
TRINITY GAZETTE

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Welcome to the Trinity Gazette!

By Ute Galloway

NetudoMagic

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Let us get back to the Basics, including praise, Prayers, and worship in our daily walk with Christ. However, is that all we need to do?

By Ute Galloway

When I first sat down to write this, it was very important to stress the fact that we all need to get back to basics in our daily walk with God. I am here to say, as many have in our church, that it is very important do just that. We, as Christians, need to rely more on God in our daily life. He gave us the Word of God to read in daily one, two, or even more times to understand the answers which pertain to our daily life. The instructions are there in both the old and the New Testament, they are there for our taking. All we have to do is to read, and to follow the guidelines presented by God. The second step is just as important that we go to Him in prayer and yes praise and worship. Prayer every day in all of our lives not just in need, but also in joy, in everything we do. God wants to hear from us, whether in time of need, or when we give Him thanks for answering our prayers, or just to say hello. When was the last time you just said hello to Him without needing anything? It is a wonderful feeling to do that, telling how beautiful His creation of the earth is, or how

awesome the morning is going, to crawl into His lap when we need the ultimate, unquestioning love we cannot get anywhere else. I never knew how important it was for me to do this, until a year and half ago when Don and I lost our grandbaby suddenly in the middle of the night. Since then, I have crawled into His lap during many moments when I thought I would break. It is also very important to praise Him with song and words, and with thanksgiving. He needs to hear from us as much as He can, just as much as we need Him in our life. But, is that all? Is there not something important missing in this equation? Is it all about us? Are we the only Christians out there with our little lives, which are important to Him? Look at the following passage, and I want to show you what is missing, and it is not practiced enough in our times and it belongs to the basics.

One Body with Many Parts

1 Corinthians 12:12-27:

¹² *The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.* ¹³ *Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit* ¹⁴ *Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part.* ¹⁵ *If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body.* ¹⁶ *And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body?* ¹⁷ *If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?*

¹⁸ *But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it.* ¹⁹ *How strange a body would be if it had only one part!* ²⁰ *Yes, there are many parts, but only one body.* ²¹ *The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."*

²² *In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary.* ²³ *And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen,* ²⁴ *while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity.* ²⁵ *This makes for harmony among the members,*

so that all the members care for each other.²⁶ If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

²⁷ *All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.*

Now what do you think about that?

We are all in the Body of Christ. What is God calling us to do? Are we to ignore all other Christians, and only love the Christians in our church, because the other ones have strange doctrines or traditions, we cannot trust them? Here is where he told me to go: We need to be united not only in our own church so we are not giving the other side any chance to interfere and mess up our personal church life, but we need to combine in worship with other churches. We need to get together as Christians on a regular basis to accomplish the task at hand, and that is to spread the gospel. Not to fight over getting new people to your church so we have more people and money; God will take care of the finances, but to make sure that all those who have not heard will hear. I believe it is important that at least once a year we need to have a Christian festival in our area and all over the world at different times, where we can publicly stand banded together as Christians celebrating God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit and to spread the gospel to let the ones hear who have not yet heard.

We are strong as a group, as the body of Christ. We do not need to argue about doctrine or tradition; we need to stand together in the body of Christ. So what do you say; shall we?

I leave you with this thought and if you know how we can get this accomplished, tell us and we will get it done. However, it is now that we need to act, not after Christ returns.

My idea is to put on a Body of Christ Festival in Ferran Park in Eustis and invite all the other churches to bring their talents and perform for all who will come and see what is going on. As it is, you assemble such a large group of people who have fun; non-Christians will walk into the area who then can be saved if the Holy Spirit desires it so. Our job is not to have the highest body count with the most money in our church; our job as the body of Christ, is to save as many people we can, so when Christ returns, we take as many with us as we can. Let us unite and instead of fighting the other churches for people, close-up the ranks, spread the gospel, and leave no one behind.

Vision

By David

I'm not sure what to write; however, I think you were wanting what the Holy Spirit has put on my heart. I see the Lord pouring

out his Spirit on Trinity. Just like what Peter referenced in the book of Acts, these are the days the prophet Joel spoke of when he said the Lord would pour out his Spirit in the latter days. The Lord has put on my heart to have a feasible in Eustis' park by the lake, on one of the days they have the street parties in downtown Eustis. We'll have games, bounce houses, rides (if we can), food, and such. All of it free to the public, absolutely free. Have the Christian band Tenth Avenue North come and play because I know their music is inspired by the Holy Spirit. I don't know if you have heard their music, but they have a song titled Hallelujah, inspired praise and worship song, outstanding song. I'll bring you a CD if you have never heard them. Witness to the people and let the Lord work miracles on them, heal their bodies and whatever else the Lord would do. The Lord would begin to bring revival to Central Florida starting with Eustis.

After chatting with you all Sunday after the service, I see God has given a few others the same type of vision. I'm glad for that; I really felt I was alone with that. I think Patricia was right (the other lady that was there Sunday); an actual worship service on Friday nights would be great. To began to unite Trinity with the mind set to get outside the walls and off the property. To actually get into the Spirit and practice the manifestations of the Spirit he has given to us. To build our confidence in Him before we are tested in the park in Eustis.

I think the vision He gave to you was excellent also. Make it a Christian festival, have other like-minded Christians there listening to local church bands (throughout the day), praising and worshipping the Lord and let Him bring in the thousands of lost.

OK, I'll stop rambling. What are your thoughts about this?

Something to Think about

Sent in Rosaline Bennett

Charles Stanley wrote, "More people are brought into God's kingdom through a Christian's love than through any other means."

Heavenly Father, help us to remember that the jerk who cut us off in traffic last night is a single mother who worked nine hours yesterday and was rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry, and spend a few precious moments with her children.

Help us to remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can't even make change correctly is a worried college student balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans for next semester. Remind us, Lord, that the scary looking bum begging for money in the same spot every day (who really ought to get a job!) is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares.

Help us to remember that the old couple walking so slowly through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment because they know that, based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year they will go shopping together.

Heavenly Father, remind us each day that of all the gifts you give us the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear. Open our hearts not to just those who are closest to us but to all humanity. Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive. Let us show patience, empathy and love. Give us a listening ear for all the neighbors who need one. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who commanded us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Amen.

Commitment

By Cheryl Blake

About 30 years ago, we were members of the Methodist Church in Eustis. We belonged to the J.O.Y. (Jesus 1st, Others 2nd, Yourself last) Sunday School class. On several occasions I taught that class, had my lessons all prepared, and was thinking they were pretty darn good. On one particular Sunday, I remember telling those present that they needed to read their Bibles more, the Bible says this, you should do this, and so forth. I thought it went well, hallelujah!

The next week I received a letter from Lew Treen. Lew was Mike and Bobby's father. He was opinionated and outspoken. If you needed correction, he would deliver it. I'm sure there were some nice greetings in his letter, but all I remember is that he quoted 1 Timothy 2:12.

"I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent."

WHAT! Can't teach? How dare he! My first inclination was to get angry, but after the dust cleared, I realized what he was trying to tell me. He wasn't saying that I couldn't teach, but that people are at different places in their walk with God, the Bible isn't all black and white; it speaks to people where they are at that time in their lives. I shouldn't have been telling everyone what they

should be doing according to Cheryl Blake. It was a humbling lesson, but I got it! Thank you, Lew.

At some point came the period of my life I'll call "The Desert Years". It was about 10+ years when I didn't want to listen to Christian music, didn't want to read the Bible, would change the channel if a religious speaker were on, and didn't join in at church. I went to church and that was it. I know it was to show me how hard it is for some people to get themselves out of a valley. Preaching at them doesn't help. Of course, it was my own fault. If you want to get out of a valley, you have to move.

Then came Dave. He kept hammering home that we all needed to connect with a shepherd group. No way, Jose! That would take up our valuable time away from home. After all, we were still had jobs.

When I filled out my commitment forms, I had no boxes to check. I always felt a little embarrassed that basically, I came to church and that was it.

I think we joined a shepherd group just so we would have a box to check. Then Beth Carter got me to go to my first Women of Faith conference. What an experience that was. I began to put praise music on my MP3 player and filled the car with praise CDs. I listened to praise music while walking, working in the yard, and every time I went anywhere. That began to prepare my heart for the things of God.

Beth kept encouraging me to join a Bible study, at night no less. I fought that idea for a while but eventually started going to Celia's Bible study at night, and it has been one of the best things I've ever done. This all began just about six years ago.

Since then there have been numerous Bible studies, and behind the scenes work at Trinity. Every step that I take leads me to the next, and it gets easier and easier to be involved. I have been blessed immeasurably in every aspect of my life, but especially in getting to know whom God is and what He desires for me.

I can check a few more boxes at commitment time, but ironically, it's not about that. It's about growth. I don't want to be a baby Christian. I want everything God has for me. God has shown me that there is always more. His Word is alive and real, and we are never too old to learn. I won't tell you what to do, but I would suggest that you take one step.

Get involved in one thing. Soon you will learn, as I did, that the blessings far outweigh any time you might spend.

Nothing is lost, by doing good.

Quiet Time

By Donna Arthur

One morning this week, I decided to have my Quiet Time sitting on a lawn chair facing a small lake in front of our house. What a concert I was treated to as I listened to the many different bird and insect voices of the morning seemingly praising their Creator as they began their day's work. There are so many object lessons God can use to speak to His children as the sun is rising.

For instance, when was the last time your thoughts dwelled upon the morning dew? If you are anything like me, it's been a long time.

Listen to the words of a song Moses recited to his people:

"Listen, O heavens, and I will speak; bear, O earth, the words of my mouth. Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. I will proclaim the name of the Lord. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he". Deuteronomy 32:1-4

The dew-like words that came to me that morning were from Ephesians 4. The verses spoke of living a life worthy of the calling we have received in Christ Jesus. Those words were: Humble. Gentle. Patient. Bearing with one another in love. And most important to me, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

I thought about how many times our attitudes reflect those of our current society into the places we hold most dear, family life, relationships, and church life. Yet, God "urges" us to live a life worthy of our calling. Our words and our behavior tell others what we really believe about living a life in accordance with God's desires for unity and peace.

Being humble, gentle, and patient requires more than self-discipline. It requires allowing the life of the Spirit to rule over us and our personal desires. Peace and unity within a home, a relationship, or a church is not something we acquire but something we can only access from the indwelling Spirit of God.

Moses wanted the words of his mouth to be as refreshing to God and others as dew was to tender plants. In proclaiming the goodness and greatness of God, rather than what he personally

liked or disliked about his people, Moses allowed God to work through his life.

I closed my devotional time by writing in my journal, "Lord, make my words and actions fall like dew this week upon all I come in contact with." May your praises and your songs bring glory to Him who in turn fills you and your loved ones with His refreshing peace and unity.

Our Talents God gave us

By Clark Blake

God has given all of us different talents and abilities. I am extremely grateful to Him for helping me to use them throughout my life. When we moved to Eustis in 1971, we attended the Presbyterian church of Eustis where we were the leaders of the middle school youth group at the church. Marilyn Budzynski was one of our charges at that time. We have some great memories of those days.

When we attended the First United Methodist Church of Eustis, I taught Sunday School to high school students and Cheryl taught periodically for the J.O.Y. class. In 1974, I attended a Fellowship of Christian Athletes National Conference at Black Mountain, NC. By the end of the week, I knew what God wanted me to do, and that was to be a Huddle Coach for FCA at Eustis High School. I took that responsibility very seriously and worked in that capacity for 29 years. We had weekly meetings of music, fellowship, and sharing the message of Jesus Christ with the students. It provided a great platform for many young people to come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord. We also participated in taking students to national conferences each summer for a week of inspiration and perspiration. These conferences also helped us to grow in our walk with God.

We started attending Trinity in 1983 and again God has given us opportunities to be involved. I've taught Sunday School. This will be my third summer as Rally leader for Sports camp. I also help to monitor the racquetball court. I have been honored to share my testimony and motivational messages throughout our community and churches.

I am grateful that God gives us talents and abilities, and provides the opportunity for us to use them, so we can benefit from our work and give Him the Glory!

Prayer Corner

By Eileen Johnson - Prayer Warrior Team Leader

Heavenly Father, we ask Your Holy Spirit to: unite us together under the Headship and leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ. make us one just as the Father and Son are one. (John 17:20-21) help us make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:3-6) take our many groups and make us into one body of believers with one goal, to bring honor and glory to the Lord Jesus Christ and proclaim His Mighty Name.

“But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” I Corinthians 12:24-27.

Philippians 4:5-8

In Christ, Kathleen Soulliere

⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Are you on your last nerve? Are you acting out with kindness and love? Are you patient, to those around you?

Our life here at Trinity is an invitation, to get back to the basics, get back to God, because it is only in Him, that you will find peace for this day. Find a study, find a group, and find a quiet place where you know He is.

I found my strength in God, in Philippians several years ago. These Words were able to change my life, give me direction in a bad season of my life. My prayer is that we, as members of our Church family, be recognized by our unselfish ways, God has a plan for our lives, and we need to obey His Word.

May prayer and petition find a way soften our hearts, and the hearts and circumstances that surround us? I pray for our understanding of others to be a focus, as we live our lives, and

circle in and out of Trinity for encouragement and support. May we be thankful, and praise Our Father for His grace and mercy, and for His Son, Jesus.

I have been recently blessed, with a re-newed interest in taking a morning walk, with God, being able to revive my prayer life with thanksgiving, as we are called to do. As I recite the "Lords prayer", and specifically pray, with a heart that longs for Him, my days are better. I have been reminded that I must obey, and seek Him first in my life, and there is joy in my steps. Each hour that I am able to trust Him, I view my present circumstances with hope, and a peace that is His.

There are many resources available at Trinity, so please connect. We are all edgy, stressed, and cannot do or be everything. Thankfully, despite our circumstances, Our Lord is working in our hearts. There are many opportunities that exist in this place of God's. There are Bible studies, worship teams, music, support groups, Shepard groups, Sunday school classes, mission trips, weeding, feeding & ministering too There are greeters, planners, decorators, all aspects of Youth ministry, and the list goes on and on. It is truly amazing all the ways that God is able to heal His people, and allow all this team of Christians to minister to our community.

His kingdom will come; we are delivered now, in His promise of hope for our lives. I pray that we dig deep, seeking His Word for our comfort that we are able to "pray hard" for His will in our lives, and the lives around us. Remain thankful, and connect with your Church family.

I am blessed to lead a woman's Bible study on Monday evenings. We are getting ready to post our Summer series, which I can share, will have no homework. If you would like to join our group, please give me a call (352) 408-8366 or email kathome13@aol.com . I pray for our personal walk with God, may He bless us, this day.

Pieces and Parts

by Colleen Edwards

“The body is a unit; though it is made up of many parts...they form one body. So it is with Christ...in fact, God has arranged the parts, every one of them, just as He wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be?” (I Cor. 12:12,18-19)

The whole anatomy, the completed puzzle, the well-built restoration, the beautiful tapestry, The body of Christ. When we step back and look at the full view of a project, it is rich, complete and satisfying. All the pieces fit, the pattern moves, and a story unfolds. The church is a body of believers with a variety of ministries, all fitting together for one purpose: leading others to Christ, growing together in a continually unfolding spiritual story. Sometimes it needs alterations, a bit of polishing, a tweaking. It needs people to “work out” each part. All the effort cannot be focused in one area, but distributed outward and to many. If all the stitches were sewn on one corner, the quilt pieces would not hold together. If six tires were on a car that only needs four, they would not help the vehicle move any better. Neither the quilt nor the car would be as fit for their designed purpose.

What’s more, when there are “too many cooks in the kitchen”, it is chaos. However, those extra, willing hands can be used elsewhere to let the kitchen crew work most effectively. In addition, if I cannot cook well and someone else is better, my hands would serve better at another necessary task I can do well. I would love to play the piano. Nevertheless, no matter how much I want to play, I cannot. It would take me years to gain the skill, if it is even possible. So, I sing. If all the instruments played the same note, our worship time would be dull and confusing. As motor oil in the windshield washer will not do well, transmission fluid in the gas tank will not work. Whereas a vacuum cleaner can be pushed through the grass, it will not cut the lawn.

When each person ministers in what he or she does well, unity thrives and harmony is born and grows. Every person, young and old, can take part in church family harmony, and is called by Jesus to take a role. Most of us have several areas where we can be active, but we should take part in those areas where there is a need (a.k.a. “ministry”) in which we can operate the best. Look in your church body to see where there is a gap. Look at yourself to see what you do best. You and your church will have several areas in which to minister. Then, after a while, step back and look at the masterpiece of the body working together smoothly and wholly. Watch and hear our story continue to unfold as it speaks to those who need Christ. The well-oiled machine, the flowing brook, the colorful portrait; The body of Christ.

“All the believers were one heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.” (Acts 4:32)

Neighborhood Evangelism

by Patricia Andrews

Having been shown an effective strategy to reach the lost of our city, I write it down that together we may run. We shall begin by hand-delivering flyers to every household in our neighborhood, knocking on doors and personally inviting them to a neighborhood block party which shall extend four weekends in a row on Saturdays around lunch-time. We may be more effective to wear jeans, sneakers and a colorful t-shirt or polo-type uniform shirt or Christian shirt. At the block party events, we shall have festival-like booths, which play games focused at different ages, but all of them shall preach the gospel in the game, teaching the benefits of salvation. We can give party favors, juice-boxes, treats and helium-filled balloons to the young ones as prizes, and welcome them to worship with us on Sunday morning. We can have catered meals, ices, lemonade and funnel-cakes and pies for sale in a picnic area. That would give us an additional opportunity to ask our guests more about them, when they are standing in game lines or sitting down at lunch. We can ask our guests if they would like us to pray with them for their salvation and safety and for wisdom in finances and relationships, and to give them a tract with our address, phone number and times of worship. We can also go over the different programs and Bible studies available and offer to anoint their homes with oil and walk the perimeters with them, and pray with them for the salvation of each of their family members.

A consistent four weekends in a row in the same place is important, because I believe word will spread and we will get new people each week and some of the same ones will also come back who have more questions, or are just hungry for more of God, Christian fellowship, and fun.

After four weeks in a row, we can take a weekend to rest and discuss among ourselves what we can do to be more effective, correct anything that did not work, to pray over the seeds we planted in that neighborhood and to decide what neighborhood to go into next. It is my goal to recruit out of the new members we get to help us with the next neighborhood, so that they may receive the benefits of ministry, reaching souls for Christ, blessing families house by house, and operating in the anointing.

We will need small pop-up gazebo tents for shade, ideas, and games, caterers to run food and beverage stands and

many volunteers. My phone number is 508-5611 and my email is windowbling@yahoo.com. God bless you.

Get to know me

By Ute Galloway



Diane Treen

When God sent me to Diane, she was not sure about the interview at first. Not because she did not want to do it, but that she really would have liked the June issue. Of course, it was tonight that I found out why. Diane's school is doing the SAT testing this week. Therefore, I am happy to report, not only did she find the time to sit down with me, but also it was once again a fantastic interview. God is good, all the time; He is good!

Ute: How long have you been coming to Trinity? Were you not part of the founding Fathers?

Diane: We were part of a church, Asbury Covenant Church in Tavares. I was pregnant with Becky at the time. We were the only ones it that church that were pregnant, there were no other children in the church. Everyone else was over fifty. We went to Evening services at Trinity. We were not part of the original four families, however we started to come regularly when they started meeting at the Women's Club.

Ute: When did you join Trinity full time?

Diane: Something like 1983 or 1984, I would sit in the back of the church when we were meeting at the Women's Club right next to Sharon Young, the pastor wife. We both sat in the back during service nursing our babies. Their son, Steven, is the same age as Becky; they were also our next-door neighbors.

Ute: How long did it take before Trinity became a full-blown church?

Diane: Right away, it was sort of like Umatilla Baptist is right now. They are fresh and on fire, therefore, "everyone" wants to be there. It is a draw because of the moving of the Holy Spirit and that is an exciting time in the life of a church. That is what Trinity was like. You know where we live. We used to live in the yellow house on the other end of the street. We built that house in 1987 and I was pregnant--again, with Bradley, this time. Pastor Young lived beside us with his family. It was not too long before everyone who built a house on that street went to Trinity. It was a great time of growth and close fellowship.

Ute: How did your vision play into Trinity?

Diane: The teaching I received as a child was great; my father was my pastor. You knew this right. He is an evangelical Pastor, and I set under his teaching all my life. It is hard after 20+ years to sit under a different pastor and listen to their style of teaching. Yet the teaching here in Trinity was very good. God used this Pastor and his wife, Jim & Sharon Young. They were very charismatic. The things at Trinity just started happening as the Holy Spirit was leading. God started bringing the right group of people, small groups jumped up everywhere; we outgrew every place we went.

Ute: How much of these feelings do you see now in Trinity?

Diane: It is not about the feeling. I do not need a special feeling in Trinity on Sunday. A church is like a young marriage. First, you have the honeymoon, you are married, and make friends with other couples and then all the babies are coming, and then they kids get older, and finally you find yourself in the nitty-gritty part of your relationship. That is where Trinity is now. Some have left (like in some marriages) and many have stuck to their commitments. We are a young church, just 26 years old. Other churches around here are much older and have much more tradition. Trinity was never intended to become 'like every other church' in the area. We CAN do untraditional ministries here, since we are not steeped in tradition. Trinity needs to maintain its uniqueness. The other thing is that when Trinity started, we did not seem to be as busy. We were able to get together often and spend time with each other. We wanted to be together having our children play together, but now people are so busy--too busy, maybe. From what I hear, the young families of Trinity are about to

step up and get involved. THAT is exciting. Therefore, you see the reason why some of us are not doing as much as we used to anymore. We are burned out. If you have a heart for something go start a ministry, do not go to the Pastors and ask them to do it. Get it done yourself, if that is what the Lord is putting on your heart. That is how Trinity was born, we had a heart for something and we put it into place. This is what we are all about. You have the idea; we help you to get started - if you can not do it on your own. Just remember to put God first. Soak it in lots of prayer and then go for it. Trinity was not founded to be another church like all the rest. It happened because we are on fire for God, not because of doctrine or traditions.

Ute: Besides the young families who needs to step up?

Diane: Everyone! We have such potential, here. Our pastors are carrying way too much of the load and we need to be lifting them up, NOT burying them under everything.

I wish that when people sign up for discovery class to join Trinity, they are told that at the end of the class as part of their membership, that they need to sign up for one of the ministries (or start a new one). I think that our ministries are introduced in the discovery classes. This is where new people can get plugged in at Trinity. This is where they get involved in a small group. This is where the connections begin. Then growth occurs as people start caring for others and each other.

It is like the Praise Team. We need a piano player. I am sure someone in the church plays the piano. Please come and join us. You know the Praise team is one of the ministries you need to have some talent and not just a heart to sing. You cannot expect to join if you think you can sing in the shower, or the car. You have to be able to harmonize and carry an excellent tune. You do not need to be able to read music, however it would be so helpful. You are also going to have to pledge to practice your music for hours each week, Wednesday night is not the time to practice, that is when we fine tune. It is not fair to the others if you are not prepared, then it takes hours to get through the practice, when we should just be polishing up the rough spots. This is where I find my joy. I never thought I would be singing on the platform. I have always loved to sing and it is a joy to bring praise to the Lord through song. However, I never thought I would be leading in Worship. The Lord is stretching me and it is such an amazing experience. Trinity's musicians and vocalists are VERY gifted and I feel honored to be able sing and work with them all.

Ute: Is there a way to teach people music?

Diane: The problem with that is that we do not have the time. I wish we did, but we do not have it. It was a lot of fun on Wednesday's practice when everyone was prepared. We polished up a new song and ran through the music twice and we were able to go home early. That is how a practice is supposed to run. When everyone is prepared, the practice is as much of a celebration as the Sunday morning worship experience. It is the high light of my week.

Ute: Is there something you would like Trinity to do?

Diane: I would like Trinity to go outside of our walls. Doug does a GREAT job getting our teens into community projects and mission outreaches - here and abroad- but it just seems to stop after that. So many come to Trinity but so few are involved. We need to ALL be in ministry, if Trinity is to grow as the Lord intends for us to do.

Ute: do you have any ideas?

Diane: I am not sure. However, did you see the story about this little 4th grade girl on TV? She got her class to plant a garden and all the plants were donated. She grew this huge cabbage head, and then they donated all the vegetables to a soup kitchen and her cabbage fed over three hundred people. That is going outside the walls. Those kids will never forget that. Doing something to make a difference in the lives of people in our community will not only help them but enrich our lives as well. Then, we can share the Love of Jesus with them, too, which is the whole point.

Ute: What is your favorite verse?

Diane: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

¹³ Now also we would not have you ignorant, brethren, about those who fall asleep (as in death), that you may not grieve [for them] as the rest do who have no hope [beyond the grave]. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will also bring with Him through Jesus those who have fallen asleep in death]. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by the Lord's [own] word, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord shall in no way precede [into His presence] or have any advantage at all over those who have previously fallen asleep [in Him in death]. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud cry of summons, with the shout of an archangel, and with the blast of the trumpet of God. In addition, those who have departed this life in Christ will rise first ¹⁷ Then we, the living ones who remain [on the earth], shall simultaneously be caught up along with [the resurrected dead] in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so always (through the eternity of the eternities) we shall be with the Lord.

Ute: what advise do you have?

Diane: Four years ago, I lost my younger brother Dean, and I felt that until then I had wasted a lot of time and never talked boldly about my beliefs or thought very much about Heaven. I think about Heaven all the time now. I am really enjoying my life now, and praising God. I look forward to Heaven and all that it will be. I know that NOW is the time to share my faith and to speak of the wonders and power of the Lord and what He has done for me. The Bible says if we do not speak out the rocks will cry out, and I will not let the rocks do my job. So, don't wait until some tragedy hits your life and causes you to change. Choose to change NOW and be BOLD with your expressions of faith. Do not let the rocks cry out for you. THAT IS YOUR JOB! We were made to celebrate and praise the Lord our Maker. SO PRAISE HIM!

Prince of Peace

By Ron Richardson

Since Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace and He is also the Head of the Body, we might think the church would be the most peaceful place on earth. However, this is often not the case.

When I think of peace in a spiritual sense, I also think of purity because the two go hand in hand. If there is a lack of purity, there should be no peace until purity is restored. We must maintain purity of actions, of Biblical teaching or doctrine, of motive, speech, and thought.

I am reminded of a story Dave Lewis told about his younger brother. When they were both children, he observed his brother's antics in front of a mirror and asked him what he was doing. "I'm trying to grow bigger," was his answer. Some things just cannot be forced that will just happen naturally when the conditions are right.

There are at least three ways we can try to force peace to come. Some have been done, and some may continue to be done here. First, refuse to confront evil. Do repent of evil in your own heart, but do not say a word about anyone else's life, after all, that is the work of the Holy Spirit. Just say, "It's His job, not mine."

Second, impose tolerance on others. If you want to stick your head in the sand, be sure that everyone else is doing the same thing. It would not look good if some are pointing out error, evil, or fault in the context of Philippians 2:14-16 and Matthew 18:15-18.

Third, fracture the body. Split into groups that think alike and agree how things ought to be done. Do not associate with others who may have different ideas, and if all else fails, leave and find a church where everyone thinks like you.

By now, certainly everyone understands that I was writing facetiously; peace cannot be forced by any means. It comes naturally as a part of the fruit of the Spirit. Can a grapevine produce grapes by force of will? reasoning or planning? No, it does it naturally. It grows roots down into the soil to draw up water and nutrients. It sprouts leaves that convert sunlight to chemicals and take in air, combining these with the water and nutrients from the roots to produce the miracle we call grapes. If any of those elements are missing, no grapes. Purity (personal holiness) is one of those elements. Without a heart that is right with God our worship is rejected, church becomes a social function, and we are left with mere Christianity. Whole-hearted obedience provides the platform for pure worship and the foundation for living the Christian faith.

The aspects of the fruit of the Spirit are mutually self-supportive, owing to the Spirit's desire to build Christ-likeness into us. Love is the key to each of the others. It unlocks our ability to have peace with one another. More importantly, it brings peace with God. Men, you have just had a two or three paragraph capsule of a few of points from the Saturday morning study in "Seeking Him" that we have looked at over the last few months. This church needs you to be there too, as we examine our lives. Everyone has some room for improvement, as God is not finished with us yet. We hope to see you next Saturday.

International Cuisine

Party Chicken

By mspjdownes

Original (1960's) Recipe (serves 8 to 12)

8 chicken breasts boned, skinned, halved.

In an 8"x 12" pan put each ½ breast folded together

Cover with ½ slice raw bacon

Place each breast on one slice of the dried chipped beef.

Cover all with a mixture of: 8-pint sour cream mixed with 8 can of Cream of Mushroom Soup

Bake at 275° 3 hours. Serve with rice

2009 version – (Same flavor – a bit more wallet, heart and waist friendly)

Arrange chipped beef in double layers on the bottom of an 8” x 12” for those of you youngsters who have never bought dried chipped beef... it is found near canned meats and it is fat free and costs \$1.00!

Top with 10 boned and skinned chicken thighs

Top with 1 slice of turkey bacon (in an ‘X’)

Cover all with a mixture of: 1 can of Low sodium Cream of Mushroom Soup and 1 pint of fat free or low fat sour cream

Bake at 325° for 2 hours (covered the first hour) – check chicken to see if it is thoroughly cooked. You may want to broil it for a few minutes to brown the bacon.

Serve with brown rice.

Make an extra batch and share it with a family who is struggling!

From the left field

ATTIRE FOR CHURCH

Send in by Cheryl Blake

One Sunday morning an old cowboy entered a church just before services were to begin. Although the old man and his clothes were spotlessly clean, he wore jeans, a denim shirt and boots that were very worn and ragged.

In his hand he carried a worn out old hat and an equally well read Bible. The church he entered was in a very upscale and exclusive part of the city. It was the largest and most beautiful church the old Cowboy had ever seen. The people of the congregation were all dressed with expensive clothes and jewelry. As the cowboy took a seat, the others moved away from him.

No one greeted, spoke to, or welcomed him. They were all appalled by his appearance and did not attempt to hide it. As the old cowboy was leaving the church, the preacher approached him and asked the cowboy to do him a favor: "Before you come back here again, have a talk with God and ask him what he thinks would be appropriate attire for worship in church." The old cowboy assured the preacher he would.

The next Sunday, he showed back up for the services wearing the same ragged jeans, shirt, boots, and hat. Once again, he was completely shunned and ignored.

The preacher approached the cowboy and said, "I thought I asked you to speak to God before you came back to our church."

"I did," replied the old cowboy.

"If you spoke to God, what did he tell you the proper attire should be for worshipping here?" asked the preacher.

"Well, sir, God told me that he didn't have a clue what I should wear. He said He'd never been in this church.

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?"

"No," replied David. "How could he, with just two worms?"

Favorite Verse

Given by Deanna Howell

Ephesians 6:12

For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere.

Editor's Comments

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The Body of Christ is the most important item on any Christian Menu, regardless of personal doctrine or beliefs. I am sitting right now in the Truth Project Class, and after only one session, it has opened my eyes, and started me down the path even more. What is Truth?

We need to work together as the Body of Christ. Did you know that the Body of Christ is also referred to as the Bride of Christ? How would you like to look upon your Bride? As a beautiful creation that has done everything in her power to get ready for the big day or as someone who just showed up without care of the task at hand?

What is Truth? We are here to prepare for Christ's return, however right now it seems more like an on-slaughter of which church can get the most bodies for the financial existence. Are we doing the lost souls any justice, and are we obeying the command of God to save people?

What is Truth?