



The Portal February 2012

Trinity was 131 Years Old on January 1

By Harold Holste

In 1879 the Reformed Church Classes of North Carolina asked Dr. Peter M. Trexler to give oversight to a group of reformed persons in Concord to start a new church. They met in the present-day old courthouse. So on January 1, 1881, they were organized as Trinity Reformed Church with 36 confirmed persons and 32 unconfirmed persons.

In the following years they purchased a lot on the corner of Church and Means streets, built a church building, and moved into it April 13, 1885.

Yes, Trinity organized and worshipped in the old courthouse and built a church building right next to it. Who says church and state cannot be connected?

Increased Attendance Affects Parking Lot

One recent Sunday someone came into worship and said, "There's only a couple parking spaces left!" That was the same Sunday we ran waaaay out of worship bulletins! Trinity is beginning to stretch the boundaries of its parking and seating space. How wonderful that we have persevered and remained faithful to our calling as an Open and Affirming United Church of Christ and that people are hearing the good news Trinity offers! So we're having to make room for newcomers! If you are able, please park in the Annex lot (between the two buildings to the right of the church) first. Some of us have already begun to do so. The old Servco lot is also available. This will make room for newcomers to find a place easily. Thanks for your help in making space for others!

The average attendance for Sunday worship in January was 78.2 with Jan. 29 having 88 attendees. Sunday School attendance most Sundays was 15 with 5 in the nursery. Adult Sunday School discussion has averaged 25. Trinity served 169 free pancake plates in Dec. and 139 in Jan. Fifteen members and friends came to volunteer. The Community Dinner served nearly 100 in January. The next free Community Dinner is Feb. 18 at 5 pm. when breakfast food will be served. Come at 4 to help.

Women's Sunday is February 5

On February 5th the women of the church will take over the chancel area and lead the service. In the UCC women are important. Visit ucc.org and click on 'church stuff' and under that click on 'women'. There you will find many topics of interest to women and many issues of justice to be considered.

It has been customary in the UCC for the women's group of the church to lead a service once a year. The Women's Circle, the women's group at Trinity that meets on the first Monday of the month at 11:00 a.m., is leading the service this year. Participants will be members of the Women's Circle as well as newcomers to our community of faith: Debbie Johnson, Carol Williams-Swoope, Pearl Kobylarz, Cathy Vestal, Rose Edwards, Ethel Folkes, Shawna Bryce, Wendy Columbus, and Cathey Bridges. There will be others taking up offering, and ushering. Rev. Elizabeth Horton will bring the message.

Love is Love

By Pastor Nathan King



On May 8, North Carolina voters will go to the polls. Voters will decide on a Republican presidential candidate and, now that Governor Perdue has decided not to seek a second term, will also vote on a Democratic candidate for governor.

More importantly, on May 8, voters will decide the fate of *Love* in our state. Without going into great detail about how marriage is viewed in the Bible, suffice it to say that one is hard-pressed to find a single most practiced model for marriage in Christian scripture. The gamut runs from a single couple, to polygamy, to husbands with wives and mistresses. All expressions seem acceptable at one time or another in scripture.

Jesus has relatively little to say on the subject. He says a great deal more about loving each other and being compassionate, specifically he says to “love your neighbor as yourself.” When he does talk about marriage, it is usually in the context of faithfulness to one’s marriage partner and how unfaithfulness harmed women.

But the May 8 Anti-Love Amendment is not about marriage. It is about harm, not only to LGBT families, but unmarried heterosexual couples and their families. See below for some specifics on who it harms and how.

This amendment raises a few questions for me both as a Christian and as a North Carolinian. Why as a person of faith would I want to deny my neighbors the right to officially celebrate their love? More importantly, why as a citizen of this state would I want to withhold benefits to another citizen? Why as a North Carolinian would I want to willfully *harm* another citizen of my state? Why as a Christian would I want to harm *my neighbor*? As a human being, why would I vote for hate? As Pastor/Shepherd of Trinity UCC asks, why would I vote to throw my flock to the wolves? Why would I vote to abandon Jesus’ teachings about loving my neighbor?

On May 8, I’ll vote NO on the harmful, anti-marriage, anti-family, anti-neighbor, anti-love amendment. I hope you will join me.

Who the May 8 Anti-Love Amendment Harms:

Any unmarried couple and their children. LGBT AND heterosexual couples will no longer have the option of any legal union other than marriage. This will effectively take away private benefits such as health insurance both to LGBT families and unmarried heterosexual families. The amendment does not limit divorce, nor encourage people to stay married. Unmarried couples could no longer offer benefits to partners or their children.

Any woman living in a situation of domestic violence in an unmarried relationship will lose legal protection against domestic violence. This will also harm her children living with her.

All unmarried couples wishing to include each other in a will or trust will no longer have individual rights regarding the will or trust.

What to do as a person of faith:

Get registered to vote. The deadline for May 8 is April 11. Follow this link to register: <http://www.ncsbe.gov/content.aspx?id=1&s=1>

Get others registered by sharing this link and reminding them of the April 11 deadline.

Help call undecided voters. It is estimated that 6,000 votes in each county are needed against this hateful amendment.

Learn more and support Race to the Ballot: <http://www.racetotheballot.com/>

For talking points visit: http://www.protectncfamilies.org/sites/protectncfamilies/files/PNCF_Conversations_QuestionsAndAnswers.pdf

Volunteers Needed for TOY

Dear Trinity Staff and Members,

I am Paige Dula, a volunteer and board member of Time Out Youth (TOY). TOY is dedicated to providing support, advocacy, and education to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth and their allies, ages 13-23, in Charlotte and the surrounding areas. Recently the group has seen an upswing in the amount of youth in attendance. Like any other non-profit organization, TOY is always looking for contributions to keep the organization going.

While monetary help is always nice, what I'm in search of right now are a few folks who would like to be volunteers. Volunteers can act as mentors, assist in special events, or even provide emergency housing should they feel the calling to do so.

If you would like more information, please visit their website: <http://timeoutyouth.org/> or you can contact me via e-mail: paige.dula@gmail.com.

Sacred Arts Group Does Gelatin Printing

Pretty colors, no special designs and a homemade printing plate opened the flood gates of creativity for the women in the Sacred Arts group. The members made their own printing plate out of unflavored Knox gelatin and had a great time painting, rolling and printing their unique designs.

Pastor Marion saved the gelatin plates and the Young Sacred Arts group used them the next afternoon. They, too, had a colorful time and made some lovely pieces of art. The young Sacred Arts Group meets on Wednesdays at 3:30 and the adult group meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:15 p.m. During the coming Lenten season the adult group will learn "praying with color."



One Pound Bags of Rice and Spaghetti Needed by CCM in February

By Barry Porter, Foods Service Coordinator, Cooperative Christian Ministry, Concord, NC. 704-786-4709 Ext. 822.

Our food pantry special needs in addition are:

Sweet Peas
Corn
Pasta Items
Canned Tomatoes & Mixed vegetables
Canned Meat
Paper Towels
Plastic Grocery Bags—We use 350-500 a day)



Bring bleach and detergent and toiletries for RAIN, supplying the needs of those with HIV/AIDS, on the second Sunday.

Hospice and Palliative Care also needs paper products and toiletries.

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to /for one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." —Matthew 25:40.

Tithing UCC Style

By Pastor Marion Rhyne

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse...and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. Malachi 3.10



This is my favorite scripture on tithing. For actual stories about those who tithe and the effects it has on their lives go to the UCC.org website, click on Church Stuff, then click on Women (I guess they think that women control the purse strings!) (smile) then find Common Issues. It will open to several topics. Click on Tithing UCC Style. The first article is by Rev. Dr. Jo Hudson, the Rector and Senior Pastor of Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, Texas. It is her story of how she began tithing. The second article by Rev. Kate Huey is titled Exercising Generosity. She is a member of the Stewardship and Church Finances Ministry team of the UCC. She writes about what others have taught her about giving generously as she visits churches from Virginia to Texas. These are short articles. Quick reads. And very important for your life.

What: Socrates Café

When: Tuesday, February 7th from 6-8PM

Where: The Pizza Loft (upstairs in Ghianni's Trattoria)

Where (exactly): Upstairs, 16 North Union Street, Concord, NC, USA, Earth, Solar System, Milky Way Galaxy

Who: All are welcome

Trinity Church Directory

Pastor Nathan King

Office Hours: Mon. to Wed. 10 am to 2 pm. He may be reached at other times at 704-224-1653 and at king.mysticnathan@gmail.com.

Associate Pastor Marion Rhyne

Minister of Music and Christian Education:
Mjrhyme@vnet.net 704-721-4017

Administrative Assistant: Danielle Stingel

Tues-Thurs. 10 to 2 pm. **Charlene Baker** on Fridays 10 am to noon.

Trinityuccoffice@gmail.com

Organist: Michael Leggett

Phone: 704-640-1334

Custodian: John Maze 704-782-0082

The Trinity Portal Editor: Bonnie Schell, 704-786-8101, Bonniebelle@mindspring.com

*****Website: need volunteer to work on this.**

Southern Conference Minister:

216 Antioch Avenue, Elon, NC 27244

Consistory Leadership

Jim McNutt , President

Wendy McConnell, Secretary

Matthew Cummings, Vice-President

John Maze, Chair of the Deacons

Cathey Bridges

Rose Edwards

Debbie Johnson

Pearl Kobylarz

Kenneth Swoope

Don Whitfield

Bobby Eagle

Pastor Marion L. Rhyne

Pastor J. Nathan King

Alane Holste, Treasurer, ex-officio

If you have any concerns or suggestions for the betterment of the church, please talk to a Consistory member. They meet the 2nd Sunday of the month after church downstairs at 12:30.

February 2012

Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Todd Adrian	11	Edith Folkes
5	Savanah Church	12	William Love
6	Mikayla Duncan	14	Harold Holste
7	Rev. Jerry Rhyne	20	Anna Cress
8	Charles Therrell	21	Rose Edwards
8	Amber Spence & Mary Wallace	27	Megan Hucks
9	Steve & Jeanne Murdock	28	Gayle Hansen
10	Mark Johnson	28	Mary Wallace

"The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building."- 1 Corinthians 3:8-9



On January 10 the Morning Circle went to Cary to visit Jim and Anna Cress in their new residence. Their daughter Jennifer had designed a quilt with squares by all of the Cress's sons and daughters.

The call of God in your life is expressed in how you choose to live.

The love of God in your life is expressed in how you serve..

The presence of God in your life is expressed in how you love.

Life in God is always waiting for you. Amen.

~ from *Go Deep: Spiritual Practices for Youth Ministry* by Dorise.Kizinna

Trinity UCC Mission

We are a social action, social justice faith community, open and affirming, welcoming and supportive of all people. We believe taking the Bible seriously means it cannot always be taken literally. We follow the teachings of Jesus, worship God, and seek to be faithful to the way of Christ - alleviating suffering, oppression and injustice, feeding hungry people and housing families that have been displaced, seeking Jesus' way of peace.

We know that God's love embraces all persons equally, no matter their age, gender, race, life status, beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

If you are searching for a way and a place of deepening spiritual experience and practice, come in and make yourself at home.

We welcome all persons to join us in worshipping God and serving others while seeking to know God's will more fully.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, we welcome you into the full life and ministry of our church.

Send a Valentine to Our Shut-ins

Bob Suther, Eden Gardens of Concord, 1501 Zion Church Rd., Concord, NC 28025

Elizabeth (Lib) Moose, 650 Camrose Circle, Concord, NC 28025

Edith Folkes, Country Manor, 3300 4th Ave, Conway, SC 29527

Floryne Misenheimer, 661 Forest St. NW, Concord, NC 28025-4339

Laura Carpenter, 2451 Rock Hill Church Rd., Concord 28027

February 12 is our annual congregational meeting when the 2012-13 directory will be handed out. Worship will be over at 11:30 followed by the meeting, then potluck downstairs. The Consistory will have a brief meeting afterwards.

Learn a new skill in 2012: Try out a class on Feb. 6 on hand bell playing and see what it is all about. The hand bell room is on the 3rd floor. For information, call Pastor Marion.

Clean your carpets for Valentine's Day: Troff Carpet Cleaning Company will give Trinity members a discount and make a contribution to the church as well. 704-891-1958

Spiritual Cinema will be the evening of the 2nd Wednesday downstairs.

Michael Hansen, tenor, has joined the choir and was warmly welcomed.

February Free Community Dinner

Saturday 02/18/2012

5 pm to 6:30 pm

"Breakfast"

Ham, Scrambled Eggs, Grits
Biscuits and Sausage Gravy
Cinnamon Rolls / Sweet Rolls
Coffee, Milk, and Tea

Teachers Needed: Grades 1-5 was divided due to the number of students. Curriculum is available for one more teacher. See Pastor Marion.

Need Nursery Attendants during Adult SS.

From our Faith Community Nurse

Do you want to become healthier but don't know how to start? If you are like many people living in our area, you make choices every day that aren't the healthiest for you or your family. Are you ready to make healthier choices and don't know how to take the first step? If you answered yes, then Live Abundantly program may be for you.

The Faith Community Health Ministry is offering the Live Abundantly wellness program to all of our faith communities again this year. The program

Membership at Trinity involves active participation. At Trinity you aren't just another person on a list, but someone who is making a solid connection with the life and family of this congregation. We join ourselves in a sacred covenant with each other. So, before making a commitment to membership, we require adults to attend a Covenant Class for Newcomers. The class helps with finding your place in the ministries of Trinity and helps people understand what is required. Pastor King facilitates this class.

Along with the Covenant Class, we receive members by baptism, affirmation of faith, transfer from another faith community. In order to transfer membership from another faith community, one will need to provide contact information for that community. For younger persons, confirmation classes are offered around the age of 12 and are taught by Pastor Marion.

New member Sundays are offered on the Sunday following the Covenant Class. One needs to attend only one of the Covenant Classes, either Tuesday or Saturday.

Covenant Classes are offered this year as follows:

Covenant Class for Newcomers
Tuesday, February 28, 6pm-9pm at church
Saturday, March 3, 1pm-4pm
New Members Sunday, March 4, 11am

Covenant Class for Newcomers
Tuesday, August 28, 6pm-9pm
Saturday, September 1, 1pm-4pm
New Members Sunday, September 2, 11am

is offering six challenges to those who sign up to participate that will encourage simple lifestyle changes that can improve your health and well being. Each challenge is worth 5 points. At the end of the year, special gifts will be given to participants based upon points earned. Join us by registering for the Live Abundantly program online at www.carolinasmedicalcenter.org/liveabundantly or by contacting your faith community health nurse, Jo Anna Cupp. Online, you only have to give your name, address and church name.



TRINITY REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST

38 Church St. NE
Concord, NC 28025-4756

Phone: 704-782-1024
Email: Trinityuccoffice@gmail.com
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*God is still speaking,
Catch the comma.*

February 2012

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.TRINITYUCCCONCORD.ORG
AND TRINITY UCC ON
FACEBOOK

**Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 12 at 11:30 a.m.**

Potluck follows downstairs.

New Phone and Program directories will be given out.

The Sunday School young people sang on the steps of the Chancel Area in January. The song they sang was "We Will Follow", when the lectionary scripture was about Jesus calling the fishermen to follow him as disciples. Some students are playing percussion instruments and Pastor Marion and David Gordon are playing the autoharps.

