

April 2011

Steeple Talk

Trinity Presbyterian Church
Santa Cruz



Apostles 2011

Last month I had the privilege of taking part in the annual Trinity Leadership Retreat. Your elected officers, the elders and deacons of the church, and I met one Saturday for a time of study, reflection, planning and fellowship.

The theme of the retreat was the question of what it means to be an apostolic church. The word, apostle, means 'one who is sent'. We Presbyterians claim to be an apostolic church so the officers decided to take some time to consider what it means for Trinity to be such a church in Santa Cruz today.

We had excellent leadership. We began with singing, led by Joanne Clever. A nice way to begin any day! Charlie May introduced us to our theme with a look at the original apostles we meet in scripture. Who were these men Jesus called? What did it take to be an apostle according to Jesus?

From there we moved on to look at what the early church said about being an apostle, with a look at the Apostle's Creed. But we were not allowed to simply talk about what the early church did a long time ago. Wayne Norton charged us with the task of thinking about what we would say if we were to write a creed for Trinity. And each of the four small discussion groups wrote their own version of a creed for the church. You will be seeing those creeds in the worship service in the weeks ahead.

Finally, after a delicious lunch provided by our hosts Gwen and Charlie May, Frank Miller led us in an exploration of some of our specific goals for the year, and years, ahead. What does it mean in our life together as a church right now that we are an apostolic church? We talked of programs in progress we wish to strengthen and affirm and ideas for possibilities yet to come.

The church officers' retreat is almost always a highpoint in my year but this year I was particularly moved by the leadership, commitment and vision shared. I look forward to seeing what it means for Trinity to be an apostolic church in 2011!

In Faith,
Evie

Inside this issue:

<i>From the Pastor</i>	1
<i>Committee News</i>	2
<i>Church News</i>	3
<i>Holy Week at Trinity</i>	4
<i>Poem and Bible Verse Puzzle</i>	5
<i>Calendar</i>	6
<i>The Non-Prophet Corner</i>	7
<i>Sunday Saints</i>	8

Meetings:

Fellowship Committee, April 5,
6:30 pm, Fireside Room

Mission Committee, No meeting

Administration Committee,
April 13, 4:00 pm, Fireside Room

Session, April 14, 5:30 pm,
Fireside Room

Spiritual Enrichment Committee, April
26, 5:30 pm, Fireside Room

Deacons, May 1, 11:45 am,
Fireside Room

Dates to Remember:

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

Bridges to Other Communities,
April 10, Fireside Room, following
worship

Lenten Studies, April 6 & 13,
6:00—7:30 pm

Youth Art Talent Showcase, April 17,
following worship

Maunder Thursday/Tenebrae Service,
April 21, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

Easter Sunrise Service, April 24, 7:30 am,
at the home of Harry and Mary Blanchard

Book Club, April 25, 7:00 pm, at Joanne
Clever's home

Fourth Tuesday Senior Luncheon,
April 26, 12:00 pm—1:30 pm,
Fellowship Hall

Session

Moderator, Evie Macway, opened the March 10, 2011, Session Meeting with prayer. Frank Miller presented a summary of the proposed New Form of Government for the PCUSA, which includes many significant changes to the denomination's Constitution. The "nFOG" as it is known, is currently being considered by Presbyterians around the country. If approved by the majority it will take effect this summer.

Evie reported that she will be out of town April 11-13. She also reported her enjoyment of the Thursday Bible Study.

Session Committee Reports included:

- Mission Committee: Thursday, April 7th at 6:30 pm, Trinity will host Damian Alegria, a member of the Salvadorian Legislature and a FMLN leader. He will lecture in the Sanctuary, and refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall.
- PNC: Is beginning to move forward with their work.
- Mission Committee: The Bob Hope Lecture Series Committee is meeting regularly.



Challenging Empire: Witnessing the Holy Land through Liberation Theology

On Monday, April 18 at 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room Kathleen Eschen-Pipes will report back about her recent trip to Israel/Palestine, where she attended Sabeel's 8th International Conference, "Challenging Empire: God, Faithfulness and Resistance," and visited Holy sites, Living Stones (Palestinian Christians) and Palestinian and Israeli peacemakers and human rights organizations. Sabeel (which means, "The Way" in Arabic) is an Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center working for Justice, peace and Reconciliation in Palestine - Israel.

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

Looking Ahead

- April 3 - Christian Meditation with Dave Grishaw-Jones
- April 10 - Bridges to Other Communities; Triangle Speakers, Sheena Adams, moderator
- April 17 - Palm Sunday; Youth Art Talent Showcase
- April 21 - Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae Service, 7:00 pm
- April 24 - Easter Sunrise Service, 7:30 am

Year to Date Finance Report	
January through February 2011	
Total Income	\$65,418.51
<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>27,024.48</u>
Net Income	38,394.03



Things That Make Us Happy . . .

- To hear that Audrey Beach made the Santa Cruz Junior Roller Derby team. Congratulations Audrey!
- To read the Santa Cruz County Stories article about Nancy Abbey in a recent issue of the Sentinel. We are grateful that Nancy shares her gifts for speaking and teaching on issues of justice and peace at Trinity!
- To see so many Trinity members and friends attend the first Bridges to Other Communities presentation last month. We look forward to the future installments of this series.
- To see a new, updated church directory, now available. Thank you to Sue Yeaney for taking on this project.
- To enjoy another fourth Tuesday Senior Luncheon. These luncheons are a nice addition to the life of the church. Next luncheon will be Tuesday, April 26.



Youth Group

This past month the Youth have been studying Presbyterian origins. We have looked at the evolution of world religions and the branching of Protestant denominations. We talked about the major players of the Reformation, including Martin Luther, John Calvin, and John Knox. At our last meeting we analyzed different versions of the Bible to look at why they are created and which audiences they serve.

Mission Trip plans are underway. We have made a reservation to stay, work, and play at Cedar Ridge Camp in Louisville, Kentucky. This is a Presbyterian Camp and conference Center run by the Mid-Kentucky Presbytery. We also have arrangements to visit a local church and tour the Presbyterian Center. To raise money for this trip the Youth will be putting on a Youth Art Showcase on April 17th after church. We will display Youth Artwork in fellowship hall, have performances, and share a luncheon provided by the Fellowship Committee. The event is free but we would appreciate donations.

Youth Group events in April include: The Art Showcase on the 17th and the Easter Sunrise Service on April 24th where the youth will assist in leading the service.

Rummage Sale—Saturday, May 14

It's time for Spring Cleaning! Please consider donating to Trinity's Annual Rummage Sale. We need the following items in GOOD WORKING CONDITON:

- Electrical items
- Kitchenware
- Lines, blankets, sleeping bags
- Tools and garden equipment

Items we are not accepting:

- Computer or related equipment
- Shoes

Clothing is not a high priority item as it does not sell as well as other things. We would prefer that large items like furniture, be kept at your home until May. If you would like help moving these larger items please call Sally Walters for arrangements.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

We will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Sunday, April 24 following worship in the courtyard.



All children are welcome to participate. We are looking for donations of plastic Easter eggs filled with treats. If you can donate some eggs please bring them to the church office by April 21. Thank you.

New Directory Available

Copies of a new, updated church directory are now available in the church narthex. If you would like to have a copy and are not able to come by the church and pick one up please call the church office and request a copy and we will send one to you.

A BIG thank you goes to Sue Yeaney for gathering and updating all of our information and putting it together in the new directory.

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.



Trinity Spring Tea

Save the date for our first Three Cups of Tea fundraiser.

Trinity will host an afternoon tea on Saturday, June 18. There will be an assortment of English Bone China Tea cups, tables set with themes and tea sandwiches, scones, Devonshire cream and sweets of all kinds. Hats are suggested but if you don't have one a hat will be provided! There will be a guest speaker from the Three Cups of Tea organization. Invite your friends and family!

Youth Art Showcase

The Trinity youth invite you to attend the first annual Youth Art Showcase April 17th following worship. Come and see the work of our talented Trinity young people. There will be live performances as well as visual artwork on display.



The Fellowship Committee will provide lunch. This will be a fundraiser for the summer youth mission trip to Louisville, KY. The event is free but we will gladly accept donations. See you after church on April 17th!

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. 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 April 25.

Fourth Tuesday Senior Luncheon

On Tuesday, April 26, 12:00 pm, seniors of the church, the neighborhood, and all welcome guests are invited to a lunch in the Fellowship Hall, with entertainment and a program given by the American Red Cross on Disaster Preparedness: *What to do in a Disaster?* Music will be provided by ensembles from our own church choir.

Hello from PC(USA) World Mission

Thank you so much for your support of Christi and Jeff Boyd, two of our mission co-workers in Cameroon. We appreciate your support, and we are very aware that their ministry could not continue without support from you and congregations like yours across the country.



Jeff's birthday is April 9, so this would be a great time to lift his ministry in prayer and/or to send a birthday card signed by members of your congregation. You get the idea! Anything that will help celebrate the connection would be great.

Thanks so much for maintaining your relationship with Christi and Jeff, and for encouraging them in their ministry. If there is anything that I can do to help you by providing information or resources about our mission co-workers, please don't hesitate to call or email. Love and peace, Bruce Whearty

World Mission Church Support
100 Witherspoon Street,
Louisville, Kentucky 40202
Office: 888-728-7228, ext. 5157
Email: bruce.whearty@pcsua.org

Holy Week at Trinity

Mark your calendars for these special services in the life of the church.

April 17 **Palm Sunday Service**
10:30 am, Sanctuary.

April 21 **Maundy Thursday/
Tenebrae Service** 7:00 pm,
Sanctuary.

April 24 **Easter Sunrise Service** 7:30 am at
the home of Harry and Mary
Blanchard. 2-2780 East Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz.

Easter Sunday Worship 10:30 am in the Sanctuary.
One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received.

Presbyterian Disaster Service

Presbyterian Disaster Service is already at work sending needed support to Japan. To send a special donation for this effort go to:
<http://gamc.pcsua.org/give/DR000117/> OR make your donation payable to Trinity with a note in the memo area of your check: **Japan DR000117**



A Poem—In Celebration of Thelma Dalman

I know of a woman unlike any other
To most she is Thelma - to me a "Grand" mother
. . . a friend, a daughter, a mother, a wife . . .
. . . a giver of love & a lover of life.
In 1921 her humble journey began.
She grew tough as a lion & gentle as a lamb.
In Felton a young suitor, named Roland,
Asked her mother, "How do you do?"
To which Monnie replies, "Which one are you?"
His persistence was blessed with 3 sons
And a marriage of 57 years . . .
Thank God it was or I wouldn't be here!
She has dined with the Kennedys.
And broke bread with beggars . . .
She's given her all to others
Her heart & door always open to strangers.
She has the grace of an angel,
The faith of a saint . . .
Tenacious she is - timid she ain't!
Her spirit grows strong though her body is weak,
Complaints & pains are not things of which she will
speak.
Boasting of her accomplishments to her would seem
wrong,
I'd love to run a list, but the list would be too long!!
For she is just a woman, a daughter, a mother, a
wife . . .
. . . a giver of love & and a lover of life . . .
Simply superlative & noble & unlike any other,
Are just a few words describing my Grand
grandmother.

Happy Birthday Gramma . . .
I Love You More,
Cindy Dalman on the occasion of
Thelma's 90th celebration

A Bible Verse Puzzle

Many things float around the internet, many of which are just trash. But I thought this would challenge us. I had seen it before, yet it took me three or four passes and help from Lee, before I did locate all 30. Give it a try. Next month the 30 books will be listed. Emily

Can you find thirty books of the Bible in this paragraph? There are 30 books of the Bible in this



paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized.

Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight."

Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus. There really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

Trinity Birthdays and Anniversaries

April Birthdays

7 Sally Walters
15 Frank Miller
24 Loren Edwards
30 Barbara Chrisite

April Anniversaries

9 Kent & Marie Imai



Continued next column

April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm FH	2
3 Worship 10:30 am AA, 8-9 pm, FH Meditation Session with David Grishaw- Jones, following the service, FS	4 Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm Youth Room	5 Boy Scouts, 7:30 pm, FH Boutique, 9:30 am—12 noon, YR AA 5:00 pm, FH Fellowship Meeting, 6:30 pm, Fireside Room	6 12 Step 6:45—8:45 am, Library Lenten Study, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm	7 Damian Alegria Speaking, 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall	8 Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm FH	9 Sweet Pea, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, YR
10 Worship 10:30 am Bridges to Other Communities, 12:00 noon AA, 8-9 pm, FH	11 Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm Youth Room	12 Boy Scouts, 7:30 pm, FH AA 5:00 pm, FH	13 12 Step 6:45—8:45 am, Library Lenten Study, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm Admin. Meeting, 4:00 pm, Library	14 Session Meeting, 5:30 pm, Fireside Room	15 Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm FH	16
17 <i>Palm Sunday,</i> Worship 10:30 am AA, 8-9 pm, FH Youth Art Showcase, following worship	18 Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm Youth Room Challenging Empire Report, 7:00 pm, FS, Kathleen Eschen- Pipes	19 Boy Scouts, 7:30 pm, FH Boutique, 9:30 am— 12 noon, YR AA 5:00 pm, FH	20 12 Step 6:45—8:45 am, Library	21 <i>Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae Service,</i> 7:00 pm, Sanctuary Cub Scouts, 6:30 pm, FH	22 <i>Good Friday</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm FH	23
24 <i>Easter Sunday</i> Sunrise Service, 7:30 am Worship 10:30 am AA, 8-9 pm, FH	25 Office Closed AA, 7:30-9:00 pm Youth Room Book Club, 7:00 pm, Joanne Clever's Home	26 Boy Scouts, 7:30 pm, FH AA 5:00 pm, FH 4th Tuesday Senior Luncheon, 12:00—1:30 PM, FH Spiritual Enrichment Committee Meeting, 5:30 pm, Fireside Room	27 12 Step 6:45—8:45 am, Library	28	29 Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm FH	30
				Room Key: FS Fireside FH Fellowship Hall L Library YR Youth Room		

The Non-Prophet Corner

Rev. Darrell Yeane—Parish Associate

The Resurrection: Fact? Fiction? or Faith?

Celebrating Easter With Integrity

Last summer on a trip east, we were having lunch one day with my college roommate Paul and his wife Lee in their home, which is situated in a suburban neighborhood high on a Pennsylvania hill north of Pittsburgh. Paul and I had graduated from the same theological seminary and served for more than 40 years in different locations as Presbyterian pastors. As might be expected, our conversation turned from family and memories to the changes that had come about in our thinking and religious understanding over the years. We had both changed our views considerably and we shared stories, both of how our minds had changed, but also our chagrin and disappointment with some of our seminary colleagues who had remained stuck in older ways of thinking and of how they often deflected all questions and alternative possibilities of theological understanding - especially biblical understanding.

However when it came to the Easter Story and the belief in the resurrection, we found that even our agreement had its limits. This surfaced dramatically when I shared my evolving understanding of the meaning of the Easter story. Paul looked thoughtful but said nothing. However, Lee exclaimed with obvious deep feeling and distress, “but Darrell, our whole faith is built on belief in the bodily resurrection. Surely you don’t question that?”

It was, as they say, an “existential moment,” as though our whole relationship hung in the balance. It would have been a huge price to pay for intellectual honesty.

My mind flashed back to childhood. I had grown up in the church and one of my earliest and loveliest memories is attending Easter sunrise services as a family in Mellon Park and singing lustily the words of the traditional Easter hymn, “up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o’er his foes.”

But then, as we all did, I grew up and went to school in a 20th Century scientific culture where everything is put to the empirical test and truth is determined by how closely it adheres to a scientific “non-falsifiable” standard, everything that is, except religion and the Bible.

As I wrestled over the years with the contradictions between the traditional language of belief based on the Biblical view of the universe and the modern scientific understanding of “reality,” I began gradually to recognize a new synthesis, or way of bringing them together. It is a synthesis of language and meaning that honors the powerful spiritual experience to which the ancient biblical stories of Jesus resurrection testify and a newer and different way of understanding and describing that experience that is compatible with the scientific empirical way of viewing the universe in which we live today.

I will explore in more detail that new and liberating synthesis in the next “Non-Prophet Corner.” But suffice it to say that Easter continues to be for me a deeply meaningful celebration of my faith that calls me to the front lines of the contemporary witness for justice, equality, peace and compassion in our modern world. And my relationship with Paul and Lee is as solid as ever

In the midst of human folly, suffering and tragedy, Easter remains our central Christian celebration of hope. And the resurrection stories are neither fact nor fiction, but rather stories told in a pre-scientific age as a witness to the transformative power of faith. With this understanding, I can sing with integrity: “Jesus Christ is risen **today**, Al-le-lu-ia!”

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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



April 3 Communion Servers

Elders—Peggy Minier

Deacons—Kate Miller and Gwen May

Greeter

Coffee

Usher

April 3	Betty Gangware	Betty Gangware	Scott Whitley
April 10	Nancy Abbey	Gwen May	Sunshine Duffus
April 17	Jane, Audrey, Isaac Beach	Bookie Nichols	David Gomez
April 24	Vera Hope	the Deacons	Bob and Barbara Scott

May 1 Communion Servers

Elders—George Bunch and Wayne Norton

Deacons—Karen Wichelmann and Joanne Clever