

# Trinity Times

*"Growing in Christ, Sharing in Love"*

A publication of Trinity United Church

A joint congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ

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Elsie Armstrong Rhodes, Pastor

Cyndy Reames, Editor

Volume 9 Issue 5

June/July 2006

## Pastor's Pen:

*By The Reverend Elsie Armstrong Rhodes*

Samuel, our youngest son, was exactly five months, two weeks and one day old on March 16, 2003 - my first "official" Sunday in the sanctuary with you. One of the many and significant ways you welcomed me and my family to Trinity United Church was in providing a "sanctuary" for Samuel that morning, and every Sunday since then.

As the Child Care Director and Child Care Volunteer, respectively, of our church nursery, Bonnie and Morgan have seen Samuel through burps and bumps, through his throwing up and falling down, through his shrieks of delight and demand ... and I dare say that he loves them fiercely - as do Connor, Elise, Linnea, Dillon, Catherine, Kyle, and all the other children for whom they have cared and to whom they have demonstrated the sure and steadfast love of God.

*Thanks be to God* for Bonnie and Morgan.

*And thanks be to God* for all of you, the family of faith, who saw fit to find a sanctuary - a safe haven - for the littlest lambs among the flock. "For it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs," says Jesus.

This is just one of the many ministries and opportunities for mission - for *sending out* the message of God's amazing grace and extravagant welcome - in which you all engage and to which you as a congregation are committed.

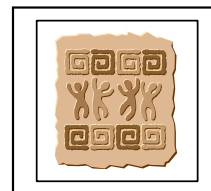
I invite you to set aside some time and space to sink your teeth into this June/July issue of the *Trinity Times*. For in it you will learn and be reminded of the myriad ways we are *growing in Christ, sharing in love*.

Thanks be to God for the opportunity we have - from the youngest to the eldest among us - to serve Christ "for such a time as this."

With deep gratitude, I remain

Yours in Christ,

**Pastor Elsie**



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## Notes from the Covenant Board

Submitted by Kit Bebbington, Pro-Tem Clerk of Session

The following are highlights from the special meetings held on March 11, 2006 and May 30, 2006 and the regular meeting held May 9, 2006; all were moderated by Pastor Elsie Armstrong Rhodes.

- ❖ A motion was made and passed to elect Kay Hurd as Elder Commissioner to the Presbytery meeting on May 23.
- ❖ A motion was made and passed to elect Lynn Merrill as Elder Commissioner to the Presbytery meeting on June 27.
- ❖ A motion was made and passed to elect Cyndy Reames, Karen VanManen and the Rev. Elsie Armstrong Rhodes as delegates to the Annual Meeting of the CAC (UCC), June 9-11, 2006 in Newark, Delaware.
- ❖ A motion was made and passed to examine and receive Confirmands Grant Negri and Scott Pantalone on Tuesday, May 30, 2006 (7-8:15 p.m.)
- ❖ A motion was made and passed to transfer Church School offering to spend on "Godly Play."
- ❖ A motion was made and passed to transfer Dinner Theater Funds to Fund Raising.
- ❖ A motion was made and passed to elect Harry Morgan as President and Phil Krieter as Vice President of the Corporation.
- ❖ Also discussed: appointing another site planning committee; revitalizing TUC's Endowment Fund; the new faces seen each Sunday in worship.

### MEMBERS OF THE COVENANT BOARD – 2006

Kit Bebbington	('08)	732-356-3730
Phil Krieter	('07)	908-707-4031
Lynn Merrill	('09)	908-256-1346
Harry Morgan	('07)	732-469-5994
Gary Pratt	('09)	908-647-6094
Cyndy Reames	('09)	732-271-1885
Karen Van Manen	('08)	908-908-1979
Robert Willitts	('08)	732-564-1508

('xx) indicates year current term of office expires

### OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION – 2006

President:	Harry Morgan
Vice President:	Phil Krieter
Secretary:	Gary Pratt
Treasurer:	Carol Krueger

### Members of the 2006 Pastoral Relations Committee

Harry Morgan	Kathy Pantalone
Phil Krieter	Gary Pratt
Linda Mobus	Karen Van Manen
Joyce Pratt	

### 2006 Covenant Board Goals –

The three major goals/priorities the Covenant Board set for themselves for 2006 are:

1. **Explore the ministry of Deacons** within 6 months - and then make a decision whether or not to ordain and install Deacons. If you are interested in this area contact one of the following elders: **Phil Krieter and Harry Morgan.**

2. Explore resources for continuing a **regular alternative worship service**, by September 2006. If you are interested in this area contact one of the following elders: **Kit Bebbington and Lynn Merrill.**
3. Take the responsibility and leadership role in **evaluating TUC's current governing structure** by January 2007. If you are interested in this area contact one of the following elders: **Gary Pratt, Cyndy Reames, Karen Van Manen, and Robert Willitts.**

During the May meeting of the Covenant Board, the elders read the story of Jesus' feeding of the 5000 as found in Mark 6:30-44. Pastor Elsie the question, "Where do we go from here?" The following 'steps,' based on the events of the story, were the result:

- Accept and recognize our responsibility
- Determine the resources we have now
- Organize existing resources
- Recognize and bless what we have
- Use what we have to our best advantage
- Praise God for the "leftovers"!

The members of the CB invite you to join them as they move TUC forward toward the mission and vision God has given our community of faith.

### **All Teams' Meeting –**

#### **Tuesday, June 13 at 7:30 pm at the church**

All Teams' meetings are open to ALL. Whether you are concerned about mission, the physical condition of the building, the fiscal condition of the church, the Christian education of our children and youth, or the care of our members — recent and long-time — this is the place to be. "Teams" meet every other month on the 2nd Tuesday, rotating with the Covenant Board meetings.

The overall purpose of these All Teams' meetings is three-fold:

1. *Communication* (of goals, dreams, ideas, joys and concerns)
2. *Coordination* (of programs, events, projects)
3. *Inspiration* (building up the body of Christ through prayer, study and fellowship)

Pastor Elsie's hope and prayer for these meetings is that:

- They are meaningful — people learn something, people's spirits are nourished, people enjoy the time spent with others
- They are productive — there is an agenda, minutes are taken, decisions are made, people contribute ideas, responsibilities are shared
- They begin at 7:30 pm and end (ideally) at 9 pm, but no later than 9:30 pm.

### **Financial Report:**

*Ralph Pratt, Financial Secretary; Carol Krueger, Treasurer*

In April 2006, income received through pledges and offerings toward the operating budget was \$7,910.73. Included in that amount was \$218.00 received for building use (Healthy Bones and Yoga classes).

## A Christian Education Minute

Kit Bebbington and Lynn Merrill, Elders

### Adult Education Opportunities

#### **Sunday Morning Adult Education ~**

In celebration of the season of Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit, we will conclude our program year with two wonderful adult education opportunities:

On **Sunday, June 4** (the day of Pentecost), we will welcome Dr. Wesley Ariarajah, professor of Ecumenical Theology at Drew Theological Seminary and a delegate to the recent Assembly of the World Council of Churches, which met in Brazil. Dr. Wesley will be speaking on the topic: *"Ecumenism Today: Reflections from the 9th Assembly of the World Council of Churches."*

On **Sunday, June 11**, our featured "speaker" will be Sherry Holland, a Quaker and a "friend" of our TUC family. Sherry will lead us in "Seeking God in the Silence." In her words, "Come find out what Quakers are really doing sitting quietly on those old benches on Sunday mornings."

#### **Mid-Week Bible Study ~**

Have you been wishing for another mid-week Bible Study? Your wish is becoming a reality! TUC is offering a 6-part Kerygma Bible Study, called *"Blessed Are You" The Beatitudes of Jesus in Scriptural Life*, by John C. Purdy.

Each Wednesday evening from **July 5 through August 9**, we will examine the Old Testament roots and context of the Beatitudes and explore contemporary implications of these words. It is hoped that we will discover fresh understanding and insights to enrich our faith.

We will begin with a Bag Supper at 6:30 p.m. and be through before dark, by 8:30 p.m.

Cost for the Resource Book is just \$13. Those planning to participate should sign-up in the PCN notebook or contact coordinator, Kit Bebbington no later than xx so the books can be ordered.

#### Living the Questions

**"Wisdom is asking the questions for which there are no answers."** ~ Harrell Beck

**Living the Questions** is a 12-week DVD-based small group study exploring **beyond the traditions and rote theologies** in which so many people and local churches seem to be stuck. The emphasis is on creating a safe environment where people have **permission to ask the questions** they've always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice, and to engage in honest dialogue about religious ideas. Beginning at **7pm on Thursday, June 15**, the sessions will end each week at approximately 9:15pm.

Schedule and Titles of the Sessions:

#### **June 15: An Invitation to Journey**

- Faith is not a destination, but a journey. The authority one places in the Bible plays a critical role in where and how you will travel on that spiritual journey. This session explores the sacramental and metaphorical power of the Bible, as opposed to a fundamentalist or literalistic interpretation.

#### **June 22: Thinking Theologically**

- While family, education, social class and geography all contribute to how we think about God, our experiences and perceptions along life's journey also shape our thinking. Being comfortable with ambiguity, metaphor, and uncertainty help us get God "out of the box" and rethink theological ideas that have become barriers to our further spiritual growth.

#### **July 6: Creativity & Stories of Creation**

- How one perceives the creation stories is not only critical to the way one looks at the Bible, but one's worldview and self-understanding. It impacts one's understanding of the purpose of creation, the essence of human nature, and the attitude one takes toward the environment in which we live.

#### **July 20: Restoring Relationships**

- There are three Biblical "macro-stories" that shape the whole of the Biblical narrative: Bondage and Liberation, Exile and Return, and Sin and Forgiveness. Each story illustrates a different facet of the human condition and demonstrates what is necessary for the restoration of relationships on a variety of levels.

- **August 3: Evil, Suffering & God of Love**

- **August 17: Intimacy with God**

- **August 31: Social Justice**

- **September 7: Kingdom Without Walls**

- **September 21: Lives of Jesus**

- **October 5: Compassion: The Heart of Jesus' Ministry**

- **October 19: A Passion for Christ: Paul the Apostle**

- **November 2: Out Into the World: Challenges Facing Progressive Christianity**

For more information contact Karen Van Manen at [kjvanmanen@aol.com](mailto:kjvanmanen@aol.com) or (908) 904-1979. You may also want to visit [www.livingthequestions.com](http://www.livingthequestions.com).

(Disclaimer from Living the Questions intro: Please be aware that the issues and concepts discussed in the DVDs and written material will challenge many people's worldview and understanding of the divine. For some it will be radically new information. For others, it will be an affirmation of what they've known deep down for a long time.)

## YOUTH SUNDAY – JUNE 4, 2006

Amid a sea of red worn as a sign of the Spirit present in our midst, confirmands Scott Pantalone and Grant Negri, shared their statements of faith as part of the worship service on Pentecost Sunday. But, that was only part of the events on this special, once-a-year worship service. The presence of the children – from 3-year olds Samuel, Connor, and Elise to 11<sup>th</sup> grader (and guest preacher) Henry Coslick – added an element of joy and excitement. As one member remarked, “The adults were rather well-behaved. The children weren’t too bad either.” From beginning to end, it was a nice blend of Pentecost celebration and celebration of our young. The best reaction to the service came from Elise, who, with the other children, enacted the scripture lesson from Ezekiel 37:1-14: “I liked being the bones.” (ED: Thank you to all those who became unknowing reporters by sharing your impressions of this special day.)

### **GODLY PLAY** ~ Bible study for the very young *By Kit Bebbington*

All those interested in learning more about how this interactive storytelling program for ages 3-7 works and ways they can be involved are invited to attend a workshop **Thursday, June 29 at 7pm** at Bethlehem Presbytery Church in Pittstown, NJ. For more information, contact Karen Van Manen.

Currently working on projects and getting things ready for the September start-up of Godly Play at TUC, are: Peg Mara, Karen Kaslusky (making wooden figures) and Carol Krueger (creating props) and Kit Bebbington, Lorraine Kimsey, Lynn Merrill, and Karen Van Manen (organizing). A planning meeting is being scheduled to strategize the best use of our available space for setting up the necessary storytelling area and for storage as well as other needs.

### WISH LIST ITEMS (still needed for the Godly Play project):

- **25** Shallow, round baskets (approx. 6" or smaller in diameter)
- **25** Shallow, rectangular baskets (approx. 12 x 18")
- **1** 9' round rug (or 9 x 12' rectangular)  
OR
- **12** carpet samples for children to sit upon
- Gold foil wrapping paper
- Shoe boxes with lids

### **NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** Beginning **JUNE 25** until ???



Two volunteers (female or male!) are needed each Sunday. You do *not* need to be a parent to care for our little ones. Contact Karen Van Manen at (908) 904-1979 to volunteer.

## “Come let us worship together”

*Sue Coslick, Worship Chair and Cyndy Reames, Elder*



### Numbers that Matter: Worship Attendance

May 7	44 Adults	11 Children/Youth
May 14 <b>Mother's Day</b>	41 Adults	6 Children/Youth
May 21	40 Adults	10 Children/Youth
May 28	37 Adults	7 Children/Youth

COMMUNION was served to 55 people during morning worship service on Sunday, May 7, 2006.

### MOTHER'S DAY

Laughter, tears, tributes, and testimonies made up an emotionally charged worship service honoring Mothers on May 14. Beginning with an explanation of the history of Mother's Day, followed by a humorous look at the job description of a “Mom” and letters of love and remembrance by members of the congregation, the “sermon” portion of the service ended with a moving musical tribute from a mother's point of view. Thanks go to Merl Coslick, who organized the tributes, and to Carol Krueger, who led the worship service.

### F a t h e r ' s D a y

Even though our outdoor worship service has been postponed, we invite you to spend Father's Day, June 18 at TUC as we celebrate our graduates, including high school senior, Nicole Negri, who will be participating during the service in a special way with Pastor Elsie.

Following the service, we will pay tribute to Bonnie and Morgan Dagnall, who for the past few years have served as care-givers to our very youngest on Sunday mornings.

And don't forget to bring your Food Bank contributions, since this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month and time to take the Hunger Offering!

### Summer HOURS ~~ The People have Spoken

In a landslide 2 to 1 vote, TUCers have chosen their “**perfect**” summer worship time: **9:30am**. So, beginning July 2 and for each Sunday through September 3, join us early for worship and then stay for a time of hospitality before heading off with family and friends to enjoy the myriad summertime activities available.

### SUMMER MUSICIANS NEEDED

For several years, while the Adult Choir and our musical director/organist Sue Coslick take a summer hiatus, we have enjoyed the gifts of other TUC members and friends as they provide the music during Sunday morning worship. Whether that gift was instrumental or group vocals – be sure to reserve the Sunday between July 2 and September 3 that works

best for you by signing up on the Summer Music Roster available June 11 in the PCN. Then, the Wednesday before your "turn" contact Debra in the church office and let her know the titles of both the introit and the anthem you will be sharing.

## Upcoming Sermon Titles

### July 2: Hymn Sing

A unique service of worship featuring the stories behind some of our most beloved hymns including some well-known patriotic hymns in honor of Independence Day.

### July 9

The Rev. Dearthrice "Dea" DeWitt, preaching  
Celebration of Communion

### July 16: "After Words"

Scripture: Romans 8:  
The Rev. Elsie Armstrong Rhodes, preaching

### July 23: "All in a Day's Rest"

Scripture: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56  
The Rev. Elsie Armstrong Rhodes, preaching

### July 30: "After Life..."

Scripture: Selected Passages  
The Rev. Elsie Armstrong Rhodes, preaching

## Vacation Ideas

*Submitted by Kathy Pantalone*

The next time you are driving through the western side of Virginia, you might want to stop at the Natural Bridge Museum. Natural Bridge in Rockbridge County, Virginia is a geological formation in which Cedar Creek (a small tributary of the James River) has carved out a gorge of the limestone mountainous terrain, forming an arch 215 ft (66 m) high with a span of 90 ft. There are many tourist attractions at the Natural Bridge site, but the one that is worth the stop is the *Drama of Creation*.

*The Drama of Creation*, a sound and light show depicting the seven days of creation as told in the Bible in the book of Genesis, was inaugurated by U.S. President Calvin Coolidge in 1927. Phineas Stevens, a celebrated lighting engineer, had designed and installed an impressive system of lighting which at night transformed the Bridge and glen. Musical accompaniment was added to form a moving drama of creation, interpreted by some of the greatest symphonic compositions of all time and vocal music of unusual quality and appeal.

The outdoor program is held each evening at dusk under the Natural Bridge, subject to seasons and weather. Other tourist-oriented attractions are located nearby.

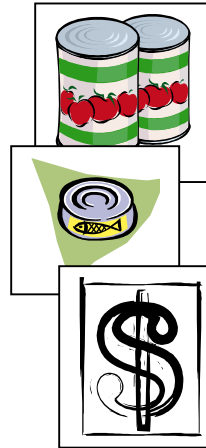
Natural Bridge is conveniently located on US 11 and Route 130. It is 15 minutes from the Blue Ridge Parkway, 15 minutes from Interstate 64, and 5 minutes from Interstate 81.

## OUTWARD BOUND ~ mission at TUC

*Karen Van Manen, Mission Chairperson*

### FOOD BANK NEWS

In May 2006, \$396.00 in cash contributions was collected for The **Hunger Offering** for the Food Bank Network of Somerset County. The next **Hunger Offering** will be received on **Sunday, June 18, 2006**. However, your contributions of cash and non-perishable food items can be brought into the church at any time. The basket is always kept in the narthex (the little entry way off the sanctuary). Staples such as stews, soups, tuna, pastas and sauces, rice, cereal, vegetables and fruit, peanut butter, canned meat, and powdered milk fill the bags of those on low incomes.



And remember, your check, written to "Trinity United Church," earmarked "Hunger Offering" goes a long way.

Continued thanks go to Ernie and Joanna for delivering our donations to the Food Bank distribution center.

### *Pentecost Offering*

Pentecost is an exciting time of year. We celebrate the birthday of the church and celebrate the Holy Spirit, who brings new life and hope! Through our participation in the *Pentecost Offering*, we act on the gifts the Spirit brings to provide healing and hope to younger members of God's family: children at risk, youth, and young adults.

This year's offering theme, "And they were amazed," comes from Acts 2:7, part of the story of the Day of Pentecost. The multitude's response to the coming of the Holy Spirit is described as being amazed or utterly astonished. Pentecost is like that. It is utterly amazing. Through the Holy Spirit, God completely transformed the cowering disciples into people who changed the world. We can be utterly astonished by the work of the Holy Spirit.

The *Pentecost Offering*, like the Day of Pentecost itself, is a vehicle for that astonishment. It gives us the opportunity to use part of the amount we receive to make amazing changes in our community on behalf of children at risk. Through ministries of the Presbyterian Church and the United Church of Christ, the Pentecost Offering also makes an astonishing impact as it guides and nurtures the faith of young people, calls forth a new generation of church leadership, supports leadership for new and revitalizing congregations, and advocates for children at risk on a national level.

Thank you for your support of the Pentecost Offering on June 4. Your gifts will have an amazing impact!

In the love of Christ,

The TUC Mission Committee

(Editor's note: While the actual offering was collected on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, you can still contribute by writing Pentecost in the memo line of your check)

## Interfaith Hospitality Network

Both the Old Testament prophets and Christ made it clear that believers are to not only feed the hungry but also house the homeless. Here is a chance to help the least of our brothers and sisters.

The Interfaith Hospitality Network of Somerset County sponsors temporary housing for individuals and families. It helps them through the emergency circumstances that caused their homelessness through a period of transitional housing and then to their move to permanent housing. This care is supported by a number of religious communities in Somerset County along with private and corporate partners.

Churches that have the appropriate facilities take turns housing the families for a week. This entails preparing evening meals, staying during the evening, and staying overnight. The families go to work or school during the day.

Two area churches that are involved in this program are Pluckemin Presbyterian Church and the Plainfield Quaker Meeting House. Both groups are looking for volunteers to help out during their week of hosting. Marj Bowlby has been very involved with the Pluckemin church while Phil Krieter has helped out at the meeting house.

In addition to the hands-on contributions of these two members, the 2006 Easter offering of \$552, has been designated to the support the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

If you are interested in helping, please contact either Marj or Phil for information. You can also get in contact with Jane Madison ([jane@tclstile.com](mailto:jane@tclstile.com); 908-722-7381 evenings) for helping at Pluckemin Presbyterian or Donna Madison ([madisontwofish@aol.com](mailto:madisontwofish@aol.com)) for the Plainfield Meeting House.

The Network is also teaming up with the Somerset Patriots by sponsoring a special IHN night at their home game on July 29. IHN is selling tickets for this special game, which will be capped off by a great fireworks display, for only \$10 per ticket. Half of the price will be donated to the hospitality network. The religious group that sells the most tickets by July 20 will get to invite their choir or a soloist from within their membership to sing the National Anthem before the game begins. AND the choir or soloist from the second top-selling group will be invited to sing "God Bless America." Please get in contact with Phil Krieter if you are interested or add your name to the sign-up sheet in the PCN notebook.

## TAPE MINISTRY

*Coordinator Merl Coslick*

Vacations away don't mean you have to miss the sermons. Tapes and CDs of each week are available on the tape table at the back of the sanctuary. You can also listen to them on the Internet through a link on the TUC website site!

Your support is sincerely appreciated. To help in any way (financially, technically, or by tape distribution), contact Merl Coslick, Gary Pratt, Henry Coslick, Thom Rhodes, or Scott VanManen. Won't you consider becoming part of this team?

## Jail Chaplaincy

*Coordinator Kay Hurd*

The Jail Chaplaincy of Somerset County needs the following personal items in individual or regular (not family or hotel) size:

- Shampoo (two in one – shampoo and conditioner)
- Tooth paste
- Deodorant: (stick not spray)
- White T Shirts, briefs, sox

**Please, no razors or toothbrushes.** The county supplies these items.

Put your contributions in the collection box in the narthex.

## Knits for Kids

*Coordinator Carol Krueger*

TUC finally, thanks to Doris Funk, mailed our sweaters (all 5 of them!) to Guideposts so that they can be distributed to needy children. Though small in number, we so inspired Cyndy's mom when she was here on a visit in 2004, that not only did she knit one of our five sweaters, but returned home to Oregon, and inspired her church and friends to knit, knit, knit! They have so far sent 16 sweaters to Guideposts. We never know where our mission ideas will wander. For more information on this simple, hands-on ministry, contact Carol Krueger at 908-647-.

## WORLD HUNGER

More than 852 million people in the world go hungry. In developing countries, 6 million children die each year, mostly from hunger-related causes. In the United States, 14 million children live in households where people have to skip meals or eat less to make ends meet. That means one in ten households in the U.S. are living with hunger or are at risk of hunger.

Hunger does not exist because the world does not produce enough food. We have the experience and the technology right now to end the problem. The challenge we face is not production of food and wealth, but more equitable distribution. It would take a modest effort to end hunger and malnutrition worldwide. Hunger is a political condition. And so the key to overcoming hunger is to change the politics of hunger.

What can we do?

**Bread for the World** is a Christian voice for ending hunger in the world. Bread for the World is a nonpartisan citizen's movement with a membership of 55,000 individuals, including 2,500 churches that help hungry people by writing, calling and visiting our nation's decision makers about legislation that addresses hunger in our communities and around the world.

Churches of every denomination participate in an annual offering of letters to urge our leaders to fulfill their promises to the world's hungry and poor. Stay tuned for more information on how you can help eradicate hunger in the world through TUC's offering of letters.

## Reaching Out Globally in Mission

(Notes from the United Church of Christ / NJ Association)

Did you know that *you are in mission* in more than 90 countries? Trinity United Church's mission giving to the UCC helps make possible the work and witness of Global Ministries, which is supported by Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) of the United Church of Christ. In covenant with more than 160 partner churches and ecumenical bodies, we share life, resources, and needs with our neighbors around the world.

At the recent Annual Meeting of the NJ Association (UCC), the focus was on **Mission**, highlighting some of the mission projects our UCC monies support through Global Ministries. For instance:

*In Latin America and the Caribbean*, you support feeding hungry people; assisting refugees; combating human rights abuses; educational projects; and leadership development.

*In the Middle East*, you support ecumenical initiatives; development efforts among the poor; promotion of justice and peace through advocacy; interfaith dialogue; refugee assistance; and emergency relief.

*In Africa*, you support advocacy for justice and peace; AIDS ministries; community development projects; relations with church partners; and training for pastors and lay leaders.

*In East Asia and the Pacific*, you support the development and strengthening of churches; economic and community development; and emergency relief.

*In Southern Asia*, you support promotion of health and wholeness, leadership development for the church and its mission; and sustainable economic and community development.

Global Ministries means sharing life in Christ around the world. Together, we participate in the healing of God's creation through ministries that address critical needs.

*Thank you for your generous support, which makes this ministry possible!*

*(A portion of TUC's mission monies, allocated based on a percentage of the total pledging for the year, goes to support the mission work of the UCC as well as the Presbyterian Church/USA)*

## GOD is STILL SPEAKING

### Through ALL Our Songs

Sixth UCC Musicians National Network Conference

Friday, August 4 – Monday, August 7, 2006

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

for all musicians, worship leaders and planners, liturgical artists, and pastors

With Keynote Speaker Marty Haugen

for more information go to [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) or email the Steering Committee at [otisg@ucc.org](mailto:otisg@ucc.org)

### TAKE ME OUT!

*Organized by Merl Coslick*

26 fans turned out for the second annual **Somerset Patriots/TUC night of baseball** on May 25. From 3-year Samuel and Conner to teenagers Grant, Scott, Glen, and Mark to those who were somewhat older, everyone enjoyed the food, the fellowship, and the laughter. Oh, and the baseball game wasn't bad either! Thank you, Merl Coslick, for organizing this event and thanks also to the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders for providing the free tickets.


### WISH LIST

#### NEW WISH:

To co-ordinate with the digital projector we need a laptop computer with Windows and Microsoft suites (software), if possible.

The approximate cost would be \$700-1,000 if you choose to contribute toward the purchase of one instead.

We thank you in advance for your kindness.



The graphic features a white dove with a rainbow-colored tail, a yellow measuring tape, and a blue hammer. The text reads "2007 TUC All-Church Retreat" and "Foundation Under Construction".

Foundation	Member Input	2004 Retreat Feedback	Story Point Center	Passionate Spirituality Theme
	2006 TUC Questionnaire	Budget	Pastoral Coaching	

## **Third Annual Community: ART SHOW & SALE A Success in so Many Ways**

*By Kit Bebbington*

Wood sculptor Larry Armstrong and painters Sylvia Glesmann and Christa Holz, members of TUC, were among the 14 exhibitors at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Art Show and Sale held on May 20. A variety of art was on display, the work of many talented artists. The public seemed to thoroughly enjoy the art work as well as see and experience the friendliness of the creators. It was a joy, also, to see the networking of ideas and techniques each artist had to share with others. Many were inspired to go home and try out new things.

Chef Judy Coslick and her able crew provided delicious lunch fare, followed by homemade desserts. Once again, Judy has met the challenge of providing and serving food that is, in itself, a creative work of art.

Though the number of visitors seemed to be less than in past years, the "profits" from the sale portion of the show was able to contribute to TUC's budget was \$947.48 (at last count).

Thank you to those who helped plan and advertise the show; those who helped set up on Friday night and Saturday morning; those who "worked" the show as floaters, door persons, and cashiers; those who helped prepare the food and serve in the Cafe; those who helped break down then clean-up both in the sanctuary and the Cafe area; and of course, all the artists, without whose gifts and cooperation, the Art Show & Sale could not happen.

### **Warren Township Rescue Squad Needs Members**

Who will come to help when you call 911 in a medical emergency in Warren? In all likelihood, a Warren Township Rescue Squad ambulance and crew will arrive to provide emergency medical care and, if necessary, transportation to a nearby hospital - all for free. The squad consists entirely of volunteers who, for over 65 years, have provided this service with professionalism, dedication and compassion nearly every day and night of the year. Unfortunately, our membership is extremely low and the Warren Township Rescue Squad is urgently seeking new members so we can continue to provide this free, life-saving community service.

If you believe that community service and volunteerism can be an important part of your life, then talk to us. We're your neighbors; people from all walks of life - mothers, fathers, students, business professionals and retirees - looking for other like-minded residents of the community.

Contact the squad located at 6 Bardy Road next to Police Headquarters. Or visit the squad's virtual home on the web at [www.warrenrescuesquad.org](http://www.warrenrescuesquad.org). Or call at (908) 753-2477 for more information.

We need you and your community needs you. Please help us now, so we can help you later!  
*(Excerpt from a letter from Lisa J. Keve, Captain, Warren Township Rescue Squad.)*

## **WARREN BI-CENTENNIAL CALENDAR:**

**PARADE and ANTIQUE CAR SHOW  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2006**

--Good friends are like stars. You don't always see them but you always know they are there!

### **PEOPLE CARE NETWORK (PCN)**

*Coordinator Joyce Pratt*

#### ***Meals on Wheels...***

Many of our friends and "family" are in need of meals, either while they or one of their loved ones are unable to cook for themselves. Healthy, nutritious soups and casseroles can make a tiring, sad, discouraging time a little more bearable. Right now, Kit Bebbington is organizing meals especially suitable for a diabetic that can be frozen and reheated during a long-term convalescence. Contact her at 732-356-3730 to help.

To help in an on-going way, contact PCN coordinator, Joyce Pratt at 908-647-6094.

#### **Thank You...**

Bonnie and Morgan Dagnall and the whole Dagnall family (Bonnie has 7 brothers) have been a part of TUC for many years. They grew up in Warren and attended our Sunday School and were confirmed here. Their father, Bob, was an Elder and their mother, Barbara, sang in the choir for many years. The parents are no longer living and most of the brothers have moved to Pennsylvania.

Bonnie and daughter, Morgan, also moved to Pennsylvania 3 years ago, but because they loved caring for the little ones in our nursery, they continued to come each Sunday to work in the nursery. What a labor of love! We are an hour away from their home. With soaring gas prices and activities involving Morgan's senior year in high school, it has become too much of a travel burden for them.

Therefore...Sunday, June 18th, will be their last day with us. Please join us after worship service for a very special "coffee" hour to show your appreciation for the work they have done.

#### **Hospitality Time – Providers Needed**

The spring into summer sign-up sheet is in the PCN notebook on the sanctuary piano. Providing snacks after worship service is an easy way to share hospitality and stewardship. Snacks can be as simple as popcorn and sliced apples or as elaborate as...well, as your own creative culinary talents will allow. Juice, milk, and coffee are provided by TUC. In the back of the notebook is a complete description of your "job" when signing your name.

## 5-Minutes with...Doris Funk

By Scott Van Manen

SV: You travel a lot. That's one of the reasons I wanted to catch you.

**DF: We're hoping that we will be quickly getting on the road. This may be our last Sunday here in church for a while. We have an Airstream trailer. It's really a home on wheels, a complete apartment -- bathroom, microwave, shower, the whole nine yards. We hook up to a Suburban and just head down the road.**

**Much of what we do involves the Airstream trailer organization called Wally Byam Caravan Club International. This year we are going to Salem, Oregon. Our international rally is down there. We also just use it as our second home. We visit our daughter. We park in the driveway and sleep in our trailer.**

SV: Makes it easy to visit, I guess.

**DF: Yes. And when possible, we do what's called courtesy parking. Especially Airstreamers, they have pieces of land. We go and park there. Rarely do they let you pay.**

SV: Wow, is that all over the country?

**DF: Yes, and Canada. And it's comforting. Like this church is a family, it's a family. If you see someone in an Airstream, if you are having trouble, you know you can go to them and ask questions and get help.**

SV: Are there, like, Wally Byam Bumper stickers or something like that?

**DF: Yes, we have numbers on the trailer.**

SV: What's your favorite part about traveling?

**DF: Seeing new things. Meeting new people. Seeing how other people live. Starting in 2000, right when I first retired, we heard about courtesy parking in Venice, Florida. We went there every year for 4 years, getting more and more friendly with the people there. Last summer, I mentioned I was hoping to do some genealogy when I saw my friend, and the woman who lived there brought out this huge piece of paper that her mother, her grandmother, and her great-grandmother left her. Well, I look in the corner and there's a Richard Warren that came over on the Mayflower, who is also Bill's ancestor.**

SV: Wow, so you're related. Is that related to Warren, NJ at all?

**DF: No, it's not. Warren, NJ is named after a general, I think.**

SV: What about the Wally Byam group do people find most surprising?

**DF: Strangers, not the trailer people?**

SV: Yes.

**DF: I honestly don't know. I hear that Airstreams have the "airplane body." They always are looked at as the cream of the crop -- very sophisticated things. We rolled our trailer in '94. I was driving and rolled the trailer and totaled the trailer and the Suburban. When it happened, only one compartment on the outside opened. Everything else was inside. Inside was a big mess, but the tow-**

**man said he had seen other trailers that rolled, and you had to go for four miles picking stuff up.**

SV: You mentioned that you sometimes you visit your daughter.

**DF: She lives in Dodgeville, Wisconsin.**

SV: Oh yeah! I've been there.

**DF: Really?**

SV: Yes. For a summer music camp. Long time ago. When I was a teenager.

**DF: Our daughter had her wedding at Folklore Village.**

SV: We visited there. It was a nice little place.

**DF: Tamara is a curator at Pendarvis historical site. It was settled by Cornish miners.**

SV: Did your daughter go to church here to?

**DF: Yes.**

SV: So, how long have you been going to this church?

**DF: We started coming when they were still meeting at the school, about 1974. I think it was about '77 or '78 when we officially joined. My pet project here is the cemetery.**

SV: Really? I didn't know that. The cemetery?

**DF: Yes, organizing the cemetery records, which gets me into genealogy, too.**

## Words of Wisdom

from the Healing and Wholeness Ministry

### *Movement for Everyday Living...*

By Yvette Halpin

All pleasures are tasteless without health.

Fred Van Amburgh

### THE BREATH

Our greatest healer is sitting right under our nose, moving in and out...our breath. This breath is the movement of spirit in the body...a central mystery that connects us to all creation...then working with the breath is a form of spiritual practice.

### BREATH AWARENESS:

Breath awareness strengthens the mind, making it easier to be calm and relaxed. When the mind starts following the breath, one becomes aware of the reality that all creatures of the world are breathing the same breath. The power of breath awareness means observing your pattern of breathing. This is a valuable friend and teacher.

Bring your awareness to the soft touch of breath at the tip of your nose, the breathing in and the breathing out. It will be a little cooler going in and a little warmer coming out. Keep your awareness on the breath at the tip of your nose. Is it smooth or jagged? Is it deep or shallow? Is it long or short? Are there any pauses or jerks? It is noisy or quiet?

It has been said that you cannot worry and be aware of your breath at the same time.

Automatically you have a point of peace, a place to pray and contemplate quietly, any where, any place.

Everything quiets down and your mind is no longer an

anxious mind. You learn to respond rather than react. We breathe 20-25,000 times per day...every one an opportunity to come home to the center of your being...our breath is our greatest friend and will never leave us...just ask for awareness.



### Nurse's Prescription

By Kay Hurd R.N., Parish Nurse

Greetings in the name of the Great Physician.

This is a time of vacations and fun. I'm just reminding you of the "stuff" you already know to keep you and your family safe.

1. Watch the heat – it's like snow in winter. Remember you're not supermen and women. The lazy, hazy days of summer mean lazy. To paraphrase: Slow down you move too fast. Try to make the summer last. Feel Groovy!
2. Use Sunscreen, but watch it. Some sun is good and makes vitamin D. There have been cases of Rickets (lack of Vitamin D) in children who have been slathered in lotion with SPF-45. If you're going to the shore, use sunscreen, but if you're only going to be outside for a little while and can be in the shade, let the "sunlight in." Know your own skin; if you burn in a minute use sunscreen, if you've never burned, use your own judgment. Don't burn!
3. Watch tempers in traffic. "Feel Groovy;" Lighten up.
4. Use caution in the water. Know boating rules. Swim only where there are lifeguards. WATCH YOUR CHILDREN WHETHER THEY ARE 2, 12, OR 16. Children need to have adult supervision around water.

Let me leave you with this prayer by the Reverend Vivian Pomeroy (1883-1961):

O God, forgive us that often we forgive ourselves so easily and others hardly;

Forgive us that we expect perfection from those to whom we show none.

Forgive us for repelling people by the way we set a "good" example;

Forbid that we should use our little idea of goodness as a spear to wound those who are.

Forbid that we should feel superior to others when we are only more shielded;

And may we encourage that secret struggle of every person.

Have a wonderful, safe, summer and feel groovy!



### "Laugh Out Loud"

By Yvette Halpin

Taking a break during the summer from classes –  
but not from laughter!

Join us in the fall and remember: keep laughing!

### Reunion

By Heather Harris-Galgoci

1: an act of [reuniting](#) : the state of being [reunited](#)

2: a [reuniting](#) of persons after separation

--Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Summer, traditionally, is a time of travel—often to reunions, get-togethers, family picnics, etc. I just had my 10 year college reunion in May, I have three family picnics coming up over the next few months, and we're already planning on get-togethers with friends over the course of the summer. Even though these events can be stressful, I think that they are very important in the life of a Christian. Of course, I don't relish the idea of packing up the car with multiple bags, food, baby equipment, etc. (and of course, still forgetting something important). Nor do I like the idea of driving 100 miles with a potentially irritable toddler, but when the day is over, I'm always glad that we made the trip. Not only are these events opportunities to enjoy the company of our friends and families, they are also chances for reconciling damaged relationships as well as welcoming new acquaintances into our lives.

In the 21st century, we seem to be busier than ever, but because of that, it's even more important to set aside time to reconnect with others. When I'm frustrated while preparing for these events, I always remind myself of the fact that you never know the last time that you'll see someone. Also, children change and grow up so quickly; I'd hate to look back years from now and feel like I'd missed something.

Jesus wanted us all to be "one", and summer often presents us with many occasions to reunite with those from whom we have been separated. Sometimes we have to make the extra effort, but the end result is well worth it. When the opportunity presents itself this summer, make the time to reunite with those whom you may have lost touch. Try to visit with family members who may not be able to travel. Even just making a phone call or sending an email to someone from whom you haven't heard in a long time is a way to reconnect. All of these things help unite (and reunite) us in Christian love.

*For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*  
Matthew 18:20

## What's happening in and around TUC

### “Project Healthy Bones”

This active, joyful, exercise and fitness group now meets **each Monday at 9:30am and Wednesday at 10am**. For more information on how you can become involved contact the leader for the group, Carole Juth, at (732) 469-5666,

### Yoga: Stretching Into New Territory

The gentle exercise known as Yoga is at TUC. Certified Yoga Instructor, Yvette Halpin leads sessions on **Tuesday mornings at 9:30am and Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm**. For more information and/or to register, contact Yvette at 732-271-8786.

### A CapPALS

Join voices with others seeking ways to turn their love of a cappella singing into outreach opportunities. In December, they entertained at the Dunellen Methodist Church and were well received. This fun loving, dedicated group usually meets twice a month at the church from **10am-12pm**. For more information on their next rehearsal, on becoming a member, or if you have an opportunity for this group to perform, contact Harry Morgan at 732-469-5994.

### PR for TUC

*Submitted by Yvette Halpin*

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, word of mouth is not enough for the work of the church to become known. It takes advertising and planning and consistency. It takes teamwork. At TUC, **Yvette Halpin, Andrew Galgoci, Kay Hurd, Gary Pratt, and Joyce Pratt** are doing that teamwork. For more information on the team, to make them aware of something that needs to be publicized, or to offer suggestions on resources for publicizing, email them at [publicity@trinityunitedchurch.org](mailto:publicity@trinityunitedchurch.org).

### CineMinistry

The next CineMinistry viewing will be on **Sunday, July 23**. The “show” begins at **4pm** at TUC and everyone is encouraged to bring his or her favorite movie munchies. Contact coordinator, Thom Rhodes at 732-748-3370 for further details. All CineMinistry events are open to the community.

### Readers' Club

**Sunday, July 9**, is the next meeting of the Readers' Club, around **12noon** at the home of Gary and Joyce Pratt, 69 Lackawanna Blvd., Gillette. The discussion on Mark Twain's, *Letters from the Earth*, published after his death, has been rescheduled from June 4. This collection of essays, written as letters and diary entries, deal with his unique view of religion and the Bible as history. It is thought-provoking and occasionally humorous, filled with his dry humor and satire.

Readers' Club is open to everyone. Get your copy of the next book (available online at amazon.com or in your local library). For more information contact Gary Pratt at 908-647-6094 or Cyndy Reames at 732-271-1885.

### Did you know...

- ◆ The sanctuary bulletin board is filled with newspaper articles about events at, and members/friends, of TUC. Check it out!
- ◆ The bulletin boards in the hallway by the back door contain flyers and posters with information on ways you can help in our community and opportunities for personal growth. What will *you* find?
- ◆ Sometimes special musicians are needed for Sunday morning or other worship services. If you know someone who might be interested in sharing their gift of music, contact Sue Coslick or Pastor Elsie.

In 2007, Trinity Times is considering a special series called “Where Are They Now?” It will focus on the children who were nurtured by TUC and have gone on to live and work in other parts of the country. Please contact Cyndy at [cyndyr@hotmail.com](mailto:cyndyr@hotmail.com) or in person if we could add your child/children's name(s) to our list of potential “subjects.” Thank you.

For the July 30<sup>th</sup> sermon, “After Life...” Pastor Elsie is looking for your questions, impressions of, and ponderings about what happens after death. Email your thoughts to her at [thereverend@trinityunitedchurch.org](mailto:thereverend@trinityunitedchurch.org) by Saturday, July 29 at 11:59pm.

## Sunday Sermon Notes

Worship begins each week at 10:30am  
Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:30am

Pastor Elsie Armstrong Rhodes can be reached at the church at 732-469-5044,  
on her cell at 908-304-3605, or via email at [thereverend@trinityunitedchurch.org](mailto:thereverend@trinityunitedchurch.org)

### June 4: YOUTH SUNDAY

Pentecost Sunday / Confirmation  
Service led by TUC Youth and their Leaders  
Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Acts 2:1-21  
Celebration of Communion

### June 11: "Wind-Blown"

Trinity Sunday  
Scripture: Psalm 29; John 3:1-9  
The Rev. Elsie Armstrong Rhodes, preaching

### June 18: "Walking by Faith"

Scripture: II Corinthians 5:6-17  
Recognition of Graduates  
Hunger Offering will be received  
The Rev. Elsie Armstrong Rhodes, preaching

### June 25: "Stilling the Storms"

Scripture: Psalm 9:9-20; Mark 4:35-41  
The Rev. Elsie Armstrong Rhodes, preaching



### Trinity United Church

118 King George Road  
Warren, NJ 07059

*"Growing in Christ, Sharing in Love"*

## June/July 2006