

Trinity Presbyterian Church

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The Good News

October, 2009



Biography of the Month - Elaine Carey

- ◆Where were you born? Longview, WA
- ◆When did you become a Christian and who led you to the Lord? I was baptized when I was seven in Longview, WA at the Longview Christian Church.
- ◆Single or Married? I have been married to Lee for 49 years!
- ◆Children? We have two daughters, Cindy and Kathy, and one son, Bruce.
- ◆Grandchildren? Two granddaughters, two grandsons, and two labrador dogs.
- ◆Best job you ever had? At Spirit Lake - a YMCA camp where I was a cook during the summer while I was in college. The first year I was an assistant cook and the second year I was the head cook. Each morning I'd wake up and look out over Spirit Lake, with Mt. St. Helens reflected in the water.
- ◆Worst job you every had? Teaching middle school math rather than what I was trained to teach - home economics!
- ◆Current Job? Making custom draperies and window coverings.
- ◆Hobbies? Sewing, Music and Mariners baseball.
- ◆Share a turning point in your life and explain how God's hand was evident? In high school I took piano and organ lessons. God used those skills to bring me back into church to play for worship services.
- ◆What's the darkest valley you've been in and how did God help you through that time? Assisting in the care of my sister-in-law in her final days. I could not have gotten through that time without prayers.
- ◆What do you feel is the most significant "Life Lesson" you've learned? Having a positive attitude in life and looking for the best in people.
- ◆If you had only 24 hours left to live, how would you spend that time? With my family, which would include having a good meal together.



Points of Interest

- ◆ Ladies Tea -Page 2
- ◆ Book Group -Page 2
- ◆ Fall Worm -Page 4
- ◆ Session Highlights -back of calendar



10/20	Chantel Dixon	10/4	Bonnie Kohlmyer
10/21	Martha Halvorsen	10/6	Emily Cate
10/22	William Saechao	10/9	Alexandra Mignogna
10/23	Harlean Mandell	10/7	Dan Shelhamer
10/24	Peggy Roberts	10/12	Pastor Graley Taylor
10/28	Kathi Hayes	10/13	Spencer Parkhurst
10/28	Anna Tinoco	10/13	Jim Salud
		10/17	Karin Root
		10/18	Steven Birdsall
		10/18	Ornell Williscroft

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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY CORNER

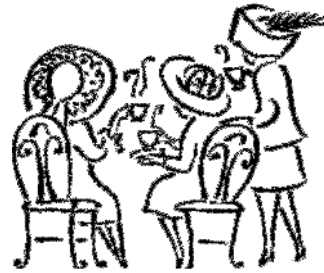
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*Unsolicited, legible, signed material is gladly accepted. Articles may be submitted on computer disk (Windows 95/Word); also include a printed copy. We reserve the right to edit for content and quantity. Please leave your articles in the church office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

NEWS & EVENTS

“Through the Ages” - Fashion Show and Tea

Sunday, November 15, 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars and invite a friend to join us for this fall's Ladies' Tea at Trinity. We have booked the date with Lynn Gough who works with Goodwill's Vintage division and utilizes her own vast collection to put on local fashion shows. The theme this year will be “Through The Ages.” We'll look at fashions from 1860 - 1960 and reflect how God has been with us “through the ages.”



Watch your bulletins and next month's newsletter for more information.

Trinity's 2009 Budget Update - August 31, 2009

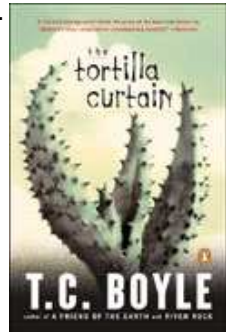
In April, our Finance team reported that we faced an \$18,000 shortfall in our 2009 budget. We are now happy to report it is possible we may end the year with no deficit. Our income so far has been slightly ahead of our spending.

This is due to a couple of factors: First and foremost is the generous support this congregation has provided for Trinity's mission and ministry. Your "Adult Offering" giving through the end of August has been amazing. Thank you!

Other factors have been the careful spending by our mission teams and the fact that we haven't had any unexpected expenses (so far). All the teams have exhibited good stewardship of the resources placed in their care.

If we really are to end 2009 with our financial balances "in the black," the Adult Offering needs to continue at the same strong pace, and we must continue to keep our spending under control the last three months of the year. We believe, with your support, it can be done

OCTOBER BOOK GROUP



Trinity's Book Group's October book selection is Tortilla Curtain, by T.C. Boyle. This novel explores the controversy over illegal immigration head-on, through a story about people on both sides of the issue. Two couples live in southern California; one a well-to-do, liberal white couple who live in a secluded housing development, the other a Mexican couple camping in a nearby ravine as they search desperately for work. When these two lives come into contact with one another, everything begins to change.

You're invited to join us in a thought-provoking discussion of this book, on October 15th, 7:30 – 9:00 PM, at the home of Marcie Riedinger. Contact Tessa Machle or Janice Ellis for more information. And join us!

In case you like to read ahead, our November selection is Little Heathens, by Mildred Armstrong Kalish.



I would like to thank all my Trinity friends for your many prayers and expressions of concern for my daughter and son during their recent medical crises. I am happy to report that Ellyn and Roger are both doing very well and getting back to normal lifestyles and activities. We appreciate each and every one of you who have held my kids in your prayers. We know our Great Healer has been listening. *Thank you! Vada*

Youth Ministries

Scars

Everyone has scars. Whether they are physical, emotional, psychological, etc... I find it interesting how most scars stay on your body for a lifetime. Each scar marks a person as an individual and tells a story about that person. Even Jesus, after he rose from the dead, showed himself to his disciples, and they didn't believe it was actually him until he showed them the scars on his hands and his side.

I have many scars on my body, but my most prominent scar is the one along my right forearm where I had surgery after I broke my arm about four years ago. Sometimes when I am sitting in slow traffic or a boring class I can't help but notice and reflect on it. My scar is a reminder of my carelessness and what is easily my most embarrassing moment.

When I was 19, much like today, I would ride my bicycle to and from work. One day I had one of those long days where I didn't get much sleep the night before and got progressively slower and more sluggish as work went on. Finally, it was time to close up shop at Starbucks and be on my way home. I started on my way down Meridian Ave. since this was a particularly short ride. I liked to ride fairly fast. Despite my sleepy impairment, this night was no exception. However, it was one of those commutes, you know, where at the end of the commute you say; “Wow, I really don't remember that trip at all.” It was one of those commutes, but with a parked semi-truck in the middle of it. Everything was going fine until I smacked into the back of that truck at 20 mph. I flew from my now-mangled machine of a bicycle with a flip and landed on my keister in the middle of the street. My bike of shame was left stuck in the back of the truck like a fly on a horse. In a daze, I grabbed my bike and started walking home. It wasn't long before I noticed that my arm really hurt. One emergency room visit and surgery later, I had this huge gash of a scar on my arm.

God taught me some valuable lessons through this scar - the obvious one being to pay attention and be aware of my surroundings. It's obvious to me that we were not made to be perfect and that's why Jesus came to meet us all. 1 Peter 2: 24 says “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.”

As has been a custom here the past several months, feel free to send us your embarrassing stories or scar stories. However, please note on them if you want this shared with the youth during a meeting or not.

- Chris McLaughlin



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



Dan's Musings

Dan Shelhamer, Music Director

Several months ago I received a letter from Compassion, International, telling me that the Thai child I had been sponsoring for several years had "graduated" from the program and asking me if I would like to continue sponsoring a different child. They gave me several choices of boys and girls, but I didn't give it much thought and let them choose for me.

Today I received another letter from them – enclosed was a delightful letter from Melan, my newly-sponsored child in Indonesia. This introductory letter began with the greeting, "Dear beloved Mr. Daniel Shelhamer...." Such extravagant affection – and from one who has never met me at all!

Melan continued her letter, thanking me for my sponsorship and showering blessings and prayers upon me and my family. Her gratitude made me feel very humble, indeed – I never miss the paltry sum I contribute every month, yet to her it is a Godsend. What wondrous good could each of us accomplish in the world, if we gave up some of those "necessities" of life which seem so important – Starbucks lattes, TV cable upgrades, that new hat or keychain or earrings or....

The rest of Melan's letter continued by telling me a little bit more about herself (her favorite food is fried rice and satay), her family, and her friends. Her favorite hobbies are playing with dolls and jumping rope – she would probably be overwhelmed by hand-held video games, personal cell phones and her own TV. Take the money spent on these "necessities" from just our own congregation – how many dolls and jump ropes could we provide for the children of Indonesia?

God certainly does not begrudge us our enjoyment of the incredible good fortune that He has bestowed upon us – but every once in a while it is good to be reminded of just how much we have, in comparison to the rest of the world. Even in this time of economic hardship, we still have so much more than most others in foreign lands. As the song says, "Lord, listen to your children praying...." In gratitude, I hope.

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

In his book, *Religious Literacy: What everyone needs to know – and doesn't*, Boston University Professor Stephen Prothero points out that only half of American adults can name one of the four Gospels, and ten percent of Americans believe that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife. Sixty percent of Americans can't name five of the Ten Commandments, and fifty percent of high school seniors think that Sodom and Gomorrah were married.

Funny, but sad. Religious illiteracy is a big problem today in America. This is surprising, because at the beginning of the third millennium religion is alive and well. Religious aspirations are still an important part of who we are as human beings and remain a powerful driving force in domestic and international relations, for better or worse. Religion had a large role in our recent Presidential election, and religious beliefs emerge in many of our political and cultural debates in modern America. Just when some were declaring that we were entering an era of secularism, where religion would no longer be necessary, we are rediscovering the relevance of religion in the world.

The irony of this is that we know very little about religion. And when I say religion I don't just mean Christianity. We know even less about other religions. A study done by the Bible Literacy Project found that just thirty-six percent of Americans know that Ramadan is the Islamic holy month. Seventeen percent said that it was the Jewish Day of Atonement (Can you name the Jewish Day of Atonement? Do you know the name of Islam's holy book?)

Some of you have asked me about resources for learning more about religion in general. A very helpful book is *The World's Religions*, by Huston Smith. It is clear and concise. And although Smith himself has a very diverse religious background and spiritual experience, *The World's Religions* provides a good introduction to the world's main religious traditions. There are two versions of the book - one with pictures and without.

I have also found the CD's and DVD's from the Teaching Company to be helpful. They have a set called *Great World Religions*, and they can be found in most libraries.

If you are interested, I can recommend other resources as well. I think it is important for us to know more and become more literate on the matter of religion, our own and others. As a follower of Jesus Christ, I believe him to be the supreme expression of who God is. I choose to understand religion through knowing Jesus. But all truth comes from the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we are better people, more compassionate and more fully informed, for knowing what others believe as well.

Randy

SEND IN YOUR HIGH SCHOOL PHOTO

The Youth Group had a great idea - they would like you to send in your high school photo to be placed in the monthly newsletter. Your photo would be featured on the "Youth" page of the newsletter, and people would have to guess which picture belonged to which parishioner. Answers would appear in a special box in the back of the newsletter.

We Remember...



Christian Education Notes

Donna Saltzberg, CE Director

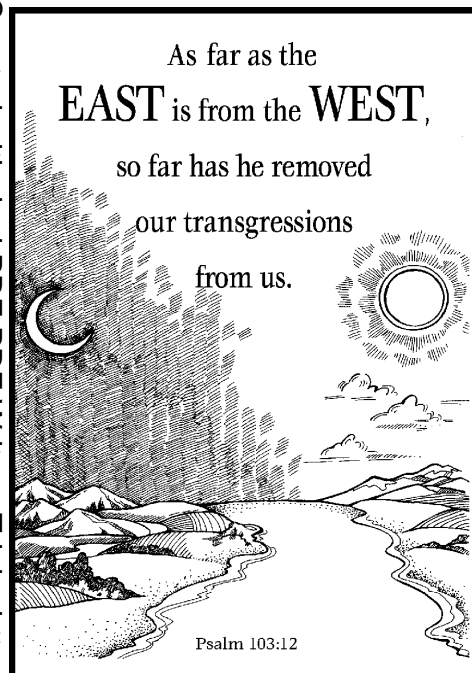
"It's OK" ...two simple words...

Driving Max to school one bright sunny fall morning, I was traveling back home going past Fred Meyer. The sun's glare was in my eyes, but I could see that the stoplight on Aurora was red. No problem, I thought, as I had plenty of time this morning. I was not paying attention and made the mistake of blocking the drive into the parking lot. Oh brother, I thought, seeing there were four cars lined up to make a left into FM's lot. As I looked in the car first in line to turn, the woman behind the wheel was looking at me. I said "I'm sorry, I'm so sorry!?" She smiled and mouthed the words "It's okay."

How sweet, how nice, I thought. And I was surprised and amazed at how good I felt from that simple act of forgiveness. In fact, I was relieved!

The light turned green, and just as I began to finally move and get out of the way, a Casting Crowns song came on the radio. It's based on Psalm 103:12, *East to West* and reminded me how great and wide our Savior's love is for me and his forgiveness is immeasurable.

Check out this song on You Tube. It offers a beautiful reminder of God's amazing love.



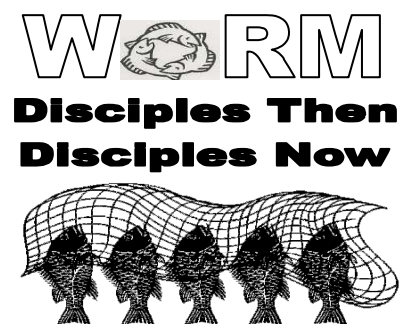
Did you know? We remember:

- 10% of what we READ
- 20% of what we HEAR
- 30% of what we SEE
- 50% of what we SEE and HEAR
- 70% of what we SAY
- 90% of what we SAY and DO
- 100% of what we EXPERIENCE?

This fall we continue taking kids OUT of traditional Sunday School and LOGOS classes and getting IN to learning about Jesus and his teachings in a new and exciting way. The Workshop Rotation Model (WoRM) is specifically designed to engage each student in a learning EXPERIENCE through short and creative workshops.

Grade school students are invited to WoRM on Sunday mornings during the traditional 2nd hour 11:00-noon and Wednesday nights from 5:00-7:00 p.m. (same time as the past LOGOS program).

Our workshops focus this fall on getting to know the Disciples of Jesus. Come and check out what is happening at Build-a-Boat Crafts, Go Fish Games, Parable Playhouse (Drama), Solid Rock Café (Cooking), Stormy Seas Center (Science), Upper Room Storytelling (Bible Story), Seaside Songs (Music), and Real-to-Reel Theater (DVDs).



THE U IN JESUS



Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God stuck U in the name of His Son.

And each time U pray, you'll see it's true,
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold trUmPet blew,
And this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.


When JesUs left earth at His Upward ascension,
He shared one thing He just had to mention.

"Go into the world and tell them it's true
That I love them all - JUst like I love U."

So many great people are spelled with a U,
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do,
He'd like them to know,
But it all starts with U.

Unknown author



Prayer Shawl Ministry

To all the loving women of Trinity's Shawl Ministry,

How can I tell you of the joy and comfort I received when your lovely shawl arrived? It is so beautiful! I have worn it over my shoulders ever since it arrived and it keeps me warm and feeling so loved. Thank you with all my heart. God's love flows through every stitch and fills me through and through. Thank you!

Our next gathering of the Trinity Prayer Shawl Ministry will be on Saturday, October 24th, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in Bethany.

Simple patterns are available, and we invite anyone interested in sharing a special time of prayer, knitting and crocheting to come. We will happily teach those who don't know how to knit or crochet, or haven't done so in years.

If this ministry calls to you, plan to join us! Any questions may be directed to Tessa Machle or Donna Saltzberg.

