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The Steeple
March 2011 Newsletter of
Trinity United Methodist Church

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Serving Christ from the Heart of Downtown Durham: **Experiencing** the Love of God through Jesus Christ, **Sharing** God's love in word & deed, **Inviting** others to faithful living in the Kingdom of God

FEATURE

A Holy Lent

Why do we observe this season called Lent? Even a generation or two ago, many American Protestants only knew "lint" to be that fuzz that gathers on our clothes. It wasn't until the last half of the twentieth century that you heard people in Methodist churches asking, "What are you giving up for Lent?"

Now, however, many churches like ours have re-discovered the ancient season of Lent and found it to be very helpful. By reflecting on our own fallen human condition and by focusing on Jesus' last days before his crucifixion, we find ourselves more receptive to the great joy of Easter.

This year's Lent starts rather soon: March 9th. It begins, of course, with Ash Wednesday services. It is my prayer that you will make the 7PM service here a priority this year. We should begin Lent together as the Body of Christ. During the course of Lent, Magan Stubblefield (our Director of Christian Nurture) will lead a Lenten Bible Study called "24 Hours That Changed the World." And we will also have a Lenten Devotional Booklet for you to take home and use.

May this Lent be a time of reflection and growth for all of us as we journey together toward the cross.

Peace,



Rev. Taylor Mills

COMMUNITY LIFE



birthdays

- 2nd Susan Delbridge
Lydia Osgood
- 3rd Nathaniel Boston
- 5th Charles Bradley
- 6th Mildred Waller
- 7th Nita Gaye Gladstone
- 8th Alex Crowell
- 10th Ted Smith
- 11th R L Roycroft
- 13th Karen Smith
Westervelt
- 14th Elizabeth Benson
Anne Tice
- 17th Eric Closs
- 20th Rachel Hall Utz
- 24th Garland Knott
- 26th Hilman Watkins
- 27th Larry Kline

Happy Birthday!

If you have a March birthday and it is not listed here, please contact the church office!

GREETERS

- 3/6 Collins & Mary Clarkson
- 3/13 Collins & Mary Clarkson
- 3/20 Felix & Mary Beth Markham
- 3/27 Felix & Mary Beth Markham

READERS

- 3/6 Tom Eamon
- 3/13 Bill Jones
- 3/20 Sarah McGiverin
- 3/27 Lauren Williams

NURSERY

- 3/7 Joan Pepper
- 3/13 Steve Harris
- 3/20 Karen MacDonald
- 3/27 Brian McGiverin

SUPPLICANTS

- 3/13 Carl Ross
- 3/20 Harrell Tice
- 3/27 Paul Mickey

FLOWERS

- 3/6 The Osgood Family
- 3/13 *Need Volunteer*
- 3/20 Annette Morgan
- 3/27 Annette Morgan

USHERS

- Sam King, Captain
- James Best Lin Clawson
- Diane Best Deb Fletcher

A Loss in Our Church Family

Thelma Proctor

Monday, February 7, 2011

Our condolences to their family

and loved ones.

Communion Stewards

Lynn and Nancy Clawson
& Marie Montague

Altar Guild

Trudy Manness &
Jackie Brown

Acolyte

Josh Benson

Treasurer's Report for the month ending January 2011

BUDGET

Contributions: \$29,000
Other Income: \$5,566
TOTAL: \$34,566

BUDGET

Apportionment: \$5,544
Utilities & Maintenance: \$8,391
Personnel: \$16,720
Other: \$3,791
TOTAL: \$34,448

DIFFERENCE: \$118

The left side set of numbers is where we should be in the budget to the date of January 31, 2011.

The right side set of numbers are the actual income and expenses that we have had up to this point of the year. The DIFFERENCE is the amount our expenses have exceeded our income.

ACTUAL INCOME

Contributions: \$32,236
Other Income: \$1,539
TOTAL: \$33,776

ACTUAL EXPENSE

Apportionment: \$0.00
Utilities & Maintenance: \$12,215
Personnel: \$14,739
Other: \$2,520
TOTAL: \$4,300

DIFFERENCE: \$4,300

Durham District Habitat Build

On **Saturday, March 26**, the Durham District Bahama Build Project leaves RDU international airport. They will return Saturday, April 2.

Thank you to all who have given generous financial support as well as spiritual support to help this mission team succeed in spreading Christ's love to the children and people of the Bahamas. So far \$2,597 has been given by the Trinity Family for this trip. Each person going on the trip was asked to raise \$1,400. The money will be used for travel, fees, tools and building materials.

Contact Carolyn, Ron, Bob or Russell to learn more, and know your support is essential to the success of this mission!

Peace of Christ be with you all,
Trinity Mission Team

2011 Chili Cook-Off Winner + a Thank You!

On Sunday afternoon, February 13, Sixty-five members of the congregation enjoyed a very diverse selection of chili ---- Lamb, Bison, Vegetarian and various recipes of Beef Chili. Jasmine Powell, the judge for the Chili Cook-off, determined her selection of winners through her background and skills in culinary arts.

First Place Winner - Susan Osgood

- First Runner-up = John Utz
- Second runner-up = Duane Osgood
- Third runner-up = Annette Morgan

Thanks to the bakers who supplied desserts to top off the Chili.

Pictures of this event have been posted on Trinity's website on the Home page.

\$600 was raised for the Durham District Build Bahama Mission trip. Thank you to all who donated!

The Fellowship Committee

Congratulations to Arun Jones!

Arun Wayne Jones, son of Bill and Beulah Jones, brother of Sharon, recently began working at Chandler School of Theology at Emory University and was installed as the Hanbey Chair for World Evangelism. He was nominated by former Dean Russ Richey.

It's a Boy!

At 2a.m. on February 19th, 2011, Daniel Crowell was born to Lauren and Alex Crowell. He weighed in at 8lbs 15oz. Congratulations to Lauren and Alex!

Welcome new members!

All of us here at Trinity United Methodist would like to welcome Josh and Mani Stout and Karen Bullock to our church family! We hope our community welcomes you warmly and you find Christ's spirit in all your relationships here!

EVENTS

Empty Bowls

Thursday, March 3, 5:30 Durham Armory
(Fundraiser for Community Cafe at Urban Ministries of Durham)

Mindworks Multimedia presents the *5th Annual Empty Bowls* benefit for the Community Cafe on Thursday, March 3rd from 5:30-8:00pm at the Durham Armory.

Come and taste soups made by some of the area's finest restaurants and for "empty bowls" made by talented local artisans from Claymakers, Clayworks, the Durham Arts Council and the Arts Center of Carrboro as a symbol of hunger and poverty in our area and around the world.

It will be a fun-filled evening featuring live music, local celebrity judges, yummy desserts and more, all for a good cause.

Tickets are \$15 for Soup only and \$30 for Soup and Bowl. Children 6 and under free (without bowl).



A Special Message from the Urban Ministries of Durham *Play Spent*

We're going to challenge the way you think about poverty and homelessness.

Work hard. Do the right thing. Homelessness is something that will never happen to me. Sometimes, all it takes is one life-changing experience to land you on the streets: a job loss, death of a loved one, divorce, natural disaster, or serious illness.

Next thing you know, a chain of events sends your life spiraling out of control...

How would you cope? Where would you go? What would you do? Figure something out, right?

We invite you to take the challenge... www.playspent.org ...a challenge from Urban Ministries of Durham.

Durham Family Theatre Performance

Durham Family Theater, the incredibly kind people who often use the Fellowship hall during the week to rehearse, will be performing the musical "ALICE!: A Mad Musical Adventure" on March 4, 5, and 11 at 8pm, and March 12 at 2pm & 8pm. Tickets are available for \$12 (more if you can/less if you can't). You can purchase tickets at the door, or in advance at durhamfamilytheatre.wordpress.com.

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Hello everyone! I want to thank you all for welcoming me so warmly, kindly, and sincerely to your community as your office manager. I really hope and pray that I can be a blessing to you folks, as I've quickly learned that the people here are an unexpected, but very welcome, blessing to me. I can't wait to get to know you all more.

Thank You!
Anna Wilson-Davis

Jack Crum Conference on Prophetic Ministry event to be in April

The Methodist Federation for Social Action's Jack Crum Conference on Prophetic Ministry is an annual one-day gathering for North Carolina faith leaders to learn, dialogue and respond to issues related to the local history of prophetic ministry and our faith-based values of social justice. This year the event will be April 9, 9AM to 3PM at Avent Ferry UMC, Raleigh. This year's theme, "One Bread, One Body," will focus on faith and diversity and specifically Wake County Schools as the front lines of a national trend towards dismantling school diversity policies. Come be informed and inspired as we put the current challenge to school diversity within the context of our scriptures, traditions and history and discern a vision for a collective faith-based response. The keynote speaker will be the Rev. James Lawson, Pastor Emeritus at Holman United Methodist Church of Los Angeles, renowned Civil Right Movement leader, and Distinguished Visiting Professor at Vanderbilt University. The cost is \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door; students can attend for \$15. Checks should be made payable to MFSA-NC and mailed to MFSA-NC, c/o Henry Jarrett, P.O. Box 18311, Raleigh NC 27619-8311. For more information, contact Ryan Rowe at rowe.ryan1@gmail.com.

Midders Meeting

The Middlers will meet at Satisfaction at Bright Leaf square on Tuesday, March 15, at 6:30. All interested ladies at Trinity are invited to join us for Christian fellowship and food. Please call Dale Ross at 471-0480 or email her at cardal@nc.rr.com for more details.

"I didn't Know We Did That"

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) February 27-March 5, 2011

Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network is a non-profit organization that addresses the immediate and ongoing needs of homeless families by mobilizing Durham congregations and people of faith to help families move toward residential stability and self-sufficiency. At DIHN, they address the needs of homeless families in Durham by partnering with approximately 30 Durham congregations to provide immediate shelter and food in a warm, caring environment

The participating congregations typically host three families for one week at a time on a rotating basis. Guests stay overnight at the host congregation in private rooms and receive an evening and morning meal. During the day, a small house serves as a base for other family activities and for case management services.

This is our week to host! IHN week started Sunday, February 27th and continues through Sunday, March 5.

Volunteering with this ministry to help homeless families with children is a powerful way to share Christ's love and is an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ. Tuesday evening hosts, Tuesday and Thursday cooks, and a takeout meal sponsor are still needed. Please contact Joan Pepper at 801-5939 or at irisdragonfly45@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping with this ministry or need more information.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & GROWTH

Pastor Calls for Vision Team

At the Administrative Council meeting on January 23rd, I asked our Council to approve the following plan to form a Vision Team (it may get a different, similar name). This team would be ad hoc and charged with:

- Learning how to objectively evaluate our church and go about an effective visioning process for our church's future.
- Studying Trinity UMC's current traits, strengths, and challenges. (Incorporating the research and report of Envisioning Trinity's Future, our church's previous visioning team.)
- Developing a mission statement and vision statement for Trinity UMC.
- Developing major visionary objectives for Trinity UMC to be a healthy, vital, and growing congregation in the 21st Century and translating these objectives into concrete goals.
- Presenting these studies, statements, objectives, and goals to the Administrative Council in the midst of their process and at the conclusion of their term.

I would expect that this team will need about two years to do this ministry. It would be made up of about a dozen people who would be nominated by the Council Chair, the Lay Leader, and me (in consultation with the Committee on Lay Leadership) to be elected by the Administrative Council for service in this ministry.

-Rev. Taylor Mills

CHILDREN

Children's Sunday School

Beginning March 6, the Children's Sunday School will be dividing into three classes! Nursery will continue with Kathy, while PreK-1st graders will be led by Pam Guidry-Vollers and Drew Weseman. 2nd-6th graders will be starting the Live B.I.G. curriculum with Karen MacDonald and Jason Stubblefield. Many thanks to Lauren Crowell, Karen MacDonald, and Pam Guidry-Vollers for spending time reviewing and deciding on our children's curriculum; thanks to Jason and Drew for committing to join our children's ministry team!

-Magan Stubblefield

Honor God and Remember Loved Ones with Altar Flowers

Placing flowers in the sanctuary for the 11:00 service or in the parlor for the 8:45 service is a beautiful way to honor God and celebrate special occasions and to honor or remember loved ones. You can use flowers from your garden, from your favorite florist, or from the many stores that sell flowers by the bunch or pre-arranged. There are two brass urns that can be used without any pot or vase needed. Just sign up for the date you want and contact the church office to place the announcement in the bulletin.

NEW SERVICE PROVIDED
BY THE FLORAL
COMMITTEE: For a donation of only \$30.00 to Trinity's Floral Ministry, members of the Floral Committee will create an arrangement for you. For complete information please contact the church office at 919-683-1386. Check the Altar Flowers calendar on the Web site at www.trinitydurham.org/worshipping/altar-flowers.html.



CROP HUNGER WALK *March 20, 2011*

On a frigid, moonless winter evening, a Durham man clutches the hand of his youngest child, beckons the older kids, and resolutely walks the eight blocks to Urban Ministries. They wait in line. Here and there, he recognizes a familiar face—to some he nods and smiles; others he wishes were elsewhere. The aroma of dinner teases his hunger, but his brow is knit over the after-supper anxieties. His concerns are not for the cold, biting outdoor temperatures to be endured or the dimly lit pathway they must tread on the way home. He is pondering the frigid, heatless apartment to which they must return and the challenges of seeing that some homework is done before the entire family escapes into the warmer sanctuary of covers and slumber. But at least no one will go to bed hungry, and he gives thanks.

Across the globe a small child waits in line for dinner with her family. They are refugees in a foreign land, depending on the mercies of strangers for food and supplies and a place to lay their heads. They have nothing but each other. The relief worker fills a bowl with a simple meal and hands it to the girl, and the father's eyes fill with tears of gratitude.

In another hemisphere, a woman carefully slips her precious cargo from her shoulders. Her face is lined with what some would term "character," but, in truth, the lines express the ravages of a hard life faced with hopeful determination. Today, as every day, she has walked five miles both ways, shoulders erect, never hinting at fatigue or despair. She knows clean water will be waiting, every time. A smile of joy plays about her mouth, as she pours some of the water from her jug into a cup for her grandson.

Back in Durham, a woman slides gingerly across the cold seat of her automobile and

heaves a sigh of relief. She wonders what her husband is cooking for dinner tonight. She smiles, anticipating the warmth of her home, a leisurely dinner filled with laughter and the day's events, the supervision of homework, baths and bedtime stories, and then the opportunity to relax before the fireside. . . She breathes a prayer of thanks. Maybe tonight she and her husband can make their plans for the upcoming Crop Walk.

Crop Walk serves those who are hungry throughout the world. On March 20 fundraisers will walk symbolically, because so many people *must* walk—blocks, and often miles—to obtain food and clean water. Over 25% of the funds raised will serve those who do not have adequate food and water resources here in our own town of Durham. So please, prayerfully consider what *you* can do to make a difference. Whether you walk, or support a walker, or pass out water, or bow in prayer for Crop Walk, you will be participating in feeding the hungry and giving water to the thirsty, and Christ, our King, has replied, *"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."* (Matthew 25:40).

Durham CropWalk
Sunday, March 20, registration begins at 1:30 pm
5K Walk leaving Duke Chapel at 2:30

For more information on how you can volunteer:

Gwen Palmer (919) 597-8412 or gweneason-palmer@aol.com

David Taylor (919) 697-7697 or davbetstaylor@earthlink.net

CHURCH CALENDAR

- Every Wednesday** Weekly Prayer Group, 9:45am, Parlor,
Trinity Ringers, 6:00 pm,
Chancel Choir, 7:30pm
- Every Thursday** Men's Prayer Group, 6:30am, Parlor
- Every Sunday** Knit Together, 4:00pm, Classroom 3
- Every Sunday During Lent** Lenten Bible Study lead by Magan Stubblefield, 5:00
- Tuesday, March 1** Trustees, 6:00-7:00
Finance Committee, 7:15, Church Parlor
- Sunday, March 6** Interfaith Hospitality Network week ends at St. Philips
Administrative Council, 12:30, fellowship hall
No Chancel Choir or Trinity Ringer Practice
- Tuesday, March 8** Shrove Tuesday Dinner, 6:00, fellowship hall. (See insert)
- Wednesday, March 9** Ash Wednesday Service with downtown churches, 12:00,
First Presbyterian church.
Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00, Trinity Church (See insert)
- Monday, March 14** Christ Care Leaders and Equippers, 6:45, Church Parlor
Croasdaile ChristCare Group, 10:15 am
- Tuesday, March 15** Middlers dinner meeting at a local restaurant. (See article)
- Monday, March 21** United Methodist Women, Croasdaile Village Chapel and Dining Room,
11:00 - 2:00. Make luncheon reservations with Liz Allred at 477-4371

SAVE THE DATE

- Sunday, March 6** New Children's Sunday School Class Begins, 9:45 am
- Sunday, March 20** CROP HUNGER WALK, 1:30, Register at Duke Chapel
- Monday, March 21** UMW Service & Luncheon, 11:00am, Croasdaile Village Chapel
Make luncheon reservations with Liz Allred at 477-4371.



Sunday, May 8th Mother's Day Luncheon, 12:15

