

Trinity Reformed UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



God
is still
speaking,

Crossroads
February 2008
volume XIV, issue 1



38 Church St. NE – Concord, NC 28025-4756 – Phone 704.782.1024 & 704.782.0141 – www.TrinityUccConcord.org

The Pastor's Peace

By Nathan King

*Each one possessed a stick of wood.
Their dying fire was in need of logs.*

It was a freezing night.

*The first held his back, for in the faces
around the fire, he noticed one was black.*

*The next one saw that one of the group
was not of his church. He couldn't bring
himself to throw in his and warm that man.*

*The third, a poor man, his clothes in
tatters, held his thin coat close to his body.
Why should he put his only long to use to
warm the idle rich?*

*The rich man sat quietly, thinking of
how to keep the wealth he accumulated from
the shiftless poor.*

*The face of the next among them spoke
of revenge. The fire was dying away. Why
should he throw on his log when the others
would not? He wanted to spite them.*

*The sixth man in the forlorn group did
nothing except for gain. He too would not
throw his log on the fire until another did.*

(continued below)

What an incredible scenario! Each holding the thing that might save them all. None willing to contribute what belonged to him.

This Cherokee Folktale seems to describe all of us at one time or another. More nearly it speaks about what we think of each other, how we hold one another suspect, how we want to finish first or not at all.

I wonder if any of these men are religious. Jack Forbes says, "Religion" is in actuality, "living."

It isn't what we profess, or what we say, or what we proclaim; our "religion" is what we do, what we desire, what we seek, what we dream about, what we fantasize, what we think – all of these things – twenty-four hours a day. One's religion, then, is one's life, not merely the ideal life but life as it is actually lived (Jack Forbes – Powhatan/Lenape/Saponi – in *Columbus and Other Cannibals*).

Micah asks what God requires... burnt offerings? Sacrifices on the altar? Then the answer: "But to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God."

Conclusion:

The seventh log you hold. The choice is now yours. The others, their logs held tight in death's still grasp, were proof of human sin. The didn't die from the cold without. They died from the cold within.

(Thanks to Ray Moose for sharing this story in our Spiritual Cinema Circle)

WNCA Mercy Mission trip to Biloxi

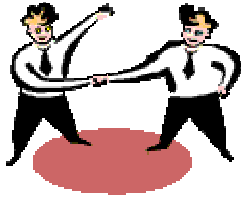
Let us remember with thoughts and prayers folks traveling on the mission trip to Biloxi, Mississippi February 16-23. To date those from Trinity include Mark Johnson, Wendy Columbus, Alane Holste, Robin Champion, Steve Murdock and Pastor King.

The trip is a ministry partnership of the Western NC Association of the UCC and Back Bay Mission, a UCC outreach ministry in Biloxi, South Central Conference, UCC.

The work group will be helping to rebuild homes damaged in hurricane Katrina.

New Member Sundays

WELCOME!!!



Trinity will be open to receive new members on Sunday February 3rd and March 2nd. Let Pastor King know if you want more information about

how to become a member of Trinity United Church of Christ.

Ash Wednesday Feb. 6

With the season of Lent and Easter fast upon us, Ash Wednesday is February 6. Trinity will have our service at 7:30pm in the worship area. This service begins the season of Lent, a 40 day season of reflection (not counting Sundays). The season culminates with Holy Week services just before Easter. Our Maundy Thursday service is March 20; Good Friday is March 21. Both services are at 7:30pm. Easter is March 23.

YOGA



Trinity UCC is proud to offer Hatha Yoga classes. They are held Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9am and on Tuesday evenings at 6pm. There will be a per-class fee. Contact instructors Robert & Priscilla Ritchie at (704) 782-

2936 for more information.

T'ai Chi Class

By teacher Gerald Moose

Photo by Nathan King

After more than two years at Trinity, Teacher Gerald Moose has moved his T'ai Chi



instruction to The Wellness Center at Blue Ridge. The move allows Gerald to gain more exposure to his practice.

The Wellness Center offers a number of other healing arts including a school for therapeutic massage.

Still, T'ai Chi “play nights” are scheduled to

begin at Trinity soon (Thursday evenings) for folks who have completed the form and wish to brush up on the practice.

Free Introductory Classes are still available the first Saturday of each month. These classes are now held at The Wellness Center at Blue Ridge. Contact Teacher Moose for more information at 704-463-1535.

Remember to set the security system before you leave the building. Thanks.



for Weather Related Closings at Trinity, tune to WSOC –TV Channel 9 and wsoc-tv.com/closings.

Consistory Notes

By Pastor King
(from January 26 Retreat)

The Consistory identified Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats at its retreat led by Carol Williams. Priority committee assignments for 2008 were made as follows:

Missions & Outreach

- Regional Growth – NC Research Campus
- Family Promise Ministry and Pancake breakfast
- Community Outreach – to immediate area & Beyond immediate area
- Sharing faith outside church
- Our transitional neighborhood
- Being open to all persons of faith
- Outreach to neighborhood children
- Community housing issues, Habitat for Humanity
- Soup Kitchen possibilities
- Partnering with other churches on missions
- Technology – video recording for homebound & For advertising

Property & Administration

- Directional signs must be in place
- Heat and A/C properly operating, maintained
- Accessibility to all levels of building for persons with physical handicaps
- Age of building, physical plant
- Computer in office
- Bully Shop property

Worship

- Children’s Programs
- Technology – (see above in Missions...)

Music

- Singing for persons homebound and in nursing care

(see “Consistory” page 7)

Theology on Tap Discusses Evolution

By Nathan King

With Evolution Sunday coming up on February 10, the Theology on Tap in February will be on Evolution and Creationism. The topic opened at TOT in January with 12 astute individuals gathered around the table at Sweet Pea Café.

“Evolution Sunday” began a few years ago as part of the clergy letter project that seeks to encourage conversation about the interface of science and religion.

TOT began meeting last Summer while Pastor King was on sabbatical. It began with a conversation in Sweet Pea Café last June and usually has anywhere from 5 to 20 people meeting to discuss views and opinions on various theological and philosophical topics. The group is open to all and meets on the 4th Saturday each month, 6pm – 7:30pm at Sweet Pea Café, 20 Union Street, Concord. Come enjoy organic vegetarian dishes, beers and great discussions. Pastor King facilitates the group.

Trinity Staff:

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- Organist Michael Leggett.....
- Custodian William Love 704.782.2240

THANK YOU!

Bienvenida! señorita Rosana Caruso!

By Pastor King

Trinity's beginning Spanish class drew 18 registrants and 17 students on January 28th. The age of students ranged from 9 to senior adults.

Rosana Caruso (of "Ellie's" on Union Street, Concord), agreed to teach the class several months ago. Finally, it begins!

Rosana is from Argentina and opened "Ellie's" a few years ago. The coffee was great. But the homemade Argentinian pastries were out of this world.

After suffering a stroke last year that left her unable to use her right arm, Rosana has sold the coffee shop but still works there. Her speech has returned impeccably and she is gaining better use of her arm.

Her Spanish is perfect and she makes the perfect teacher for all of us.

Classes are on Mondays from 7pm until 8:30pm in the Fellowship Hall (Lower Parking Level). The second class is Monday, February 4th. Classes run through April 28th.

Welcome! Ms. Rosana Caruso!

Women's Healing Rhythm Circle

By Jeanne Murdock

Women are invited to join in celebrating the Divine Feminine through West African rhythms and movement meditation. This spiritual exercise is led by Caren Knox-Hundley, a drummer and healer who has been fully trained in traditional rhythms and Reiki healing.

Drums and percussion instruments will be provided. All that is needed is a willingness to participate and a desire for healing.

Women and girls of all ages are encouraged to attend. The classes are held on the first and third Sunday evenings from 6:30pm until 8:30pm in the fellowship hall at church.



The intention of the circle is to help heal the fragmentation of the spirit and bring wholeness and empowerment to each woman as she emerges into her true self and heals her relationship with her body through playing traditional rhythms, dance and free movement.

Annual Congregational Mtg. February 24th

Trinity's annual meeting is Sunday, February 24th from 11:35am until 12:35pm. We will have an abbreviated worship service that day. Bring a covered dish for lunch after the meeting.

Our annual meeting theme is "**Where Are You Called to Serve?**" When our Consistory met for its retreat in January, Carol Williams led us in identifying some of Trinity's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. As the group processed that information, it began to imagine how to work on the tasks that arose out of those discussions. The work would be sent to committees who would then publicize and organize efforts to implement the goals.

Then the group realized there was a problem: many of the committees have not met and do not have participating members.

So...at our annual meeting we will all identify our own strengths and interests for helping out with the ministries of Trinity. Come and see the creative way consistory decided to do this...

TO BE CONTINUED...FEB. 24TH

Youth Group News...

By Tyler Williams

Souper Bowl of Caring...

Trinity Youth will be collecting donations of \$1 or larger in the Narthex at the end of Sunday Worship on the day of the NFL Super Bowl, February 3rd. On Super Bowl weekend youth all across the nation will be raising money in order to buy food that will go to help support and feed hungry families nationwide. Trinity Reformed UCC is also registered at www.souperbowl.org, so feel free to take a look.

Valentine's Day Date Night...

The Youth Group will be sponsoring a St. Valentine's Day Date Night, to be held on the 9th of February from 6pm – 9pm. It will be a romance filled evening of dancing and music in the "Trinity Ballroom." Gastronomic delights prepared by Trinity's own "Master Chef," and a special evening of fun and fellowship are the orders for the day. Tickets are free and available from Tyler Williams or Maddie McLiverty, whenever!!

Winter Accessories Drive...

The Youth group is holding a drive to raise money and winter accessories such as hats, scarves and gloves for the Cabarrus Victim's Assistance Network (CVAN). Money will go to purchase winter goods. All will be taken to CVAN. The drive also raises awareness of domestic violence and the need for people of faith to more clearly understand the issues and underlying causes of violence against women and children. Please bring new or gently used winter apparel to Trinity UCC now until February 10th.

Antique Auction at Trinity – April 18-19

Trinity United Church of Christ Concord, NC, is committed to showing the love of Christ through the support of missions on all levels. Locally, we contribute to Family Promise, CVAN, Hospice, free breakfasts and other community assistance groups.

Neighbors in Need, Our Church's Wider Mission, One Great Hour of Sharing, CROP and Heifer International are just a few of the programs we support on a global and national level.

To meet our financial challenges and continue to support these programs, we are soliciting donations for an auction April 18th and 19th 2008. All donations are tax deductible.

We are seeking antiques and collectibles such as : NC pottery, Roseville, Weller, Majolica, crystal, cut glass, antique advertising, coins, silver ware, kitchen ware, quilts, linens, soda and milk bottles, postcards, jewelry, watches, clocks NASCAR items etc. Services such as : catering, massage, hair cuts , stays at vacation properties. Original works by local artist. New items such as: sporting goods, musical instruments, tools, electronics, etc.

Your donation can make a difference! Please consider a contribution! Make your Donation by March 1, 2008. Questions ? Please call or email:

Mike Hansen 704-786-3490
(toysnjoys@vnet.net)

Vickey Cline 704-436-6988
(donandvickeycline@yahoo.com),

Jo Anna Cupp 704-795-2734
(jacupp@ctc.net)

Little Feather – Art, Gifts, Jewelry & Other Treasures



In addition to jewelry, handmade soaps, and art by local artists, **Little Feather**, 42 Union Street South, Concord also has a great selection of women’s clothing. Most of the clothing is handmade locally.

The art includes beautiful pottery locally thrown. Jeanne’s own art features distinctive “pit fired” pieces, born from a very labor-intensive process detailed in each piece.

Little Feather also stocks a great selection of music for meditation, instruments, incense and BOOKS!

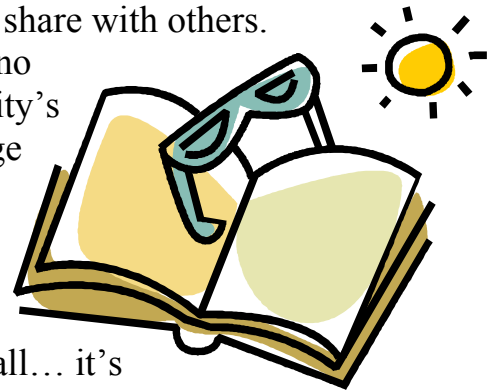
See Jeanne Murdock for details or call 704-786-5005. Even better, **visit the store at 42 Union Street** South and go shopping!

Calling All Readers!!!

EVERYone reads. Right? That means EVERYONE has books they would like to share with others.

Right? Look no further! Trinity’s book exchange is in full swing. Just stop by the box in the Fellowship hall... it’s labeled **“BOOK EXCHANGE.”**

Take a book, leave a book. The books are *exchanged*. That is, the books are given away to each other without charge and without return.



God is still speaking -- and the Southern Conference is listening."

CONFERENCE MINISTER: Rev. Stephen W. Camp

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MAILING ADDRESS: PO BOX 215, Elon, NC 27244-0216

TELEPHONE/VOICEMAIL: 336-222-8771
FAX: 336-222-8773

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WEBSITE: <http://www.soc-ucc.org>

Trinity Women’s Sunday is Mar. 2nd

Trinity women will lead worship and Pastor Marion Rhyne will deliver the sermon. All women should participate. Our worship is at 10:55am.

Mikayla's Place

By Marion Duncan

Mikayla's Place formed in 2003. The primary focus is to support to children, teens, and young adults with mental and emotional delays. We do not, as of yet, have our nonprofit status; but we continue to try to meet some needs and get more involvement.

There are many foster and adopted children in this area; and these children typically show delays. Our goal is to foster good relationships among children and teens with developmental problems and to meet some social and educational needs. Another cause of these delays is drug abuse and addiction. Another is when children remain in a home that does without the necessities to make life more comfortable.

Mikayla's Place, at this time, places its main focus on children, teens, and adults who suffer the dreaded diseases of poverty and illiteracy. We have regular "giveaways" where we collect and give away clothing and other personal items to those in need. From "Bean Saved" projects where we collect beans of any kind and deliver them directly into the home of some of those who live in poverty, to winter coat giveaways, we seek to help those in need.

For more info., contact Marion Duncan at 704-788-2342 or MarionHDuncan@aol.com.

New Consistory Elects Leaders for 2008

President – Mark Johnson
 Vice president – Don Whitfield
 Secretary – Vickey Cline
 Chair of Deacons – Jo Anna Cupp
 Thanks for your leadership!
 Next meeting: **February 10th**

("Consistory" from page 6)

Spiritual Development (Christian Education)

Children's programs
 Human sexuality
 Health care
 Forums for discussion
 Age of members
 Competition with non-church activities

Deacons – Ministry Spending Plan & Finances

Annual Financial Generosity Emphasis
 Financial challenges
 Innovative ways to fund ministries
 Economy – local closings, inflation, income

Social & Hospitality

First Sunday Fellowship – more often
 Socials- monthly activities
 Lack of Men's, Women's groups

Welcoming & Visitation

Follow-up with newcomers
 Openness and welcome
 Personal approaches to each other, members and Newcomers
 Mingling at socials – enriching the dynamics
 Attracting families and children
 Inviting and welcoming persons who have been Away

Evangelism

Getting the word out about us
 Dealing with perceived irrelevance of church
 - "What's in it for me?" and
 - "Who's offering me the most?"
 Mentality

Consistory

Decision making process
 Consistory retreat more often – twice a year
 Non-functioning committees
 Lack of commitment and follow-through
 Volunteer burn-out

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Jill Farmer, Patrick Hinson Joe and Nellie Suther |
| 7 | Nellie Morris, Mary Helen Powell |
| 8 | Charlie Therrell |
| 9 | Jeanne & Steve Murdock |
| 10 | Mark Johnson, Nick Nixon |
| 11 | Edith Folkes |
| 12 | William Love |
| 13 | Grace Puckett |
| 14 | Rev. Harold Holste Ron and Bev Sherrill |
| 15 | W.A. & Blanche Moose Michael & Carin Keen |
| 20 | Anna Cress |
| 21 | Libby Brown, Rose Edwards |
| 27 | Megan Hucks |
| 28 | Gayle Hansen |

Trinity Reformed UCC

Mission Statement

Who we are...

Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ is an open, loving, growing church committed to welcoming persons of all ages, races, life status, and beliefs, engaging all in worshiping God, and in serving others while seeking to know God's will.

Our mission is...

To honor God and celebrate the intrinsic worth of each person as created in God's image.

We seek to accomplish this by...

- Engaging members and newcomers in a regular practice of developing spirituality, including private prayer, Sunday worship,
- Proclaiming the Word of God by offering worship experiences engaging worshipers in visual arts, contemporary music, creative movement, drama, mime and clowning, while continuing a strong ministry through a variety of music and preaching of the Word
- Developing a welcoming attitude toward persons who are different and learning to honor these differences as a path to Christian spiritual growth
- Being intentional in inviting others to engage with Trinity Reformed UCC in membership and ministry and publicizing our church's ministry opportunities
- Exploring and discovering our individual gifts for ministry
- Helping others outside our own faith community, careful planning for generous missions support, and making connections through service to others, fellowship in a group and financial stewardship
- Providing opportunities for lay leadership development in the areas of church school leader, worship leadership, consistory service, youth & children's ministries, pastoral visitation, evangelism and spirituality.

Child Sponsorship Through UCC-Disciples



Would you like to become involved with an easy global mission project? Come, you who are blessed... share comfort and show compassion in life as Christ did around the world. The Global Ministries Child Sponsorship Program is the place to get connected! This global children's ministry works closely with private centers that have long-established links with a UCC or Disciples global partner. Through partners, we work in collaboration with our agencies to provide food, basic health care, clothing and in some cases housing, school fees, uniform, books and training and livelihood opportunities to many poor and destitute children in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, the Middle East and Europe. The Child Sponsorship program has been providing assistance for more than 40 years— one child at a time...

More Information is available at:

http://www.globalministries.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=129&Itemid=347

Belly Dancing at Little Feather

Denise Bradford will offer 2
classes:

Tuesday's – beginner class

Feb. 5 – Mar 4

6pm – 7pm

Friday's – advanced class

Feb. 8 – Mar. 7

6:00 – 7:00pm

Cost: \$12.00 per class or \$50.00
for 5 classes

Discover the Divine Feminine Veil Dance

Presented by Beth Badour

Saturday, February 2nd

10:00 – 11:30

Cost \$15.00

FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
MINISTER -- Pastor Marion Rhyne

WHAT HAPPENS DURING CHILDREN'S WORSHIP?

Children's worship is an important part of the worship service at Trinity. The children begin worship with the entire community of faith and then after the anthem leave for worship geared to their attention span and age.

The same scriptures used in the congregational worship are used in planning the service for our younger members. This service includes those parts that are normally seen as parts of the worship leaving out the invocation, call to worship, and hymn of praise. They have already participated in these. The parts remaining include 1) the scripture, sometimes read, or listened to on tape, and sometimes heard in the form of a story; 2) learnings (the sermon), sometimes an activity, sometimes computer led; 3) songs - a keyboard is available; 4) offerings, monetary and creative; 5) prayer, sometimes sung, sometimes said, or sometimes played on instruments; and 6) a closing Benediction which is sung *a cappella*. The order of the worship changes from time to time. Usually the offering is taken first to free the hands for better listening. Then they are ready to hear the scripture in whatever form presented. And the service continues.

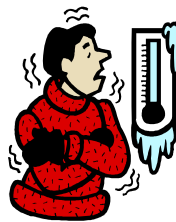
Included each Sunday is a review of the *mnemonics* in the worship room. These include the season of the church year banner, and the visual remembrances of the past seasons which include a nativity set, a river Jordan scene to remember the baptism of Jesus, an Advent sequential time line and a

Bethlehem silhouette.

We invite you to visit the worship room on the third floor, Room 302. See the banner, the altar, the visual remembrances, and more.

And while there visit room 303, the music room from where we choose the rhythm instruments we use to accompany some songs; and room 304, the computer room used when a program is available for the story of the day.

Please know that leaving the congregational worship for Children's Worship does not exclude them from the community of faith. When we share Holy Communion the children return to the congregation for this important tenant of our faith. At this time we are especially saying you belong at the table with us.



To stay warmer and cut energy costs, remember to keep the doors closed (both inside and outside doors). The hallways are unheated. When classroom and fellowship hall doors are open, the heat is leaving the room. The same happens with the sanctuary doors. Thanks.



Trinity Reformed
UNITED CHURCH
O F C H R I S T

38 Church St. NE
Concord, NC 28025-4756
www.trinityuccconcord.org
www.stillspeaking.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Crossroads
February 2008

Remember to Bring Your
“Blessing Box” on March
2nd for our One Great
Hour of Sharing
Offering

February 2008
Trinity UCC – Concord

“Never place a period where God
has placed a comma” —Gracie Allen

“
God
is
still
speaking.”

Crossroads – Trinity

REMEMBER

FREE

Pancake Breakfast



February 9th

7:30am – 10:30am

Trinity UCC February 2008

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|----------------|--------|--|
| Sunday School each Sunday at 9:45am Worship each Sunday 10:55am | | | "The greatest generosity is non-attach -ment." | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 12:15pm First Sunday Fellowship 6:30pm Women's Drumming Circle | 4 4pm Jr. Choristers 7pm Spanish 7:30pm Dream Process Group | 5 9am Yoga 6pm Yoga 7pm Handbells | 6 6pm Spiritual Cinema Circle – Peaceful Warrior 7pm Choir 7:30pm Ash Wednesday Ser. | 7 9am Yoga | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Evolution Sunday 6:30pm Consistory | 11 4pm Jr. Choristers 7pm Spanish 7:30 Dream Process Group | 12 9am Yoga 6pm Yoga 7pm Handbells | 13 6pm Spiritual Cinema Circle – Rabbit Proof Fence 7pm Choir | 14 9am Yoga | 15 | 16 WNCA Mission Trip to Biloxi, MS |
| 17 6:30pm Women's Drumming Circle | 18 4pm Jr. Choristers 7pm Spanish 7:30 Dream Group | 19 9am Yoga 6pm Yoga 7pm Handbells | 20 6pm Spiritual Cinema Circle – Rabbit Proof Fence 7pm Choir | 21 9am Yoga | 22 | 23 6pm – Theology on Tap Mission Trip returns |
| 24 Worship 10:55-11:30am 11:35am Annual Mtg. and Covered Dish lunch | 25 4pm Jr. Choristers 7pm Spanish 7:30 Dream Group | 26 9am Yoga 6pm Yoga 7pm Handbells | 27 6pm Spiritual Cinema Circle – Rabbit Proof Fence 7pm Choir | 28 9am Yoga | 29 | |