



# *The Belfry*

**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

ORGANIZED 1863  
640 Berwyn Avenue

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February 2010    Next Deadline: February 16, 2010

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## From the Pastor

I am often asked, "Don't you get tired of all the meetings Presbyterians have?" Sometimes I admit that they can become tedious; sometimes I have to tell about the Spirit moving in such meetings. Presbyterians do believe in God's Spirit working through committees as we seek together to discern God's will for this church and its ministry.

Such a Spirit-filled moment happened in a Session meeting early January. We had gathered to approve a church budget for 2010. The Stewardship Committee had made its case to the congregation that additional contributions were needed to complete 2009, as well as challenging the members to increase their pledges for 2010. Honest, personal, heart-felt, authentic, transparent – those were words used to describe the committee's work.

As the cold, hard numbers were presented, the room became quiet, and we knew we were on holy ground, holy because we knew God was in this place. The final budget for 2009 was less than \$600 "in the red." The proposed budget for 2010, after all the committees had done their hard work, with all the present staff still employed with no pay increases, was "in the black" by \$3800. (The full report may be found elsewhere in this newsletter.)

We stopped and prayed, recognizing the amazing generosity of God celebrated by the members, giving thanks for your astounding trust of the leaders of this church. God is in this place, working for good even in such difficult times. Thank you for allowing me to be your pastor.

Yours in Christ,  
*Jay Wilkins*



## Music & Worship Notes



- January 24 . . . Guest Musician Sarah Miller on the cello & clarinet  
Adult Choir sings "Beneath the Shadow" with cello  
Offertory clarinet duet: Sara Miller & Paul Vanderslice
- January 31 . . . music by Trinity's Praise Band  
dedication of paintings by Barbara Webster in  
memory of the Rev. Karen Parsons for Church Library  
Annual Meeting of the Congregation & Corporation
- February 7 . . . the Children's Choir sings "Give Thanks"  
the Adult Choir sings "Here I Am, Lord"
- February 14 . . . the Adult Choir sings "Praise to the Almighty"
- February 17 . . . Ash Wednesday Program & Communion Service



### **Sacred Dance Ministry**

The "Divine Dance Ensemble" is open to dancers who may wish to participate in this ministry. They welcome others who feel led by God to share their gifts. For more information, contact Tracy Flanagan at [tracy.flanagan@yahoo.com](mailto:tracy.flanagan@yahoo.com).

### **CHURCH KEYS NEEDED!!**

Trinity Church is in need of additional keys to the front doors of the church and the church office. At this time there are no spare keys to be given to those who need occasional access to the building and/or church offices. If any of you, especially past Session "chairs", have spare keys, please return them to the church office. This will help greatly in avoiding the cost of having to purchase duplicate keys.



**9:00 A.M. Sunday mornings in the Parlor**

**January 24 – February 14 . . . The Trinity: God's Love Overflowing**  
*using a DVD & study paper prepared by the Presbyterian Church (USA)*

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**TUESDAY MORNING GROUP**

***Beginning January 27, a new book:***

***Conquering Fear: Living Boldly in an Uncertain World***  
*by Rabbi Harold Kushner*



**9:30 A.M. in the Parlor**

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**THURSDAY MORNING MEN'S STUDY**

*7:00 A.M. in the Church Library*

*join us on our journey through Exodus*

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A special opportunity for spiritual growth . . .

**PRAYING THE PSALMS**

*with Catherine*

*every other Friday at 11:00 AM in the Sacristy*



## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

**February 17**

**6:30 p.m. with Potluck Dinner**

in Fellowship Hall

followed by introduction to our Lenten Series &  
a worship service of the ashes and the Lord's Supper

### **“Meeting Jesus in Life & Death”**

a DVD program with Walter Wangerin  
exploring how Jesus meets us as we confront  
death & learn to grow spiritually

New Day & Time:

Soup & Sandwich on Sundays at 11:45 A.M. . . . February 21, 27, March 7, 14, & 21

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### ***Lenten Lunch Series:***

***“Where in the World is God?”***

***Berwyn United Methodist Church***

*140 Waterloo Avenue*

*12:30 – 1:15 PM*

***February 24, March 3 & 10 & 17 & 24 & 31***



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## **THE DAILY WALK . . . needs you**

For the past ten years or so, Trinity members have participated in producing a daily lectionary-based devotional guide for our friends and members. Production of the guide has depended on the contribution of individuals who are willing to put their thoughts about the scripture readings on paper for others to read and contemplate. Daily devotions are a wonderful, powerful discipline for Christians, and The Daily Walk has made it much easier for us to engage in this discipline. If you would be willing to contribute to this guide, please let a member of the Adult Education Committee (Sally Bovais, Ann Hatfield, Denny Leeper, Roy Roseberry) know, so we can prepare a schedule. We also need a coordinator to prepare and distribute the written materials to aid the writers in their efforts. We hope to hear from you so that we may get The Daily Walk back into our member's homes and hearts as soon as possible. Adult Education Committee.

## HELP US CELEBRATE 150 YEARS



Trinity Presbyterian Church is preparing to celebrate being part of the Berwyn community for 150 years. The site we now worship on was dedicated on December 30, 1862 and the Church was organized on January 4, 1863 and in a little over 3 years we will celebrate 150 years of Trinity giving and serving our community here in Berwyn.

We ask for everyone's help and involvement, in planning and carry out many fun and exciting events to get us ready to celebrate this tremendous achievement and to hopefully set the stage for the next 150 years at Trinity.

We want to celebrate what Trinity has accomplished, and what Trinity can still achieve as the Church on the Corner in Berwyn with our whole community. A steering committee is asking for volunteers for this committee and also for volunteers for subcommittees to work on specific events that may be of interest to you.

Please sign up to be part of the steering committee, sub-committee or submit your ideas by seeing: Steve Fenwick; Gary Horn; Bill Morgart; Hugh Chekemian; Denny Leeper; Julie O'Leary or Jim Hatfield.

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**Trinity's Web Site: [www.trinityberwyn.com](http://www.trinityberwyn.com)**

We are making available on the web site the monthly newsletter, "The Belfry," the weekly worship program with announcements, and other information about Trinity.



## DEACONS' UPDATE

Dart (Drug and Alcohol Recovery Team) at Berwyn United Methodist Church (BUMC) will be sponsoring a series of open forum parent sessions in 2010. The discussions will be held the last Tuesday of the month through April 2010.

Dates: 1-26-2010, 2-23-2010, 3-23-2010 and 4-27-2010

Time: 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Topics: Healthy communications with your children

Setting boundaries with your children

Technology safety: internet, cell phones, texting, social networks

Dealing with transition

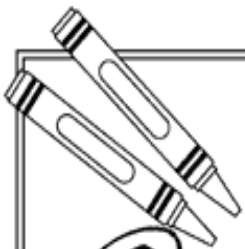
A. Michael Blanche, MSS, LCSW from Comprehensive Counseling will be leading the sessions. Questions?: Call BUMC (Gail Campbell) at 610/644-7843, or e-mail [officebumc@comcast.net](mailto:officebumc@comcast.net).



## Valentine's Day Bags

Once again the Deacons and the Sunday School Children of Trinity Church will team up to make Valentine's Day bags for the Special Friends of Trinity Church.

Led by Deacon, Julie O'Leary, the children will decorate Valentine's Day Bags and then the bags will be filled with goodies supplied by the Deacons. The Deacons will deliver the bags to their special care people. The bags are most appreciated and it is a nice way to show we care. If you would like to donate something for these bags, please contact a Deacon.

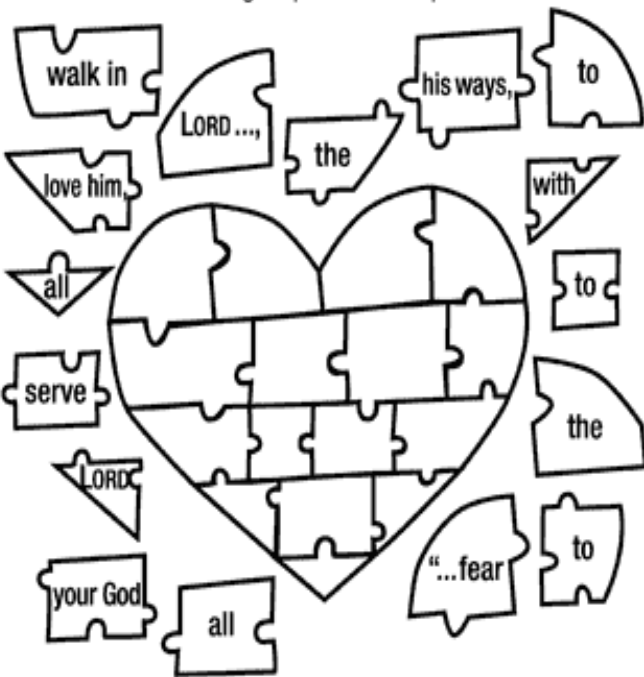


**Just for KIDS**

# Our first love

In Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV), Israel is asked a question that's also for us to answer: "What does the LORD your God ask of you?"

To find the answer, write the words from the puzzle pieces on the matching shapes in the completed heart.



*... your heart and with all your soul ...*

Answer: "... fear the LORD ... to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all ..."

*\*A JAR OF\**  
**Love and Appreciation**



*Sometimes we forget to show love and appreciation to people who are closest to us. Use this fun craft to let everyone in your family know how much you care.*

**What you need:**

- Plastic jar with lid
- Heart-shaped foam pieces
- Heart-shaped stickers
- Glue
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil or crayons

**What you do:**

1. Decorate the jar and lid with heart-shaped foam pieces and stickers.
2. Cut out 2" or 3" heart shapes from the construction paper.
3. On each paper heart, write what you appreciate and love about your family and each member. Have all family members do this, too.
4. Place the heart messages inside the jar. Fold them in half, if necessary.
5. On each day in February, pull out one heart and read the message aloud to the family.
6. Notice the changes in your family when everyone feels loved and appreciated!



## TRINITY REMEMBERS

The newspaper informs that the Phillies pitchers and catchers will report to training camp in Florida on February 18 to prepare for the 2010 baseball season. Sports are a big part of our recreation menu today evidenced by TV programming and newspaper space devoted on a daily basis. Has sports-based activity ever been part of Trinity's history?

The earliest mention of baseball being played in Berwyn dates to 1881. In the "Local" for June 26 a report appeared, "A very interesting game of baseball is being played between the Rex club [of Berwyn] and the brick layers at the new [railroad] station [under construction]. The score last evening at the end of the fourth inning stood Rex 23, brick layers 22."

Other stories of the era include the names of Trinity members who played baseball in Berwyn: Frank Stauffer, Harry Fritz, Samuel Kromer, Elwood "Shorty" Hayman, and Henry O. Garber. Later, in 1904, Berwyn became one of four founding members of the Main Line League. By the 1930s Trinity itself fielded a team. A photo shows a group of players outfitted with uniforms bearing the word "Trinity" in large block letters across the chest.

A 1941 newspaper obituary for Warden McLees, Trinity trustee and former elder stated, "On every possible occasion he attended baseball games, rarely missing a game of the Main Line League, and his words of encouragement could be heard all over the field."

For the "gentry", most of whom raised horses and maintained stables, and there was horse racing. On August 20, 1892, the Devon Trotting Association held its first meet, with three running races, two trotting races, and one pacing race on the half mile at Devon. The track circled the perimeter of the then polo field, today's horse show grounds.

The inaugural horse show took place on the field at the Devon Polo Club July 2, 1896. Margaret Beaumont Lapp, a Trinity member (whose grandfather, Eber Beaumont, was a signer of Trinity's charter in 1862) lived at Devon for years before the railroad chose the name. She once reminisced that Dr. J. C. Bartholomew, a veterinarian, later also a Trinity member, was an exhibitor at that first show.

[For February 2010 Belfry; submitted by Herb Fry for History Committee.]



## CLERK'S CORNER

The session met on Monday, December 21, 2009. I appreciated Kate Doms serving as clerk in my absence. The following are highlights of the meeting:

- The By-Laws were reviewed as required on an annual basis.
- The results of the pastoral performance assessment were reviewed. It was noted that the success of the stewardship campaign showed the confidence the congregation has in the church and the pastor, and how much the congregation values both.
- Steve Fenwick, chair of the stewardship committee, reported that \$215,000 had been pledged so far and that it was hoped \$25,000 more would come in for a total of \$240,000 in pledge income. The committee is recommending a balanced budget for 2010.

A Special Session meeting was held on Monday, January 11, 2010 to approve a budget.

- Don Tokash, treasurer, reported that pledge income totaled \$245,300.
- Steve Fenwick stated that 74 pledging units have been received out of a possible 81. Overall increase in pledges is 9.8%.
- The deficit for the 2009 budget has been reduced from \$14,170 to \$1,272 with the 13 month pledge receipts.
- A budget for 2010 was approved with a positive balance.

The next session meeting will be held on Monday, January 25, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Sally Bovais, Clerk of Session



Annual Meeting of the Congregation & the Corporation

Sunday, January 31, 2010  
following worship

Annual Report available  
Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>



Annual Meeting



## **DONUT SUNDAY IN FEBRUARY**

The weeks fly by so quickly, let's learn about February. Folks from the CE Committee will be e-mailing your children – through parent's e-mail addresses – to ask them to bring their Bibles to Donut Sunday on February 7. It is our goal to have the children become familiar with their Bibles. We are emphasizing how to find the following: Old and New Testaments, how to find the book of Psalms, how to find Psalm 23, what is the first book in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, plus finding the story of the lesson for that day (Jesus' Baptism, Matthew 3:13-17). We ask your help in sharing the e-mail messages with your children. If this is unfavorable for you and your e-mail system, please let me know. [Joyhoy356@aol.com](mailto:Joyhoy356@aol.com)

## **Children's Sunday School**

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to teach Trinity's children since the fall. The kids are enjoying the one multi-age class format, which is held in the large classroom. As we continue into this school year, we need additional pairs of teachers for each remaining month. Please consider teaching for one month in March, April, May or June. You may sign up on the poster at church or speak with Ann Hatfield or Joyce Hoy with any questions. We hope you will participate in this ministry. It is a joy and a privilege to provide encouragement and support to our children who are growing in their Christian faith and knowledge of God. Thank you!

## **C.E.F. . . . Come Eat Fellowship**

It has been such a blessing to see an idea that I had become a success here at Trinity. I am so thankful for all of you that come out to the meals. I hope that the time spent eating and talking with one another is a joy in your life. The purpose of the meal is to nourish the community that we already have here at our church. It is truly a wonderful experience to be part of the community in this church.

If CEF is something you would like to see continue to grow, talk to me about becoming part of a group that helps make and serve the meals. This is not an overly strenuous commitment. So if you are interested or have any ideas to improve CEF talk to me on a Sunday before or after church. Thank you all for your involvement in CEF!

In Him, Taylor Kiser

## MONTHLY FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

### Monthly Budget Update as of December 31, 2009

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>2009 Actual</u>	<u>2009 Budget</u>	<u>%</u>
Pledged Offerings	\$ 232,274	\$ 219,268	106%
Non-Pledge Offerings	\$ 25,730	\$ 24,460	105%
Other Receipts	\$ 26,862	\$ 26,542	101%
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 284,866</b>	<b>\$ 270,270</b>	<b>105%</b>
 <u>Expenses</u>			
Property & Finance	\$ 99,864	\$ 93,675	107%
Personnel	\$ 168,524	\$ 171,975	98%
Worship & Sacraments	\$ 3,059	\$ 4,333	71%
Christian Education	\$ 2,345	\$ 3,257	72%
Membership	\$ 156	\$ 200	78%
Board of Deacons	\$ 0	\$ 0	100%
Outreach	\$ 11,489	\$ 11,000	104%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 285,438</b>	<b>\$ 284,440</b>	<b>100%</b>
General Fund-YTD Net Dec 31	\$ (572)	\$ (14,170)	4%
General Fund Balance - Dec 31	\$ (17,825)		
 <u>Balances As Of:</u>			
	<u>31-Dec-09</u>		
Fixed Rate Loan	\$ 84,276		
Variable Rate Loan	\$ 39,350		
Trinity Fund (Book Value)	\$ 322,427		
Trinity Fund (Market Value)	\$ 290,697		

**Comments:** Pledge payments improved from 13th month program. Property & Finance expenses over budget (but improved from October) from higher utility and insurance costs.

Market value of Trinity Fund account on Dec 31, 2009 remains under "book value". Great improvement in GF negative balance which improved to (\$17,825), slightly higher than on 1/1/2009.



## . . . Update

The past year has been an amazing year to be a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church and it is with great pride that your Stewardship Committee brings you our Annual Report for 2009. Every member of Trinity, as well as the whole world, has gone through a truly difficult economic year yet despite this challenge, Trinity has once again demonstrated its faithfulness and generosity of time, talent and financial gifts.

Our 2009 budget was accepted including a deficit of \$14,170 as well as a "hoped for" allowance of \$24,460 in unpledged offerings which was \$14,460 over our traditional allowance. A leap of faith to say the least. As the year progressed, our deficit increased to what was seen to be an unacceptable level and as part of our 2010 Stewardship Campaign, we asked the members of Trinity to consider giving one extra month pledge in an attempt to reduce our deficit. Your response was truly magnificent and we received over \$11,430 in additional pledging, exceeded our "hoped for" allowance in unpledged offerings and met our pledged offerings. Trinity finished the year with a deficit of only \$1,272 an unbelievable result that is a cause to celebrate the good Stewardship of Trinity Presbyterian Church's members and friends.

In addition to our request for one additional month pledge for 2009, your Stewardship Committee also asked for pledges to be increased by 10% for 2010 to avoid any addition to the Church's deficit. This was a huge challenge to Trinity's membership but was a challenge that was met head on by the Congregation to show the love and belief in the work God is doing in His home here in Berwyn. Over 56% of our pledging units increased their pledges for 2010, over 35% agreed to maintain their 2009 pledge despite the economic situation and the total amount pledged for 2010 was over 12% higher than that pledged for 2009. With over 90% participation we are so pleased to be able to announce we have a surplus budget for 2010 of \$3,831.

To reach this surplus budget, in addition to the generosity of our members, every committee evaluated their individual budgets and cut wherever possible and no salary increases have been included for our incredible Staff who work so hard for us throughout the year. It is recommended that, should we be able to finish 2010 with a surplus, consideration is given to paying our Staff a year-end bonus rather than budgeting a salary increase at this time.

We are actively searching for ways to reduce our reliance on annual pledges to cover such a large percentage of our total budget each year and this will be our challenge going forward. Trinity members have shown year after year however that they can meet any challenge placed in front of them and your Stewardship Committee is so appreciative of the support we receive from you, the members.

Personally, I would like to thank your Session, our Staff and the other members of the Stewardship Committee: Hugh Chekemian; Bill Morgart and our tireless Treasurer, Don Tokash who works wonders in preparing and controlling our budget. Most of all however I would like to thank you, the members of Trinity, who have always responded in such a magnificent way to the challenges we face. I am truly proud to be part of the Trinity family that is so generous with its gifts, its time and its many talents.

Yours in Christ, Stephen Fenwick, Stewardship Chair

## PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT

Per Capita Apportionment is a fundamental way in which all of the nearly 11,000 congregations and governing bodies of the PC(USA) are connected and allows its members to participate in the work of the wider church.

Per capita apportionment for fiscal year 2010 is \$26.91 per member, with the following breakdown:

	Individual	Trinity
General Assembly	\$6.15	\$1,457.55
Synod	2.10	497.70
Presbytery	<u>18.66</u>	<u>4,422.42</u>
Total to pay	\$26.91	\$6,377.67

To help defray the cost, members are invited and encouraged to pay the \$26.91 per capita amount. This is a completely voluntary payment. Approximately half of the membership paid last year. All money received is greatly appreciated.

There is a **Per Capita Apportionment** envelope in your box of envelopes for your use. Thank you very much.

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## AID IN THE FIGHT AGAINST PEDIATRIC CANCER

Hello everyone! My name is Elizabeth Hartigan, and I am a junior at Penn State University. During my three years of college, I have been an active member of Penn State's show choir as well as the Penn State Dance Marathon. The Singing Lions is one of over 400 student organizations that participate in the Dance Marathon every year. If you are not aware of the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, it is the largest student run philanthropy in the world, raising money for kids battling cancer. Last year we raised \$7.49 million dollars (over \$61 million total since 1973) to go to The Four Diamonds Fund located at Hershey Medical Center! This year, the 46-hour marathon will take place February 19-21. If you would like to donate to a worthy cause, please send cash or checks payable to Penn State Dance Marathon (Org # 152, Penn State Singing Lions in the memo) to Elizabeth Hartigan 616 E. College Ave, Apt 401, State College, PA 16801. Thank you so much for your donation, every little bit helps! ☺



## Respond to the earthquake in Haiti

We give thanks that the PC(USA) mission personnel and mission groups in Haiti at the time of the earthquake are safe and accounted for with one suffering severe enough injuries that she needed to be airlifted to Florida. Join other Presbyterians in the ongoing response to this disaster as you give, act and pray. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) coordinating efforts with our ecumenical and international partners in the relief work in Haiti. Carlos Cardenas is on the ground in Port-au-

Prince as part of the initial response team. The past few days' priorities have focused on search and rescue, medical attention for those injured by the earthquake, along with food distribution for the survivors.

Food and fuel supplies are limited and there is urgent need to bring in these most essential resources at this time. Fifteen sites have been identified for distribution of relief items. Distribution of food and clean water are a top priority. It is estimated that 200,000 families, nearly one million people, are without homes and living out in the open air. Temporary shelter is a focus for this next week. PDA and its partners are seeking to bring in 20,000 tents to Port-au-Prince in this next week. There are three to four thousand tents currently on site.

The greatest need from the church, along with prayer, is financial support in order to gather and strategically mobilize these most urgent relief supplies in the critical days that lie ahead.

**Give** – Financial support for relief efforts can be made online and designated to DR000064. Gifts can also be made by phone at (800) 872-3283, and checks can be mailed to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700, or sent c/o the Trinity Presbyterian Church office (640 Berwyn Avenue 19312)

**Act** – Congregations and individuals can also put together hygiene kits and baby kits to be distributed through Church World Service. For information, visit the PDA Web site.

**Pray** – Join with others in lifting up the people of Haiti and those seeking to provide aid in this critical time. As the eyes of the world turn to Haiti, let us join our hearts in prayer.



## Unbinding the Gospel

... opening our hearts to others in prayer

Several members of the Session and Deacons are working their way through this resource for growing the church. Please keep them and Trinity Church in your prayers. We will extend the invitation to others to join in this spiritual journey of opening our hearts to share the good news of God with others in another month.

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Congratulations to

Ann Hatfield, Elder, &  
Jay Wilkins, Minister

They were elected on Jan. 19 to be two of the six commissioners from Donegal Presbytery to the 2010 meeting of the Presbyterian Church (USA)' General Assembly this summer (July 3 - 10, 2010) in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**640 Berwyn Avenue**  
**Berwyn, Pennsylvania 19312**  
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**February 2010**

