

# 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

118 King George Road • Warren, NJ 07059 • Phone (732) 469-5044 • Fax (732) 469-5106

[www.trinityunitedchurch.org](http://www.trinityunitedchurch.org)

Elsie Armstrong Rhodes, Pastor

Cindy Reames, Editor

Volume 9 Issue 7

September 2006

## From the Pastor's Pen:

*By Pastor Elsie Armstrong Rhodes*

### Drinking from the Wellspring

*To the Samaritan woman at the well Jesus said: "The hour is coming – and is already here – when real worshipers will worship God in spirit and truth. Indeed, it is just such worshipers whom God seeks. God is a spirit and those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth."* (John 4:23-24)

In 1947 a young chaplain Gordon Cosby, with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne returned from WWII with a vision for a church that would be radically different from the other churches of the day. It would be ecumenical, focused on Jesus, and profoundly high in commitment. It would make spiritual disciplines and solidarity with the poor normative. And it would be located in the heart of Washington, DC - the seat of great power and great poverty. Thus the Church of the Saviour was born.

Since its beginning, over 75 independent ministries have emerged from the Church of the Saviour, among them - Jubilee Housing, with eight renovated apartment complexes proving housing for over 800 low-income people at a fraction of the going rate; Jubilee Jobs, which trains and places over 1,000 unemployed people into new jobs per year; Christ House, a 34-bed, fully staffed medical hospital for homeless people; a walk-in clinic for the poor; separate residential homes for men and women living with AIDS; Sarah's Circle, a large residential facility for the elderly poor; Samaritan Inns, a major ministry helping over 500 people per year recover from drug and alcohol addiction (given its success rate, this highly-awarded ministry is considered a national model for addiction rehab.)

For all its social activism, however, the Church of the Saviour is a community of contemplatives. Covenant members of the church commit to an hour of prayer daily and at least one silent retreat a year.

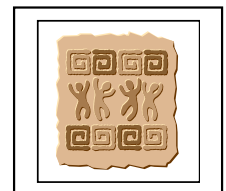
Despite the church's considerable impact on the city and beyond, it has always remained small. And that is by intention. Twelve faith communities have emerged out of the Church of the Saviour. From the church's earliest days, a core assumption has been that the greatest impact on the world comes about by small, highly committed and disciplined communities of people focused on outward mission, inward transformation, and loving, accountable community.

I am convinced that this is an example of what it means to worship God in spirit and truth. As Gordon Cosby said to our "Wellspring Gathering" of seven from TUC and Christ Presbyterian, "It's better to fail doing the real thing, than to succeed doing the conventional thing."

He also told us that the questions we ask are more critical than the answers we seek. "Am I taking God seriously: What difference does God make for a world with such need: What does God wish I would be about in my one brief life: Do I care enough about the things that matter the most to God?"

May we find the strength and the courage to worship God in spirit and truth.

*Pastor Elsie*



(Included in this piece are excerpts from the article, "Journey inward, outward & forward: the Radical Vision of the Church of the Saviour")

## Inside this Issue

- Pg. 2 Financial News, Stewardship
- Pgs. 3-4 Christian Education, Worship
- Pgs. 4-6 Mission, Outreach
- Pg. 7-9 Health and Wholeness Ministry, PCN

## Notes from the Covenant Board

Submitted by Kit Bebbington, Acting Clerk of Session

A special luncheon meeting of the Covenant Board was held on Sunday, August 20, 2006. The purpose of the meeting was to review TUC's Endowment Fund investments with David Haight from the Presbyterian Foundation. He presented the Covenant Board with a Second Quarter 2006 Update on our Balanced Growth Fund, a mutual fund account with New Covenant Trust Company, under the umbrella of the Presbyterian Foundation (established in 1848). While no action was taken, the meeting allowed the Board to better understand the Endowment Fund and to begin asking questions about its purpose and how we can increase its worth and value for TUC.

### PORTRAIT OF PASTORAL MINISTRY (August):

- **Worship** preparation (for summer and fall; exploring feasibility of 2<sup>nd</sup> worship service)
- **Pastoral care**, (pastoral visitation of members and friends, neighbors and newcomers, conducting funeral, meeting with three couples preparing for marriage)
- **Mission and outreach** (participating in the "Wellspring" gathering)
- **Christian education** (planning for fall, facilitating the "Living the Questions" DVD and discussion series; working on Ad. Ed. brochure)
- **Leadership development** (I'm enjoying planning worship "in community")
- **Administration** (working with committees in planning and organizing, searching for permanent child care provider),
- **Wider church work** (working with the Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry, attending Presbytery meetings; meeting in the Congregational Transformation Team)

Thank you ...

...to my husband, Thom, for picking up so many of the household chores and responsibilities so that I have the time to be flexible with my schedule to attend evening and weekend meetings and handle other Pastoral duties. I am truly blessed.

### 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)	908-904-1979
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	

### Financial Report:

Ralph Pratt, Financial Secretary; Carol Krueger, Treasurer

In August 2006, income received through pledges and offerings toward the operating budget was \$6,673.46. Included in that amount was \$264 received for building use (Healthy Bones and Yoga classes). In addition, \$224 was received for special funds: Cemetery Care Fund, the Sermon Tape Ministry, Sunday morning flowers, and contributions toward the TUC float for the Warren Bi-Centennial Parade (See Pg 6 for details).

## DISCOVERING GOD'S DREAM FOR TUC IN 2007

Join us as we explore together  
God's dream and our own

at a

DREAM BRUNCH  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2006  
FOLLOWING MORNING WORSHIP

### Reflection in a Wellspring: What is Church?

By Cyndy Reames

Of all the things about my Wellspring experience that amazed and/or surprised me, seeing what a small handful of committed people could accomplish was the most stunning. For years, I've heard people at TUC bemoaning our limited numbers, fretting that because of our size, we would never survive, we would never accomplish the vision God had given to us. Yet, I've seen with my own eyes what can be done with even fewer numbers and less income. As Pastor Elsie wrote in this month's Pastor's Pen, over 75 mission ministries have evolved from the dream of a single man and his wife and the handful of believers who dared to dream along with them.

But, one of the first things they all *gave up* was the concept of *building* a church. They realized and were committed to the idea that they *were* the church. The people themselves were the church Christ intended to establish. So, rather than spending their limited resources on erecting a building – a church – they used their funds for buildings to house their mission or ministry. And, in some corner or room they would establish a place in which they could also worship. The 14 people of the Potter's House Church and 10 members of the Eight-Day Church share space at the Potter's House Café / Bookstore. The 12 people of Dayspring Church worship on a 220-acre retreat center. The 6 members of Cross-Ties Church worship in the Gospel Café, a food kitchen and restaurant. The 12

members of the New Community Church worship in a house formerly used by drug addicts, now a community center.

The people of Trinity United Church worship in a converted church building open for community education and health activities.

Yes, you read right. What if, instead of seeing "church" as the building we worship in, we see ourselves as *church* and the building as our place of mission and ministry?

If you stop to think of how the building is already being used, you might be surprised to discover that "worship" is only a small fraction of what goes on. For example, there are six – yes, SIX – health and exercise sessions held each week that are open to the community. This past summer two different classes met, focusing on spiritual growth met. Beginning in the fall, three Christian education classes will be taught each week for ages 2 and up. Meetings geared toward faith-building, financial planning, life-planning are held weekly in one form or another. And the list goes on.

So, how do we define church? Is it the brick, mortar, and boards that make up the physical building? Or is it the group of committed people who meet within the building that are true church? Think about it.



### NURSERY VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

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.

## A Christian Education Minute

*Kit Bebbington and Lynn Merrill, Elders*

### Children's Christian Education:

**GODLY PLAY** ~ Bible *study* for the very young  
*Submitted by Kit Bebbington*

Godly Play will begin on **September 17, 2006 at 9:30 am**. We are so excited about the gift the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church in Pittstown sent to us. This is a prime example of Christian networking. Loretta Calvet is their Godly Play Coordinator. Some of the folks from our church attended a workshop on Godly Play with her. Loretta was aware that we were going to have to "start from scratch" in developing the program. Her church had a spare COMPLETE SET of everything needed, including the little wooden people, animals, buildings, roads, baskets to hold each individual story, etc. It is manna from heaven! Praise the Lord!

Lynn, Lorraine, George and I are in the process of transforming our space into a place for our little ones –

ages 2 to 7 – to experience God's love and learn in a different and awesome way.

The following is an overview of the first few weeks of the "course" and the volunteers who will be spending time with the kids.

Sept. 17	<b>Orientation</b>	Kit Bebbington, Teacher Cyndy Reames & Kathy Pantalone, Greeters
Sept. 24	<b>Talking to God</b>	Kit, Teacher Lynn Merrill and Lorraine Kimsey, Greeters
Oct. 1	<b>Listening to God</b>	Kit, Teacher Cyndy & Kathy, Greeters
Oct. 8	<b>The Light</b>	Karen Van Manen, Teacher Kathy, Greeter
Oct. 15	<b>Good Shepherd</b>	Lorraine, Teacher Carol Krueger, Greeter
Oct. 22	<b>Good Shepherd &amp; Lost Sheep</b>	Lorraine, Teacher Kit, Greeter

For more information on how you can help, contact co-coordinators, Kit Bebbington or Lynn Merrill.

### Youth Christian Education:

Thom Rhodes will once again be the adult facilitator for the "older" youth of TUC. Using multi-media – videos, tapes, TV clips – to generate discussion, each week will reinforce the Lectionary scripture passages that will be used later during the morning worship service.

### Adult Education Opportunities:

#### **Sunday Morning Adult Education ~ Fall 2006**

Sunday morning Adult Christian Education begins on **September 17 at 9:30** with **Islam: Looking Into the Face of Faith**. Islam is the world's second largest and fastest growing religion and shapes the lives of more than one and a quarter billion people on six continents. As we commemorate the fifth anniversary of 9/11, wage war on terrorism, and debate American military involvement in two Muslim countries in the Middle East, our daily news is filled with reports about the violent actions of Islamic extremists, but what do we really know about the lives and spirituality of the vast majority of the world's Muslims who do not engage in extremist violence? Guest speaker, **Dr. Chris Taylor**, chair of the Department of Religious Studies at Drew University in Madison NJ, will take us behind the media headlines and offer insights into the faith of mainstream Islam.

On Sunday, **September 24**, the **9:30 am** Adult Education Class will get "**A View From the Silk Road**," as guest speaker, **Mustafa Sidiqee** - recently returned from visiting family in Afghanistan - shares his photographs, stories, and impressions of this ancient land and its people. Mustafa, whose parents own the Silk Road Restaurant in Warren, is a student at Kean University and is turning his photographs and experiences into a documentary as part of his studies. There will be a time for questions during his presentation.

Other upcoming Adult Education opportunities include a 5-week series in **October**, led by Pastoral Assistant, Rachel Hackenberg, entitled, ***Struck From The Hip: A Journey Towards Anti-Racism and Self-Understanding***.

Then in **November**, we will welcome guest speaker, **Kent Ira Groff**, Director of Oasis Spirituality Center, to our 9:30 am class. He will also be preaching during the morning worship service and then leading an ecumenical program with other churches in the afternoon.

## LIVING THE QUESTIONS

No one is without knowledge except him who asks no questions  
~ African Proverb

**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. It's not too late to enter into the remaining discussions. Contact organizer, Karen Van Manen or Pastor Elsie to receive the Participant's Guide, then join the group at **7 pm until approximately 9:15 on the following Thursday evenings:**

- **September 7: Social Justice**
- **September 21: Kingdom Without Walls**
- **October 5: Lives of Jesus**
- **October 19: Compassion: The Heart of Jesus' Ministry**
- **November 2: A Passion for Christ: Paul the Apostle**
- **November 16: 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.)

*"Come let us worship together"*

Sue Coslick, Worship Chair and Cyndy Reames, Elder



## Numbers that Matter: Worship Attendance

August 6	40 Adults	10 Children/Youth
August 13	30 Adults	3 Children/Youth
August 20	38 Adults	5 Children/Youth

August 27 32 Adults 4 Children/Youth  
COMMUNION was served to 50 people during morning worship service on Sunday, August 6, 2006.

### Summer 2006 - A Season to Remember

This summer, we have enjoyed a variety of worship experiences, from a hymn sing on July 2 and a jazz-themed service on August 6 to a moving service focusing on prayer on July 16 to an inspiring service focusing on outreach and mission on August 20. In between, we treated to guest speakers/pastors the Rev. Dea DeWitt, Nicole Negri, Thom Rhodes, and the Rev. Charles Hale.

While not all the sermons were taped, some were and copies will be available later this month. Paper copies of others are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

The worship planning team thanks all those who participated to make this an interesting and meaningful summer season of worship.

## Homecoming Sunday: An Extravagant Welcome September 10 9:30am

Join us for our annual service welcoming home our members and friends from vacations and the other activities that have occupied a very busy summer season. We will dedicate the choir members and the church school teachers, commissioning them as worship and education leaders for the coming year.

After worship, we will head out as a group to ride or march in the Warren Bi-Centennial Parade.

Come be part of the Extravagant Welcome!

## September 11, 2001-2006 "The Legacy of Hope"

Monday, September 11, 2006,

The Shrine of St. Joseph

Invites all to attend

An Ecumenical Candlelight Vigil and Service

8:30 pm

### At the Tower of Remembrance

1050 Long Hill Rd, Stirling

Pastor Elsie will join with others in leading this service where we will raise prayers, and testimonies following the theme of "Legacy of Hope" given by those heroic men and women whose spirits continue to live within us.

Rain or Shine.

Bring a lawn chair.

For more information call 908-647-0208.

## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY OCTOBER 1, 2006



*A Table of Prayer* will be the title of Pastor Elsie's sermon for this unique worship service that will celebrate our place in the wider community of faith. Special guest vocalist will be Tim Walton, director of the Gospel Choir of Franklin High School.

(See box on PG12 for more on this special day)

contact Merl Coslick, Gary Pratt, Henry Coslick, Thom Rhodes, or Scott VanManen. Won't you consider

### World Communion Sunday ~ Peacemaking and Neighbors in Need Offering

On **October 1** our church will celebrate World Communion Sunday with Christians around the world. The good news as we take the cup and bread of Communion is that we are in union with Christ, and through Christ we are in union with our brothers and sisters everywhere. One way we can celebrate our unity through Christ with other Christians is by being peacemakers and advocating for the voiceless. For that reason Presbyterian and United Church of Christ congregations receive the Peacemaking/Neighbors In Need special mission offering on World Communion Sunday.

Through ministries of the PC (USA) and UCC, this special offering supports peacemaking initiatives and peace education throughout the church. The offering also supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States and Puerto Rico that seek to alleviate suffering through justice advocacy and direct service. These ministries address poverty, economic development, human rights, violence, racial and economic justice, and environmental concerns.

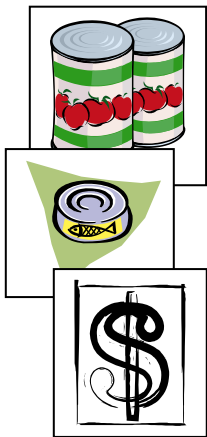
This year's Offering theme, "Swords into Plowshares: Living the Ways of Peace," is taken from the great vision of peace found in both Isaiah and Micah, when the peoples of the world stream to the mountain of the Lord and learn how to live in peace. What they learn causes them to act: they change swords and spears—instruments of war that are no longer needed—into plowshares and pruning hooks—implements used for the peaceful work of producing food for the world's peoples.

Let us be faithful in our work for God's peace in our community and in the world. Let us open ourselves to God's great work of peace through people like you and me. Join us for worship on World Communion Sunday and give generously to the Peacemaking/Neighbors In Need Offering.

TUC Mission Committee

### OUTWARD BOUND ~ MISSION AT TUC

Karen Van Manen, Mission Chairperson



#### FOOD BANK NEWS

According to Marie, the director of the Somerville distribution center of the **Food Bank Network of Somerset County**, TUC is one of the few churches and organizations that continue to make monthly contributions of food and cash. While the \$440.00 collected during August 2006 may not seem like a lot, these funds can be used to purchase 10 times the amount of food we could purchase individually. But we still need to bring our contributions of non-perishable food items.

The next **Hunger Offering** will be received on **Sunday, September 24, 2006**. However, your contributions of cash or food-stuffs 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.

Continued thanks go to Ernie Cottrill and Joanna Marston for delivering our donations to the Food Bank distribution center and to Paul Krueger, for the volunteering he does each week at the center.

#### 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),

### 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.

"CNN Presents: The Poverty Trap," an hour-long cable news special report to air this weekend, will focus on the plight of America's poor, highlighting **Heifer International's** work in sustainable development as a practical solution to poverty. The following are broadcast dates and times:  
Saturday, **September 2nd** at 8 p.m., 11 p.m., 2 a.m. Eastern time  
Sunday, **September 3rd** at 8 p.m., 11 p.m., 2 a.m. Eastern time

### A Covenant for a New America

*"Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."*  
*Proverbs 31:9*

During the August 8, 2006 All Teams meeting, Ernie Cottrill presented "A Covenant for a New America - Overcoming poverty with religious commitment and political leadership." This covenant was drafted by Sojourners/Call to Renewal. Their mission is to articulate the biblical call to social justice, inspiring hope

and building a movement to transform individuals, communities, the church, and the world. They work with a national network of churches, faith-based

Pg 5

organizations, and individuals to overcome poverty in America. Ernie shared the core of the Covenant which is that overcoming poverty requires vision and commitment. The three fundamental commitments that our society needs to make as a promise to those in poverty are:

- Work must work and provide family economic success and security.
- Children should not be poor.
- Extreme global poverty must end.

The mission committee has asked Ernie to make a longer presentation on the issue of poverty in our country and how we, as individuals and as a community of faith, can make a difference. Watch for more details on this interesting learning opportunity. May we be able to say with those who are already part of the Covenant, "We embrace this covenant – in the spirit of shared responsibility – and invite God's help as we commit to:

- Personal renewal and action, grounding ourselves in prayer and in the Word of God.
- Congregational renewal and engagement, serving and working alongside the poor.
- Societal renewal through the advocacy of voice and witness."

## Interfaith Hospitality Network

*Submitted by Marj Bowlby*

The Interfaith Hospitality Network of Somerset County sponsors temporary housing for individuals and families. Guests of the Network are given support while they deal with the circumstance that caused their homelessness and they're given temporary transitional housing until permanent housing can be found.

Two area churches that are involved in this program are Pluckemin Presbyterian Church and the Plainfield Quaker Meeting House. Marj Bowlby has been working with the Pluckemin church and was pleased to relay information from coordinator, Jane Madison, that they were fully staffed for the August 20-September 3 "session." TUC members and friends are being encouraged to volunteer for the **December 17-December 24** session. Two volunteers are need for each of the following periods during the session:  
**5-7pm – Greet the arriving guests at the church**  
**7-9pm – Help with homework, visit, play games**  
**Overnight – Sleep at the church with the guests**  
Volunteers are also needed to prepare meals for the guests.

To volunteer, contact with Jane Madison ([jane@tclstile.com](mailto:jane@tclstile.com); 908-722-7381 evenings) for helping at Pluckemin Presbyterian. If Plainfield is closer, more convenient, contact Donna Madison ([madisontwofish@aol.com](mailto:madisontwofish@aol.com)) for the schedule at the Plainfield Meeting House.

Daytime volunteers are also needed as babysitters and tutors for children and adults. Call 908-704-1920 for more information on this mission opportunity.

## SSOT: Summit Supports Our Troops

*Submitted by Marj Bowlby*

One way we can offer support to our servicemen and servicewomen and show them how much we appreciate the sacrifices they are making, is by contributing to care packages being compiled and sent by SSOT. Marj Bowlby is acting as the liaison for TUC friends and family. Contact her at 732-469-2059 to arrange to drop off your donations or see her at church on Sundays. In addition to the items listed below, the GIs also appreciate getting "letters from home," sharing thanks and encouragement. The letters should not contain anything political, war-related, or demoralizing. For more information, log onto [www.SSOT.org](http://www.SSOT.org).

When shopping for items to contribute, consider what you would love to receive in a bag if you had to carry the contents on your back, in a 120 degree, dry, windy climate AND you hadn't had any US food or snacks AND you hadn't visited a PX or store of any kind for months. You've been wearing the same two pair of socks, underwear and T-shirts since you arrived AND in between periods of intense physical and emotional activity and rest, are extended periods of boredom. Here are some ideas if you can't think of any thing:

- Toiletries: foot powder, Lotrimin AF, boot liners; anti-fungal creams; skin lotion with SPF, facial moisturizers; wet wipes; deodorant; lip balm; eye and nose drops (saline type); toothpaste and toothbrushes; shampoo and conditioner; vitamins; toilet paper (small travel or hikers packs); hand sanitizers
- Entertainment & Technology: international phone cards; hand-held video games; cards; digital cameras and disposable cameras with return postage, film; AA and AAA batteries; blank CDs and new or gently used DVDs; sports equipment such as football, volley and soccer balls, Frisbees, hacky sacks, dart sets, jump ropes; DVD players with headphones; small, good quality flashlights; Ziploc bags; single load laundry packets or tablets
- Clothing: neck coolers; sunglasses (no brands visible); socks (wicking type; underwear and T-shirts (brown, olive, white)
- Food and Drink: drink mixes (individual servings are best) such as Gatorade, Crystal Light, Kool Aid; powdered coffees, hot cocoa mix, tea; beef jerky, summer sausage; nutritional meal bars; sealed packets of trail mix; cookies and crackers in closed packs; sardines, tuna, chicken.
- Communication Items: pocket sized spiral notebooks with plastic covers; envelopes, cards, post-cards; pens; paper; small padded envelopes
- Miscellaneous: magazines on sports, fishing, outdoor living; hard candy; hair ties without metal pieces (must be black, brown, or yellow to blend with hair.

These are only suggestions! Keep in mind that whatever is sent needs to survive the shipping *and* the heat!

Pg 6

*Pride in our Past, Promise in our Future  
Warren Township Celebrates  
200 Years*

#### WARREN BI-CENTENNIAL CALENDAR:

Sat 9/9: Bi-Centennial Picnic	11am-5pm
Sun 9/10: Specialty Car Show –	10am-4pm
Art Show –	10am-4pm
Parade –	1pm
Picnic –	2pm-4:30pm
Sat 10/7: 5K Run / 1 Mile Walk	9am
Sun 10/22: Interfaith Worship Service	4pm

For location and other details, see the calendar posted on the bulletin board by the back door of the church.

Our own Kit Bebbington is the coordinator for the **Warren Art Show**, being held on **Sunday, September 10**, from 10am-4pm, that will showcase works by local artists. "We are proud to exhibit works of art by Warren Public School students and Watchung Hills Regional High School in an outdoor show (pray for good weather) on snow fencing," states Kit. She invites everyone to check out this folksy, down home show.

#### **WARREN BI-CENTENNIAL PARADE** **Sunday September 10, 2006 1pm** *We need you to join TUC's FLOAT*

*Be part of this historical time and opportunity to show the community who we are.*

*There are plenty of seats on the float for non-walkers. Others will walk (or march) the short distance from the Washington Valley Fire House to the Municipal Complex.*

*Please be sure to be there...we are proud of our community of faith!*

#### **Houses of Worship in Warren Share in an Interfaith Worship Service**

On **Sunday, October 22**, members of our choir and Pastor Elsie will be among the leaders of the **Interfaith Worship Service**. Following in the tradition of the Thanksgiving Interfaith Services, this service will celebrate the unique richness of the many houses of

worship in Warren with Mayor Garafola offering the welcome and Town Historian, Alan Siegel, as the keynote speaker.

LOOKING AHEAD



#### **DEDICATION OF THE PEACE POLE PROJECT** **SUNDAY OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup>** **3PM AT THE LABYRINTH** **11 NORTH LANE, WARREN**

Trinity United Church in association with *Yoga For You* is erecting a Peace Pole. A Peace Pole is a hand-crafted monument that displays the message and prayer **MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH** on each of its four sides, in four different languages. There are more than 200,000 Peace poles in 180 countries all over the world dedicated as monuments to peace. They serve as constant reminders for us to visualize and pray for world peace.

Planting the Peace Pole is a way to bring people together on an inspiring project, joining a network of peace consciousness that is emerging all over the world.

Join us on this day with your peace and prayers  
Call Yvette with any questions.  
732-469-7858.

#### **Words of Wisdom** **from the Healing and Wholeness Ministry**

##### **Nurse's Prescription**

*By Kay Hurd R.N., Parish Nurse*

As we face the fall, we are aware of the role that education plays in our lives. Students and teachers are returning to the classrooms and many of our educational programs at church are resuming. So, this month I would like to look at the health of our minds. We have many forms of intellect, not just that which we use in school, but also the intellect of movement, the ability of our bodies to move in space; of audio, the ability to hear and discern sounds in music and speech and language; visual, the ability to see as we can see in art, in three dimensions and patterns; social intellect, the ability to know other's feelings. And we all have talents in each of these. However, I would like to concentrate this month on the creative use of our minds, not art and music, but how we use our minds throughout our life. The development of our minds does not stop at graduation and we know that, as with our muscles, if we "don't use it, we loose it."

We all are concerned about Alzheimer's and dementia, yet these diseases start a long time before the signs and symptoms begin. We also know that by using our minds to sort out problems – to learn new things at all ages and to be involved with those around us – is a healthy thing we can do to at least stave off

those deteriorating diseases of the mind. Above all, it's important to remember that aging itself is not a disease. Being 10 years old does not make us ill, nor does being 90 make us ill. There are 10 year olds who have

Pg 7

difficulty walking just as there are 90 year olds who have difficulty walking. Again, **aging is not a disease**. Bodies wear out, true, but attitude – that piece of the mind – can determine and lend a great deal to how you will age.

God has provided us with a marvelous miracle – our minds. God did not create us just to be bodies to fulfill His will on earth, or we would just be robots. God provided us with a mind, and with that, the freedom to choose. Along with our bodies, we need to feed our minds. Just as with computers, “garbage in, garbage out.” “What we think is what we are.” “Thoughts precede feelings.” All of these sayings are true in some form. So how we feed our minds is important to the outcome of our lives. Do we fill them with those things that are peaceful, kind, forgiving? Or do we fill them with hatred, violence, and anxiety? If only we could focus our thoughts on things that are right and excellent – what a different world we could create. I read this and thought that I would pass it along: “A person who is intellectually whole strives to develop his/her mind and use it for the glory of God and for the benefit of the human community.” That’s a tall order, but maybe we could just start within our family, our neighborhood, and our community.

So, creativity, learning, attitude, being involved with those around us, problem solving, striving to do what God would have us do – all play a part in the health of our intellect (at all ages). May God bless the use of our intellect –all parts of it!

These following quotes are from the book, *Too Soon Old, Too Late Smart: Thirty True Things You Need to Know Now* by Gordon Livingston. I’m not giving all thirty but here are some of the more important ones!

- We are what we do. We are not what we think, or what we say or how we feel. When all is said and done, more is said than done. We are drowning in words.
- The three components of happiness are: something to do, someone to love, and something to look forward to. Useful work, paid or unpaid, sustaining relationships and promise of pleasure. If we have these things it’s hard to be unhappy.
- Feelings follow behavior.
- The most secure prisons are those we construct for ourselves.
- All who wander are not lost.
- There is nothing more pointless than doing the same things and expecting different results.
- It’s a poor idea to lie to oneself.
- Love is never lost even in death.
- The major advantage of illness is that it provides relief from responsibility.
- Of all the forms of courage, the ability to laugh is the most profoundly therapeutic.

- Forgiveness is a form of letting go, but they are not the same thing.
- Mental health requires freedom of choice.



## “LAUGH OUT LOUD”

By Yvette Halpin

CLASSES START SECOND Great YEAR!  
SEPTEMBER 18 AND SEPTEMBER 21  
MONDAYS AT 8PM AND THURSDAYS AT 11 AM

Go ahead, LAUGH! Laughter plays an indisputable role in healing, staying healthy, controlling stress reactions and maintaining emotional balance...and it is right here at Trinity United Church. These are open to everyone so bring friends and family. Get the benefits of a hearty guffaw and just plain silliness while you relax, stretch and re-experience the playfulness of youth.

**Just \$25.00 for 8 sessions**

(All donated to church building maintenance)

Call Yvette for details, at 732-469-7858

## BODY AND SOUL

Body and Soul begins again on **Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30**. We meet the second Thursday evening of each month. Flyers have been sent to other area churches and posted in local A&P and other stores/shops. We will meet 7:30 to 9:30 pm, dividing the time into four parts:

1. Gather and center, spending a short quiet time to leave the busyness of the day behind.
2. Explore spiritual issues such as: truth, trust, creativity, simplicity, awareness, acceptance, choice, boundaries, forgiveness, fear, loneliness and those issues that affect our spirituality.
3. Explore and discuss information on health promotion issues such as: diet, exercise, healthy hearts, cancer prevention, healthy bones, keeping minds alert and other generally physical issues.
4. Laugh and move ourselves “healthy,” based on the truth that laughter and humor are good for our body, mind and soul.

Come and join us.



*Do you know someone who is blind or visually impaired?*

Submitted by Joyce Pratt

"The Rules of Blind Etiquette" in last month's issue of Trinity Times was submitted by Joyce Pratt. She has noticed that since the article was published, people have made adjustments in communicating with her on Sunday mornings. She wants to thank all of you for your efforts in keeping her included in conversations

Pg 8

and communicating in a way that she can participate.

As most of you know, Joyce has a vision problem. To what extent, it is hard to tell when observing her on Sunday mornings. When in familiar surroundings, it is easier for her to move about. The brain remembers things that the eyes do not see. Joyce suffers from a disease known as Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP). She was diagnosed at about age 18. Night blindness has always been a problem, and sensitivity to bright light has increasingly become an issue. "The sun can be an enemy" Joyce says. Exposure to the sun can speed up the degenerative process of RP. This is why Joyce wears a brimmed hat and sunglasses most of the time. It helps to maximize what vision is left. Stress is another factor in the progress of this terrible disease.

RP is a degenerative eye disease that slowly takes away more than vision. Independence, mobility, familiar faces, confidence in moving about and performing daily tasks are a few other things facing a person with RP. All the things we take for granted become a challenge for Joyce every day.

There is **no cure** for RP. There is research being done through the funding of The Foundation Fighting Blindness. FFB is a national eye research organization that is dedicated to providing treatments and cures for people affected by retinal degenerative diseases. Since 1971, FFB has raised over \$225 million to support critical research that may one day lead to the cure of diseases such as RP, macular degeneration, Usher Syndrome and other retinal degenerative diseases. As a result of the research, there are some suggested vitamin treatments that may slow down the progression....but **no cure** or reversal of the disease.

The average person has about 160 degrees of vision – Joyce has about 3 degrees. With the 3 degrees of vision, light, color and contrast have a lot to do with what is seen and not seen. "I may see something today...but not tomorrow," says Joyce. "It is hard for others to know what it is like to see through such a small hole. It is something like walking around; looking through a pinhole camera lens...you are afraid to walk around with the camera up to your eye, as you may fall off a step or trip over a small child on the floor." Crowds are trouble for Joyce, as everyone is moving about, the scene changes constantly.

All this being said Joyce looks to God for guidance and security. Her favorite Bible verse is 2 Corinthians 6-9: *Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.*

In an effort to "Do Something" to help find a cure for RP and other retinal degenerative diseases, Joyce will be participating in VISIONWALK 2006. She will be walking 5K (3.1 Miles) in Central Park, NYC in The Foundation Fighting Blindness' signature fundraising event VISIONWALK on October 22nd. Husband, Gary, will be using his scooter to roll alongside as her sighted guide and coach! "I am officially 'In Training,'" Joyce says. "I am not used to walking 5K in one day! I recently found a used treadmill, so I can train indoors, which is safer than these country roads in New Jersey."

**You Can Make A Difference!** With your involvement, FFB can help make a difference in the lives of people living with vision loss. Proceeds of the walk will allow them to take bigger steps in funding promising research into the causes, treatments and cures for all retinal degenerative diseases. You can join Joyce's and Gary's team by sponsoring them through an on-line donation or by writing a personal check (made payable to "The Foundation Fighting Blindness;" remember to put "Team: Joyce Pratt" in the memo section).

For more information check out Joyce's site on <http://www.visionwalk.org> or talk with her directly. She is always happy to share!

## 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.

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

### Hospitality Time – Providers Needed

The new sign-up sheet for the fall 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.

### Pictorial Directory Update –

After much work the new TUC Pictorial Directory will finally be ready sometime in October, thanks to the persistence of Gary and Joyce Pratt.

In the meantime, Debra, our wonderful, talented, amazing church secretary, has compiled a simple directory of TUC members and friends. This small, easy to use listing of phone numbers, addresses, and emails is available at the church.

### "Hey, Buddy, can you give a friend a ride?"

If you need a ride to or from church, let Joyce Pratt know. If you can provide transportation, let Joyce

know. A sign-up sheet in the PCN notebook is available for those who help with “driving Miss Piper” but there are others who need help as well. Let’s make sure no one misses church because of a missed ride.

Thank you for your help.

Pg 9

## Labor Day & Labor Sunday

By Heather Harris-Galgocci

[Is] not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Isaiah 58:6

Labor Day is an annual tribute to the contributions American workers have made to our country. Some believe that Peter J. McGuire, the general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, was the first to suggest a day to honor the workforce. Others believe that Matthew Maguire, the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, N.J. founded the holiday. Matthew supposedly proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. What is known for certain is that the Central Labor Union adopted a proposal and the first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City.

The first legislative bill for Labor Day was introduced in the state of New York, but the first state bill to become law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887. On June 28, 1894, Congress passed an act making Labor Day a national holiday to be celebrated on the first Monday in September of each year.

The American Federation of Labor convention of 1909 adopted the Sunday preceding Labor Day as Labor Sunday. It was devoted to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement. Labor Sunday has become an opportunity to lift up workers and address issues of justice in the workplace—unsafe conditions, low pay, racism, sexism, and other forms of abuse. In addition, all workers may suffer from indignities that can stifle their spirit. As Christians, it is our responsibility to seek out and assist people wherever they are—including the places where they work.

On a more personal level, Labor Sunday reminds us of God’s call to service through our jobs and talents as part of our daily lives as Christians. Whatever your job, your labors and talents are God’s gift through you to the world. The joy of accepting your labors as God’s work allows you to find meaning and worth in each and every moment of the day.

Happy Labor Day!

## 5-Minutes with...George Bebbington

By Scott Van Manen

SV: How long have you been going to church here?

**GB: We built our house up here in 1954-55 and then we were going to the Presbyterian Church in Bound Brook for 10 years. The minister, Don Arey, and his wife, who were here, through the Girl Scouts got together, and they invited us up and we stayed. We were charter members of TUC in 1968.**

SV: You built your own house here? Physically?

**GB: Physically, yes. It was a... I shouldn’t use the word “prefab”, but it was factory built. They put up this box with nothing on the inside and then we did the interior and then we put additions on it ourselves.**

SV: Do you have a history of building things?

**GB: No. As a matter of fact, I had avoided it. It was the time, after WW2. There was a big do-it-yourself movement, with guys coming out of service. You’d get government loans, and you learned how to do these things. There were all kind of magazines, and instructions. And we learned by our mistakes (laughs). But I also had Kit, my wife, helping me, and both her family and my family. Kit could get her hands into the electrical boxes very easy, as opposed to me. So I would string the wire and she would wire up the outlets.**

SV: What branch of the service were you in?

**GB: The Marine Corps.**

SV: Did you know Kit while you were away in the service?

**GB: No. Didn’t know her or anything. That was after I got out.**

SV: How did you meet her?

**GB: A blind date. I was shepherding a friend of mine around with his date, because he didn’t drive or have a car. So I asked his date, “Do you have a friend?” She lined me up with Kit.**

SV: And then you went out for a while...

**GB: Yeah, for quite a while. She got a little anxious, but we finally agreed to get married. We were married in her church. She was from Linden, New Jersey, in a Methodist church down there. The minister who married us eventually retired. When he was on the fill-in status up here at Springdale Methodist church, we had our daughter baptized there.**

SV: Are you the historian for Warren?

**GB: One of them.**

SV: How did you end up in that role?

**GB: Actually, I sort of had some history interest, but nothing I was doing in Warren. And a young high school student was trying to campaign to save an old house that was going to be bulldozed down. It**

failed, but he put a notice in the paper saying “Is there anybody in this town interested in its history who would want to form a historical society?” So I turned out, and that was the beginning of our historical society.

Pg 10

SV: Wow. (Pointing to the cross at the front of the sanctuary...) You told me once that crossbeam was part of the wall, is that right?

**GB: Right. When the congregation voted to expand, they moved this wall back. They had made this merger with the congregation and the Presbyterian Church. (Although we didn't get many Presbyterians out of it, we now had two hats.) They decided to expand the church to make room. So they put this big addition on the back, cut a hole in the wall and made the choir loft.**

SV: Did this cross have to be constructed? Or was that crossbeam already like that?

**GB: No. One of the members did the carpentry on it, and notched it and put it together. I wanted to put one of those name plaques on the back to say who did it, but I'd have to dig around to see if anyone remembers...**

SV: So the wood goes back to...

**GB: 1872**

SV: I guess you've had a lot of paths in your life, right? You've got the history, you've got your family, you've got your time in WW2.

**GB: And the church too. I was the Clerk of Session for a while.**

SV: Is there any way that they all fit together, a goal or a way that you feel about it?

**GB: I'd say the biggest thing is doing things with my wife, being together, sharing.**

SV: Is there a particular personality to the church? Has it changed?

**GB: Yeah, I think it has changed. This used to be the “Old German Families” church. And they gradually died off or moved out, and stuff, and have been replaced. And I don't feel anymore that we are the “new” people (laughs)...**

SV: Oh wow.

**GB: ...because there was a lot of that, at one time.**

SV: It's funny. Every now and then someone will say I'm one of the young people, and I'm 49...

**GB: I just reached 80 and I don't feel too old.**

SV: Congratulations! That's pretty good. When you sit back and look at all the things you've been doing, is there a particular thought that comes to mind?

**GB: I look at myself and I think, well, I have been useful. I've had a lot of interests. I'm not ashamed or making excuses for what I did.**

SV: Would you say you've made a positive difference in the world?

**GB: I've tried. I've tried to fight things I thought were wrong.**

*By Andrew Galgoci*

*Looking to foster Passionate Spirituality, Sharing Scripture asks a member of TUC to share with the rest of the congregation one of his or her favorite biblical passages and to explain why the passage means so much to that individual. Doing so gets us to delve into our Bibles and allows us to gain a unique theological insight to our fellow congregants. Sharing Scripture aims to reveal our passion for the Word of God and give others an understanding of what touches us spiritually. To debut this feature, Sharing Scripture will highlight scripture from both Andrew and his wife, Heather.*

Andrew shares **John 13:34-35** (from the King James Version): *A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

“To me, this is the message. As a Christian, if you read the whole Bible, cover to cover, and are asked to take away only one message from it, this is it.

Y'know, I try very hard to live my life, to make every decision, based on these few verses. I mean, think about it. If everything you do takes into consideration the care and welfare of your fellow human being, if you truly have love for one another, then nothing you do will be wrong. Yeah, we're not perfect and we're all wrong sometimes, but that should never stop us from showing the world that we are His disciples. Love one another. To me, that's Christianity in a nutshell.”

Heather shares **I Corinthians 15:3** (from the King James Version): *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures.*

From our Living the Questions study group: “But in both Greek and English, there are two ways to interpret the phrase: 1) Christ died in order to save us from our sins (the common understanding) OR 2) Christ died because of or on account of our sins. Early Christians picked up on the first idea of Jesus' death as sacrifice.”

I chose this scripture passage because it was quite a recent revelation to me. Since I was raised in the Baptist church, I always thought of Christ as a sacrifice. I never knew that there was any other way to interpret the scripture. It amazed me, because so much of modern Christian belief is based upon one's interpretation of a pronoun. This opens up a whole new realm of thinking and forces me to reevaluate what I had always been taught. I appreciate this because it reminds me that my own faith journey is a life-long process of learning and questioning.

**What's happening in and around TUC**

## **A CapPALS**

Join voices with others seeking ways to turn their love of a cappella singing into outreach opportunities. The

next rehearsal dates scheduled for this fun loving, dedicated group are **Saturday, September 9** and **September 23** at the church from **10 am-12 pm**. For more information on becoming a member, or if you have an opportunity for this group to perform, contact Harry Morgan at 732-469-5994.

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.

Pg 11

## TUC ON- LINE AUCTION

### “Project Healthy Bones”

This active, joyful, exercise and fitness group now meets **each Monday at 9:30 am and Wednesday at 10 am**. 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 9:30 am and Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm**. For more information and/or to register, contact Yvette at 732-271-8786.

### 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, September 24**. We will be presenting **Munich**, Steven Spielberg's 2005 powerful academy award-nominated movie, based on the tragic events that saw the murder of 11 Israeli athletes during the 1972 Munich Olympics. This astonishing film explores the aftermath of the tragedy and focuses on issues beyond the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including how individuals and a nation can or should respond to tragedy and terror. Join us at TUC at **4 pm**. Please be advised, this film is rated **R** for violence, sexual content, nudity and language. Contact coordinator, Thom Rhodes at 732-748-3370 for further details. All CineMinistry events are open to the community.

### Readers' Club

**Sunday, September 17**, is the next meeting of the Readers' Club, around **1 pm** at the Cottrill/Marston home, 24 Berkshire Drive, Warren. **The #1 Ladies Detective Agency** is this month's selection. Set in Botswana, it is the story of one woman's journey toward self-discovery. This book is fun and entertaining and at the same time, provides a look at another land and culture.

Once upon a time a small church on a hill in New Jersey had big plans. To get those big plans off to a big start, a small committee with a big heart dreamed of holding a gala fund-raising auction event that would attract hundreds of

WAY too big! TUC *is* a small church, and a very active one already. Besides, none of the dreamers on the committee had ever tried to organize such a big event, and they all felt in over their heads. Maybe some day...

But wait! All was not lost: maybe there was something that could be done on a smaller scale... That could still raise money to help the church... That would broaden connections in the community... That would generate interest and excitement in future (bigger!) events...

And so the TUC ONLINE AUCTION was born. This will take place between **November 15 and November 30** (so all good Prince and Princess Charmings can do their Christmas shopping!). During that time people will be able to bid on items that are already in the auction catalog, as well as donate more items. Those without access to a computer will be able to view the catalog and place bids by proxy.

**HOWEVER...we need your help.** There's no way a committee of five could generate enough items to make the catalog interesting and appealing. We need every family in the church to donate services, items, experiences... Share your talents! Ask your favorite restaurant to donate a gift certificate. Ask your accountant to donate a tax return preparation. Ask your vet to donate a year's shots for a pet. Ask your favorite florist to donate one flower arrangement a month for 3/6/12 months. Donate baby-sitting, lawn-mowing, transplanting, gift-wrapping, dog-walking services yourself. How about 4 tickets to a Giants game? How about giving a water-skiing lesson? The possibilities are endless.

Once we have filled out our catalog with intriguing items, the next step will be to promote the auction. No, we won't ask you to go out and put up flyers, but we will need as many email addresses as you can think of. We will take care of the auction mailings themselves, but creating the audience is up to everyone.

[auction@trinitychurch.org](mailto:auction@trinitychurch.org).

After the worship service on **September 17** we will be having a "mini-workshop" during the hospitality hour.

People are invited to bring things to church that day to be sold and the committee will be delighted to help them put their item on the auction site. The committee will also be happy to sit with people and brainstorm about what they can contribute to the catalog. (It's amazing how many possibilities people can come up with once they know how to approach it.)

**On-Line Auction Committee Members**

Kay Hurd: [kwhurd@msn.com](mailto:kwhurd@msn.com)  
Ellen Kanarek: [ekanarek@aerweb.com](mailto:ekanarek@aerweb.com)  
Gary Pratt: [prattdiv@patmedia.net](mailto:prattdiv@patmedia.net)  
Joyce Pratt: [joycepratt@patmedia.net](mailto:joycepratt@patmedia.net) Pg

12

## Sunday Sermon Notes

Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:30am – September 17, 2006

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)

### September 3: "Purity of Heart"

Scripture: Song of Solomon 2:8-13; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The Rev. Charles Hale, Jr., preaching  
Celebration of Communion  
Worship Begins at 9:30 am

### September 10: "An Extravagant Welcome" HOMECOMING SUNDAY

Scripture: Proverbs 22:1-2, 22-23; James 2:1-10, 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

The Rev. Elsie Armstrong Rhodes, preaching  
Readers' Theater, Dedication of teachers and choir  
Worship Begins at 9:30 am



### September 17

Hunger Offering will be received  
Rachel Hackenberg, Pastoral Asst., preaching  
Worship Begins at 10:30 am

### September 24: "Measuring Greatness"

Scripture: Mark 9:30-37  
The Rev. Elsie Armstrong Rhodes, preaching  
Worship Begins at 10:30 am

### October 1: "A Table Prayer"

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**  
Scripture: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22; James 5:13-20  
The Rev. Elsie Armstrong Rhodes, preaching  
Special Guest Vocalist: Tim Walton  
Worship Begins at 10:30 am

### Trinity United Church

118 King George Road  
Warren, NJ 07059

*"Growing in Christ, Sharing in Love"*

## September 2006

The following poem was written by Joyce in 1996, soon after she was forced to give up driving and left her job. This was a dark time for her and as a result, Joyce wrote the following poem to help her cope with the changes going on in her life. As dark as the poem seems to start, you can see how Joyce's faith has uplifted her spirits and God has been there and will continue to be there through the continuing loss of vision.

### Unsuspecting Victim

By Joyce Cass Pratt

A fire is such a cruel cruel thing  
As smoke seeps under the bedroom door  
Oxygen is slowly sucked out of the room  
And unwary victims slowly lose the gift  
Of precious life forever more  
Slowly, slowly, dying, dying

RP is just like the smoke of fire  
It slowly steals away your world of vision  
Often undetected by its victims  
It creeps up on you slowly, slowly  
Killing retina cells in its path

Each day, as I walk in creation and color  
Oh how I wonder, how it may be  
When the cruel cruel monster will come  
And take it all away from me

Every single day I try to burn  
Each blade of grass, each flower  
And even the dark gray skies  
Into the depths of my mind  
For the day may come when it will be  
The only place the picture, I may see  
The monster is ever so slowly grasping  
The life from my very eyes

At times I suddenly notice the difference  
And hope that it's all a lie  
I guess I have reached a new stage of loss

How long will it take them to die?

NOTHING ever can compare  
To God's great awesome wonder  
His hands paint such awesome beauty  
That no man can ever ponder  
Houses, cars, paintings or any man made thing  
Are dull in contrast to nature's colorful sea

The fresh cut grass smells so sweet  
What a deep shade of green, oh my  
The sky is a massive span of blue  
White puffy clouds go by  
The Forsythias, oh what a brilliant yellow  
Announcing the coming of spring  
Nature in it's fullness, oh what a wonderful thing

The beauty is always reflected  
On the water's open surface  
The sun dances like brilliant diamonds  
As the wind churns up the waves

Even though, I enjoy these scenes  
Each day I am reminded  
The color black may be the only one  
That is seen with open eyelid  
The monster is ever there, killing killing  
Like suffocating smoke, dying, dying

Attitude can make or break you  
That is something that I believe  
You see, it is, better to have seen  
Than not, to have seen at all

So each day I absorb my surroundings  
And stop to smell, and see the roses  
Oh how blessed I am to experience such beauty  
For The Creator, made them all you see  
A special gift, just for you and me!

Copyright 1996

Pg 10

Pg 11