

The Good News

June, 2009

Biography of the Month - Tappy Berge



Where were you born?

I was born and raised on a farm in the heartland of the USA.....George, Iowa – God’s country.

When did you become a Christian and who led you to the Lord?

As a child, on mornings when I woke up early and came downstairs, I would find my dad sitting at the kitchen table reading the Bible. It wasn’t until I started spending the night at girlfriends’ homes that I discovered that it wasn’t a “fatherly requirement.” I guess you could say my dad led me to the Lord.....or you could better say that I grew up having the Lord be my very, very special Grampa, who I always knew would unconditionally love me and be there for me no matter what.

Single or married?

Harold and I got married a week after Mount St. Helens blew. My dad teased me that he knew it would be an earth-shaking event whenever I got married! So that will be 29 years on May 24th.

Children?

Nora, our daughter, is 26 and is indirectly named after a character in Ibsen’s *A Doll’s House*. She works for the Puyallup School District in Speech Pathology. Nick, our son, is 20. Many of you know him as he grew up attending this church and was quite active in the Youth Group.

Grandchildren?

YES ~ What a chapter of faith that was! He was born 2 months premature, weighing in at 2 pounds, and spent his first 68 days in the NICU unit at Swedish. He is - just as my precious Aunt says – “nothing that I wished for and **everything** that I hoped for.”

Best job you ever had?

“Best” is such a relative term. Certainly not my best financially, but probably my favorite would be the summers that I spent acting in summer stock theatre. We worked from morn till midnight.

Worst job you ever had?

I had to think a while on this one...but undisputedly it was when I needed extra money during my college years, and took a job cleaning dorm bathrooms on the weekends. That may have lasted all of about three weeks, until someone got sick in a sink.....and well.....it’s one of the only jobs I can say that I quit.....

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Points of Interest

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JUNE BIRTHDAY CORNER

May your birthday bring you all life's simple joys . . . wrapped in God's love for you!

6/11	Gabe Williams	6/2	Marilyn Ferrel
6/12	Peter Kenville	6/3	Dale Parkhurst
6/13	Matthew White	6/4	Andrew Wilson
6/16	Anne Butler	6/5	Carol Tonne
6/22	Gwyneth Lamont	6/6	Lauren Turnblom
6/23	Wendy Deboard	6/7	Nick Berge
6/23	Marietta Oswald	6/8	Theodore Malone
6/23	Betsy Poehlman	6/8	Aidan Osborne
6/23	Willly Tinoco	6/8	Max Salitzberg
6/24	Robert Johnson	6/9	Randy Butler
6/25	Arthur Sikora	6/9	Lucy Liu
6/27	Barbara Cox	6/9	Doug Machle
6/27	Becky Malone	6/10	Cameron Machle
6/29	Ellen Kalvig	6/11	Bob Halvorsen
6/29	Cliff Williams	6/11	Stan Salitzberg

Please let us know the date of your birth so we can celebrate with you!



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Biography of the Month - Tappy Berge (continued)

Current job?

I have worked for Northwest Hospital for 23 years. I started in the Patient Financial Services Department and now I am in Accounting. It really is a great place to work and I love who I work with.....besides being a fabulous community hospital!

Hobbies?

My first major was biochemistry, so I love reading articles about that....Discovery magazine – that sort of thing. I also love sewing – that’s my therapy.....I like anything *artsy-craftsy*. If you asked Harold, I’m sure he would say it was “shopping to get the best bargain of the week!”

Share a turning point in your life and explain how God’s hand was evident?

What’s the darkest valley you’ve been in and how did God help you through that time?

I need to answer these two questions together as my valley was my turning point. When I was thirteen, my mother, sister, brother and I were driving home from a shopping trip – remember I grew up in very rural Iowa – when we were struck by a train. I guess you could say that *amnesia* is my best friend for what actually occurred that day or the next, but I do recall sitting in the hospital bed and being fairly well drugged up when I was told that my mom had “passed away” in the accident and I hadn’t been expected to see the next morning. School, church, taking care of house and caring for my 9-year-old brother made me grow up fast. Talk about a valley! But there was my dad – the ever-faithful, God-loving beacon of hope in the whole mess, always loving us crippled and battered children, just like God so loved his son Jesus. God was always there then, and God is always here now.

What do you feel is the most significant “life lesson” you’ve learned?

The most significant lesson that I have learned is that God gave each and every one of us at least one true talent, and that God wants us to use that to glorify him.

If you had 24 hours left to live, how would you spend that time?

Most likely I would buy plane tickets for my family here in Seattle, and fly home to Iowa to spend the rest of my time surrounded by the family that’s always loved me and been there for me.

WOMEN’S RETREAT

Be part of the fun and fellowship at the Women's retreat, June 12 - 14. Camp Berachah is our destination. Check out their website (www.campberchah.org) to view the facilities. We have the Executive Lodge reserved which provides room for up to 40 guests. The cost for the weekend (\$70) includes all meals, linens, and use of their lovely facilities (including indoor heated pool and hiking paths). This will be a great opportunity for Trinity women to share our life stories and become more acquainted with God's goodness and with each other. Guaranteed giggles. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex and in fellowship hall.

Youth Ministries

Ask a Youth

Q: Dear Trinity Youth group,

I see that you guys do all these fun activities every week like dodge ball, pin-down, Frisbee golf, and loads of other awesome activities. I was just wondering if there was any chance I could become an Honorary Youth Group member despite my age of 65; I just want to be a kid again!
-Youthful Ruth.

A: Hi Ruth, I can see how all the fun activities the youth group does appeals to so many people like yourself. To answer your question, there is no way we can fudge the age limit for Youth Group here at Trinity or make someone an “Honorary Youth.” However, there is a way you can be a youth for a day and you can help support the Youth Group here at Trinity at the same time! Just come to our Summer Kick-Off Carnival! There will be plenty of those awesome youth group games and plenty more exciting carnival games! So mark your calendar for JUNE 27th from 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.! Admission is FREE!

Q: Dear Trinity Youth,

I have noticed that you young whipper-snappers go on this trip to Wapato every year and live on Campbell Farm for a week to do mission work on the Yakama Indian Reservation. I would love to go myself, but I am afraid that the heat is too much for me. Is there another way I can support you guys?
-Charitable Charlie
P.S. You guys are the grooviest Youth Group Ever!

A: Charlie, although anyone who can/wants to go to Wapato is always encouraged to go, there is still a way you can help us out with our mission trip to Wapato. As I just told Ruth, there is a Carnival On June 27th from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All of our proceeds go toward the Youth Group’s trip to Wapato this year. Every little bit helps to bring down the cost per kid at Wapato. If you have any questions about this event, contact Chris--the coolest, strongest, most handsome Youth Director in the world!

Note: all questions and answers were made up, but the carnival is for real. Seriously, come. If you do have any questions for the “Ask a Youth” forum, place them under the Youth Director’s door, email us at robotmonkeyninjapirate@hotmail.com, or simply mail us!

Chris McLaughlin

Dan's Musings

Dan Shelhamer, Music Director

Humor is essential to good health. We have long known that laughter has therapeutic value for the human animal. When you laugh, there are certain chemicals that are released in your body. Your brain functions differently, you have more energy, your immune system is actually improved.

Yes, laughter is healing – and therefore, we need to learn how to apply this balm in our service in the church. We need to look for comedy wherever we can find it. Sometimes it might be in scripture, in a song we're singing, in a fallible human situation we're involved in, whatever.

One of the first, and most enduring joys of my ministry here at Trinity was on the first audition night with the choir. I made some flip comic remark and Brenda Williams just exploded with her famous laugh track. From then on, I knew that everything would be OK, with people in this congregation that could be so spontaneous and uninhibited. (As I was in the midst of producing RBCC Player's current production of "Seussical," several acting veterans asked me, "Will 'The Laffer' be in the audience? Which shows will Brenda be at? We ought to offer her free tickets for every show." They know that, with Brenda in the audience, we don't need to worry about everyone having a good time.)

That's not to say that we need to laugh at inappropriate or inopportune times. "To everything there is a season..." Here are a few ways to find more humor in your life:

1. Look for the Silver Lining: There is a positive aspect to almost every negative situation.
2. Subscribe to Reader's Digest: i.e., the fount of all knowledge.
3. Bring in the Clowns: Somewhere in each of us is a clown, just waiting to be let out.
4. Say cheese: Get the people around you to smile, somehow.
5. Hold a mirror up: Don't be afraid to laugh at yourself.

In Christ, Dan

Trinity Book Group Meeting. June 18 at 7:30 p.m.



No, we're not reading a knitting instruction book this month! But it is a book about knitting and people whose lives become knit together in unexpected patterns. Two women meet by chance; very different, yet each in need of a friend. One is an expert in the historical study of textiles and the other is a quiet, solitary knitter, whose work is truly a form of art. The healing power of women's friendship, the sustaining quality of meaningful work, the gradual process of healing after grief – these are the themes explored in this story about two women forming an unlikely friendship.

Join us on June 18th at the home of Janice Ellis, from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. You are always invited, whether or not you've had time to read the book.

This is our last meeting before we take a summer break. Our next gathering will be in September.

Please contact Tessa Machle or Janice Ellis for more information, or if you need a ride.

Pastor's Corner

Randy Butler

It is so easy to lose sight of who God is and what God means for our lives. I find it helpful to turn to the Psalms for reminders of God's character and ways. One of my favorites is Psalm 145. I encourage you to read it sometime, and meditate on the affirmations made about God in this wonderful Psalm. At least seven times we read "the Lord is..." followed by a description.

When I forget who God is I read: "The Lord is gracious and merciful...good to all and filled with compassion." (vs.8-9) We sometimes think God is stingy and mean. These words remind us that mercy and grace are at the core of God's being – "God is all mercy and grace" (The Message).

When I forget who God is I read: "The Lord is faithful in all his words." (vs. 13) The Lord follows through on his commitments. He can be trusted to deliver on his promises.

When I forget who God is I read: "The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down." (vs. 14) When we have fallen, or when we have reached bottom, God will be there. We can never go so low, that God will not be there to raise us up. We cannot fall lower than the Lord himself is able to go.

When I forget who God is I read: "the Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings." (vs. 17) We easily lose faith in humanity. Government, financial institutions, even friends will fail us. But God is just. Things will be made right someday. And God is kind and will always be so.

When I forget who God is I read: "The Lord is near to all who call on him." (vs. 18) What a great comfort! Though the Lord may seem far at times, He is always near. How I feel about God does not determine the truth about God's love and closeness to me. He is always close.

When I forget who God is I read: "He fulfills the desire of all who fear him." (vs. 19) We are often made to distrust our desires and dreams for life. This promise is for those who respect God, it is true. God is not a genie who grants our every wish. Nevertheless, these words affirm that God wants us to be fulfilled and wants our dreams for life to come true.

And when I forget who God is I read: "The Lord watches over all who love him." (vs. 20) What a comfort to know that God watches over us. Verse 19b says that he hears our cry and saves us. That means he cares for us, loves us, and wants what is best for us.

I am uplifted even as I write these words. Read this Psalm. Let it get under your skin and strengthen you with the truth about who God is.

Randy

Christian Education Notes

Donna Saltzberg, CE Director

Looking back...

We take a look at the past year as the school year ends and students gear up for some vacation fun. At Trinity we made the decision last fall to scrap our traditional Sunday School and LOGOS program and switch over to the Workshop Rotation Model. For the past 9 months, we have approached Bible stories in a new way...through art, drama, puppets, games, music, storytelling, and videos. The other new concept we embraced was the telling and re-telling of Bible stories for several weeks through the different workshops.

As we began this fall I admit I wondered, would the grade school students complain about the repetition? Would we hear those dreaded three words, "This is BORING"? To our delight, not only did the students respond with enthusiasm to WoRM but by the end of a Bible story rotation they really *knew* the story and how it relates to our lives today. This new way of "doing" Children's Ministry offers such a variety of experiential opportunities that even our adult workshop leaders found fresh ideas and energy to share "the old, old story."

Looking forward...

So where do we go from here? And where is "here" anyway? Here is where our students can answer your questions and re-tell the stories with confidence. Here is where you as parents and friends can ask our students to share what they learned. My challenge to you for where to go from here is to help the students retain their newfound expertise and excitement in knowing the answers and treasuring these amazing stories—stories that bring the Bible out of the past, into the present, and prepare them for the future. Find out which stories they studied, listened to, sang about, and acted out. You'll find new excitement in listening to what they know, and sharing their experience.

Now, would you like to take the next step after that, and look even further forward? Our students being that much stronger in the Gospel, what better way to exercise new leadership and fellowship with others than to create around them the best VBS ever at Trinity? What if we brought this new power and light to bear on our neighbors in Shoreline? What if the Lord was preparing the way through our students and volunteers for Trinity to receive those who are ready for the Gospel? What if NOW is the time? The time to prepare for July's VBS is now. Be watchful and listen for opportunities to not just look forward, but to really have something to LOOK FORWARD TO!!!



I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else can do.

Refrain:
I love to tell the story,
'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911



SonRock Bible Camp July 13-16

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Children in Church

authors unknown

One Sunday in a Midwest City, a young child was "acting up" during the morning worship hour. The parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew but were losing the battle. Finally, the father picked the little fellow up and walked sternly up the aisle on his way out. Just before reaching the safety of the foyer, the little one called loudly to the congregation, "Pray for me! Pray for me!"

A little boy was overheard praying:
"Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

A Sunday School teacher asked her little children, as they were on the way to church service,
"And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"
One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

Six-year-old Angie, and her four-year-old brother, Joel, were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough.

"You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."
"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked.
Angie pointed to the back of the church and said,
"See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

A ten-year old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible.. Then, one day, she floored her grandmother by asking, "Which Virgin was the mother of Jesus ? The virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"

TO ALL CE VOLUNTEERS THANK YOU



Thank you to everyone; from WoRM workshop leaders, table parents, cooks and kitchen crew and Adult Education teachers to – each and every one of you helped make this year's Christian Education programs successful in sharing and showing the love of our risen Lord.
God bless each of you!

Congratulations

We celebrate with the families of all graduating seniors.

SUSHEEL IMMANUEL

Our best to you at this time of joy. May God's richest blessings be with you today, tomorrow and always!



For June we are collecting Spaghetti, Tomato Sauce or Spaghetti Sauce and Baby Food for Hopelink food bank.
Many thanks for your contributions!

