

COME WORSHIP WITH US

TRINITY AVENUE



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www.trinityave.org

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Newsletter items should be sent to newsletter@trinityave.org

Clean Up for the New Salvation Army Family Store

The Salvation Army Family Store is moving, and is looking for volunteers willing to spend two hours helping to assemble the new store. The current location at 124 Latta Road will last accept donations on August 2nd and will close its doors for the last time at 5pm on August 9th. Starting August 4th, items should be dropped off at the new location at 3167 Hillsborough Road (near the intersection of W. Main Street and Hillandale). Or you can call 477-5457 to arrange pickup of large furniture items or to learn when a pick-up is scheduled in your neighborhood. The Grand Re-opening at the new location will be on August 15th at 9am. All are invited to the Grand Re-opening for free food, music, door prizes, and great bargains. For information or to volunteer, call Tracey at 919-688-7306.

Dates for final bargains at the Latta Road store:

Wednesday, August 6th	50% off
Thursday, August 7th	50% off
Friday, August 8th	75% off
Saturday, August 9th	Fill a bag for a buck!



Volunteer Interest Surveys

The Volunteer Committee thanks those who have already completed the 2008 Interest Surveys. If you have not yet completed a survey, please visit the following website to complete a survey online:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=qwQgwATzGxx2xi_2b1SFFO0g_3d_3d

The survey information will be added to a database to assist the Volunteer Committee in targeting communications and in plugging members of the congregation into the life of the church. Questions? Call Lynette at 620-5744.



TRINITY AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN

A newsletter for members and friends of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church

The Minister's Word

We had a good time being back in Iowa seeing relatives. We rested and did lots of yard work. We celebrated Alton Iowa's quasiquicentennial (125 years). We got a chance to go to a lawn tractor pull, throw rings at a Coke bottle, and see a car show that featured a 2003 PT Cruiser. Alton's grain elevator exploded that week, so we looked at that for a while. At my folks' house, we walked downtown and ate fresh donuts at the bakery every morning. At Beth's dad's house, we had 25 cent sodas at the drug store soda fountain in the afternoons.

One of my favorite experiences, however, was at Beth's grandmother's

farm. I was standing on top of a hill and the sun was going down in the west and when I turned to the east, I saw a red-winged blackbird perched on a cornstalk with a full moon rising in the background. Here I paused and pulled out my video camera and set it on a nearby post and let it run. The moon rising; the crickets chirping; the blackbird calling; I have it on video if you'd like to see it. It is not as good as seeing it live. But on one of those nights when all the bad news of the world closes in, I may pop it into the video player. Good medicine for a worried and anxious world. Behold a slow motion moon making a star out of

that blackbird. God's providence made manifest! It helps me to understand what Jesus says, "...do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, or what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (Matthew 6:26-26) I appreciate you giving me the time to see the truth in it.

Peace,
Donovan

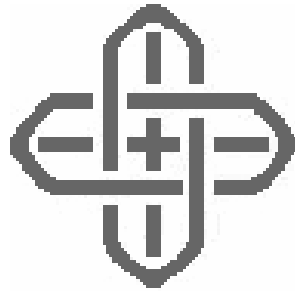
ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

On August 24th we will have a Pot Luck Breakfast Open House in the Fellowship Hall from 9:45 until 10:45. There will be no Adult Sunday school on this day, but our Sunday school classes and teachers will be represented at tables around the Fellowship Hall, along with volunteer leaders and displays. It is our hope that this hour will be both a social time to help us reconnect after our summer vacations and a time to explore all of the wonderful educational and volunteer opportunities TAPC has to offer. The Open House will begin promptly at



9:45am so that everyone can be on hand for the brief performance that the TAPC Children have prepared for this special event. The children will then go with their new Sunday school teachers downstairs to their classrooms. This is a wonderful opportunity for visitors and/or new members to see some of what our church has to offer. If you know people who have just moved to the area or are looking for a church home, please bring them to church with you on August 24th and enjoy the Open House either before or after the service that you attend.





Children's Ministry News

TAPC children, youth, and adults had a wonderful week at New Hope Camp Vacation Church School the week of June 16. This year's theme was Micah 6:8 – Seek, Love, Walk. More than 165 children participated in the week long camp. Our church had a great turnout with close to 20 children and many youth and adult helpers. The campers had daily bible study, music, outdoor games (with Nathan), swimming or water play, storytelling, and arts and crafts (organized by Cammie Dale and Caroline Armacost). Bert Wolf led the older children in drama each day. A highlight of the week each year is baking and eating bread every day. A special thanks to all the youth and adult helpers! Mark your calendars now for June 15 – 19, 2009. Don't miss out on all the fun!



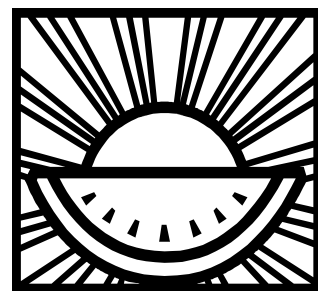
POW! ZAP!! SHAZAM! Those words echoed throughout the hallways during Preschool VBS the week of July 7. The young children of our church spent a week having fun and learning about Jesus' miraculous power. We had 25 preschool-aged children and 10 child-helpers participate in the morning bible school. The children sang songs, had daily bible study, made crafts, played games, danced, and had creative snacks. A big thank you to Joanna Hall for organizing the entire week! Also thanks to the following people for volunteering each morning: Caroline Armacost, Cammie Dale, Amey Hendriks, Kelly Jernigan, Ann Lockwood, Michele Maxwell, Ann McChesney, Stephanie Riley, Haley Rollins, Barbara VanDewoestine, Dawn Wilcox, and Ginna Wooten.

Schedule of Congregant Leadership for Sunday Worship Services

Date	Counters	Closing	Acolyte Parent
03Aug	Jeff Reedy (Lead) Suzanne Freeman Dan Morgan	Martha Aiken (479-1290)	Daryn Berlin (383-2828)
10Aug	Bill Waddell (Lead) Greg Cates Bill Drummond	Nancy Carstens (493-2266)	Jo Deckard (471-4598)
17Aug	Bill Ross (Lead) Marshall Clements Phyllis Clements	Kathy Ferguson (489-9460)	Greg Cates (682-4844)
24Aug	Richard Arnold (Lead) Greg Dale Mark Ahrendsen	Cindy Kinney (477-4229)	Mandy Barringer (620-0331)
31Aug	Bill Telford (Lead) Al Joyner Marie Grauerholz	Kirsten Berlin (383-2828f)	Donna Dagavarian (682-5802)
SANCTUARY GUILD August volunteers are Marion Wright and Kathy Tillett To give flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, call Gerda Medley at 383-7621			

UPCOMING EVENTS:

03Aug	Summer Series: Ten Necessities of the Christian Journey #8 FOOD: John 6:9-13
03Aug	Advance tickets go on sale for the Fall Festival
10Aug	Summer Series: Ten Necessities of the Christian Journey #9 TENT: Psalm 61 2 Corinthians 5:1-5
17Aug	Summer Series: Ten Necessities of the Christian Journey #10 FLASHLIGHT: Matthew 5:14
17Aug	Installation Service for Elizabeth Michael (reception following service)
24Aug	TAPC Open House Fellowship Hall (9:45am to 10:45am)
27Sep	Fall Festival (4:00 to 8:30pm)
12Oct	Fall Discovery / New Member's Class (12Oct, 19Oct, 26Oct, 02Nov)



All labourers draw home at even,
And can to others say,
Thanks to the gracious God of heaven,
Which sent this summer day.

≈ Alexander Hume (1560-1609)

Interpreting the actions of the 218th General Assembly (letter from General Assembly Moderator, dated 28 June 2008)

To Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The 218th General Assembly (/www.pcusa.org/ga218) adjourned just a few short hours ago. Even now, 973 commissioners and advisory delegates are making their way back home from San Jose, California, where they worshiped daily, discussed and debated overtures and celebrated the countless ways Presbyterians are engaged in ministry near and very far away – all with a focus on discerning the mind of Christ for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and seeking ways to live out this assembly's theme: "Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8).

Beginning today and continuing over the next two years, elected commissioners will be about the task of interpreting the actions they took at this assembly. Already, their decisions have been broadcast across the church and, in this Internet world – with information received in real time, live blogs, and more – many people have already weighed in on the assembly's actions, sharing their thoughts and feelings about the implications of those decisions on our life together in the PC(USA).

The assembly dealt with well over 400 business items. Some items had undivided agreement, including a covenant to join together to carry out mission together and a churchwide commitment to "Grow God's Church Deep and Wide." (www.pcusa.org/deepandwide) There was an action to continue to study a revised Form of Government, and one committee devoted its time entirely to youth issues. In addition, we continued our longstanding work toward peace in the Middle East. More information on these and other actions will be coming soon.

A few of the many assembly actions will make, or already have made, headlines across the country. Most likely, you will read about the actions from a number of sources over the next many days and weeks, but we want you to hear about this important gathering directly from the General Assembly.

That is why we are writing this letter to you.

Perhaps the subject that will make the most headlines has to do with the ordination standards of our church. It is a subject with which Presbyterians are familiar and one that tends to evoke great debates and deep emotions. With that in mind, we want you to know what the assembly did – in the actual wording – in regard to ordination standards, and what will happen next.

- By a 54 percent to 46 percent margin, the assembly voted to propose an amendment to our *Book of Order* to change one of our current ordination standards. The change is to replace the current language that says officers of the church must live by "fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness" (G-6.0106b) to this new language: *Those who are called to ordained service in the church, by their assent to the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003), pledge themselves to live lives obedient to Jesus Christ the Head of the Church, striving to follow where he leads through the witness of the Scriptures, and to understand the Scriptures through the instruction of the Confessions. In so doing, they declare their fidelity to the standards of the Church. Each governing body charged with examination for ordination and/or installation (G-14.0240 and G-14.0450) establishes the candidate's sincere efforts to adhere to these standards.*

- In the same vote, the assembly adopted a new Authoritative Interpretation (AI) on G-6.0106b: *Interpretive statements concerning ordained service of homosexual church members by the 190th General Assembly (1978) of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and the 119th General Assembly (1979) of the Presbyterian Church in the United States and all subsequent affirmations thereof, have no further force or effect.*

- By a 54 percent to 46 percent vote, the assembly adopted a new AI on G-6.0108 which restores the intent of the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church report (2006) to allow someone who is being considered for ordination or installation as a deacon, elder or minister to register a conscientious objection to the standards or beliefs of the church and ask the ordaining body to enter into a conversation with them to determine the seriousness of the departure.

The assembly left unchanged the definition of marriage found in the Directory for Worship (W-4.9000) – "a civil contract between a woman and a man."

By its actions, the assembly has initiated a new opportunity to focus ordination on primary allegiance and obedience to Jesus Christ, as well as to Scripture and the church's confessions. The assembly places the responsibility onto sessions and presbyteries for discerning a candidate's fitness for ordination.

In all of this, it is important to note that the assembly has not removed the church's standard of "fidelity in marriage and chastity in singleness." For the proposed change – making obedience to Christ the ordination standard – to become part of the *Book of Order*, a majority of presbyteries will need to ratify it over the next year.

We know the assembly actions may do little to ease the anxiety that seems to permeate our life together as a denomination. The debate isn't new and the future holds difficult challenges. As the Rev. Dan Holloway, moderator of the committee that took up the items on ordination standards, said, "As we move forward, it is essential that we have conversations that are gracious and loving and welcoming, since we are not all of one mind." Our hope is that none of us will act or react immediately to the decisions, choosing instead to pray and talk with one another about these issues.

During the question-and-answer time for the Stated Clerk election on Friday morning, now Stated Clerk-elect Gradye Parsons spoke of the story of Jesus being in the boat with his disciples in the middle of the lake when a storm arose (Luke 8). If fear could have capsized their boat, the disciples would have found themselves working hard to tread water in the midst of the wind and waves. Yet, Jesus calmed the storm and proceeded to question them about their faith.

Like the disciples, we, the PC(USA), are in the boat together, sometimes not altogether sure where we are headed. We see the storm approaching and our fears rise with the waves. Yet, as he was with the disciples, so, too, is Christ in our midst – calming the wind, settling the waves – being present and guiding us as we proceed ahead.

Gradye offered the following mantra as a summary of the Luke story: *Get into the boat. Go across the lake. There will be a storm. You will not die.*

As we move forward from this assembly, we know that storms may come, but we put our confidence and trust in the one who both calms the storms and leads us into God's future with hope.

The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, Moderator of the 218th General Assembly
Elder Linda Bryant Valentine, Executive Director, General Assembly Council
The Rev. Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

