

# Trinity Tidings

Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church  
March 2009

## LENT—A TIME OF HEALING?!

Ok. I admit it. I spend at least a half-hour a day on Facebook. Yes, Facebook – that online, addictive “social networking” site that lets you see what all of your friends are up to (and we’re talking third-grade friends, friends from college, friends from church, friends from travels... you can see how this could begin to eat up some time...). One of my friends, Mark Crenshaw, who volunteered on the same work-service program where Jason and I met, recently wrote this: “I’m refusing to let predetermined seasons of the Christian year determine how I’m supposed to be feeling.”

His comment struck a chord with me. Each year as we’re about to roll around to Lent, I secretly (and sarcastically) think to myself “Ugh. After four months of *external* dark and cold in Wisconsin, we can look forward to six more weeks of *internal* dark and cold during Lent!” Lent, as you can see, is not one of my favorite seasons. Besides its unfortunate time in the seasonal calendar, I’ve not much cared for the theology or rituals that pervade its days. Contemplative prayer (a toughie for this extrovert); fasting (isn’t being at the 24-hour beck and call of two kids enough sacrifice?); penitence (I’m a pretty good person, aren’t I?!); Jesus dying gruesomely on a cross as a sacrifice for sin (not a pleasant or powerful image for me).

Then I found this book called Good Goats – Healing Our Image of God and it has encouraged me and affirmed me in my search to heal my theology and my images of this season. One of the many ways it’s helped me is to see atonement (our restoration of relationship with God) not as a vengeful or violent act *against* Jesus at the cross, but as healing and transformative acts *by* Jesus during his life.

Good Goats will be core reading for worship during the season of Lent—*for all of us*. As I’ll be preaching on it every Sunday, we ordered 20 copies, and I encourage you to read it, hang on to it, or bring it back for someone else to pick up.

Maybe you’ve been put off by certain theologies or particular seasons of the church, too. I sure bet some of your friends who don’t go to church have. Why not invite them during this Invitation Season to join us for this sermon series during Lent? Maybe we can work on healing our own theology, and perhaps the Church’s as well.

In ministry with you,

Pastor Amanda

*It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.*  
— Charles Dickens

**Trinity United Methodist Church**

**Worship Service & Sunday School** - Sundays at 10:00am  
**General Office Hours** - Tuesday-Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm  
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*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.*

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## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03 Allison Evans  
Dierdre Conley  
04 Chris Murphy  
05 Jonathan Stewart  
07 Amy Spratling  
Kaelan Guetschow  
08 Kathy Stewart  
12 Virginia Vargas  
20 Diana Thomas  
24 Beverly Olson  
Cheryl Dykhuizen  
29 Nicholas Dykhuizen  
30 Bob Stangel

## THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

*Comfort Akeyampong* –  
recovering from pneumonia

*Janet Huenink* – recovering  
from out-patient surgery

*Richard Chadwick* – health  
concerns

*Gary Grinnell & James  
Fountain* –  
continued healing after  
accident

*David McCarthy (Susan  
Pearsall's husband)* –  
Prayers after recent car  
accident; no injuries but  
prayers appreciated.

## TIME FOR A NEW DIRECTORY!

Trinity's office is working on a new directory, using a new database. Opportunities to update or correct your contact info will be available after worship, during Fellowship Hour in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

## MONTHLY MISSION

- ▶ **January** – Thank you for the food you shared for Souper Bowl Sunday. Trinity collected over 180 pounds of food on February 1. It was meaningful sight to see all the food brought forward by the children and blessed in worship. *Don't forget every first Sunday of the month we are encouraged to bring in canned goods! Thank you!*
- ▶ **February** – Another big “thank you!” The cookies and cider were a terrific hit! Aboretum Co-Housing, “Arbco,” was so warm and receptive to our offer of hospitality to their community. A group of seven Trinity members took the cookies over on Sunday afternoon and received a tour of their new 9 million dollar facility. We also shared in a time of telling about our favorite places in the Greenbush Neighborhood. Our gesture was very much appreciated by their community.
- ▶ **March** – Trinity is taking on a special offering for the month of March for the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. This offering will be to support the work of UMCOR- the United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR, in collaboration with ACT (Action by Churches Together, representing more than 130 church-based relief agencies), estimates that 50,000 people are homeless and 400,000 are without running water. UMCOR, ACT, and Church World Service have issued an appeal for \$4 million to provide immediate relief in Gaza to assist in food distribution including biscuits, water, milk, milk powder and medicine. According to the Palestinian Center for Human Rights and the Associated Press, about 280 children were among the 1,285 Palestinians killed in the 22-day war between Israel and Hamas. Thirteen Israelis, including three civilians, also were killed during the fighting.

***Throughout the month we invite you to consider giving a check or cash to Trinity, and designating it to the:***

***Gaza Crisis/ Middle East Emergency, UMCOR Advance #601740***

***Included in this newsletter is a giving envelope for you to make this contribution. Also enclosed is an Advance Pocket Card, which gives you more information about giving to UMCOR through the Advance (the designated-giving arm of the UMC).***

For more information, check out the UMCOR's website at:  
[www.gbqm-umc.org/umcor](http://www.gbqm-umc.org/umcor)

- ▶ Looking ahead- for upcoming Monthly Mission at Trinity, keep your eyes on our weekly bulletin announcements in worship. In April and May we'll have work-service days. In April we'll be heading to Milwaukee to serve with the United Methodist Children's Services and in May, we'll be doing clean-up and repair work at Trinity, called “Trinity Turn-out.” Join us!

**The deadline for the April issue of the Tidings is:  
Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

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

## EVANGELISM

Invitation Season is fast approaching! Beginning with the first Sunday in Lent, on March 1, we are encouraging our members to again invite family, friends, and co-workers to worship. **Enclosed in this newsletter (tucked in the giving envelope) are invitation cards to share with others.** Evangelism Committee is also sending out postcards to our 1200 closest friends in the neighborhood, inviting them to church. Slap on your nametags, put on a smile, and get ready for some post-worship chocolate to reward yourselves for work well done. *Don't forget to keep praying for that one friend that you're planning to invite to church!*

## FOREVER IN FORMATION

The Survey of the New Testament classes are underway. We are excited about your commitment to being in Christian Formation--15 people are in our two classes! Thanks again to Paul Ketterer for leading both classes!

Yet to begin is our "Serving from the Heart" class. The dates will be March 1, 8, 15, and 22. We hope you'll join us!

Contact: [pastor@tumcmadison.org](mailto:pastor@tumcmadison.org) or 257-4591.

Still time to sign up – "Serving from the Heart"  
Love to learn more about yourself? Who doesn't?! Build confidence and commitment as you discover your own unique gifts and talents for ministry in our church and community. Explore your gifts, find the passion to serve and connect with service opportunities. The class will be led by Pastor Amanda and Rev. Tina.

## WEEKLY WORSHIP

We've had an uplifting month of worship! Thank you to everyone who has made our time together a blessing.

*We thank...*

Boy Scout Troop 11 and their service with our church

Pastor McNair and the Madison Community Gospel Choir (and the Thomases for bringing them our way!)

"Trinity Jazz"— Mark Saltzman on trumpet, Bill Guetschow on drums, John Itson on soprano sax, and Janet Huenink on keyboard—we've got some talent around here!

*Ash Wednesday service will be a joint UM service at Bethany UMC on Wednesday, February 25 at 7pm. Rev. Tina will be preaching!*

## MASIDON COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR VISITS TRINITY

On Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, the Madison Community Gospel Choir visited Trinity Church, joining the Trinity Choir in some songs during worship.

