

The Rev. Bettye Wolinski, Pastor

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MARCH 2017

Pastor's Ponderings

Pastor Bettye Wolinski

Lent is upon us. We enter into this sacred season on Ash Wednesday, March 1, with an Imposition of Ashes service at 10 a.m. in Memorial Hall and an evening Ash Wednesday Service with Holy Communion at 7 p.m.

We begin a 40-day journey together. We do not count the Sundays in Lent as part of the 40 days. Since all Sundays—and not simply Easter Sunday—are days to celebrate Christ's Resurrection, Christians continue to hold Sunday as the day of Resurrection remembrance, even during Lent.

Our 40-day journey is symbolic in nature as seen in many "40 day" events in Scripture. Did you know:

- Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai with God (Exodus 24:18)
- Elijah spent 40 days and nights walking to Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8)
- God sent 40 days and nights of rain in the great flood of Noah (Genesis 7:4)
- The Hebrew people wandered 40 years in the desert while traveling to the Promised Land (Numbers 14:33)
- Jonah's prophecy of judgment gave 40 days to the city of Nineveh in which to repent or be destroyed (Jonah 3:4).
- Jesus retreated into the wilderness, where He fasted for 40 days, and was tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1–2, Mark 1:12–13, Luke 4:1–2).
- In addition, there are other 40-day events/customs as cited in various expressions of the Christian faith.

Growing up in Baltimore, a predominantly Roman Catholic town, I learned to "give up" something for Lent as an act of penance (usually something I preferred not to give up). My good Lutheran parents felt that the discipline of giving up was critical in spiritual formation.

What are we planning for our 40 days, both individually and collectively?

Over the years, I learned another way to experience Lent. Along with choosing a devotional book to read, I have started to "add" to my life instead of "giving up." It has been any number of things, from the time, talents, and treasures categories, to seeking new ways to learn about



God's love for all people. *Adding to* instead of *giving up* has brought joy to my Lenten 40-day journey, as well as providing a blessing to others.

Perhaps this Lent you will join me in the 40 day *adding to* plan by engaging in Sunday worship and Bible Study and coming to our Mid-Week Lenten soup and services on Wednesday evenings, starting at 6 p.m. Perhaps you will heed the call to volunteer in the many activities at Trinity, activities that serve our Lord and His community.

Forty days' worth of worship, reading, studying, fasting, volunteering, praying, tithing, seems to be in keeping with other sacred 40-day events. May this be your season to experience a new way to *add to* your life to God's glory!

Serving in Joy!

Pastor Bettye

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Church Council President's Report

Judy Conrad, Council President

February has been a difficult month for Trinity. We lost several long-term members, and we pray for them and their families as they go on without their loved ones. I was honored to assist with two Memorial services, truly celebrations of life, for Mr. Dick Harne and Dr. Clair Johannsen. Both services were filled with love, music, prayers, and memories of the many, many years both spent in our midst. It was a great lesson on how people of faith deal with loss. The familiar words of the 23rd Psalm, spoken at Mr. Harne's service, are something we wrap around us like a warm blanket when we need them. Hymns like the one written for Dr. Johannsen by Wayne Wold—not familiar to many, but so touching when you really hear the words. If you were at the service, did you notice the repeated use of the word “declare”? A hidden salute to Clair, the person the song was written for.

I loved the reference to God as one who is “champion of the oppressed, home for those dispossessed, love and inclusiveness, Worthy is God to be praised.” Best of all for me, the words of the consecration, “Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant,” bring peace and hope to everyone. All of these words, plus the wonderful sermon by Bishop William Gohl at Dr. Johannsen's service, can bring healing and grace to all of us.

Your Trinity Church Council is working hard to continue to care for the dispossessed with love and inclusiveness as we look at the future of the Outreach Program started so many years ago. There may be some changes coming. Donations from the congregation to Outreach are down. The money from the generous match by the Hershey Fund will expire at the end of the year. We need to find other ways to support, feed, and clothe those in need in our community.

During the last week our Council members Craig Fentress and Erin Harmon have worked diligently to update our website with information about our church, Dr. Johannsen's service, and, more importantly, his ministry at Trinity. In this day and age, the website is one of the first contacts many will have with us. It is quickly becoming an interesting and vibrant representative of us as a congregation. Please take a look at tlchag.org, and if you see Craig or Erin, thank them for their hard work!

One of the products of the Council Retreat held in January was the development of a Council Covenant. As I write this, we will be reviewing and signing the document at the February meeting. I wanted to share its key points with you, so you will be able to understand where your Council is coming from this year. These are words that all of us should strive to uphold and hold each other account-

able to. There is that *accountable* word again! It is our word for the year. This is our covenant with the people of God we serve:

- Keep our hearts and minds open to their needs
- Listen to understand, not to respond
- Keep confidences
- Show to team meetings and be “present”
- Follow through—hold each other accountable
- Offer ourselves as mentors and teachers
- Do not be afraid to disagree, but leave these moments of disagreement in the meetings
- Be ambassadors with understanding of mission through education and communication.

Each team at Trinity—Property, Worship and Music, Senior Ministry, *et cetera*—has been challenged this year to develop goals for the year. We all need something to work for—a place to go in order for each team to be more effective, to get more done!

There is lots to do for our beloved Trinity, no matter what service you attend. The 12 members of the Church Council and the staff are working hard to do that for our church, our community, and, most importantly, for our Heavenly Father. We pray that we will be successful and we ask for your ideas, your support, and your prayers. What are your goals for your time at Trinity?

Please feel free to contact me with any comments, suggestions, or especially complaints that you might have. I promise to address them the best that I can.

Thank you,
Judy Conrad

Ladies' Night Out

Attention all ladies of Trinity, and their lady friends! Mark your calendars now for Thursday evening, May 4.

This will be the night of Trinity's annual Ladies' Night Out, with delicious food and special entertainment by Kevin Booth, a country Gospel singer.

Bingo!

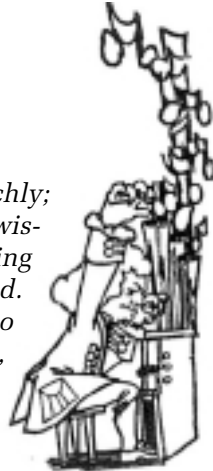
Save the date! The next Bingo night is Thursday, May 11. Look for more details next month!

From the Organ Bench

Pastor Greg Shook

Dear Flock,

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.—Colossians 3:16-17



I have a public confession to make.

I never was comfortable in my home church. I could never comprehend the “hell, fire, and brimstone” theology and religion. I felt as though I was singled out each week for being rotten, and that there was no hope of being a good person in God’s eyes. Picture it. The year is 1964 and Trinity brings to town a young and vibrant organist to be their Director of Music Ministries. Knowing that my parents had a son who was loving music, we were invited by some Trinity folks to come and hear Clair Johannsen. I remember attending quite a few of his organ recitals as well as attending church several times. After one of his programs, we were introduced to Mr. Johannsen.

Picture it. The year is 1968, and after three years of catechism at my home church, I become a young member of my home church. At our “installation” the pastor made the comment about three of the young men that “I can see no finer ambassadors for God’s ministry than these three.” Yes, I was one of the three, but not so eager to be the one in the pulpit finger pointing. The seed was planted, but not so well received . . . at least, at that time.

Picture it. The year is 1974, and Clair Johannsen asks me to play oboe for him at Trinity during Lent. I remember the piece. It was Richard Purvis’s setting of Psalm 130. The text starts, “*Out of the deep have I cried unto thee, O Lord. Lord hear my cry.*” I found the anthem last week in the TLC choral library. Following that, he would ask me a few times each year to play oboe for him. It was always a welcome time for me, because I remembered him as gentle and soft spoken, but when he played and led worship, it was a Spirit-filled power that I had never experienced.

Okay, so what? Well, you see I looked forward to attending worship at Trinity, because it was at Trinity that I learned and experienced a God who offered love and grace for his children. There was redemption through God’s love and grace that I had never experienced. I also learned from Clair about a man named Martin Luther and some of his colorful quotes. Many have stuck with me, but two of my favorites are: “*I have no use for cranks who despise music, because it is a gift of God. Music drives away the Devil and makes people joyful; they forget thereby all wrath, unchastity, arrogance, and the like. Next after theology, I*

give to music the highest place and the greatest honor.” And, “*If I am not allowed to laugh in heaven, I don’t want to go there.*”

I played every time an orchestra was used for St. Cecilia Choral Society. He asked me to play in the chamber music recital at the first Bach Festival in 1976. He was extraordinary as person, musician, and teacher. I remember when we were rehearsing for the Bach program, I asked him what we would do if no one came to hear it. He very calmly looked up from the harpsichord and said, “We will play. Whether we have zero or 100 in attendance, we don’t do this for us, but always for God’s glory.”

And so he did. He was the consistent pastor for 44 years at Trinity. He loved and nurtured his flock through his very presence and, of course, his music. He loved and nurtured all of you/us. The words from Matthew 25:21 (Parable of the Talents) comes to mind. “*Well done, thou good and faithful servant.*” And so, we bid Dr. Clair our farewell. *Soli Deo Gloria* (To God be the Glory), my dear friend.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Greg

Social Ministry

Carol Brashears



Many thanks to all who donated Valentines Day cards or money to purchase Valentines Day cards for the Micah’s Backpack students. We heard from the school that they were a huge hit!

We are in need of someone to pick up food from Save-A-Lot on Tuesday mornings for the Trinity Food Bank. This requires lifting. Please see Jeff Reed or Ralph Conrad if you can help do this.

Senior Ministry

Karen Spessard

There are individual pew cushions available for use at the 11:00 a.m. service. They are stored on a shelf over a coat rack in the narthex. We have found that, in addition to using as a seat cushion, they are very comfortable as a back rest. Please try one out and then return it to the narthex after the service.

Looking into Lent

Pastor Bettye Wolinski

MARCH 1: ASH WEDNESDAY

Imposition of Ashes at 10 a.m. in Memorial Hall. Ash Wednesday Service with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m.

MARCH 8: LENTEN SOUP AND SERVICE

We will gather in Memorial Hall Wednesdays at 6 p.m. for a soup dinner and a brief Mid-Week Lenten Service.

MARCH 15: LENTEN SOUP AND SERVICE

6 p.m., soup dinner and Lenten Service in Memorial Hall.

MARCH 22: LENTEN SOUP AND SERVICE

6 p.m., soup dinner and Lenten Service in Memorial Hall.

MARCH 29: LENTEN SOUP AND SERVICE

6 p.m., soup dinner and Lenten Service in Memorial Hall.

APRIL 5: LENTEN SOUP AND SERVICE

6 p.m., soup dinner and Lenten Service in Memorial Hall.

APRIL 2: FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

We will welcome the Rev. Ed Whetsone back to his home town of Hagerstown. He will preach at both services.

APRIL 9: PSALM SUNDAY

Two worship services this Palm Sunday, at the usual times, as we enter into Holy Week together.

APRIL 13: MAUNDY THURSDAY SEDER MEAL & WORSHIP

Worship begins with a 6 p.m. Christian Seder meal and concludes with a stripping of the altar in the Sanctuary.

APRIL 14: GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Our Good Friday service will be held at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

APRIL 16: RESURRECTION SUNDAY

One 9 a.m. service will be held in the Sanctuary with an Easter Brunch to follow. Tickets for the brunch will be available.



Healing Services

Pastor Bettye Wolinsk

“No one is far from you, O God.

We come together in joy—mindful of the burdens we carry, the hurts and sorrows we have.

We come together in gladness—never forgetting God’s love.

We come together with praise—for each other and those who assist us on this journey.

No one is far from you O God and we call upon your power in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

—Healing Service Prayer

Healing Services come from a time when the church first recognized that the healing ministry of Jesus did not leave this earth with his ascension. For centuries, Christians have gathered for prayer, anointing, reading of Scriptures, and fellowship at times of illness, both individual and corporate.

During times of any form of ill health, people are often gripped by fear—fear of inadequacy, fear of circumstances, fear of death, fear of the unexplainable, fear of change, fear of conquest, and fear of the unknown. It is during these times that coming together as the body of Christ lifts our spirits, lightens our loads, and reminds us that God, in Christ, does indeed love us and is still present with us.

This Lent we will be offering Mid-Week Lenten Soup and Services featuring the healing ministry of Jesus as it applies to our daily lives. Please join us at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship and healing.

Who Do We Serve?

June Habeck, Social Ministry

“I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me; I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me” (Jesus said in Matthew 25:35-36). When we feed, clothe, welcome, and visit those in need in our midst with love, I believe we are responding to God’s command with a grateful heart that knows we are free to serve as His children of forgiveness and grace.

At Trinity, who do we serve? For centuries humans have built towering cathedrals wherein a worshipper is awed by the grandeur and beauty of the presence of the Eternal. Christians were not responding to any command of Christ to erect these monuments of devotion; they were the response of ruling bodies in times past whose masses filled the pews after Christianity was endorsed by the Roman emperor Constantine. In modern times, this trend continued through the 1960s in the United States, with a Christian majority, in monumental buildings, with multitudes attending.

As American culture changed, Christians began to see the need to reshape the concept of worship around Spirit and community. The churches could be in an abandoned store front, a home, or a fellowship hall, much in the spirit of the disciples in the Acts of the Apostles. Focusing on the words of Jesus, the disciples ministered to each other and those in need and told others through words and actions about God’s love.

The Trinity community is facing a crossroads in our ministry together. Do we continue to use our endowment funds and a significant portion of our offerings for the upkeep of our beautiful cathedral? If the answer is yes, do we limp along, wishing for past levels of membership and putting our treasure into stone? Was the contribution of Trinity’s benefactors intended for God’s truth to continue marching on, through maintaining a building for 500 that 150 now attend?

God’s Spirit is present and moving within members of TLC. For us to follow Jesus’ command, our hearts, souls, and minds will continue to focus, in love, on outreach to those in need, to worship together, wherever God sends us, and to be identified as Christians by our love and care of others.

Right now, we see more needy, hurting people in our neighborhood every month. Meanwhile our resources dwindle: our food pantry received less this year from congregational giving as our numbers slowly decrease in number, organizations gave less, cash grants were less (when the worth of our real estate is \$12M, grants are often denied) and the Hershey Endowment for the food pantry ends in December 2017.

But expenses for the Outreach Program at Trinity (the Food Pantry and the Clothing Bank) continue to increase, with a budget in excess of \$40,000 in 2016. The number of those who sought help at our door in 2016 was 6 percent greater than it was in 2015. Certain local schools have even needed to provide in-school food banks, partly due to the increase in the number of homeless students.

If Trinity believes that the activities of the Outreach Program are a priority, we will need to consider incorporating Outreach as a charitable organization—a tax-exempt 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization—a separate corporation from the Church. The Outreach Program would then be able to apply successfully for grants. That could mean several things: Outreach could function separately from Trinity, or it could combine with similar ministries at other churches and organizations. If it is incorporated as a separate entity, Outreach would have its own governing board, composed of those involved, to oversee it, so we can continue feeding and clothing our neighbors.

Soon we will have to prayerfully consider our priorities as the Christian community of Trinity. Do we take our community and the Spirit that enables us to continue our history of fellowship and outreach, like the disciples, and go where God calls us to be?

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)



Sole Hope— Party with a Purpose

Carol Brashears

WHAT IS SOLE HOPE?

Sole hope is an organization that offers hope, healthier lives, and freedom from foot-related disease through education, jobs, and medical relief to the people of Uganda.

We will be cutting old jeans to make shoe uppers for the children of Africa. The shoes will prevent jiggers (sand fleas) from entering the feet of children. After jiggers enter a child's foot, they lay eggs and cause tremendous sores on the child's feet.

WHEN?

Saturday, March 18, from 10 a.m. to noon.

WHAT TO BRING?

Old jeans—we have a supply if you do not have any on hand. Plastic folders. Fabric scissors. The Sole Hope organization suggests we collect \$10 per person to help cover the cost of sending the shoes to Africa, as well to provide a fair wage to the shoe makers. This is just a suggestion. Please do not let this stop you from attending. We encourage all who want to help to come!

This year, instead of collecting medical supplies to send, Sole Hope has put out a wish list that includes things such as a portable canopy, locks for their sheds, plastic containers to keep things clean, and other useful items. We are asking for a monetary donation so we may purchase something on this wish list.

WHERE?

This is the third year for this Lenten project. We have grown from the Board Room to Fellowship Hall, and hope there will be more people attending this year. It is a fun morning. Come for any length of time. We look forward to seeing you at this annual "hands on" event for all ages!

FOR MORE INFORMATION?

For more information, please contact Carol Brashears at 301-791-0344 or brash115@aol.com. More information about this organization can be found at www.solehope.org.



Trinity's Boy Scout Troop 10

Hunt Hardinge,
Scoutmaster



Originally chartered in 1929, Troop 10 has been the recipient of Trinity's gracious support for almost 90 years. During that time many of our own members have been either personally involved with the Troop as a youth or adult leader or have had children who've been involved.

Just as our Food Pantry and Clothing Bank are outreach ministries of Trinity, the Boy Scouts should be viewed in the same light as well. Literally thousands of boys have spent time in Troop 10, and all have benefitted to one degree or another by their association with the Troop—learning life skills, community service, and exposure to a church community. Only one in four boys in America will become a Scout, but it's interesting to note that of the leaders of this nation in business, religion, and politics, three out four were Boy Scouts. On average, only 2 percent of Boy Scouts will earn the rank of Eagle Scout, Scouting's highest honor. Troop 10, and by extension Trinity, have been fortunate to have awarded over the years that particular rank to more than 110 of its members.

Although the Troop does not receive direct funding from Trinity, it does benefit from a safe space in the church to meet, as well as from the opportunity to support itself through the funds raised during the annual Alsatia-Mummers Day Parade. This is the Troop's sole source of income and provides the financial stability needed to operate the Troop. About half of the money raised goes toward the Troop's annual re-chartering fee. The rest goes back to the boys in the form of awards for merit badges and ranks, special events, tents and supplies, gifts to charity, and also financial assistance to make sure that those in need can have the experience of Summer Camp.

As a ministry of Trinity, the Troop also looks to serve the Church in any way it can. The Troop regularly picks up trash around the church, helps with the Micah's Backpack ministry, helps our Sexton Ricky Stoner whenever called upon, and tries to perform at least one major service project each year for the Church, such painting the Boy Scout Room, which was done this past year. In any case, Troop 10 would like to thank Trinity for all the support it receives. If anyone has any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to talk to me. I'd welcome the opportunity to sit down with you. Thanks so much.

Miracles Can Happen in Fellowship Hall

Judy Conrad

Many of you know that Trinity has become the home of the Tristate Civitan Club. This organization reaches out to adults with developmental disabilities. One of their big events is a monthly karaoke party which brings almost 100 people to our facility for a night of music and dancing.

The Fellowship and Parish Life Committee has been hosting the Civitan Club's monthly meeting and dinner, and has gotten to know one of their clients, named Joe. Joe is our honorary bartender and serves the coffee, tea, water, and iced tea to the club members. He even gets to wear a Trinity red apron and has become one of our favorites. Recently he was given an award from the club for his help with dinners. A photo was taken by the club and it appeared in the newspaper.

Joe is an adult living in a group home. His parents are dead, and, as far as anyone knew, there were no relatives living. The photo in the newspaper was seen by two cousins of Joe's who live in Smithsburg, who had been looking for him. They contacted the newspaper, who contacted the Civitan club publicity chairman, who checked with his case manager, and invited the cousins to attend the next meeting. They walked down the ramp and Joe recognized them immediately! Many hugs and tears later, family stories were told and plans were made for him to spend Christmas with his family for the first time in years!

We checked with him at the January meeting, and he did indeed have a great holiday and has plans for more time with them. This is just one more example of how God works in many ways, and how important outreach can be!

Thank You!

Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers you sent for my birthday. They brighten my room and my life.

Thanks again.

Love,
Judith Hess



* Indicates under 10

+ Indicates over 75

- 3 Dorothy Rhodes+
Sam Young
- 6 Howell Hammond+
Logan Hammond+
Mona Hardinge
- 7 Judy Conrad
Abby Rankin*
- 8 Barbara Seltzer
- 9 Janice Keefer+
- 10 Heidi Bitner
Kim Cochrane
- 12 Pamela Bradford
Nathaniel Repp
Deborah Rochefort
- 15 Michele Nearchos
- 16 Kelly Rohrer
- 17 Christen Fairley
Dorsey Martin, Jr.+
- 19 Elaine Byers+
- 20 Carole Gibney
- 21 Victoria Hess
Kenneth Purdham+
- 22 Erin Tolson
- 24 Suzanne Bell
Annika Rochefort
- 25 Mary Anne Day
Anne Thayer
- 26 Kelly Toms
- 27 Carl Disque
Sandra Wiebel
- 28 Sharon Hoppes
Jack Pryor



* Indicates 50 years or over

- 5 Ken & Phyllis Fehlauer*
- 25 Sam & Marilyn Young
- 27 Dorsey & Betty Martin, Jr.*

Trinity Lutheran Church

15 Randolph Avenue
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

Phone: (301)733-2878 www.tlchag.org

Sunday Worship at 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Sunday School for All Ages at 9:55 a.m.

Church Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

MAKING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST

Food Pantry and Clothing Bank: (301)733-5651

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Washington County Literacy Council: (301)739-4208

Tuesday and Thursday: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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