

Trinity Tidings

February 2018

**Trinity Church is a fellowship seeking to share the love and word of
Jesus Christ with all.**

*“By this all people will know
that you are my disciples, if you
have love for one another.”*

JOHN 13:35, ESV



**Ash Wednesday
ASP Talent Show
Church-Wide Lenten Study**

From the Pastor

Trusting Jesus

This year I'm using a daily devotional book titled *Jesus Calling*. It's a well-written little book with a unique style in which the daily thoughts are written as if Jesus is speaking to the reader. There are brief Bible passages to look up each day as well. Today's thought begins with these words:

Try saying "I trust you Jesus" in response to whatever happens to you.

This simple but powerful thought is at the heart of a strong life of Christian faith.

I've recently found myself thinking often about a certain matter, and I can see no specific answers. So I've found this response most helpful, as I've said to myself, "I'm just going to trust God".

Many years ago when a major crisis was before me, a pastor friend of mine said rather bluntly, "Frank, you're going to have to decide how much you trust God on this one."

So I say the same to you. Today, and in the days to come, with whatever you're facing, just trust God. Perhaps just say, "I trust you Jesus."

I can't think of a better attitude in facing the future.

May God's peace be yours,

Frank



Ash Wednesday Service on February 14th

Join us for our annual Ash Wednesday worship service in the Sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. Plan to come and worship in this meaningful service of reflection. Optional imposition of ashes will be available, and we'll share in Holy Communion together.

2

Holy Land Trip Seminars

On February 26th, a group of 37 Trinity parishioners, along with nine folks from beyond our congregation, will travel to Israel for an eight-day tour. They'll visit the main sites of Christendom, including Bethlehem, Jericho, Jerusalem, the Sea of Galilee and much more. Leading the trip will be Nancy Soleau, Leslie Williams Wexler and Pastor Fowler.

In preparation, Dr. Fowler is offering three seminars to learn about places they'll visit. These seminars are for everyone who's interested, not just those going on the trip. So this is your chance to learn more about Jerusalem, Bethsaida, Jericho, Bethlehem and much more.

The remaining seminars in Trinity House will be on:

Sunday, February 4th, 4 – 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, Feb 11th, 4 – 5:30 p.m.

There's a sign-up for these seminars so we can plan for materials, etc. Call the church office at 908-852-3020 or use the *Just Say Yes* form in the worship bulletin.

Also, we'll have a moment of prayer for the team during the 10:45 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, February 25th**.

The ASP Talent Show Is Back on February 23rd!

Our Appalachia Service Project (ASP) mission team is hosting the 2nd Annual Talent Extravaganza on February 23rd. Do you have an amazing talent you're itching to show the world? Can you sing or play an instrument? Can you dance, juggle, ride a unicycle? Are you a mime or ventriloquist? Then we want you! We need talented people like you to show everyone what you can do! Don't be shy, give it a try! We're all friends here! ASP is an amazing ministry and this will help support this year's mission trip. If you're interested in participating, please email Tony at Anthony.Albanese@usps.gov.

The ASP Talent Show's doors will open at 6 p.m. on February 23rd in Trinity House. Admission is free. There'll be a family-friendly cash buffet and refreshments. A free-will offering will be taken.

3

The Bulletin Board

Martha Friendship Circle: February 5th

Happy 2018 to you all. Martha Friendship Circle will back be in the swing of things on Monday, February 5th. We'll meet at 2 p.m. in Heath Village's Heath Room. Our friend Rose will be sharing her talents with us through card making, stamping and scrapbooking. We'll all have a chance to learn some fun things and to make our own personal Valentine card. Of course, we'll have some delicious snacks and treats and we always enjoy good fellowship. So bring a friend and join us. We look forward to seeing you and even though we've had some bitter cold days, we know that we're half way through winter and Spring can't be far away. Stay warm and cozy. Love and Peace, Ginny and Lauren. If you have any questions, call 908-852-6431.

Trinity UMM Fellowship Breakfast: Saturday, February 10th

Bishop John Schol will be here. The breakfast will be held in Centenary University. Registration is required.

New Members Reception: Sunday, February 11th

The process includes a dinner on Saturday, February 10th, and on the 11th, a class at 9:15 a.m. and reception into the fellowship of the church during the 10:45 a.m. worship service. If you find Trinity is a good place for you to worship and serve, please consider joining. For more information or to join, let one of the pastors know, call the church office at 908-852-3020, or indicate your interest on the *Just Say Yes* form in the worship bulletin or on the fellowship sheet.

Baptism: Sunday, March 11th

The sacrament of baptism for babies, youth and adults is during the 10:45 a.m. worship service. For information, call the church office at 908-852-3020 or see the application online at our website.

Interfaith Hospitality Network:

March 18th – 25th

Safe Harbor Ministry:

Saturday, February 24th

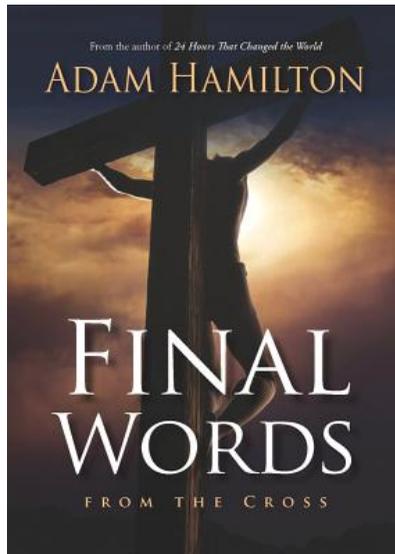
Midnight Run:

Friday, February 16th



Monday, February 19th

Trinity's Church-Wide Lenten Study



This Lent, we'll study together as a church family the final words or phrases that Jesus spoke from the cross.

Father Forgive Them.

Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise.

Behold Your Son. Behold Your Mother.

My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?

I Thirst.

It Is Finished. Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit.

Sign up in Starr Hall, Trinity House and online.

Small Groups begin the week of February 18th.

Books are on sale for \$8.

Contact Pastor Deb at ddevos@catchthespirit.org or 908-852-3020 ext. 17 if you have questions.

5

Women's Savor Suppers



THEY *broke bread*
IN THEIR HOMES & *ate*
TOGETHER *with glad*
& *sincere hearts.*

ACTS 2:46



Savor Suppers are opportunities for women to gather for faith-filled fellowship, a **simple** meal and rich conversation. Suppers include no more than five women plus the host allowing for women to really connect with one another over a simple meal.

If you're willing to open your home for a Savor Supper, please email Pastor Deb at ddevos@catchthespirit.org. You choose the date and time! Please include that information in your email, as well.



6

UMM Matters

Bill Blaskopf

On January 13th, I led the breakfast discussion on some of the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church. Many of us didn't know very much about these Principles, and some aspects of them were definitely eye-opening. Everyone present was welcome to keep the booklet that was made available. Additional booklets are available for purchase for \$4 by contacting Bill Blaskopf. We may have a follow-up discussion in the future. Again, thank you to the kitchen staff for another fantastic breakfast.

February 3rd and 4th, Super Bowl Weekend, is the date of our annual Hoagie Sale. Please contact Bill Blaskopf or Fred Bormann if you can help make the hoagies on the 3rd and 4th. Remember, profits from the sales of the hoagies go to the Torgersen Scholarship Fund. Last year, we were able to give three \$750 scholarships to graduating high school students.

Plans are now complete for our February 10th breakfast with Bishop John Schol. The breakfast will be held in Centenary University. You may register online at www.gnjumc.org/trinityumbreakfast. The cost will be \$10 per person.

The Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA) will be here on March 10th and will speak to us about their ongoing efforts to clean up the Musconetcong River. Then, on April 14th,

after our breakfast meeting, all attendees are invited to join the MWA on their annual cleanup of the river here in Hackettstown.

Finally, please remember, UMM is not just for men. We invite all members of Trinity to attend. Among our goals is to provide a sense of community, a meaningful presentation and a fantastic breakfast. Blessings to you all.

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Please remember what a great blessing you can offer to Trinity by including the church in your last will and testament. You can add a codicil to an existing will or include Trinity in a new will. Please consider this as a way to give one final gift to your church. For more information, contact Dr. Fowler.

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Thrift Shop News

Maureen Storey

February — we begin with Groundhog Day on the 2nd, coming out of our burrows to see how much longer the cold will last — then retreating for more time in a snug, warm place. Keep in mind those who do not have enough to keep them warm and their bellies full. There are places to donate — make sure those who lack get what they need — Lord’s Pantry, Midnight Run, Trinity Thrift Shop.

February 11th is Make a Friend Day! Reach out, say hello to a friend who has been out of touch. He or she may be waiting to hear from you. Say hello to someone you don’t know. Sometimes our day is made by someone who simply recognizes that we exist. Be that person, make someone’s day better.

Fat Tuesday and Ash Wednesday harken the beginning of Lent. As a child, we were always “giving up” something for Lent at our house. As an adult, I try to add something extra in the way of kindness, giving, helping, making the world a better place. Giving up

chocolate only makes me grumpy. Doing something caring puts a whole new glow on the day.

Then we have Valentine's Day (which, this year, is also the first day of Lent). We see hearts everywhere. Remember to love one another. Agape love, "the highest form of love, charity" and "the love of God for man and of man for God." It embraces a universal, unconditional love that transcends and persists regardless of circumstance. So, remember on this day how much Christ loved us to step to the head of the line and offer ALL of himself for us so we can be in an eternal loving relationship with God.

February 19th is Presidents Day. These men had a great love of our country. Called repeatedly to step to the head of the line, George Washington said yes. Abraham Lincoln not only stepped up and said yes, he gave his all. Not all of us can do or give ALL, but if we each do some small thing, we can accomplish great things together. Do you have a few hours a week you can give to create a better world for your children and your children's children, and even someone else's children? Volunteer opportunities abound everywhere, even on the Trinity campus. Step up and make a difference.

February 22nd is World Thinking Day, a Girl Scout day created in 1926 to ponder and contemplate. The original objective of this day was to set aside a day for girls all over the world to think of each other, and to give thanks and appreciation to "sister" Girl Scouts and Girl Guides. You don't have to be a Girl Scout/Guide to participate in this day. Let's all contemplate! Let's think of each other and have gratitude for all the people in our lives and let them know that we appreciate them. Make the world a better place one person at a time, one moment at a time. Continued....

8

It seems to me that February is a month of love, reflection, giving and gratitude. Let's live that to the best of our abilities. Opportunities exist every moment of every day. See them, engage them, enjoy them. The Thrift Shop exists to serve those in want and each other, allowing us to act as ambassadors of Jesus Christ in a world that needs agape love. Join us. Blessings in this season of love.

Greetings Ministry ~ February 11th

Come to the Greetings Ministry table in Starr Hall on Sunday, February 11th. We have cards, envelopes, stamps and the names of people who need a friendly, caring greeting from Trinity. All YOU need to do is just sit down for a few minutes and write a note of care, compassion and hope. Or you may know someone who would enjoy receiving a greeting. We also want to send mail to service men and women to let them know we

remember. Send name and current mailing address for any military folks to Edna Barrier at nebarrier@aol.com or Sue Bernard at bernards1963@aol.com.

God in Many Faces

The 2018 theme for February's Black History Month is "African Americans in Times of War." The theme provides a broad framework for focusing on the roles of African Americans in every American war, from the Revolutionary War era to that of the present war against terrorism. This is a theme filled with paradoxes of valor and defeat, of civil rights opportunities and setbacks, of struggles abroad and at home, of artistic creativity and repression, and of catastrophic loss of life and the righteous hope for peace.

The theme allows us to consider the specific and unique issues faced by African Americans in times of war. These issues include opportunities for advancement and repression of opportunities during wartime; the struggle to integrate the military and experiences during segregation/apartheid and successful integration; veterans' experiences once they returned home; the creation of African American Veteran of Foreign Wars posts; cultures and aesthetics of dissent; global/international discourse, including the impact and influence of the Pan African Congresses; the impact of migration and urban development; the topographies and spaces of Black military struggle, resistance and rebellion; and how Black soldiers and veterans are documented and memorialized within public and private spaces. These diverse stories reveal war's impact not only on men and women in uniform, but on the larger African American community.

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

Creation Care

February 2nd is World Wetlands Day.

Wetlands are land areas that are flooded with water, either seasonally or permanently. Urban wetlands are found in and around cities or their suburbs. They include rivers and their flood plains, lakes and swamps, as well as coastal variants such as salt marshes, mangroves and coral reefs. About four billion people (half of the humans on earth) live in urban areas today. By 2050, that proportion will reach 66% as people move to cities in search of jobs and a vibrant social life. As cities expand and demand for land increases, the tendency is to encroach on wetlands. They're degraded, filled in and built upon. Yet when left intact or restored, urban wetlands make cities livable.

They reduce flooding, acting as giant sponges that absorb flood waters. Rivers, ponds, lakes and marshes soak up and store heavy rainfall. In coastal cities, salt marshes and mangroves work as a buffer against storm surges. They replenish drinking water. Groundwater aquifers, rainwater and rivers are the source of almost all drinking water. Wetlands filter the water that seeps into aquifers, helping to replenish this important water source. Wetlands filter waste and improve water quality. The silt-rich soil and abundant plants in wetlands function as water filters which absorb some harmful toxins, agricultural pesticides and industrial waste. Urban wetlands improve urban air quality. They radiate moist air thanks to their high water levels and lush plant life. This naturally cools the air in the local surroundings, a relief both in tropical cities and in extremely dry climates. When preserved as green spaces in cities, wetlands offer residents a space for recreation and access to diversity of plant and animal life. Studies confirm that interacting with nature reduces stress and improves our health.

Ramsar Convention Secretariat

With Our Sympathy

- ❖ Debbie Pierson on the death of her mother, Gertie DeVries
- ❖ Gretchen Sundstrom-Smith on the death of her mother, Eileen Hall Sundstrom

10



Jr. Prayer Shawl Group

Attention Jr. Prayer Shawl small group members *AND* all who are interested in attending this small group fellowship ministry for kids, eight years old and older, who like to knit or crochet *OR* who want to learn to knit or crochet:

Our meeting this month will be on Wednesday, February 7th, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. in Room 104. Jr. Prayer Shawl meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The date of this

month's meeting was changed to the 1st Wednesday of the month so that February 14th would be open for any Valentine's Day dinners and celebrations.

Mrs. Thorp, Mrs. Huff, Mrs. Tuxhorn and Mrs. Neumann are looking forward to seeing you on the 7th. If you have any questions, please contact Ginny Thorp at gthorp@catchthespirit.org or 908-852-3020, ext. 16 or 908-894-0173.

Family Ministry Small Groups

Monday Feb. 12, 19	High School Fellowship	7 – 8:30 p.m. Pami residence
Wednesday Feb. 28	High School Girls	6:30 – 8 p.m. Upper Room
Wednesday Feb. 7, 21	High School Boys' Group	TBD
Wednesday Feb. 7	Jr. Prayer Shawl Small Group (Ages 8 & older)	4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Room 104

Secret Angel Program

Our inter-generational Secret Angel program continues in February. The weeks of February 4th, 11th and 18th, the Angels should make contact with their child. This is done secretly so who the angel is is kept a surprise. Sunday, February 25th, at 12 p.m., is the Secret Angel Party where we find out who all of the Angels are!

KidVenture Corner

February 4th and 11th, the children in KidVenture will be finishing up the *Talk with the Teachers* unit where they'll be hearing the Bible story Luke 2:39-52 and learning that they grow just like Jesus grew.

On February 18th, the children will go to the Chapel for a lesson on Lent given by one of our Trinity pastors.

A new unit in KidVenture begins on February 25th, *Jesus is Baptized*. The students will stay in their homerooms for the introduction to this Bible story found in Luke 3:1-22.

If you have any questions about KidVenture, or would like to sign your children up, please contact the Director of Children's Ministry, Danielle Witt, at dwitt@catchthespirit.org.

Pastor Fowler's Frog Eyes Bible Verse Memory Game

During the season of Lent, all children in kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to participate in Pastor Fowler's Frog Eyes challenge. Each week of Lent, a new Bible verse will be sent home that the children can memorize and then recite to a pastor at any one of the weekend services. More information will be mailed home prior to the start on February 18th.

4th and 5th Grade Fellowship

Friday, February 9th, 6:30 - 8 p.m., the 4th and 5th grade fellowship group will have a night out at Sky Zone in Mount Olive. Please arrive at 6:15 p.m. and bring your sky zone socks if you have a pair. If not, you can purchase them there for \$3. The cost per jumper is \$15 (cash or check written out to TUMC) and includes pizza and water. If you'd like to go, please email Danielle Witt at dwitt@catchthespirit.org by February 5th.

Monday, February 26th, 4th and 5th grade fellowship will meet in the KidZone, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. We'll be playing some games to better understand Lent and make it more meaningful. RSVP to Danielle Witt at dwitt@catchthespirit.org by February 21st.

The Lord's Pantry

Kellie Pennington

Did you know? The Lord's Pantry distributes food to anyone who asks for our help. We never turn away someone in need. We serve approximately 1,300 people every month (with a usual slowdown during the month of December).

There are more than 70 people on our volunteer list, which includes both regular volunteers and people who help occasionally during the year. Our mission could not continue without the dedication of our volunteers.

At least six people volunteer each day that the Pantry is open. We're open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. The Lord's Pantry is open throughout the year, and does not close during the summer months.

We have volunteer drivers who pick up food from NORWESCAP in Phillipsburg every week. Each pick-up includes thousands of pounds of food, for which we pay a handling fee. We also have shoppers who purchase food at local grocery and discount stores.

Our shelves are stocked thanks to donations of food and funds that we receive from our community. Please remember that a single can of soup or a \$1 donation will help someone in need. Thanks for helping us to fight food insecurity in our community!

During the month of December we served 971 people (326 families): 289 children, 563 adults and 119 seniors.

Donate to the Pantry on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday,
9 a.m. – 12 noon, or take donations to the church office when it's open.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers and concern for my mother and me as I continue to care for her at home.

Wahneta Bears



13

Missions

Midnight Run

We travel to New York City to distribute food, clothing and toiletries to the homeless in several designated locations. Donate large or extra-large men's jeans, coats, hooded sweatshirts, shirts, gloves and jackets; blankets and wash cloths; men's shoes (all sizes, esp. 10 - 12); new men's underwear and socks; travel-sized

shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, disposable razors, shaving cream and deodorant; tote bags; gallon-sized Ziploc® bags. Monetary donations accepted. Charlie Mule´ (rivendellatlv@earthlink.net).

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Our guests are Warren County homeless in the process of seeking a place to live. We need people to help set up and break down, make meals and act as hosts. Hosting shifts are 5 – 9 p.m. and overnight at the church, 9 p.m. – 6:30 a.m. If you're a new host, we'll give you a short training session and you'll be paired with a veteran host. There's always two people hosting at a time. Mary Kashmanian (908-684-5362); Carol Munro (908-892-6536); Linda Gonja for food donations (908-813-3865).

The Thrift Shop

Donate clothes and household items in good condition. Hours for shopping are Tuesday – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday, 5 – 7 p.m. Donations can be dropped off Tuesday – Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the Barn.

Connect for Community

The Lord's Pantry uses coupons from weekly newspaper fliers and magazines to help purchase much-needed items, including many that are free. One coupon from a weekly flier can translate into hundreds of items if enough folks bring it in. Place your unused coupons in the marked boxes located in the Rotunda, Trinity House and the Pantry.

Safe Harbor Ministry

The fourth Saturday of every month, we take a meal to residents of a homeless shelter in Easton, PA. We meet at Trinity's kitchen at 3 p.m., prepare the meal, depart for Safe Harbor at 5, serve dinner and eat with the residents, and then depart for home by 7 p.m. The cost is a share of the dinner expenses, depending on how many adults participate in the trip. Children are welcome to come with their parents. Call the church office until a new leader is announced.

Bread of Life Mission

Students in grades 6 – 12, their friends and families go to Newton to serve the homeless a meal. Cheryl Pami (732-735-0916 or cpami@catchthespirit.org).

Trinity's Prison Ministry

In-Prison Ministry: We offer 12-week classes at Northern State Prison, a men's institution. **Backpack Ministry:** This ministry provides released prisoners a few days' worth of essential items, including toiletries, clothing, food and a bible. **Correspondence Ministry:** Correspond with an inmate who's seeking to know Christ. Contact Peter Smith at psmithtrc@gmail.com.

As I've been in the process of moving in January and been ill, I'm relying on another writer again this month.

In Thornton Wilder's play, *Our Town*, a deeply poignant scene takes place in a graveyard. Ghosts comfort the young heroine, who has recently died in childbirth. Emily, still longing for the life she has just left, wishes to revisit one ordinary, "unimportant" day in her life. When she gets her wish, she realizes how much the living take for granted.

Eventually her visit is too much for her to bear. "I didn't realize," she confesses mournfully, "all that was going on and we never noticed. Good bye, world. Good bye to clocks ticking and Mama's sunflowers. And food and coffee. And new-ironed dresses and hot baths and sleeping and waking up. Oh, earth, you're too wonderful for anybody to realize you."

On our new path, we seek everyday epiphanies — occasions on which we can experience the Sacred in the ordinary — and come to the awakening, as Emily finally does, that we cannot longer afford to throw away even one "unimportant" day by not noticing the wonder of it all.

Sarah Ben Breathnach

Serving God with Us in February

Chapel Ushers

Feb. 4	Dennis & Pattie Huff
Feb. 11	Rob De Vos
Feb. 18	Bonnie Palma & Betty Cyphers
Feb. 25	Linda Feula & Sally Hahnes

Greeters - 9:15

Feb. 4	Karen Riccobono
Feb 11	Michele Risley
Feb. 18	TBA
Feb. 25	Alice Davis

Greeters - 10:45

Feb. 4	LaNelle Hoffmann
Feb. 11	LaNelle Hoffmann
Feb. 18	LaNelle Hoffmann
Feb. 25	LaNelle Hoffmann

Ushers – 9:15

- Feb. 4 Donna Re, Dan Stroessenreuther, Lorry Fulton, Norm Graule, Bette & Dave Sprandel, Michele Risley, Carolyn Sunday
- Feb. 11 Curt Peirson, Bette & Dave Sprandel, Pat Bristow, Rich Bonte, Tony Albanese, Amanda & Paul Cummings
- Feb. 18 Donna Re, Dan Stroessenreuther, Leslie Wexler, Carolyn Sunday, Bonnie& Darrell Hendricks, Fran & Bill Blaskopf
- Feb. 25 Curt Peirson, Lorry Fulton, Norm Graule, Bette & Dave Sprandel, Christina Gleason, Cris & Bob Hom

Ushers – 10:45

- Feb. 4 Harry & Nancy Snover, Pat Mullen, Bill Blaine, Joan Roehrich, Joan Crouse, Rey & Bob Benanti, Roger Hammond, Faydeanne Henkel
- Feb. 11 John Torkos, Pat Mullen, Bill Blaine, Joan Roehrich, Joan Crouse, Roger Hammond, Don Guelich, Faydeanne Henkel, Joan & Bill Caldwell
- Feb. 18 Harry& Nancy Snover, Pat Mullen, Bill Blaine, Joan Roehrich, Joan Crouse, Toni Irwin, Nancy Soleau, Roger Hammond, Kathryn Twaddell
- Feb. 25 John Torkos, Pat Mullen, Bill Blaine, Joan Roehrich, Joan Crouse, Roger Hammond, Kathryn Twaddell, Mary Brigode, Scott Matthews

Audio – 9:15

- Feb. 04 Julie Ryan
- Feb. 11 Sandy Miko-Philhower
- Feb. 18 Peter Smith
- Feb. 25 Keith Ryan

Audio – 10:45

- Lori DeLorenzo
- Steve Blazier
- Sandy Miko-Philhower
- Jacob Philhower

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