

The Rev. Bettye Wolinski, Pastor

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Pastor's Ponderings

Pastor Bettye Wolinski



Welcome Summer!

From a book entitled *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity* by Mark A. Knoll, 1997, published by Baker Academic, I read this: "Among the last words that Jesus spoke to his disciples were statements recorded in Matthew, chapter 28, and Acts, chapter 1. These words, though they are important for many reasons . . . they mainly speak of the first great turning points in Christianity: 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. . . . Therefore go and make disciples of all nations. . . . Surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age. You will be my witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth.' "

I found that if you strung all these varied citations from Christ together, you would get a mighty powerful statement for your life and ministries: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations for surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age because you will be my witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth." - The gospel according to Pastor Bettye!

With these words written into our hearts we certainly could bear witness to some very interesting and life changing or turning points in our lives and in the lives of ours!

You know what a turning point is, right? A turning point is an event that causes us to "turn" from our normal course of actions into another course of action, life, style, way of thinking and believing and then NOTHING is ever the same again! Weddings, childbirths, funerals, new jobs, new relationships, and a renewed relationship with God and your fellow human all very important turning points in our lives and in the life of the church. I like to think that even summer camp is a "turning point" for all the children who will come through our doors. Sending out a pastor and receiving a new one are major turning points in the life of a congregation.

Our deacon students were required to study the "turning points" in the history of Christianity. They learned that the Fall of Jerusalem, the Great schism, the French revolution and ten other great historical events shaped and projected Christianity into the world faith that it is today. Whether they liked this course or not they did admit to me as their teacher that they learned a lot about the

effects that "turning points" have on the lives of us all. This is why some of the great words of Jesus are so important in how we address our "turning points" with Jesus as the one securing the road in front of us despite the twists and turns:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations for surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age because you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth."

I find these words so very comforting and empowering as a child of the loving God seeking to walk the roads in my life, navigating me through my ministry with Jesus. I think these words will continue to guide Trinity and her disciples in the years to come.

God's blessings to all who are on the road together facing the turning points to God's glory!

Serving in Joy on the road!
Pastor Bettye

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June News from Christian Education and Family Ministry

Stephanie Angles



MOBILE MAR-LU RIDGE: JUNE 19 - 23

Registration forms for Vacation Bible School are now available. Children ages six through 12 are invited to attend. Participation in the camp is free to the campers. The hours are from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to make this week a success. Sign-up sheets for volunteers are located in a three-ring binder in Fellowship Hall, outside the Parlor, and in the extended Narthex. We are accepting sponsorships. Sponsor a camper for just \$5.00 a day (or \$25.00 for the week).

SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to scholarship recipients Max Conrad and Elizabeth Dagliano!

CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN

Thank you to all who have donated to Children Helping Children so far this year. We are hopeful that we will be able to help multiple children have a Merry Christmas this year. Thank you for your generosity!



FAMILY MINISTRY ACTIVITY: HARC HIKE

It's Not Too Late to Sign Up!!

When: Saturday, June 10, 2017. **Where:** C&O Canal Towpath in Washington County, Maryland. **What:** 4K, 10K, and half marathon hikes. **To Benefit:** HARC and Micah's Backpack. **Have some FUN!**

This fully supported hike features routes of 4 kilometers (approximately 2½ miles), 10 kilometers (approximately 6¼ miles), and a half marathon (approximately 13 miles).

Enjoy snacks and drink refills and course support. All hikes will be along the Maryland section of the C&O Canal Towpath, and will end at Shepherd Springs Retreat Center, where we'll enjoy food, fun, and friendship.

Help Feed the Hungry and Promote Literacy

Proceeds from the hike benefit HARC (Hagerstown Area Religious Council), whose initiatives include early childhood education and well-being programs, support and connection of area churches and faith communities, and Micah's Backpack, a program to feed hungry elementary school students.

Registration forms are available at the Trinity office or you may register online at www.harccoalition.org/hike.

Congratulations to Trinity's 2017 Graduates!



COLLEGE GRADUATES

Andrew Higgins graduated from Temple University in Philadelphia on May 10 with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics, Summa Cum Laude, Distinction in Major. He received the Steinberg Memorial Award in Mathematics. Congratulations to Andrew!

Adam Shuster graduated from University of Maryland on May 22. Congratulations to Adam!

Caroline Bradford graduated from Johns Hopkins University. Congratulations to Caroline!

Sarah Wright graduated from Gettysburg Seminary! Congratulations to Sarah!

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

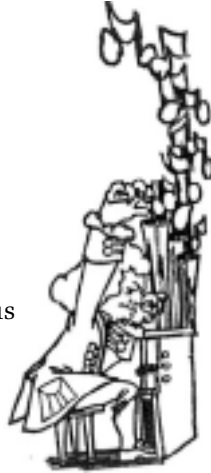
Abigail Angles graduates from Clear Spring High School June 2. She plans to attend the Campus Connection Program at Hagerstown Community College in the fall.

Max Conrad graduates from Boonsboro High School June 1. He plans to attend Pennsylvania College of Technology in the fall.

Aaron Little graduates from Smithsburg High School June 1. He plans to attend Mount Saint Mary's College in the fall.

From the Organ Bench

Pastor Greg Shook



Dear Flock,

These words are selected from Exodus 3. The full reading is Exodus 3:1-12.

¹Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ¹²He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

What does the term "holy ground" mean to you? I must be honest. When I was growing up I never thought about it. Yes, I heard the story of Moses and the burning bush but left it, with an "isn't that nice" kind of response to it. When I was in youth group and we would sing the song, "I am Standing on Holy Ground." It was nice, too. I just never gave it much thought, and it was never adequately explained.

One of the daily devotionals I use is called *Bread for the Journey*. It's an Augsburg Fortress publication, and it has a main scripture, other readings for the day, a hymn text, and concludes with a prayer. It's great. In mid-May, this Exodus scripture hunted me down again. I thought about the holy ground thing all over again and spent some time pondering, "Where is exactly is my holy ground?" Well again, to be honest, if we're really tuned into where holy ground is, and if we're totally honest with ourselves, we will know exactly where this holy of all holy places is located.

Is holy ground that place only known to Biblical characters? Or can we as God's ambassadors be part of a holy ground experience? Well, certainly the concept comes from burning bush story in Exodus, but think back over times and events in your lifetime . . . haven't you had experiences of holy ground? I sure have. The most recent was the Confirmation Service on Pentecost Day here at Trinity. Amazing. Great words, great Spirit, great "presence" of the Holy Spirit, surrounded that place.

Here is how you find holy ground:

1. You must be open and trusting that the presence of God will join you. We don't have to be a Noble Prize winner or discover a cure for something. All God expects is for us to be who we are, in the best possible way.
2. You must be welcoming and hospitable to the Spirit. The Spirit is with us always, but it will be a little more meaningful if you and I acknowledge its presence. How did Moses respond? "*Here I am.*" Go back to Advent and the Magnificat reading. What did Mary say? "*Here am I, the servant of the Lord.*" What if Mary had said, "*You've got to be kidding?*" or "*Oh no, not for me.*" That response might have changed the course of things, to say the least!
3. Embrace the task that lies ahead. Be a positive role model. Having a bad attitude, using harsh words, etc. . . . is ALSO a role model, especially for our young people or those searching for their holy ground experience. And yes, people notice. Ponder that a spell.
4. Watch as a sense of community blossoms from this love-giving/love-promoting experience.

You see when God was sending Moses back to Egypt to demand the release of the Israelites from slavery, Moses had a "Yes, but!" moment and said he wasn't a good spokesperson. So, God provides Aaron to become his spokesperson. Several Biblical scholars promote the fact that in the Magnificat, Luke presents Mary as a prophet and Jesus as her oracle. The presence of God will prevail . . . maybe not the way we envision, but there will be a way. Great things/possibilities come from the least likely places and people.

So, be open to becoming Holy Ground for something or someone. Be a tutor. Work in the Food Pantry and Clothing Bank. The need seems endless, but not insurmountable. Have faith! Embrace the task! The Holy Ground will be under your feet everywhere you go. And, just like Moses and Mary and countless others, we can be servants of God who embody faith and faithfulness!

Thanks be to God!

Soli Deo Gloria!
Pastor Greg

REFORMATION TIDBITS

Throughout the year, I will be posting some noteworthy (pun intended) items about Martin Luther (1483-1546), church music, and the Reformation. Here is one of my favorites: "If you are not allowed to laugh in heaven, I don't want to go there!"

I knew Martin and I were kindred spirits.

Church Council President's Report

Judy Conrad, Council President

Greetings and best wishes for a blessed summer season to all of you.

As we move along in our season of transition once again, I think it is important to celebrate the fact that your Church Council and its respective teams are still going strong and taking care of the business of Trinity.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education Team is busy planning for our celebration for Trinity's latest graduates. Abby Angles, Max Conrad, Aaron Little, Mayhen Lockley, and Genevive Rochefort are graduating from high school and Andrew Higgins has completed his college education. Congratulations to each of them and their families. Confirmation Class is almost done and we will be confirming Betsy Norgard, London Hershey, Madysen Staley, and Taylor Mayhugh. And of course, VBS begins on June 19 with Mobile Mar-Lu Ridge assisting us again this year. Please let Stephanie Angles or Jane Drawbaugh know if you can help in any way.

FINANCE TEAM

The Finance Team has continued sorting out the details of the day-to-day management of money here at Trinity. A safe has been purchased for the drop off of any money collected or bought to the office for any reason. Colleen Gildee is developing a system for labeling anything that goes in the safe. Members of the Executive Team will be sign checks. Carol Martin has graciously agreed to take our deposits to the bank.

SENIOR MINISTRY

Senior Ministry hosted Bingo last week and is planning an old fashioned Ice Cream Social and Hymn Sing on July 8. What a great way to spend an evening! They continue to reach out to our home bound members with cards and visits.

TECH TEAM

The Tech Team is always looking for information and images to be included in our website. Please send anything you may have to Tech Team members Erin Harman at erin.harman@myactv.net or to Craig Fentress at cmfentress@hagerstowncc.edu.

PROPERTY TEAM

The members of the Property Team have been very busy! Please thank Junior Michael, Rodney Nearchos, Sam Young, and Ralph Conrad for spreading 10 THOUSAND POUNDS of compost and 3,600 POUNDS of mulch in the flower beds on Potomac Street and Randolph Avenue.

All of the beautiful bulbs that were in our Easter Garden have also been planted, as well as any left over lilies.

The two purple hydrangeas are on vacation at my house until they recover enough to be planted outside. Our church property will be beautiful next spring!

Progress is being made in the sanctuary air conditioning project. The fence along the ramp behind the church was replaced, gutter work continues, and we have a new source for the detergent and rinse agents in the dishwasher in the kitchen. Hopefully that loud buzzing noise will be a thing of the past.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The Worship and Music Team is planning for our sending service for Pastor Bettye on June 25. There will be one service at 10 a.m., followed by a brief business meeting and quarterly update, and then a Celebration of Pastor Bettye's ministry with us.

Thanks to Lauren Rowe for staying dedicated to assuring that there are lectors and communion assistants at the 11:00 a.m. service.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

The members of Social Ministry continue to feed the hungry and care for those in need. With school out for the summer, we may see an increase in the need for families who now need to feed breakfast and lunch to their children. Please share what you can and help in any way you choose.

I have missed some of our team's activities, but I wanted to assure all of you that Trinity is alive and well. We have some unexpected business to take care of as we find a new interim pastor, but our leadership is strong and dedicated to taking us into its future on Randolph Avenue. If you have any concerns, comments, questions, suggestions, or complaints, please bring them to a Council member so you can get accurate information. We promise to keep you notified of any changes.

From Social Ministry

June Habeck

THIS IS YOUR MINISTRY!

Jesus was highly criticized for ministering to the outcasts, the poor, the sinful, the forgotten: tax collectors, adulterers, the blind, the lame, prostitutes, lepers, half breeds, the possessed, prosecutors, the sad, the wounded, and the weary. He loved people by socializing with and ministering to them. Jesus gave us the model of His life to follow:

- It doesn't matter if we don't approve of their lifestyle.
- It doesn't matter if they are promiscuous.
- It doesn't matter if they don't provide for their family and we think they are lazy.
- It doesn't matter if they are prideful.
- It doesn't matter if they are dishonest or strange, weird, sick or shabby.

Trinity opens its door three times a week to these people, which Pastor Bettye named Trinity's third congregation. Every one currently volunteering in outreach is working to offer help to those who come, but many of us also discover a deep connection with the holy when we encounter the forgotten individual. The simple act of giving someone the basics for survival connects us in a caring that transcends the differences between us.

I sat in the pews or the choir for more than 10 years admiring Trinity's ongoing outreach to the neighborhood. In fact it was one of the major reasons my husband and I joined this church. Remembering that one day, I realized I was not putting my time where my heart is. So I volunteered, two years ago. Now I can't imagine my life without it: the team fellowship and the interaction with our guests are ways we are lighting a candle rather than cursing the darkness.

Now consider how you can support Social Outreach at Trinity with your heart and your help to keep this outreach going. Many of our volunteers work for years, then retire, move away, or stop for health reasons. If the help needed to operate is not received from volunteers, our outreach programs will dwindle and eventually end. And so it may be.

But if the Holy Spirit is leading us to continue, and even grow, we need a few new "workers in the field" who

are willing to invest a little time that makes a clear statement of how you value this ministry:

- A volunteer to pick up food at Shop & Save with Trinity's van and carry the full boxes into the Pantry on Tuesdays
- Persons to substitute for regular workers (when they're sick or traveling) in Food & Clothing (this is infrequent)
- A volunteer once a week to drive North Point vets to the V.A. in Martinsburg (the day varies)
- For seven days in June only, drivers to pick up food at Shop & Save and carry it into the Trinity Food Pantry while two of our regular volunteers are out of town on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays (June 6,7,and 8; June 13,14,and 15; and June 20.)



You can see me, Jeff Reed, or Ralph Conrad to volunteer for one of our current needs.

As the body of Christ, we have many parts with many

different gifts with which to serve. Not everyone is called to serve with the downtrodden and the marginal in society. If you can't physically help or you work during the hours that the Food Pantry and Clothing Bank are open, you can express your support for the ministry by completing a Social Ministry Survey we will ask you to fill out soon, or at the next Congregational Meeting. We need to determine what our congregation's vision for outreach is, now and in the future. Do you support what we're doing? Would you support growing our outreach efforts by joining with a coalition of churches and food banks to minister to Hagerstown's needs? Would you like to see us counseling, teaching our guests how to cook to better feed their families healthy meals, and giving our guests contact information on where to receive help in other areas of their lives? Your response on this survey will determine the future of Social Ministry at TLC.

You can also continue to contribute to the Food Pantry, the Clothing Bank, and Micah's Backpack program. And continue to pray for your teams who are working every week with those many would rather ignore. Thanks be to God who has brought us together in this place to love and to serve!

What Do I Leave You With? Thoughts from a Pastor Leaving a Call

Pastor Bettye Wolinski

Simply, I leave you with part of my heart. For a pastor to truly participate in God's work within a congregation, the pastor must fall in love with the people of God to whom he or she is sent.

A pastor friend of mine who has seen me through two transitions or "turning points" in the ministry warned me early on in my 10 years of ministry that "it's going to hurt when you go if you love them as Christ loves." So, in part I leave you with a broken heart.

I will not leave you with a list of instructions; my best instructions came from our Bible Study and sermon time together. I will leave you with a request that I believe will make the difference in the life or death of the church:

³⁴"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."—John 13:34-35



Loving, forgiving, listening, visiting, praying, feeding, and even gentle rebuking of loved ones gives us a life together that creates a strong

bond that has nothing to do with a building, a town, family ties, or imagined rites through pedigree. Those verbs I mentioned are for all of God's children, and you can love that deeply when you love God first. You can love those sent to you from outside your walls when you love God first! Worship, prayer, and Bible Study will bring you closer to the God I leave you to, trusting in His tender mercies to guide you into a future to God's glory.

Dear friends in Christ, you have been planted in a new season in the life of Hagerstown and Trinity. Christian love and discipleship will be the water that will cause you to bloom and grow. My prayers are that you remember this in the journey ahead.

Serving in Joy!
Pastor Bettye

Save the Date!

Sue Bell

Mark your calendars now for the Ice Cream Social and Old Fashioned Hymn Sing on Saturday, July 8, from 2 to 4 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

This event is sponsored by the Senior Ministry Team, but all ages are welcome to join the fun, make your favorite sundae, and sing some of the old familiar hymns.

Sign-up sheets will be in Fellowship Hall and in the extended Narthex in June; we are also working on online sign-up capability—stay tuned!



Senior Ministry

Karen Spessard

Senior Ministry will not meet on June 6 or July 4. The ministry will meet on Wednesday, June 28, at 1:30 p.m. in the Parlor.

The Tuesday, August 1, meeting will be held at noon at Karen Spessard's home.

Beginning in September, the ministry will return to our regular meeting schedule of the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the Parlor.

Reformation 500 Events

Pastor Greg Shook

Looking ahead, you will want to mark your calendars for our Reformation Hymn Festival, "Alleluia Without End!"

Dr. Wayne L. Wold will lead the congregation and combined choirs in a program of narration and hymns geared toward the Reformation 500 celebration for 2017. The concert is Sunday, October 29, 2017, at 4 p.m. here at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Dr. Wold is Chair of the Music Department at Hood College, served on the editorial board of our hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, and is Director of Music/Organist at First Lutheran in Ellicott City, Maryland.



Mark your calendars now for a Unity Service on Sunday, July 2, at the Arts Pavilion at Doubs Woods Park. Be sure to bring a chair.

The church service will begin at 10 a.m., followed by a potluck picnic at the North Pavilion of the park.

Wear red, white and blue.

SUMMER MUSIC SERIES TO BEGIN

Music To Be Cool, the Summer Concert Series here at Trinity Lutheran Church, will begin on Wednesday, June 28, at 7 p.m. in the Nave, with a return of the Maryland Wind Festival. This program will feature the world premiere of Michael Mogensen’s newest musical composition, titled “Syn-copated Winds.”

Mike has been serving as composer-in-residence for the ensemble for the 2017 year. The group is excited to return to Trinity (their favorite place to play!) with a program that will include *Variations on America* by Charles Ives, as well as some lovely additions by composers Georges Enescu and Leoš Janáček. Beautiful music in a beautiful space.

Come in out of the heat! Bring your knitting, a book, or just you, to hear lovely melodies by this amazing ensemble of young and incredibly talent musicians.

Tyler Austin is the artistic director and conductor and a former student of Pastor Greg’s (he says with great pride!). The concert is free and open to the public. Spread the word!



PLEASE CALL US IF YOU NEED US

If you have a caregiving emergency, please call Pastor Greg on his cell phone. It’s okay to leave a message on the office phone (ext. 206), but should you have an immediate need, his mobile number is the best way to contact him: (301) 992-1305. It’s okay to leave messages there, as they will be heard and addressed sooner. Thank you!



BIRTHDAYS

** over 75

* under 10

- 1 Diana Markle
- Lisa Norgard
- 3 Penny Gaver
- 5 Lisa McCoy
- 7 Deborah Shank
- 8 Willa Kay Bowers**
- Max Conrad
- 9 Jeremy Flinchbaugh
- 12 JJ Evans, Jr.
- 13 Luna Jefferson
- 15 Dorothy Wallace**
- 16 Virginia Doarnberger**
- London Hershey
- Kenneth Leedy, Jr.**
- Lori Mueller
- Barbara Cashion**
- 17 Jean Hollyday
- 18 Michael Gorsuch
- 19 Deanna Dopson
- Peggy Hardinge
- 21 Mia Brashears*
- Carol Martin**
- Lynn McNamee
- 22 Amy Scheer
- 25 June Habeck Holler
- Christine Stowell
- 28 Rick Hartman
- 29 Barbara Winebrenner

ANNIVERSARIES

* Indicates 50 years or over

- 2 Gary and Julie Hammond
- 3 Stephen and Gidget Gallahan
- 7 Scott and Heidi Bitner
- Edward and Sandra Wiebel, Jr.*
- 8 Brian and Lois Herchenrother
- 10 Earl and Cindy Stoner*
- 15 Keith and Amie Scheer
- 22 Mike and Anne Mowen
- 30 Clyde and Wilma Condo, III*
- Leslie LeBlanc and Rick Hartman

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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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

