

Trinity Tidings

Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church
June 2009

Work Service vs. Delegation

I'm starting to get excited! In a month I'll be joining my family and eight daring Trinity friends on an adventure to Guatemala. We haven't been back for SIX years!

Recently I was asked what we'll be doing. The poor person probably didn't expect a lecture. "Learning" I responded briefly. But of course that wasn't enough information, so I started to spew "on topics of emigration, poverty, human rights, war, indigenous spirituality..." and I could have gone on. She was probably expecting something simpler like "building a school" or "digging wells."

The idea of delegations is still new to some. If a church group is headed off to a foreign country, it's often expected or assumed that its purpose is for a work-service project—something truly hands-on. But Jason and I have grown to appreciate the distinct mission of delegation work—where delegates (trip members) go to learn, share, and experience life among our hosts. Delegates then return to their daily lives—on fire to change the world.

Work-service projects have their advantages: group fun, mind/body integration, the completion of a certain task. But they can also have their disadvantages: neglecting root causes of poverty or even displacing local workers and needed jobs by others outside of the area. (What if groups were to raise all the money for a trip, but hire locals to do the work—to assist their economy and cut gas emissions from our trip across country?!)

Delegations, however, hear the stories from the hosts themselves. They see, hear and taste the poverty by experiencing life among the people. Delegates return with fresh perspectives on how their living affects others in their own city and around the world. They see the benefit of long-time work and long-term efforts of change. A disadvantage? They can also be interpreted as elitist fly-bys that make token efforts of sharing in another's real-life experience.

So, work-service vs. delegation? Which is better? Both. Much like offering food to the hungry or teaching them to plant a garden, they are both needed ministries of God. One offers mercy for immediate need; the other offers the justice of long-term solutions. Jesus healed those with wounds, but he also walked with them to heal their hearts and their lives.

I'm looking forward to it-- and sharing it with you.

Pastor Amanda

See what love God has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. -- First John 3:1

Trinity United Methodist Church

Worship Service & Sunday School - Sundays at 10:00am
General Office Hours - Tuesday-Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm
Telephone..... 608-257-4591
FAX..... 608-268-1502
Email..... office@tumcmadison.org
Website..... www.tumcmadison.org

TRINITY STAFF

PASTOR, Amanda Stein
pastor@tumcmadison.org
DEACON, Tina Itson
tinaitson@wisconsinumc.org
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, Sara Schiro'
office@tumcmadison.org
CHOIR DIRECTOR, Julie Stalheim
jstalheim@gmail.com
ORGANIST, Janet Huenink
jkh_kybd88@netzero.net
CUSTODIAN, Sharon Hartlaub
hartlaub@charter.net

*Trinity United Methodist Church is to live out God's hospitality
by welcoming and loving all people.
We are to be a home of spiritual renewal
and a source for Christian transformation.*

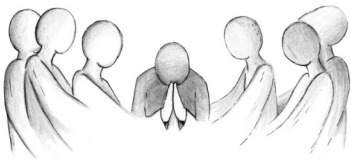
Trinity United Methodist Church
1123 Vilas Avenue
Madison, WI - 53715

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Madison, WI
Permit No. 1066

For address changes
or removal from this mailing,
please contact the
Trinity office.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

2--Sarah Whitt
3--Will Spoolman
8--Candi Wilkinson
9--Xavier Stein
13--Ruth Winn
16--Gerald Tifft
17--David Wolter
Elizabeth Bolstad
18--Kwakye
Akyeampong
19--Kailee Winkle
20--Emma Hodge
22--Carl Pigott
23--Clare Hutson
24--Nancy Hutson
25--Frank Gray
27--Janis Crandall
David Jahr



THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Ruth Winn- after the loss of her younger sister
Melanie Ramey- health issues in her family
Maria Thomas- upcoming radiation treatments
Bob Anderson- now under hospice care at Sunny Hill
Evachenkos and Julie Stalheim- prayers after Madison tragedies
James Fountain- recovering well after procedure
Leslie Kattelmann & Mark Morgan- upcoming wedding!

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL UPDATE

by Katherine Loving, Chair

Administrative Council recently called a joint meeting with the Finance Committee to address our congregation's challenging financial concerns. These concerns have been ongoing for many years, but now, because of the severe downturn in the financial market, investments that we have relied on to help us make budget can no longer sustain our congregation's expenses. I want to let you know that the following steps are currently being taken to maximize revenue and minimize expenses in the immediate future:

- * Conducting an audit and taking recommended steps to ensure that our physical plant generates as much revenue as possible through the use of the building and parking lot
- * Working to refinance the mortgage at a lower interest rate and longer term
- * Identifying priority expenses and receiving approval in advance by the Treasurer for all committee expenditures
- * Keeping the congregation informed by providing meaningful financial data on a weekly or monthly basis
- * Encouraging members to contribute using the automatic-withdrawal option to smooth the revenue stream
- * Taking steps to foster the growth of our congregation through the addition of a second worship service so that we can achieve sufficient financial and volunteer capacity to sustain our current level of programming and a full-time pastor

Please contact me at kathloving@juno.com , Pastor Amanda, Melanie Ramey (Finance Chair), Dave Jahr (Treasurer) if you would like more information. We invite you to share your time, energy, skill, knowledge, creativity, and financial resources to address these critical issues. We look forward to working together with you in the coming year to produce the growth that will make Trinity a viable congregation in the years to come.

The deadline for the July issue of the Tidings is:
Monday, June 22rd

Articles submitted after this date are not guaranteed to print.
Email (office@tumcmadison.org), fax (268-1502) or drop off your article.

COMMUNICATION FROM AND ABOUT TRINITYITES

ANOTHER AWARD FOR AKIRA TOKI

In a ceremony during the April 17 meeting of the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Akira Toki was presented the Veteran Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Toki's military decorations include a unit awarded Distinguished Service Cross, the Purple Heart, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the Europe-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three Bronze Stars, the World War Two Victory Medal and the combat infantryman Badge.

Toki served initially as a volunteer guide and subsequently as a bedside visitor and as the Crafts Program Coordinator at the Madison Veterans Administration Hospital from the day it opened in 1951 until his recent 93rd birthday, providing the hospital with over 23,000 hours of volunteer service during the intervening 58 years. He is a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, serving as a past State Commander and as the organization's representative to the Madison VA Hospital for 25 years. He is also a member of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Order of the Cootie, 40 Et 8, the Madison Veterans Council, and he has been a very popular and an often requested guest at Madison Area Schools, speaking on the topics of his military service and the changes in Madison over his lifetime. Toki has consistently served his country, state, community and family with the greatest of honor, humility and good humor, and he has personally dealt with prejudice with great dignity. We are proud to have Akiria and Mary Toki as Trinity members. Congratulations and blessings to them.

Re: Tanya Novotnak – An article in the Zephyr, newspaper of Galesburg, IL features Tanya's work with a community gardens program there. She is quoted, "I come from a neighborhood that is very connected, where people talk to each other every day, and they know what's going on and help each other out. That was really nice when I was growing up, and I'd like to see more of that here. I don't have to wait to be done with college to get involved in a community."

Tanya is a sophomore at Knox College in Galesburg.

From Jen Southworth –She is studying Russian and traveling, will return in a few months to Madison. "Easter here was completely different from last year (or any year, really). I attended a Russian Orthodox mass at an enormous cathedral. It lasts for maybe six hours and everyone stands the whole time. I hope Easter was wonderful for all of you and that everything else is good, too. Still miss you! I love you!"

From Sarah King – "Consider this (money gift) my newsletter subscription! Thanks so much for keeping the news flowing! I enjoy very much hearing the good news (and struggles) of the TUMC family. I think of you often. ... Hope that if any of you pass this way I can return the generous hospitality of the church."

Bonnie Callen, a former Trinity member, just received word that she has been awarded a Fulbright award to teach at a nursing school in Ireland for a semester. Interestingly, her brother was also given a similar award in his field in Kiev, Ukraine! Heinz Pfaeffle and the Hutsons have maintained some contact with Bonnie and husband, Mike, since leaving Madison. Congratulations!

June 2009 Worship Assistants

	7	14	21	28
LAY LITURGIST	Erin MacLeod	Jason Stein	Todd Varness	Bob Jones
GREETER(S)	Carol & Lin Compton	Jean Willett	Angela Jones	Pat & John Evachenko
FELLOWSHIP HOUR	Lovings	Comptons	Rountree/Murphy	Shaw
USHERS	Trinity Women	Trinity Women	Trinity Women	Trinity Women