

Trinity Times

“Growing in Christ, Sharing in Love”

A publication of Trinity United Church

A union congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ
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The Rev. Elsie Armstrong Rhodes, Pastor

Thom Rhodes, Editor

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From the Pastor's Pen –

By The Reverend Elsie Armstrong Rhodes

Our 2010 Lenten Journey “Walking with the Shepherd: Living with Psalm 23”

I love the season of Lent. I welcome it – I take it in with a deep breath. Other seasons tend to move at such a fast pace, that I'm often *out of breath* by season's end (my Epiphany star word for 2010 is “breathe”).

But Lent is a season of the church year that invites us (*encourages us*) to slow down, to pause awhile and ponder – to lie fallow, as we allow the seeds of faith to germinate. This is the liturgical season that promises us 40 days in the wilderness to practice the presence of God.

Lent - from Old English *lencten*, meaning “spring,” the lengthening of days after winter is over - invites us to engage in a spring cleaning for the soul, as well as for the body. Forty days to mine the depths of the spirit, to make that wilderness sojourn – to strip away all that is non-essential to our lives, and to remember what it is like to live by the grace of God alone and not by what we can supply for ourselves.

To that end, throughout the Lenten season and Holy Week, we will be **“Walking with the Shepherd: Living with Psalm 23.”** Each week during worship we will reflect on one of the most beloved passages in the Bible, Psalm 23, one verse at a time.

My hope and prayer is that we may see these purple days of Lent as a time to reflect, to take stock of the gift of life, and to consider ways of living our lives more fully, more faithfully and more passionately in Christ.

May Psalm 23 provide you with “bread for the journey” ...

Pastor Elsie

PSALM 23 (*King James Version*)
David's confidence in God's grace.
A Psalm of David.

THE LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparedst a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Adult Education February/March 2010

Sunday Morning Adult Education Class is held in the church sanctuary from **9:30 am until 10:15 am**.

Sex Is Not a Four-Letter Word

February 7 and 14, 2010

As Christians, we turn to God, and the church, for guidance on almost every major issue affecting our lives. So why is it that when it comes to sex, a central part of our humanity, God & the church are the last things we think about? Or if we do, it's not usually in a positive light? In our 2nd week discussion, we will be reflecting on and discussing God's gift of sex, why it should be celebrated and not shamed, and the church's role/responsibility. Our resource materials will include scripture, the article, "6 Rules for Shameless Sex" in the Sept./Oct.'09 issue of *Sojourners* magazine, and our own personal life experiences...

Session I (Feb. 7): *The Birds & the Bees...*

Session II (Feb. 14): *Myths and Misconceptions ...*

Led by: *Heather Harris-Galgoci and the Rev. Elsie Armstrong Rhodes*



Jesus in Gethsemane by Ruth Yarbrough

Walking Through Fire: A Lenten Literature Series

February 21, March 7 and 28

Each year on Good Friday, the liturgy beckons us to reach back to Genesis and re-encounter the unsettling account of Abraham and the Binding, or Sacrifice, of Isaac. This Lenten season, we will spend three Sundays taking a closer look at this story, surely one of the most gut-wrenching moments in Scripture. How do we reconcile the God of child sacrifice, of dust and ash, with the God of Easter Morning and resurrection? Our

journey will begin with a close reading and discussion of the original story in Genesis 22, but will continue over two subsequent Sundays by looking at its presence in: Cynthia Ozick's short story "The Shawl" and Cormac McCarthy's novel *The Road*. Neither are overtly Christian works: Ozick is a Jewish writer confronting in stark terms the terror of genocide in the camps, and McCarthy's novel presents the starkest and bleakest vision of a father and son in the aftermath of apocalypse. Nonetheless it is our hope that in encountering even these most challenging visions, we can deepen our engagement with the Lenten season.

Feb. 21: "A Burnt Offering, My Son": Abraham & Isaac

March 7: "The Ash-Stippled Wind": *The Shawl*

March 28: "We're Carrying the Fire": *The Road*

Led by: *Matthew Gaventa, M.Div Junior at Princeton Theological Seminary*

A Conversation with Temple Har Shalom's Rabbi Randi Musnitsky

February 28

Don't miss this unique opportunity for a delightful sit-down chat with one of Warren's sharpest and dynamic spiritual leaders.



Rabbi Musnitsky

Through the Valley: A Prayerful Walk with Psalm 23

March 14 and 21

Psalm 23 is probably the most recited psalm in the Bible; it's certainly one of the most beloved texts of Scripture. What is it about this psalm that draws us to it, that speaks to us? The sermon series during Lent and through Holy Week will be considering Psalm 23, as well, going verse by verse. In this two-part education series, we'll dive into and flesh out the psalm, reflecting on its socio-historical context and theological significance, and the psalm's impact on us poetically, prayerfully and personally.

Led by: *the Rev. Elsie Armstrong Rhodes*

**There will be no adult ed classes on Easter Sunday,
April 4, 2010.**



“Crucifix” by Charles McCollough

“The Art of Parables” focus of Tri-Church Lenten Series

Author and artist Dr. Charles McCollough will guide us on the Lenten journey through sculpture in an eye-opening series **The Art of Parables**, on Sundays March 14, 21 and 28, 5-7 pm.

TUC (March 14), Meyersville Presbyterian in Gillette (March 21) and First Presbyterian in Stirling (March 28) will be hosting the programs. Each evening will begin with a soup supper followed by the program. Childcare will be available for each program.

Currently an artist-in-residence at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, he is the author of seven books, including *Heads of Heaven -- Feet of Clay*, *Lifestyles of Faithfulness* and *The Art of Parables*.

MEMBERS OF THE 2010 COVENANT BOARD

Larry Armstrong	('11)	xxx-xxx-xxxx
Donna Budzinski	('12)	xxx-xxx-xxxx
Andrew Galgoci	('13)	xxx-xxx-xxxx
Yvette Halpin	('11)	xxx-xxx-xxxx
Kay Hurd	('13)	xxx-xxx-xxxx
Peg Mara	('13)	xxx-xxx-xxxx
Lynn Merrill	('12)	xxx-xxx-xxxx
Nancy Parkinson	('12)	xxx-xxx-xxxx
Robert Willitts	('11)	xxx-xxx-xxxx

(‘xx) indicates year current term of office expires

TUC Financial report

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	12/31/09	12/31/09
Income:		
General/Other	\$ 18,333	\$ 146,760
Designated	2,995	8,410
Total Income	21,328	155,170
Disbursements		
General/Other	10,609	140,465
Designated	2,066	6,366
Total Disbursement	<u>12,675</u>	<u>146,831</u>
NET	\$ 8,653	\$ 8,339

Numbers that Matter: Worship Attendance

January 3	35 Adults	6 Children/Youth
January 10	46 Adults	9 Children/Youth
January 17	41 Adults	3 Children/Youth
January 24	37 Adults	3 Children/Youth
January 31	42 Adults	2 Children/Youth

Preparations for the rummage sale!

Plans are underway for our second-annual event, slated for **June 4** and **June 5** here at the church.

It is never too early to start setting aside your finest in preparation for the sale – clothes, music, kitchen stuff, knick-knacks, small/large furniture (although if the furniture doesn't sell, ya gotta take it back), etc. **No books this year, please.** Because of space restrictions, we can't have items brought in to the church building until May 30. Stay tuned for further details. For more info, **call Yvette at 732-469-7858.**



Chili Supper for a Chilly Night

If you love chili, you'll love our country chili supper on Feb 28 at the church. Bring your appetite to this hot *hot* meal. Four types of home-cooked chili to suit every taste and temperature. Plus corn bread and all the fixin's. **Take home** available for all to enjoy.

Just a \$12 donation for these family-cookbook favorites. Questions-directions, call 908-251-1222.



Yvette Halpin is ready to bring more laughs to TUC

Laugh Out Loud sessions set to begin

New sessions of “Laugh Out Loud,” a seven-week program offered at TUC will start at 7:30 Tues., Feb 23 and at 11:30 Wed., Feb. 24.

“When I tell a person that I am a Certified Laughter Leader,” Yvette Halpin says, “their first comment is usually ‘you must know a lot of jokes.’” Laughter is a physical act and what people find funny differs from individual to individual. Laughter has no accent. It is the same across all cultures and societies. One does not need a sense of humor, or to be happy in order to laugh, but participating in laughter sessions does seem to improve one's sense of humor.”

The fee for the program is \$35 for the seven sessions, or a drop-in fee of \$5 per session. For more information, **contact Yvette at 732-469-7858.**

Trinity United All-Church Retreat

What we know:

- The next TUC All-Church Retreat will be held in 2010
- A sign-up sheet is in the PCN notebook on the sanctuary piano for you to indicate your interest in attending
- The location will be "closer to home" so that more people can attend

What we don't know -- yet:

- The exact location, **but** we are contacting a center this week
- The exact date, **but** we are looking at a Friday evening through Sunday worship in October or early December
- The exact program, **but** the theme is *Expressing the Extravagant Hospitality of Christ: Building Community*
- The exact activities, **but** we know there will be activities that are fun, thoughtful, and mission-oriented
- The exact cost, **but** we are requesting a \$25 per family unit deposit so that we will be able to pay the deposit required by all conference centers without over-burdening the 2010 operating budget for TUC

It may seem early to be asking you to book a weekend that won't happen for several months. However, scheduling this kind of event takes time and planning so we are asking you to please add your name to the sign-up sheet and put your deposit check in the offering plate (make your check payable to TUC, with 2010 RETREAT in the memo line). The planning team will have answers to the questions of where, when, and how much on Sunday, February 7, during announcement time. Or, you can contact one of the current "team:" Andrew Galgoci, Yvette Halpin, Kay Hurd, Cyndy Reames, Ellen Waldstein, and Pastor Elsie. If you are interesting in working with the team on planning activities and projects for the retreat, please let one of them know so that you can be contacted for the next planning meeting, to be held sometime in March.

People Care Network (PCN)

The PCN Notebook has become an invaluable tool for keeping track of the many things happening at TUC – and the many ways we can participate. Check out the notebook (kept on the sanctuary piano) to sign-up for:

- Volunteering for child-care in the nursery on Sundays
- Providing the Sunday flowers
- Providing Hospitality on Sunday mornings



In Memory of Linda Baker Mobus

October 18, 1929 – January 20, 2010

"As Linda waits for me at Tara she will remember the beautiful church with caring and loving words of family and friends. Thank You, Thanks and God Bless You All."

- Charles Mobus -

Child Care Volunteers Needed



Volunteers are needed each Sunday in the nursery during the **10:30 worship service**. Christina Clark said it is especially important to have a second adult in the room. A sign-up sheet is in the PNC notebook or for more information, **contact volunteer coordinator, Lorraine Kimsey**

FOOD BANK NEWS



The next **Hunger Offering** will be collected on **Sunday, February 21, 2019**. Bring your donations of food-stuffs such as stews, soups, tuna, pastas and sauces, rice, cereal, vegetables and fruit, peanut butter, canned meat, and powdered milk, to bring forward during the worship service. Or, drop off your contributions of cash or food to the church anytime during the month. The basket is always kept in the narthex (the little entry way off the sanctuary).

Share your veggie-tale recipes!

Jesus and the Apostle Paul remind us that it is important that we eat healthy food in order to maintain a healthy self. In an effort to improve the quality of food and share terrific vegetable recipes of TUC folks, Lorraine Kimsey has put together a Vegetable Recipe Sharing Book (in the sanctuary) and is looking forward to contributions from fellow TUC-ites.

The TUC Mini Art Gallery

Throughout February, the works of long-time Warren Township Council Member **Carolann Garafola** will be on view.

Donations received from any sales will be used for TUC restoration projects. If you would like to become a TUC Artist of the Month, sign up in the PCN notebook or **contact coordinator, Kit Bebbington**.



Sunday Sermon Notes

Christian Education for all ages begins at 9:30 am

Worship begins at 10:30 am

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

February 7: "Our Song in the Night"

Scripture: Psalm 42 and Luke 5: 1-11

Celebration of Communion

The Rev. Elsie Armstrong Rhodes, preaching

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

February 14: "Shine on!"

Scripture: Exodus 34:29-35 and Luke 9: 28-36

The Rev. Elsie Armstrong Rhodes, preaching

Transfiguration Sunday

Ordination and Installation of Elders

February 17

Ash Wednesday Worship

7:30 pm Meditative worship will include the
imposition of the ashes and indoor labyrinth walk

February 21:

"The Lord is My Shepherd"

Scripture: Psalm 23:1 and Luke 4:1-13

The Rev. Elsie Armstrong Rhodes, preaching

First Sunday in Lent

Hunger Offering will be received

February 28:

"...in green pastures...beside still waters"

Scripture: Psalm 23:2

Cyndy Reames, preaching

Second Sunday in Lent

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