

Trinity Presbyterian Church

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The Good News

September, 2009



Biography of the Month - Stan Saltzberg

- ◆Where were you born? **Philadelphia, PA**
- ◆When did you become a Christian and who led you to the Lord? **It was 1976 at age 25 and, strangely enough, I was led to the Lord by Mormon missionaries.**
- ◆Single or Married? **Married for 22 years now.**
- ◆Children? **Yes, Carl is about to turn 20 and Max just turned 12.**



- ◆Grandchildren? **Nope. Not yet.**
- ◆Best job you ever had? **The one I have now, Marketing and Admissions at Park Shore, a senior living community.**
- ◆Worst job you ever had? **Insurance sales.**
- ◆Current job? **My best job mentioned above.**
- ◆Hobbies? **Golf, humor, Mariners & Phillies fan. Music of all kinds, mostly 60's Rock & Pop (i.e. Beatles, Beach Boys, Moody Blues) and big bands (i.e. Glenn Miller, Artie Shaw, Count Basie, Buddy Rich). Play percussion & flute, learning guitar.**
- ◆Share a turning point in your life and explain how God's hand was evident? **No question, my conversion to Christ by the Holy Spirit.**

◆What's the darkest valley you've been in and how did God help you through that time? **The illness and death of our first son, Michael. God helped us through key people in our lives - our family, our friends, a wonderful support group, and one pastor in particular.**

◆What do you feel is the most significant "life lesson" you've learned? **Without forgiveness, there is no hope. Thank God for his plan of salvation.**

◆If you had 24 hours left to live, how would you spend that time? **Impossible to say for sure. If I was well and clear enough, I'd likely want my immediate family with me. It wouldn't matter how we spent the time. If I was in pain, I'd prefer to sleep through it and be done with it. My experience with seniors at the end of life, and being with our son the last days of his life, I think it's rare that any one has both "notice" of their last 24 hours and the ability to choose how it will go.**

Points of Interest

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**Unsolicited, legible, signed material is gladly accepted. Articles may be submitted on computer disk (Windows 95/Word); also include a printed copy. We reserve the right to edit for content and quantity. Please leave your articles in the church office by the 15th of each month.



Jonathan Timbrook	9/1	Hal Wittmeyer	9/18
Brandon Officer	9/2	Jenny Johnson	9/20
Kelsey Gegen	9/3	Lucille Jones	9/21
Ruth Nisco	9/3	Adelene Watts	9/21
Donna Saltzberg	9/3	Heather McPherson	9/22
Sarah Butler	9/7	Tessa Machle	9/23
Larry Faquet	9/10	Pat Pi	9/23
Mary Jo Pierce	9/10	Jan Wittmeyer	9/26
Carl Saltzberg	9/10	Steve Officer	9/27
Jaclyn Cox	9/13	Amanda Finazzo	9/28
Steve Parkhurst	9/13	Amanda KraJina	9/30
Josh Birdsall	9/15	Brad KraJina	9/30
George Watts	9/15	Steven Tinoco	9/30
Bill Pursley	9/17		

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

NEWS & EVENTS

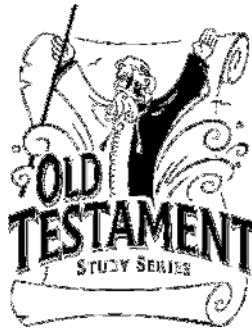
The Bible From Scratch, the Old Testament For Beginners Sunday Mornings, 11:00 a.m. - Noon September 13- Nov 1

Perhaps you have thought to yourself, "I sure would like to get to know the Bible better." or "I've learned about Jesus, Paul and others from the New Testament, but the Old Testament is still a mystery to me."

Then this is the class for you. We will cover the Old Testament in eight Sunday morning sessions. You'll have some homework from Donald Griggs' book, *The Bible From Scratch, the Old Testament For Beginners*. But it is less than 100 pages of reading! Of course you will also be expected to read significant portions of the Old Testament. But this course is designed to give you a "fly over" look at the Old Testament, just like the course we had for the New Testament last spring.

Meant for beginners and those who want to brush up, you will receive a basic introduction to the Old Testament that will provide a foundation from which you can do further study.

The cost of the book is ten dollars, and will be available soon. Sign ups will begin in a couple of weeks.



New Member Cornerstone Class September 25/26

We are having a Cornerstone Class for those who want to become members of Trinity, on Friday evening, September 25, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and continuing on Saturday morning, September 26, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

We will get to know each other and talk about what it means to be a follower of Christ in the Presbyterian tradition. If you haven't already joined the church, we hope you will make room on your calendar for this important step of formally uniting with the Trinity congregation. Please let Pastor Randy know if you wish to attend.



Trinity Book Group Meeting - September 17

We will meet at the home of Donna Coumbe at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the autobiographical story of the life of President Barack Obama up to his entry into Harvard Law School. The book titled, "Dreams from My Father," is about race and injustice and should allow for a lively discussion. Please join us. You may call Tessa Machle or Janice Ellis for more information or for a ride.



A Special Women's Event

Trinity Women's Ministry is hosting a "Secret Girlfriend's Luncheon" on Sept. 19 from Noon to 1:30 p.m. If you are interested in connecting with other Trinity Girlfriends or women who would like to be involved with Trinity, here's a event for you! This promises to be a time of rich fellowship, yummy treats, and a prized raffle drawing. Sign up sheets are in the church narthex and Fellowship Hall.



Youth Ministries

Fishing is What it Comes Down to.



A couple of months ago I talked about people's stories and testimonies.

This week I have a fishing story of my own. Not too long ago I was fishing little Lake Ballinger. I was sitting on the shore and an older gentleman came alongside me to fish. Careful not to be in my way, he hugged the tree

line. I talked to him a little just to let him know I was okay with him fishing there. He seemed disturbed, anxious, and clumsy. He was a veteran fisherman but you could tell it wasn't his day; his casts were going all over the place; once he even crossed my line but I shrugged it off seeing the state he was in. However, he caught most of the fish that day. He caught more and bigger fish than I could and kept mentioning how he thought my spot was better.

Between catches, the gentleman felt like he needed to explain his clumsiness. He explained that his brother had just suffered from a heart attack a few days ago. He said that he was having a real hard time with it because he sat right next to him and prayed for him as he died. I listened to what he had to say but it was one of those conversations where you have no idea what to say so you just say "I'm sorry" a whole lot. Eventually, the only other thing I remember saying is, "Sometimes all you have left is fishing."

For me I find God in nature a lot and so when life gets so crazy and the smelly stuff has hit the fan, all I have left is fishing. Fishing brings me back to my childhood when things were simple and all I wanted to do was fish and I would be happy. I feel like our culture tends to complicate things more and more. Culture says in order to feel better you need to do this and take this or that medication and you'll be a little bit better. Sometimes I wonder if it is simpler than that and all we need to do is go to that place we experience God the most. I'm not arguing against medications; many times they are super important. However, I do believe that life is simpler than we tend to make it out to be a lot of the time and all we have left is fishing.



For September, we are collecting beans (canned or dry) and corn bread mix for Hopelink food bank. Many thanks for your contributions!

- Chris McLaughlin

Dan's Musings

Dan Shelhamer, Music Director

Over the last year, our family has been getting used to having moved back into a house that has been completely remodeled, from stem to stern. We've been learning the foibles and intricacies of a new house, from the light switches to the heating system to the new cable/phone system to the new furniture to the.... You know what I mean. But it's been terrific.

This last month our family went to Disney World in Florida for two whole weeks. We coped with Mickey, the rides, the unexpected weather, a family cooped up in a condo together, the overloaded schedule of never-ending activities from dawn to midnight, the overpriced, undercooked food, the... You know what I mean. But it was wonderful, really it was.

And now back to a full fall schedule – school, church, work, family – and all the frenetic, hectic, busy, busy, busy activities that we all subject ourselves to... You know what I mean.

Is it any wonder we often feel overwhelmed? Just the bills for all the “necessities” of life seem more than we can handle. And then there are federal income taxes, state taxes, changing deductions, investments, sales, best buys, 10,000 mile check ups (on our cars and ourselves), teeth cleaning, yearly medical exams, travel arrangements... You know what I mean.

Recent estimates on the rate of information processing tell us that every few minutes we process more information than was processed in a lifetime by those living in the Middle Ages. Feeling overwhelmed feels like a normal reaction. Feeling overwhelmed isn't surprising – being surprised about it is.

Sometimes it helps to know that I just can't do it all. One step at a time is all that's possible – even when those steps are taken on the run.

In Christ, Dan

PRAYER

Trinity's Session has been reading a book which has resulted in a desire to support individuals in prayer, so one of the ways to do that has been to designate the sanctuary as a “**Place of Prayer**” after worship services on Sundays beginning the first Sunday of July. We have asked that as people finish with their greetings that they exit the sanctuary and continue conversations in the narthex or in the Fellowship Hall. This will allow anyone who wants a time of quiet prayer to find that in our sanctuary. If in your conversation you would like to pray with someone, please feel free to ask them to join you in the sanctuary. The church will be closed at the usual time after the Sunday morning activities.

Starting in the fall, when we serve communion by intinction, we would like to offer people stations at the sides of the sanctuary in the front where they may stop and have a moment of prayer after receiving communion if they desire.

We hope these opportunities will be a blessing to many.

Your Session

Pastor's Corner

Randy Butler

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.” (Psalm 51:10-12, ESV)

Those are some of my favorite verses in the Bible, from one of my favorites Psalms. I like these words because they are filled with honesty and hope. The truth is we sometimes find ourselves worn out and tired, aware that we can't blame our problems on someone else, and we are joyless. So Psalm 51 acknowledges our part in the problem: “Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgression and my sin is ever before me.” (vs. 2-3)

One of the marks of followers of Jesus Christ is that we acknowledge our part, before we blame others. That doesn't mean that others are free of all blame. It simply means that we admit our part in whatever issue might be causing difficulty. Our national debate on healthcare reform has gotten quite heated, as I am sure you have noticed. As followers of Jesus, and as those who love the Psalms that Jesus loved, we must remain civil. We are free to engage in energetic conversation and debate, but not be demeaning of those with whom we disagree. The Psalms teach us that we may not have all the answers. The Psalms teach us to listen to one another and to God.

Psalm 51 is one of my favorite Psalms for another reason. In it the psalmist seeks a new beginning, a fresh start. The fall is always a time of fresh starts for me. I love the invigorating coolness of the fall air, and the hope it brings. “Create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me.” Those are creation words; they remind us of the creation story in Genesis, where God puts his spirit in the first man and woman. Eugene Peterson offers this translation: “God, make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life.”

God, who raised Jesus from the dead, is a God of fresh starts and new beginnings. And I pray that you will feel the hope of new beginning this fall that comes from knowing and trusting in the truth of the gospel about Jesus Christ.

With God's blessings on our church,

Randy

Trinity is Going Green!

The Trinity Facility Team has made the decision for Trinity to go green with recycling, composting, and garbage separated. Making this work with many different people working in the church and managing waste will require all of us to pay attention. Many of you already do this at home so that you are familiar with the concept behind the separation of waste materials. The change-over will occur this fall, and there will be posters letting you know where the various containers are located and posters indicating what goes where. Here is a general overview:

Recycle: All paper, cardboard, certain plastic bottles and containers, milk cartons.

Note: No lids, caps or tops allowed in the recycling. Toss them in the garbage!

Garbage: Plastic wraps, foam, clear plastic “clamshells,” plastic cups & utensils, aluminum foil, caps & lids.

Compost: All yard waste, food scraps, paper plates, paper towels and napkins.

Christian Education Notes

Donna Saltzberg, CE Director

When I was growing up in Minneapolis, my mom would watch “her stories” during the day. She wasn’t the type of TV viewer who wouldn’t go somewhere because she would miss that day’s broadcast, but she had a few favorite “soaps” we would catch if she was home. One of them was “Guiding Light.”

I was surprised and admit a little sad to read it has been cancelled after 72 years of broadcasting. It began as a radio show and moved onto the television screen.

USA Today’s website (<http://blogs.usatoday.com/ondeadline/2009/08/guiding-light-shoots-last-episode-after-72years.html>) reported: “*Guiding Light, TV’s longest running soap opera, has finished shooting its final scenes in a New Jersey church often used as a setting for the fictional town of Springfield.*”

The name of the program, in fact, refers to a lamp put in a church window by the fictional Rev. Rutledge to welcome parishioners seeking guidance, the Associated Press reports.

One thing I remember about this show is, as some of the characters in the small Midwest town found themselves in a jam, or struggling to face tragedy, they would return to their church and pray for help. And somehow, it might have taken 2 months of shows, but things would get better, people would survive, and life would go on.

Even though the times and the world changed, and the story lines became “current,” this practice of turning to God in times of trouble was still at the center of how the characters dealt with life’s trials and tribulations. How rare, albeit refreshing, for a television show to demonstrate our reliance on God Almighty instead of the typical litany of vices often portrayed in soap operas. And it is another example of how we should rely, not on that rarity, but on that most precious of “broadcasts,” that which we see and hear in God’s word, in God’s church, and in God’s children.



WORM



Sunday WoRM begins 9/13
 Wednesday WoRM begins 9/16

We are delighted to announce our 2009 fall WoRM (Workshop Rotation Model) program:

Disciples Then, Disciples Now

Together we are going on a fishin’ mission with Jesus and his disciples. The program is designed to teach our grade school boys and girls about the apostles, their lives, their “call” and how each of us can be one of his disciples.

On Sundays from 11:00a.m. to noon and Wednesday nights from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. we’ll gather for games, crafts, music, drama, Bible stories, and dinner (on Wednesday nights only). Through our planned workshops, we will focus on catching the JOY of following Jesus... and not just our joy, but God’s joy when He sees us catching the attitudes of His son, Jesus, and sharing them with others.

So plan on grabbing your gear and joining us on a “reel” adventure. It can be an expedition of a lifetime!

*"Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
no hands but yours, no feet but yours,
Yours are the eyes through which to look out
Christ's compassion to the world
Yours are the feet with which he is to go about
doing good;
Yours are the hands with which he is to bless men now."*
— *St. Teresa of Ávila*

In 1998, two women who were seminary graduates - and who loved knitting - began what's come to be known as the “prayer shawl” ministry. This ministry offers shawls that have been created while knitting or crocheting “blessings” into every stitch to comfort and give solace to those in need.

The shawl begins with prayers and blessings for the recipient (even if he or she is not known yet). Intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. When the shawl is completed, we offer it with a final prayer in a card and give it to the recipient.

Some of those who receive a prayer shawl include:

- someone who is undergoing serious medical procedures or cancer treatments
- someone who has experienced a loss
- someone who is giving birth or nursing a baby
- someone who is nurturing an ill child
- someone who has been diagnosed with Alzheimers or dementia, or a fatal disease

Our ministry continues with meetings on the 4th Saturday of the month. This month we will meet in Bethany on 9/26 from 10:00-11:30a.m. Beginners are welcome. If this ministry calls to you, please join us.

Donations for this ministry are warmly accepted in monetary form or gift cards to JoAnn Fabrics, Fred Meyer or Michael's Craft stores.

If you have any questions regarding the Shawl Ministry or you know someone who may find comfort in receiving a shawl, please contact Tessa Machle or Donna Saltzberg.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

FALL KICK-OFF POOL PARTY

Sunday, September 13, is the date for our annual swim party. This year we will be swimming at the:

Mountlake Terrace Pool

The address of the pool is 5303 228th Street SW in Mountlake Terrace.
Phone: 425-776-9173



The fun begins at 3:00 p.m. We have booked the pool for one hour from 3:10 p.m. - 4:10 p.m. We have the pool all to ourselves, so plan to bring a friend or two!



We will enjoy refreshments in the Riverside Room after swimming.

Sign up in the upper narthex before September 6 so we can notify the pool how many life-guards we’ll need on duty. Don’t miss the fun!