsie



WE GET MAIL:

Everyone at TUC,

Thank You very much for everything. We miss the kids, but will visit soon.

Bennie and Morgan Daynall

**Words of Wisdom
from the Healing and Wholeness Ministry**

The one-eyed man doesn't thank God
until he sees a blind man



August is Eye Examination Month. To commemorate, we encourage everyone to get their eyes checked. And, to consider those among us who are not able to see. The following *Rules of Blind Etiquette* was submitted by Joyce Pratt, who has RPG, a degenerative eye disease. "Many times I find myself talking to folks who have walked away already and I did not know it!!" says Joyce. "Or faces look like someone else and I call people by the wrong name; then to realize I messed up....can be very embarrassing." Take a minute to review the *Rules*. Maybe you can save a person with limited sight – and yourself – an embarrassing moment.

RULES FOR BLIND ETIQUETTE

- Address us by name so we know you are talking to us.
 - Speak directly to us, rather than through someone else.
 - Greet us by giving your name so that we recognize you.
 - Speak in a natural conversational tone. It is not necessary to speak loudly or to over-enunciate.
 - Feel free to use words that refer to vision. We also use the words "see," "look," "watch," etc. And remember, we are not offended by the term "blind."
 - Be calm and clear about what to do if you see us encountering a dangerous situation. Saying "stop," for example, is better than saying, "watch out."
 - If you think we need assistance, ask first. Don't assume that help is needed.
 - When offering assistance, never take hold of us uninvited. Simply make the offer, and let it be our decision.
 - Never take hold of a white cane.
 - Never pet or distract a guide dog while it is on duty.
- These are just a few guidelines that may help!

Nurse's Prescription

By Kay Hurd R.N., Parish Nurse

As we all gather again for the fall – leaving the shore, the mountains, the plains, or wherever vacations took us – we savor the beauty of this planet, Earth. Even with all the violence and destruction, God's natural beauty does come forth. To ensure wholeness we know we must have healthy minds, bodies and spirits. We also must have healthy relationships and environments. Because "outside" is so much a part of our lives right now instead of the "cocooning" of winter, I would like us to consider the healthy environments.

God has entrusted the environment into our care. Since the beginning of time, caring for our environment has been entrusted to us. If we consider the world today, it seems we have not been faithful to our calling. Today, our world needs us to be caretakers, more than ever. In most developing countries, only one person in three has access to clean drinking water. World wide, there are millions of people living with air quality that is unacceptable. This polluted air is responsible for respiratory disease in many people. The USA produces more garbage than any other nation – according to 1990 statistics about 160 million tons of garbage. We are a throw-away society. We sometimes throw away our children, but that's for another time and topic.

There is enough destruction through our "wars" that we personally cannot do anything about, but we can begin at home with actions that would help. First, we ask God for forgiveness for the careless and harmful way we have treated the environment. In addition, we can ask God to give us the direction to help all of our brothers and sisters who live in poor and unhealthy situations. We can be comforted with these words, "If my people, who are called by my name, humble themselves, pray, seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and with forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Second, we can look for ways to share Earth's limited resources with those less fortunate. We need to develop an understanding that natural resources belong to God and not to us. According to Native American culture, land can not be owned. It is a sharing of the abundance that provided for everyone. If we use that concept in our thinking, we may find that our thinking about natural resources has changed.

Third, we can begin right at home by reducing the "throw away" stuff, recycling garbage, and, we may now be forced by gasoline prices, to limit our driving. We can also watch what development is doing to our area and vote for policies that care for Earth, not exploit it.

May God be proud of the way we are using all that has been provided to us.





“LAUGH OUT LOUD”

By Yvette Halpin

NEW CLASSES
STARTING SEPTEMBER 18
MONDAYS AT 8PM & THURSDAYS AT 11 AM

Join everyone who has found, as quoted from the
Star Ledger,
“LAUGHTER, IT DOES THE BODY GOOD!”

Even if you cannot come...send a friend!
We can all reap the benefits of laughing out loud
and often.

Plus -- it is a fund raising opportunity since all
registration goes toward church maintenance.

SEE YOU HEAR IN SEPTEMBER
Bring your laugh!

PEOPLE CARE NETWORK (PCN)

Coordinator Joyce Pratt

Meals on Wheels...

Many of our friends and “family” are in need of meals,
either while they or one of their loved ones are unable
to cook for themselves. Healthy, nutritious soups and
casseroles can make a tiring, sad, discouraging time a
little more bearable.

To help in an on-going way, contact PCN coordinator,
Joyce Pratt at 908-647-6094.

Hospitality Time – Providers Needed

There are a few more “blank” Sundays on the spring
into summer sign-up sheet in the PCN notebook on
the sanctuary piano. Providing snacks after worship
service is an easy way to share hospitality and
stewardship. Snacks can be as simple as popcorn and
sliced apples or as elaborate as...well, as your own
creative culinary talents will allow. Juice, milk, and
coffee are provided by TUC. In the back of the
notebook is a complete description of your “job” when
signing your name.

“Hey, Buddy, can you give a friend a ride?”

If you need a ride to or from church, let Joyce Pratt
know. If you can provide transportation, let Joyce
know. A sign-up sheet in the PCN notebook is
available for those who help with “driving Miss Piper”
but there are others who need help as well. Let’s make
sure no one misses church because of a missed ride.

Thank you for your help.

By Scott Van Manen

SV: You said you are going somewhere today right after
the service. Where is that?

TT: Well, I’ll be heading for the airport to help set up
activities for the Aviation Exploring post. It’s all part
of our youth development, and what we do is we
have subject-matter experts that come in and speak
to the young folk and help set their direction in life.

SV: Is it like Boy Scouts or something?

TT: It is a division within the Boy Scouts, but
instead of being activity-based, it’s career-based.
We are Aviation Exploring Post 107.

SV: How long have you been doing this? Who comes?

TT: This is our 10th year. I’ve been chairman for 6.
We have a total of 17 members. Our job is to
provide opportunities for young people to get into
aerospace. We don’t tell them to do things. We say
that these things are available, and if you’re
interested, go do it.

SV: Anything particularly memorable about your
experiences so far with that?

TT: Yes, it’s the youth development. We have 3
young men who have already soloed at the age of
15 in a glider. We have another 5 who are going for
their private pilot’s license at the age of 16. We have
one young man who is now flying a commercial jet.
We have another young lady who is now a project
engineer for Bell Helicopter refurbishing Cobra
helicopters, and she won’t tell me any more,
otherwise she’d have to kill me. So, they come
through our program, and then they move through
college and into the industry.

SV: Let me change the subject over to the church if you
don’t mind. How long have you been attending here?

TT: I’ve been attending Trinity United Church as
long as I’ve lived in Warren. It’s like 8 or 9 years
now.

SV: How did you end up here?

TT: Parking lots. I drove to a lot of churches in the
town and I sat in front of the church and I’d think
about it and look at it. When I got to the Trinity
United Church and the gravel parking lot, I said
“This might be my kind of place.”

I walked in and it happened that day they were
having a big celebration. I think it was for their
150th anniversary, and they had all kinds of food,
and so I walked into a religious and an epicurean
experience. I said, “This is my place!”

SV: Once you told me that people need to remember
that this church has done a lot of good things. Can you
tell me a little more about that?

TT: As an organization, we tend to be nearsighted,
and what we don’t see are all the things we do as a
church. If you were to look at them on a piece of
paper, and if you were to put them in columns
called “family” and “faith,” you know, a “family of
faith,” and if you put down all the “family” things we
do and put down all the “faith” things we do, I just
think it’s incredible that we can do this within our

church. The things we have done in this small church are just great!

SV: Well I know you have to go. Is there anything else you want to say before we go?

TT: One of the things that our church does is maintain a close relationship with each of its members. This includes in their frailties and their successes. I've had more than my share of frailties. It's impacted on the family. If it weren't for this family of faith, I'd be lost in a world that you just don't want to get into. So, one of the major things in terms of a benefit to me personally has been the support of my family, the support of me, through my trials and tribulations in terms of health. That's a big deal, (into the microphone,) AND I THANK YOU ALL!

SV: (Laughs) Well, thanks very much.

TT: You are welcome. Thank you, Scott.

Church Picnic: Hot Hot Hot!

The first attempt at a Summer All-Church Picnic was rained out, but the second attempt was one of the hottest days of the summer. Fortunately, a cooling breeze was blowing gently through the yard of our host and hostess, John and Yvette Halpin. Good food and good conversation made for a *really* good time.

Some of those attending left early to attend the Somerset Patriot's Baseball Game, supporting the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Again, the cooling breeze helped off-set the heat as we cheered on the home team. The fireworks at the close of the game were "some of the best I've ever seen," according to coordinator, Marj Bowlby. A perfect ending to a perfect evening of friends and fun.

What's happening in and around TUC

"Project Healthy Bones"

This active, joyful, exercise and fitness group now meets **each Monday at 9:30am and Wednesday at 10am**. For more information on how you can become involved contact the leader for the group, Carole Juth, at (732) 469-5666.

Yoga: Stretching Into New Territory

The gentle exercise known as Yoga is at TUC. Certified Yoga Instructor, Yvette Halpin leads sessions on **Tuesday mornings at 9:30am and Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm**. For more information and/or to register, contact Yvette at 732-271-8786.

A CapPALS

Join voices with others seeking ways to turn their love of a cappella singing into outreach opportunities. The next rehearsal scheduled for this fun loving, dedicated group will be **Saturday, August 19** at the church from **10am-12pm**. To hear them sing, join us for worship on **Sunday, August 20 at 9:30am**. For more information on their next rehearsal, on becoming a member, or if

you have an opportunity for this group to perform, contact Harry Morgan at 732-469-5994.

PR for TUC

Submitted by Yvette Halpin

In the 21st century, word of mouth is not enough for the work of the church to become known. It takes advertising and planning and consistency. It takes teamwork. At TUC, **Yvette Halpin, Andrew Galgoci, Kay Hurd, Gary Pratt, and Joyce Pratt** are doing that teamwork. For more information on the team, to make them aware of something that needs to be publicized, or to offer suggestions on resources for publicizing, email them at publicity@trinityunitedchurch.org.

CineMinistry

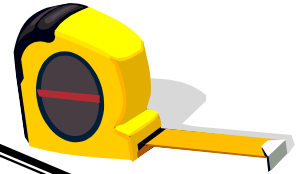
The next CineMinistry viewing will be on **Sunday, September 24**. As violence once again explodes in Israel-Palestine, we will be presenting **Munich**, Steven Spielberg's 2005 powerful academy award-nominated movie, based on the tragic events that saw the murder of 11 Israeli athletes during the 1972 Munich Olympics. This astonishing film explores the aftermath of the tragedy and focuses on issues beyond the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including how individuals and a nation can or should respond to tragedy and terror. Join us at TUC at **4pm**. Please be advised, this film is rated **R** for violence, sexual content, nudity and language. Contact coordinator, Thom Rhodes at 732-748-3370 for further details. All CineMinistry events are open to the community.

Readers' Club

Sunday, August 27, is the next meeting of the Readers' Club, around **12noon** at the Cottrill/Marston home, 24 Berkshire Drive, Warren. **Ending Hunger Now: A Challenge to Persons of Faith** by George McGovern, Bob Dole, and Donald E. Messer, is the subject of this month's discussion. Even if you aren't able to read the book, join the discussion on how we, as individuals and corporately, can meet the challenge of ending hunger in our own corner of the world.

Readers' Club is open to everyone. Get your copy of the next book (available online at amazon.com or in your local library). For more information contact Gary Pratt at 908-647-6094 or Cyndy Reames at 732-271-1885.

In 2007, Trinity Times is considering a special series called "Where Are They Now?" It will focus on the children who were nurtured by TUC and have gone on to live and work in other parts of the country. Please contact Cyndy at cyndyr@hotmail.com or in person if we could add your child/children's name(s) to our list of potential "subjects." Thank you.



**2007 TUC ALL-CHURCH
RETREAT
UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2007

6:00 to 8:00 PM
7:00 to 8:00 PM
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM

REGISTRATION
DINNER
GATHERING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2007

AM
PM
PM
PM

BREAKFAST
LUNCH
DINNER
VARIETY SHOW

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2007

AM
AM
PM

BREAKFAST
WORSHIP
LUNCH

2007
RECOMMENDATIONS

2004 RETREAT
FEEDBACK

STONY POINT
CENTER

PASSIONATE
SPIRITUALITY:
"SHARING THE
FAITH"

2006 TUC
QUESTIONNAIRE

BUDGET

PASTORAL
COACHING

You are more than welcome to speak to our Team Member about your ideas, concerns and questions. You may also contact me at: tfteel@optonline.net / 908 581 6876

CONSTRUCTION TEAM

- ❖ H. Morgan - Program
- ❖ P. Mara – Facilities
- ❖ A. Galgoci – Facilities
- ❖ C. Krueger – Financial
- ❖ Pastor Elsie – Facilitator
- ❖ T. Teel – Team Support



Sunday Sermon Notes

Worship begins each week at 10:30am
Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:30am

Pastor Elsie Armstrong Rhodes can be reached at the church at 732-469-5044,
on her cell at 908-304-3605, or via email at thereverend@trinityunitedchurch.org

August 6: "Living in the Upbeat"

Scripture: Psalm 103, II Corinthians 3:1-6
The Rev. Elsie Armstrong Rhodes, preaching
Special Guest Jazz Pianist, Deanna Witkowski
Celebration of Communion

August 20: "Drinking from the Wellspring"

Selected Scripture Passages
Hunger Offering will be received
Reflections from the Wellspring Five

August 13: "You must be kidding!"

Scripture: Psalm 130, John 6:35, 41-51
Thom Rhodes, preaching



August 27: "Do you see what I see..."

Selected Scripture Passages
A service of shared reflections following the
viewing of a film excerpt
The Rev. Elsie Armstrong Rhodes, facilitating

Trinity United Church

118 King George Road
Warren, NJ 07059

"Growing in Christ, Sharing in Love"

August 2006