

March 2011

Trinity Presbyterian
Church, Santa Cruz

Steeple Talk



Paying Attention

Ash Wednesday occurs this year on March 9. Ash Wednesday takes place 40 days (excluding the Sundays) before Good Friday and is a day Christians traditionally gather for worship, reflection, confession and to receive the mark of ashes on our foreheads. This year we at Trinity will gather at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary for an Ash Wednesday service of song, scripture, reflection and the imposition of ashes.

According to scripture, a mark on the forehead is a symbol of a person's ownership. When we receive this mark in the sign of a cross we are symbolizing that we belong to Jesus Christ, who died on the cross. The use of ashes to make the sign reminds us of our mortality, that we are made of the same stuff as the earth and all its creatures. Ashes are also a sign of new life emerging from the past – of forgiveness, blessing, and transformation. As the gardeners among us know, ashes have a wonderful fertilizing effect upon the ground. The old dies. Then new comes. The earth is reborn.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a time in our life of faith during which we particularly remember and reflect upon Jesus' journey to the cross and consider how Jesus' life, death and resurrection change our lives today. It is often a more somber time in our life together. Some traditions banish all 'alleluias' from worship during this time.

Not long ago I read an article in which the author talked about how Christians might live into this season with our daily lives now. The writer suggested that Lent offers us a special time to 'pay attention' to our lives. I like this understanding of the Lenten season. Lent is a time to pay attention to how we live our lives in light of Jesus Christ. If some of the traditional disciplines of Lent such as fasting or particular practices of prayer help us to do this, then by all means we should practice those disciplines. If a morning walk through your neighborhood or a commitment to write letters to elected officials or commit hours to serve at the homeless shelter help you to pay attention to how you live your life as a follower of Jesus, then that may be your Lenten practice this year.

The Lenten season invites us to pay attention to who we are and how we live as Christians today. Ash Wednesday invites us to turn again, and move ahead on the way to meet the one who shapes us, marks us, and claims us as his own. May each one of us feel the mark, and the promise, of the cross in our lives as we begin our Lenten journeys this year.

Evie

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Meetings:

Fellowship Committee, March 2,
6:30 pm, Fireside Room

Mission Committee, March 3, 5:30 pm,
Fireside Room

Administration Committee,
March 9, 4:30 pm, Fireside Room

Session, March 10, 5:30 pm,
Fireside Room

Deacons, March 20, 11:45 am,
Fireside Room

Spiritual Enrichment Committee,
March 29, 5:30 pm, Fireside Room

Dates to Remember:

Thursday Bible Study, March 3, 10, & 17,
1:00 pm, Fireside Room

Potluck, March 6, 12 noon,
Fellowship Hall

Youth Group, March 6 & 20,
12 noon—1:30 pm, Youth Room

Ash Wednesday service, March 9,
6:00 pm, Sanctuary

Sweet Pea, March 12, 9:00 am—4:00 pm,
Youth Room

Officers' Retreat, March 12,
9:00 am—2:00 pm, at the May's home

Lenten Studies, March 16, 23, & 30; April 6
& 13, 6:00—7:30 pm, see insert for locations

Fourth Tuesday Senior Luncheon,
March 22, 12:00 pm—1:30 pm,
Fellowship Hall

Book Club, March 28, 7:00 pm, at Joanne
Clever's home

Trinity Committee News

Session

The February 10 Session Meeting was held at the home of Lee and Emily Duffus. The meeting honored those who were going off the Session and those who have agreed to serve through 2013: Emily Duffus and Peggy Minier. Juanita Stock has agreed to continue as clerk of Session.

Wayne Norton reported on the January 22 Presbytery meeting, which among other items, was concerned with the presbytery's vote on amending the ordination standards in the Book of Church Order. The amendment passed in the presbytery with a 78 to 57 vote, with one abstention. This amendment is currently being voted on by all the presbyteries in the denomination. If it passes in more than 50% of the Presbyteries the Book of Church Order will be changed.

Evie described the Lenten Study for this year, which will provide models of discipleship from the perspective of the Gospel writers and Paul. The title of the study is "What Does Scripture Teach us About Discipleship?" Evie will lead the March 16th discussion; Paul Seever, March 23; Wayne Norton, March 30th; Charlie May, April 6th; and Frank Miller on April 13th.

George Bunch reported that Richard Robinson and Gary Edwards are planning to travel with the al Salvador contingent in November and will provide dental care and vision screenings. Pennies for Peace has collected over \$150 over the past month.

Important Upcoming Events in the Life of the Church:

- * A Work Day has been scheduled for March 26th for painting, window washing, gardening, etc.
- * On March 13th after worship, Nancy Abbey is organizing an interactive event called Bridges to Other Communities. Members of the homeless community will share their thoughts and insights in a panel forum.
- * David Jones is scheduled to provide an Introduction on Meditation on Sunday, April 3rd.
- * Leadership Retreat on March 12.
- * Presbytery will hold its June 4 meeting at Trinity. Plans are underway to prepare for this big event, which will include between 110 and 160 representatives throughout the Presbytery.
- * The Youth Group is planning their mission trip to Louisville for July 9 - July 16.

Fellowship Committee

On February 13, the Fellowship Committee (plus Emily) provided a lunch of soup and sandwiches for those who participated in the Estate Planning Seminar. On March 6, we plan to have a potluck with members of each parish seated at the same table and having lunch together. Future plans include breakfast and lunch ideas for the Presbytery meeting that will be held at Trinity in June.

Deacons

Deacons welcomed Scott Whitley who will be serving a one year term to finish up the 3 year term for Mary Gilliland. There is still some revising being done on the new parish lists.

In connection with the Fellowship Committee, the Deacons will be helping with the Parish Pot Luck Luncheon after worship on March 6th. Plans are for each parish to be seated at a table with the Deacon and Elder for that parish. This will be a nice opportunity for members to get to know and enjoy a meal with other folks in their parishes.

Deacons will all attend the leadership Retreat on March 12th.

Officers' Retreat

The annual church officers retreat will be held Saturday, March 12 from 9:00 am—2:00 pm at the home of Charlie and Gwen May. Keep our Elders and Deacons in prayer as they gather to study, plan, and pray for Trinity in the coming year.



Lenten Series Begins

The annual Wednesday evening Lenten Studies begin Wednesday, March 16. The theme this year is “What does Scripture Teach us about Discipleship?” See the insert included in this newsletter for details.



El Salvador Legislator & FMLN Leader to Speak at Trinity April 7th

Damian Alegria, Salvadorian Legislator and FMLN (National Liberation Party) leader will speak about his years of struggle for Salvadorian Freedom and current role as Legislative Leader for the FMLN party. Our Santa Cruz al Salvador delegations have stayed at Alegria's Oasis Hotel in San Salvador and have had many visits discussing his dramatic and most interesting struggles from civil war, eventual peace accords to current legislative initiatives. Santa Cruz al Salvador has sponsored a visit to California where Alegria will be speaking on various University campuses from the Bay Area, Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, to Southern California.

Santa Cruz al Salvador will be hosting a reception and lecture by Alegria at Trinity Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 7th, at 6:30PM.

We are inviting the Salvadorian community, UCSC students, and Church members, as well as the general public. Donations will be accepted to help cover cost for his visit to California. We will have displays and brochures about our work in El Salvador. Place this date on your calendar and invite others to hear his fascinating story from rebel leader, years of fighting for freedom, to legislative leader.—George Bunch

Year to Date Finance Report

January 2011

Total Income	\$48,238.10
Total Expense	14,080.62
Net Income	34,157.48



Work Day Planned

Saturday, March 26, 9:00 am - 12 noon

The Administration Committee is planning the first Work Day of 2011, so mark your calendars for the morning of March 26 to help with several projects.



We will be cleaning and painting the outside walls of the office to match the portico color. The windowsills on the Fellowship building windows will be cleaned, scraped and painted. Windows in both buildings will be washed. Ever present weeds will be attacked and new succulent plants added to the garden beds. There is work for all kinds of talent, and the committee hopes you will lend a hand with one of the projects. Bring a pair of work gloves, garden tools, paint brush, paint roller, scraper etc. We will have some supplies as well.

If you have questions, call or e-mail Emily or talk with any member of the Administration committee: Harry, Beth, Russ, Charlie, Frank, Bob, or Sally.

Book Club

Trinity's Book Club continues to meet on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at Joanne Clever's home. New faces are always welcome.



March—*Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers

April—*The Miracle Life of Edgar Mint* by Brady Udall

May—*Iron and Silk* by Mark Salzman

June—*An Uncommon Friendship* by Bernat Rosner, Frederic C. Tubach, Sally Patterson Tubach

The next regular meeting of the Book Club will be on March 28.

Tiny Hats for Tiny Babies

We are still donating knitted hats for the babies in the Neo Natal program at Dominican Hospital. There is a basket in the narthex with patterns if you need one. These little hats are quick to whip up and are good for using up your left over yarn from other projects. So, when looking for a way to use an hour or two wisely, get those needles clicking, and don't forget to knit a bit of love in every stitch!

Things That Make Us Happy. . .

- To hear that the change we have been collecting in the large coin jar in the church narthex for Pennies for Peace has totaled over \$150.00 so far.
- To taste the delicious meals by Kate, Karen, and Bookie and to see them served so beautifully on decorated tables for each Fourth Tuesday Senior Luncheon. Thank you!
- To hear the great programs and musical entertainment at the Fourth Tuesday Senior Luncheons. The next lunch is Tuesday, March 22. Come join us.
- To hear that Jesse Brothers has joined AmeriCorps. He is currently in training in Iowa and looks forward to a placement in the coming weeks.
- To see the bright yellow quilt made by Jeanne Baker for the Sweet Pea Collection, hanging in the office.



Rummage Sale

It's time for Spring Cleaning! I hope you will find good and working "stuff" for our sale. All electrical pieces need to be in WORKING condition. Kitchen ware like dishes, glass ware, etc. are good selling items. Linens, blankets, sleeping bags are all welcome. Clothing is not a high priority item as it does not sell as well as other things. If you donate clothing please give only good, clean clothes with no tears or stains and we can't use shoes. Tools and garden equipment in good condition are welcome as well.

We would prefer that any large items like furniture, etc. be kept at your home until May. We don't have room to store the larger items for a long period of time. If you would like help moving these larger items please call and we can make arrangements.

Happy Cleaning! - Sally Walters



Trinity Volunteers to Serve the Homeless at the Family Shelter

After discussions and agreement within the Mission Committee, Trinity has recently committed to provide two volunteers once every week to serve lunch to the families temporarily residing in Santa Cruz's Rebele Family Shelter.

We have several of our congregation who have already signed up to serve once a month but still have a few times available for anyone interested in this mission project. Work includes showing up before noon; serving the food that has already been prepared by the Homeless Service Center staff; minimal clean up after serving. You will be out the door by 1:00 pm.

We think this is a great opportunity to serve and have interaction with families struggling to get on their feet. It is also a great opportunity to spend an hour each month working with and enjoying the company of a fellow church member. If you have any interest in serving or would like to hear more about this project please contact Charlie May.



Trinity

Birthdays and Anniversaries

March Birthdays

- 5 Audrey Beach
- 7 Louise Pollard, Kent Imai
- 19 Barbara Morris
- 22 Kate Collins,
Sunshine Duffus
- 23 Evie Macway
- 29 Michael Chrisite



March Anniversaries

- 3 Hal & Barbara Morris

If you don't see your Birthday or Anniversary listed and would like it to be, please email the office at trinitysc@sbcglobal.net or call 423-8995 and let us know!

March Youth Group Newsletter Article

The Youth have been continuing their study of what it means to be Presbyterian by studying the parts of the Presbyterian symbol and the messages they convey. March will take us on a journey through history as we look at where different Christian denominations came from and how Presbyterianism fits in among them. The Youth Group will meet on March 6th and 20th from 12 noon—1:30pm in the Youth Room.



We are also preparing for the Youth Art Showcase! This event will take place after church on April 17th. It will be an opportunity for the youth to show off their many artistic talents. We will display visual art and have performances. This event will also serve as a fundraiser for our summer mission trip. Admission is free but donations are welcome. There will be food and plenty of talent! Please mark your calendars to join us!

Team in Training

Greetings!

About three weeks ago I started training with Team in Training to run the Rock-n-Roll marathon in San Diego. This is a huge undertaking. Team in Training is a part of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Part of joining the team, aside from getting great coaching and being a part of a team, means fundraising. The LLS raises money for blood cancer and research.

However, most of the medicines discovered through their funding are used for all cancers. If you would like to help me reach my goal or learn more about what I'm doing you can find me at coffee hour. Thank you for your support! - Sunshine Duffus



<http://www.teamintraining.org/firsttimehere/sportprograms/destinations/rockrollmarathon/>

Helping Hands presentation for Fourth Tuesday Senior Lunch

Tuesday, March 22nd at noon, Carol McGuire from Santa Cruz Helping Hands will discuss their senior assistance program. We will also enjoy having Tom Wichelmann and his friend Nick play music and sing for us as well. All are welcome to come enjoy a fine lunch, good program, pleasant conversation, and fun music.

Presbyterian Women

Claudia Hamm, PW Moderator

Spring Gathering

“Come and Encounter Immigration”

March 12, 2011

2:00 to 4:00 pm, Foothill Church
5301 McKee Road, San Jose



The Rev. Ben Daniel, pastor at Foothill church and author of *Neighbor: Christian Encounters with 'Illegal' Immigration* will introduce his book and discuss the controversial issues that surround undocumented migration in the USA through the spiritual, legal, and geographical front lines of the immigration debate. Ben's book will be available for purchase (also available from Amazon.com). RSVP to Claudia Hamm, (408) 356-6665 or email jnchamm@gmail.com



Vacation Bible Camp 2011

Save the dates of August 8—13 for Trinity's second annual Vacation Bible Camp. The theme this year will be Shake it Up Cafe Vacation Bible Camp, “where kids carry out God's recipe.” Look for more information and registration forms soon. If you have questions please speak to Ellen Bauerle or Katherine Macway.

March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> Boy Scout Parents, 6:30 pm, YR Boy Scouts, 7:30 pm, FH Boutique, 9:30 am— 12 noon, YR AA 5:00 pm, FH	<i>2</i> 12 Step 6:45—8:45 am, Library Fellowship Meeting, 6:30 pm, FS	<i>3</i> Bible Study, 1:00 pm, FS Mission Meeting 5:30 pm, FS	<i>4</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm FH	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> Worship 10:30 am Potluck Luncheon following church service Youth Group, 12 noon-1:30 pm, YR	<i>7</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm Youth Room	<i>8</i> Boy Scouts, 7:30 pm, FH AA 5:00 pm, FH	<i>9</i> Ash Wednesday Service , 6:00 pm, Sanctuary 12 Step 6:45—8:45 am, Li- brary Admin. Meeting, 4:30 pm, FS	<i>10</i> Session, 5:30 pm, FS Bible Study, 1:00 pm, FS	<i>11</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm FH	<i>12</i> Sweet Pea, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, YR Officer's Retreat 9 am-2:00 pm at the Mays'
<i>13</i> Worship 10:30 am AA, 8-9 pm, FH Bridges to Homeless, 11:30 am, FS	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> Boy Scouts, 7:30 pm, FH Boutique, 9:30 am— 12 noon, YR AA 5:00 pm, FH	<i>16</i> 12 Step 6:45—8:45 am, Library Lenten Study, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm Cub Scouts, 6:30 pm, FH	<i>17</i> Bible Study, 1:00 pm, FS	<i>18</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm FH	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i> Worship 10:30 am Youth Group, 12 noon-1:30 pm, YR AA, 8-9 pm, FH Deacons' Meeting 11:45 am, FS	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> Boy Scouts, 7:30 pm, FH AA 5:00 pm, FH 4th Tuesday Senior Luncheon, 12:00— 1:30 PM, FH	<i>23</i> 12 Step 6:45—8:45 am, Library Lenten Study, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm FH	<i>26</i> Work Day 9:00 am-12 noon
<i>27</i> Worship 10:30 am AA, 8-9 pm, FH	<i>28</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30-9:00 pm Youth Room Book Club, 7:00 pm, Joanne Clever's Home	<i>29</i> Spiritual Enrichment Meeting, 5:30 pm, FS Boy Scouts, 7:30 pm, FH AA 5:00 pm, FH	<i>30</i> 12 Step 6:45—8:45 am, Library Lenten Study, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm	<i>31</i>		
				Room Key: FS Fireside FH Fellowship Hall L Library YR Youth Room		

The Non-Prophet Corner

Darrell Yeane

There is a well known story of a traveler who has lost his way and stops to ask an old farmer for directions. After a pause, the farmer replies, “Well sir, if I wanted to get where you’re a going, I sure wouldn’t start from here.”

In his book, God in a Technological Age, John Wren Lewis writes that the reason people today tend to arrive at an absurd notion of “God” when they think about a creator of the universe, is that they are starting from the wrong place. Lewis writes, “We mostly take for granted an idea of the universe which is quite false.”

Lewis is trying to show that modern religious people who have been raised in a scientific culture, tend to confuse and conflate their scientific understanding of the universe with their faith understanding of God and end up misunderstanding both.

Our fundamental error is to project or assume that either/or both science and religion provide us with rational certainty about objective reality, about what we can know for sure; when actually, the ideas of both science and religion are intellectual concepts that we use to communicate with each other.

We buy into the abstract analysis of scientific facts as the absolute truth about our world, i.e. water = H₂O, or the universe is a vast system of stars spread out across the aeons of space, and we ignore the deeper reality that water is what we drink to stay alive and the universe is a gift of wonder & beauty. Caught up in our scientific view of the world, we forget that the significance, or meaning of life is found, not in our intellectual concepts, but in our relationship with the God, within ourselves, and with one another.

Both science and religion are human created ideas and organizations to support us in our efforts to understand our experiences of life and living. But neither science nor religion can give us final answers, absolute certainty, about the meaning and mysteries of life, i.e. what is love? Why do people suffer? What is the definition of beauty? What is the origin of evil? Is death the end of life?

Scientific efforts to answer these questions by declaring they are the consequence of electronic and chemical interactions in the brain are patently absurd and outside the legitimate realm of scientific inquiry. But religious notions of God that aim at a final resolution to these questions tend to lead us into equally absurd and spiritually unsatisfying conclusions.

A God who is thought to be out there beyond the scientifically known universe who is both omniscient (all knowing) and omnipotent (all powerful) explains nothing except the feebleness of our imaginations.

But the God of our experience in personal relationships, while scientifically unexplainable, is none the less vital to meaningful living. The Bible testifies to the experience of our most spiritually sensitive ancestors, that God is love, a dynamic of human experience that gives meaning to our lives and relationships, not a powerful old man in the sky or even beyond it. And the universe is not, in the final analysis, a place at all, but the incarnation of Love in the best that we know in every day life. That was what Jesus was pointing to when he said, “Love God and your neighbor as yourself. That is the right place to start from and it is the right (and only) way to life.”

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We're on the Web
www.trinitypressc.org

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, or if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send us an email or give us a call. Thank you!

Sunday Saints



March 6 Communion Servers

Elders— Emily Duffus and Frank Miller

Deacons—Katherine Macway and Karen Wichelmann

Greeter

Coffee

Usher

March 6	<i>Scott Whitley</i>	<i>Juanita Stock</i>	<i>Russ and Mary Ann Hobbs</i>
March 13	<i>Sheena Adams</i>	<i>Peggy Minier</i>	<i>Michael Christie</i>
March 20	<i>Jane, Audrey, Isaac Beach</i>	<i>Sally Walters</i>	<i>David Gomez</i>
March 27	<i>Peter Halper</i>	<i>Dolly Bass</i>	<i>George and Elizabeth Bunch</i>

April 3 Communion Servers

Elders— Peggy Minier

Deacons—Kate Miller and Gwen May