



Monthly Tidings

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA • VOL. 15, NO. 3 • MARCH, 1988

At Springtime Tallahassee

Youth Plan Fundraiser for Service Project

It's that time of year!

Trinity youth and adult leaders want to raise money to finance a trip to McDowell County, West Virginia, July 30-August 8 to participate in the Appalachia Service Project. The group has received the official letter of acceptance and many projects are forthcoming.

The Appalachia Service Project is a work camp. It is a home repair project affiliated with the Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church. It uses volunteer labor to make substantial repairs on the homes of economically disadvantaged families in Appalachia.

The primary fund-raiser for this year's trip will be a spaghetti dinner and dessert sale at Trinity on March 26 during Springtime Tallahassee festivities. Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$2 for children under 10. The dinner will include spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, coffee, tea or lemonade. Home-made desserts will be sold separately for 50¢ each.

Tickets are available each Sunday morning in the congregational room on the third floor, from any youth or adult going on the trip, the church office, or by calling Linda Haggard at 222-1120 work, or 385-7741 home. The goal is to feed 600 people or more.

Kitchen coordinators for the dinner are Jan James and Jean Young. Helping them are youth and their parents and many volunteers from the church family. "We are trying to make this year's dinner a church-wide effort," said Linda Haggard, director of youth ministries. "We appreciate and thank all those who have agreed to help."

If you have not signed up to make a dessert or pot of spaghetti sauce and would like to, please contact Mrs. Haggard, Mrs. James or Mrs. Young.

An estimated trip budget for three work-teams has been prepared. The largest single expense for the trip is transportation, van rentals and gas. Other expenses include a \$60 registration fee per person for room and board at the project and \$500 for extra meals. Each youth will pay \$75 to cover the registration and other incidental expenses.

"We had so much fun last year and we felt we did something good for someone else, that we want to go again," Jeff Young said. Ten of last year's 12 participants are going again.

UMW Plans Coffee

The United Methodist Women will have a membership coffee Saturday, March 12, at the church parlor at 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

This coffee will honor all women who have joined Trinity during the past year. New church members and all UMW members are invited to attend.

Youth and adults going this year include Karen Levy, Robert Lumsden, Clay Lumsden, Catherine Hinckley, Jeff Young, Cathy Fritchman, Tom Harrison, Nelson Bennett, Michele Greene, April Greene, Noel Nash, Carol Stirling, Cherie Harkema, Reinard Harkema, Clarke Evans, Bill Haggard and Linda Haggard.

The fundraisers for this trip are the spaghetti dinner on March 26, Mother's Day carnations on May 8, and special ASP offering to be taken May 8. The offering will go directly to the project to help buy supplies for the summer of work.

"This year's group hopes you will support their fundraisers. By helping them you are helping the people of Appalachia!" Mrs. Haggard said.



Jeff Young and Robert Lumsden at one of the ASP work-sites last year.



Adult leader Bill Haggard is assisted by family members whose home is being worked on. They put on a new roof over one-half of the home.

Holy Week Breakfasts, Matins Set

The last week of the life and public ministry of Jesus began with a triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Sunday, cleansing of the Temple on Monday, a final warning to the Jews on Tuesday. He then left the Temple, ending his public ministry. In quiet, he awaited his death three days later.

The solemn events of Holy Week form the backdrop for prayer and meditation for Christians the world over as they look forward to the glorious celebration of Easter and Christ's resurrection.

At Trinity, Holy Week breakfasts and matins will be held Monday through Thursday, March 28-31, beginning at 7 a.m. each morning and ending at 7:50 in time for people to be at work by 8.

Chuck Jackson is coordinating the breakfasts on behalf of the Council on Ministries. Speakers each morning will be members of Trinity's congregation, who will give brief meditations. There will also be hymn singing.

Jackson said he is asking Dick Almarode and J. P. Love to supervise breakfast preparation and Jane Love to coordinate adult Sunday school class members who will help cook

and serve the breakfasts.

All Trinity members are invited to attend any or all of the breakfasts. No reservations are needed.

Trinity Group Will Attend Leesburg Retreat

Each spring the Florida Conference sponsors a retreat for older adults at the Life Enrichment Center at Leesburg. Leading the music for the second of the three sessions will be our own Walter and Rachel James, former music director and organist for Trinity Church. In addition to music, the program will feature Bible study, inspirational messages, exercise and recreation.

Plans are underway to take a group in the church van to the second session on April 18-21. The other retreats will be held on April 11-14 and April 25-28. Cost for the retreat will be \$72 with transportation arranged for the second session for a nominal cost.

Since the registration deadline is April 1 and since the retreats fill rapidly, persons interested should register immediately. Registration forms may be secured from Rubie Butterworth in the church office.

Church Will Be In Your Home and Neighborhood

The Chancel Choir will be singing and Myron Munday will be accompanying your singing on the organ. You won't be in Trinity's sanctuary for this gathering, however.

You will be in a neighbor's nearby home for "Church in Our Homes and Neighborhoods" one evening during the week of March 13-18.

The Commission on Evangelism has planned these neighborhood meetings as this year's Spiritual Life Renewal, hoping to facilitate renewal on a small group "Wesleyan Society" model.

Coordinator Sandy Frazier said this first venture in using Administrative Board members who have agreed to serve as leaders or "shepherds" for their Trinity neighbors will cover only about two-thirds of the areas in which Trinity members live this year.

"We have not been able to obtain leaders in all of the neighborhoods yet. If there are people who are not contacted about a neighborhood gathering who would like to participate, they should call Clarke Evans at the church or me evenings at 877-6505.

A post card will be mailed to Trinity members in 39 neighborhoods giving the time and place of their meeting. Some leaders are planning covered dish suppers and others are planning dessert socials.

The choir has prepared two hymns on tape and another hymn can be sung accompanied by the organ music, also on tape. A Bible study outline has been prepared by the ministers on the 12th chapter of Romans for the groups to use.

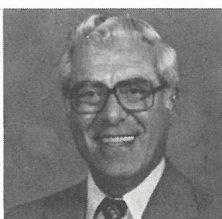
"Besides the opportunity for spiritual enrichment, these neighborhood gatherings will provide a wonderful way for us to get better acquainted with other Trinity members who live near us," Mrs. Frazier said.

The following neighborhood leaders will be among those extending an invitation to meet in their homes: Wilson Cogswell, Alberta Ashmore, Nancy and Lum Kerce, Sandra Frazier, Marshall and Lark Mott-Smith, Greg and Cheryl Shafer, George and Frances Lumsden, Pat and Debbie Hurley, Bradley and Vivian Bevis, Ann Jenkins, Jeff Herig, Rebecca Hood, Milt Bauguess, Francis and Mary Elizabeth Black, Myra Anderson.

Also Margaret Moorer, Ron and Margaret Boeth, Gregg Phifer, Curtis and Gloria Simmons, Frank and Mary Branan, Fred and Duane Clark, Dean Bunch, Josh and Nelle Morse, Linda and Bob Yates, Marie Hilaman, Don Davis, David and Dot Walker, Spider and Gayle Webb, Fred Varn, Bobbi Weatherly, Walter and Kitty Funderburk, Griffith and Clelia Pugh, Bobby and Ann Lumsden, Bill and Linda Haggard, Gene and Blanche Halley, Chuck Hinson, Anna Scherdin, and Tommy and Esther Harrison.

A Personal Word . . .

from Walter Kalaf



"Partners in God's New Creation"

Circle March 13 on your calendar. It is a very important date. It is a Sunday. This is one reason. On this Sunday there will be only one worship service, at 11:00 a.m., and the proclamation of the Word (commonly known as the sermon) will be J. S. Bach's moving and profoundly meaningful cantata, "Christ Lay in the Bonds of Death," performed by our splendid Chancel Choir. This is another reason.

The most significant reason to circle March 13, however, is that it is the date United Methodists observe One Great Hour of Sharing, in which we renew our prayerful and financial support for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). The theme for this year's observance is "Partners in God's New Creation." Through One Great Hour of Sharing each of us can form partnerships with churches and agencies in more than 80 countries around the world whose millions of people are in need of compassion and care. As partners in God's new creation our prayers and gifts can effectively address and help solve problems confronting many of the world's people.

Consider this:

Half the world's childhood deaths could be prevented by using four simple techniques: growth monitoring (weighing a child each month); oral rehydration therapy (using a solution of sugar, salt and water to treat dehydration); breast-feeding; and immunization against measles, polio, tetanus, whooping cough, diphtheria and tuberculosis. These diseases cause the deaths of about 3.5 million physically disabled. Immunization could save many of these children's lives . . . Proper use of these four techniques could save the lives of 20,000 children per day. (*The Interpreter*, January, 1988, p. 11)

Offering envelopes for your One Great Hour of Sharing gifts will be attached to the bulletins on March 6 and on March 13. As you prepare to make your gift visualize what your "partnership investment" will make possible:

50¢ — Oral rehydration therapy for five children

\$ 5 — Immunization for one child against the six major childhood diseases

\$ 10 — Two pounds of cabbage seeds for a family in Zaire

\$ 20 — Polio vaccine for 40 children in Latin America

\$ 50 — Medicine and equipment for a health clinic in Burundi

\$175 — A water buffalo for plowing fields in Thailand

\$300 — A treadle sewing machine program for a vocational program for Haitian youths.

"For the sake of the children" let's make Trinity's 1988 response to One Great Hour of Sharing the largest ever.

Outreach Update

Pre-Lenten Program Well Attended

The ecumenically sponsored pre-lenten program "Towards an AIDS Ministry," at Trinity, Sunday, February 7, attracted 175-180 people from the nine sponsoring churches and the community at large.

From the opening lecture by the featured speaker, Dr. Earl Shelp from the Center for Ethics, Medicine and Public Issues in Houston, Texas, to the inspirational and moving worship and dedication service, the enthusiasm was high and the sharing, learning and reaching out very evident. The small group work shops, addressing Medical Facts, Concerns of Caregivers, Family Members, Friends of AIDS Patients, School Issues and Public Policy Formation, were enthusiastically received and had the highest quality of leadership.

Dr. Shelp challenged us all in his concluding remarks, spelling out what a religious response to AIDS demands from those who would take seriously the command to love our neighbor. If you would like any follow-up information or speakers in your Sunday school class, or other groups, please contact Patty Oakley at 385-1692.

Bring Food March 6-27

Duane and Fred Clark, hunger coordinators, are asking us to mark the period from March 6-27 as a special time to remember to bring canned goods to the collection bins at Trinity. This is a special drive being sponsored by the Coalition for the Homeless and the food will be given to the Red Cross, ECHO and Catholic Services . . . groups that do much to help those in need. Let's fill our *Project Loaves and Fishes* to overflowing for this special cause.

Volunteers Plan Honduras Mission

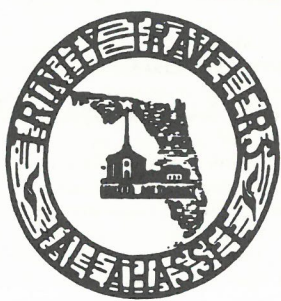
The Missions group of the Outreach Commission is excited about sending some of our own Trinity people as Short-Term Volunteers in Mission to work in Honduras in late spring of this year. Leroy Irving, co-

ordinator for the UMCOR in the Tallahassee District, spoke to the group at their meeting in February, and is working with them to have volunteers from Trinity go with those from other churches to help rebuild a church. We already have four very interested and enthusiastic volunteers, and if you would be interested in joining this exciting and rewarding adventure, contact Tommy Harrison at 576-4271.

Dessert Theatre Is March 4

Don't forget March 4 at Trinity . . . 7 p.m. in Moor Hall. The Wesley Foundation's Dessert Theatre will entertain and delight you for only \$3. For that, you not only have fun, but get a delicious, homemade dessert and can help send some of the students from the Wesley Foundation to do hands-on work at the Heifer Project Ranch in Arkansas this spring.

—Liz Smith



Reservations are beginning to come in for the Grand West and National Parks Tour scheduled for September 9-23. Interested persons are urged not to wait too long to send in a \$200 deposit to secure a place on this great trip. Call Rubie Butterworth for details and a brochure.

Adult Fellowship Mar. 18

The regular monthly meeting of the Adult Fellowship will be held on March 18 at 11 a.m. Reservations should be made in the church office by Wednesday, March 16. The cost is \$3.

June Noel, deputy director, HRS, Aging and Adult Services, will discuss "Statewide Aging Issues Facing the Florida Legislature."

Notes from the Library

Some new books which emphasize life and culture in Bible times have been added to the Library. Most of these are beautifully illustrated in color and, upon looking at them, one is transported back in history to the events and customs of the times.

Blair. *Illustrated Bible Handbook*. (1987)

Eerdmans' Bible Dictionary. (1987)

Eerdmans' Handbook to the Bible. (1973)

Gentz. *Dictionary of Bible and Religion*. (1986)

Gower. *New Manners and Customs of Bible Times*. (1987)

Great Events of Bible Times. (1987)

Harper Atlas of the Bible. (1987)

Harrison. *Major Cities of the Bible World*. (1985)

Jesus and His Times. (1987)

Macmillan Bible Atlas. (1977)

Picture Archive of the Bible. (1987)

Tompson. *Handbook of Life in Bible Times*. (1986)

Two titles which are more modern in outlook are McDowell, *Handbook of Today's Religion* (1983) and Eerdmans' *Handbook to Christianity in America*. (1983)

A few of these books are on the

Reference shelves and may be checked out only for class use or serious research. Others may be checked out for the regular two-week period. All are well worth looking at and/or reading.

New books on a variety of subjects are being added regularly. Come after lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday, or come early Sunday morning to peruse and, hopefully, check out some of the latest additions.

Regular Library hours at present are as follows, although at times there may be a slight variation:

Sunday 9-11 a.m.

Tuesday 9:30 a.m.—12 noon

1:00 p.m.—3:30 p.m.

Wednesday Same as Tuesday

Friday 10:00—11:00 a.m.

1:00—1:30 p.m.

Once a month on Adult Fellowship luncheon date

When the demand is greater, the hours will be increased. Someone from the church office will let you into the Library if it is not open. Come visit your Library; you may be pleasantly surprised.

—Frances M. McAdams
Librarian

UMW Circles Announce Meetings

Circle #1 will meet Monday, March 7 at 10 a.m., at the home of Allie Ferguson, 3018 Brookmount. Co-hostesses will be Grace Lipscomb, Ruth McDonald and Sara Srygley.

Circle #2 and Circle #14 will meet Tuesday, March 8 at 10 a.m., at Westminster Oaks. Rev. Tim Jones will give the program.

Circle #3 will meet Tuesday, March 8, at 10 a.m., at the home of Martha Hall, 1204 Firethorn.

Circle #4 and Circle #6 will meet on Tuesday, March 8, at 10 a.m., in Room 301 (Congregate Room) at the church. Broun Parmenter will give a book review.

Circle #8 will meet Tuesday, March 8, at 9:30 a.m., in the Church Parlor. Mae Hamilton will give the program. A nursery will be provided.

Circle #9 will meet Tuesday, March 15, at 10 a.m., at Westminster Oaks with Marie Bauman.

Circle #10 will meet Monday, March 8, at 3:30 p.m., at the Tallahassee Convalescent Home.

Members Invited To UM Children's Home

By Esther Wilfong

On March 19, the Florida United Methodist Children's Home at Enterprise is having a "Day on Campus," for members of churches in North Florida districts. We will be guests of the Home for the day and view personally the ministry to troubled children. Tours, an entertaining program, and a complimentary barbecue lunch are all planned for the day.

It is hoped that a large number of Trinity members will want to make this trip. Because activities start at the Home at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, it would be necessary to spend Friday night at a motel in the area. Several motels have offered reduced prices for anyone visiting the Home so long as the motel is advised that the purpose in being there is to visit the Home. Dr. Kalaf has, or will have, a list of these motels offering special rates. We would return on Saturday afternoon or evening.

We will arrange car pooling. If you are interested in making this trip, please contact Esther Wilfong at 222-5691 or Rubie Butterworth in the church office. If you are willing to take car, please let us know that, too.

Circle #11 will meet Thursday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Wendy Matthews, 1009 Mary's Drive.

Circle #12 will meet Tuesday, March 10, at 2:30 p.m., in the church parlor.

Circle #13 will meet Tuesday, March 15, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Trudie Van Gasbeck, 207 Chuli Nene.

Circle #15 will meet Tuesday, March 15, at noon in Moor Hall. Members should bring a brown bag lunch.

Gifts to Trinity

Trinity has received memorial gifts during the past month in memory of the following:

G. C. Norman by Mr. and Mrs. Larry Cone, Mrs. Bobbie Weatherly, Margaret K. Poe, Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Morse.

Dr. George Foster by Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Waldbey, Burleigh Law Sunday School Class, Miss Gladys McFarlin, Mrs. Frances McAdams, Mrs. Mary E. Daniel, Mrs. Bobbie Weatherly, Palmer and Leslie Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Morse.

Mrs. Ann Burdick by Miss Gladys McFarlin.

John Y. Humphress by Mrs. Bobbie Weatherly, Carolyn and Lillian Gaines.

Sora and Huxley Coulter by Mrs. Bobbie Weatherly.

Luke Blanton, Sr. by Palmer and Leslie Williams.

Henry Thobois III by Dr. and Mrs. Myron Blee, Louise and Albert Leathers, Carolyn Thobois and children, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Moncrief, Robert A. Hall.

Lillian G. Christie by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Moncrief.

Elizabeth Healy by Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Roberts.

Zollie Maynard, Sr., by Mr. and Mrs. George H. McCain.

A gift was received in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Walter Kalaf by Mrs. Allan C. Jackson.

Advanced Studies Class Plans April Celebration of Life and Light of Its Founder

By Miriam Peirce

During the month of April, the Betty Phifer Advanced Studies Class will be celebrating the life and light of Betty Phifer. Although Betty has been gone from us for 10 years, her teaching illuminates us still and her inspiration to live a truly Christian life motivates us still.

During our class periods on Sunday morning in April, we will bring back some of the persons who served occasionally as guest teachers at Betty's invitation. They will present updates on topics they brought to us before or new challenges of the sort that Betty would have seized upon.

Betty would have suggested that we not spend time being sentimental about her and the "olden" days, but that we get on with something worthwhile. We agree, but to us the best way to do that is to pause sometimes and remember who we are and what we are trying to do. What is a proper goal for an adult Sunday morning class? How can we achieve it? What are the truly important issues to study?

"Porpoises and chimpanzees may play. Only man celebrates." This is a quote from our class study of *Feast of Fools*, and perhaps aptly symbolizes Betty's attitude in teaching. We always worked hard, always had "homework," but also always had fun and enjoyed our class sessions.

We worked on some tough issues, too. Theology, of course, was one, particularly new ideas, new philosophies, contemporary thinking. Besides Harvey Cox, we read claims about God being dead and Christian atheism. We studied Christian mysticism, Utopian societies and modern sects. We explored the human relationship with nature that includes environmental issues as well as nuclear arms and war. We studied crime and violence, criminal justice.

When Watergate spilled forth, we plunged into that, too, and examined its implications for all Christians. There was nothing that Betty shied away from, because she felt it was very important for us to understand these issues in order to know what our Christian response should be. To that end she invited college students (remember the late sixties and "student unrest?") to come and tell us what they were thinking and trying to do; she had a series on contemporary music, the kind all of the teenagers were so affected by, because in order to understand them, we needed to understand their music.

And one subject that none of us wanted to think about, homosexuality, we studied because Betty told us that it was going to be a big issue in the church in a few years and that we must know what it is all about before we can respond appropriately.

How should we respond to the subject of death and dying? That was another uncomfortable subject for many of us. Betty was asked to design such a course for FSU, a new and unusual topic in those days, and so she tried it out on us. She laughingly told us that she was totally inexperienced in that area but would do the best she could. As it turned out, her course was very worthwhile for us, the guinea pigs, and it was very successful at FSU and widely copied by other universities. For the students who took it during her last semester of teaching it was also an intense emotional time.

To discuss all the different topics that challenged Betty's mind and imagination would take too long. Suffice it to say that anything that concerned contemporary Christians was worthy of study. She invited guest

teachers from time to time, always the best, professors, authors, visiting dignitaries. She had the class attend plays or movies and then gather to discuss them afterwards. We read novels, such as Camus' *The Stranger* and biographies of people like Gandhi, Schweitzer and Mother Theresa.

Perhaps some of you who never knew Betty can at least feel that you know and understand what "her" class is all about today. We have tried to keep up with contemporary Christian issues in the way that she taught us. We have sessions on local community needs and continue to support many projects. We have studied the sanctuary movement, substance abuse, and peace with justice. We continue to look at issues that we feel we need to understand. We are still called the Advanced Studies Class because that was her wish and serves to keep us aiming high.

Social Principles of the United Methodist Church

PREFACE

The United Methodist Church has a long history of concern for social justice. Its members have often taken forthright positions on controversial issues involving Christian principles. Early Methodists expressed their opposition to the slave trade, to smuggling, and to the cruel treatment of prisoners.

The Social Principles are a prayerful and thoughtful effort on the part of the General Conference to speak to the human issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation as historically demonstrated in United Methodist traditions. They are intended to be instructive and persuasive in the best of the prophetic spirit. The Social Principles are a call to all members of The United Methodist Church to a prayerful, studied dialogue of faith and practice.

See also paragraph 610, *Speaking for the Church, in The Book of Discipline, 1984.*

PREAMBLE

We, the people called United Methodists, affirm our faith in God our Father, in Jesus Christ our Savior, and in the Holy Spirit, our Guide and Guard.

We acknowledge our complete dependence upon God in birth, in life, in death, and in life eternal. Secure in God's love, we affirm the goodness of life and confess our many sins against God's will for us as we find it in Jesus Christ. We have not always been faithful stewards of all that has been committed to us by God the Creator. We have been reluctant followers of Jesus Christ in his mission to bring all persons into a community of love. Though called by the Holy Spirit to become new creatures in Christ, we have resisted the further call to become people of God in our dealings with each other and the earth on which we live.

Grateful for God's forgiving love, in which we live and by which we are judged, and affirming our belief in the inestimable worth of each individual, we renew our commitment to become faithful witnesses to the gospel, not alone to the ends of the earth, but also to the depths of our common life and work.

I. THE NATURAL WORLD

All creation is the Lord's and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. Therefore, we repent of our devastation of the physical and non-human world. Further, we recognize the responsibility of the church toward lifestyle and systemic changes in society that will promote a more ecologically just world and a better quality of life for all creation.

A. Water, Air, Soil, Minerals, Plants. We support and encourage social policies that serve to reduce and control the creation of industrial by-products and waste; facilitate the safe processing and disposal of toxic and nuclear waste; provide for appropriate disposal of municipal waste; and enhance the rejuvenation of polluted air, water, and soil. We support measures which will halt the spread of deserts into formerly productive lands. We support regulations designed to protect plant life, including those that provide for reforestation and for conservation of grasslands. We support policies that retard the indiscriminate use of chemicals, including those used for growing, processing and preserving food, and encourage adequate research into their effects upon God's creation prior to utilization. We urge development of international agreements concerning equitable utilization of the ocean's resources for human benefit so long as the integrity of the seas is maintained. Moreover, we support policies on the part of government and industries that conserve fossil and other fuels, and that eliminate methods of securing minerals that destroy plants, animals, and soil. We encourage creation of new sources for food and power, while maintaining the goodness of the earth.

We invite you all to be with us during April—your presence would be very welcome—but if not that, keep Betty Phifer and her class in your prayers.

April 3—We will meet with the other adult classes in the Congregate Room for an Easter brunch, then gather in our class room to begin the series with friends of Betty's.

April 10—Dr. Sally Karioth, well-known speaker, counselor and nurse, will be with us with an update on Betty's FSU course.

April 16—Class members and friends will have a covered dish supper and social at Eleanor and Giff Hale's.

April 17—Dr. Richard Rubenstein, professor and famed author, will discuss "the Japanese Challenge to American Churches," a subject he knows Betty would have been interested in.

B. Energy Resources Utilization. We support and encourage social policies that are directed toward rational and restrained transformation of parts of the non-human world into energy for human usage, and which de-emphasize or eliminate energy-producing technologies that endanger the health, safety, and even existence of the present and future human and non-human creation. Further, we urge wholehearted support of the conservation of energy and responsible development of all energy resources, with special concern for the development of renewable energy sources, that the goodness of the earth may be affirmed.

C. Animal Life. We support regulations that protect the life and health of animals, including those ensuring the humane treatment of pets and other domestic animals, and the painless slaughtering of meat animals, fish, and fowl. Furthermore, we encourage the preservation of animal species now threatened with extinction.

D. Space. The moon, planets, stars, and the space between and among them are the creation of God and are due the respect we are called to give the earth. We support the extension of knowledge through space exploration, but only when that knowledge is used for the welfare of humanity.

II. THE NURTURING COMMUNITY

The community provides the potential for nurturing human beings into the fullness of their humanity. We believe we have a responsibility to innovate, sponsor, and evaluate new forms of community that will encourage development of the fullest potential in individuals. Primary for us is the gospel understanding that all persons are important—because they are human beings and not because they have merited significance. We therefore support social climates in which human communities are maintained and strengthened for the sake of every person.

A. The Family. We believe the family to be the basic human community through which persons are nurtured and sustained in mutual love, responsibility, respect, and fidelity. We understand the family as encompassing a wider range of options than that of a two-generational unit of parents and children (the nuclear family), including the extended family, families with adopted children, single parents, couples without children. We affirm shared responsibility for parenting by men and women and encourage social, economic, and religious efforts to maintain and strengthen relationships within families in order that every member may be assisted toward complete personhood.

B. Other Christian Communities. We further recognize the movement to find new patterns of Christian nurturing communities such as Koinonia Farms, certain monastic and other religious orders, and some types of corporate church life. We urge the church to seek ways of understanding the needs and concerns of such Christian groups and to find ways of ministering to them and through them.

C. Marriage. We affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant which is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between a man and a woman. We believe that God's blessing rests upon such marriage whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage.

D. Divorce. Where marriage partners, even after thoughtful consideration and counsel, are estranged beyond reconciliation, we recognize divorce as regrettable, but recognize the right of divorced persons to remarry. We express our deep concern for the care and nurture of the children of divorced and/or remarried persons. We encourage that either or both of the divorced parents be considered for custody of the minor children of the marriage. We encourage an active, accepting, and enabling commitment of the church and our society to minister to the members of divorced families.

April 24—Dr. Charles "Bill" Swain will be with us for the last session of this series. He will bring us updates, and then challenges in two areas: "Merging patterns of relationships between men and women," and "interreligious dialogues: Can we do Christian theology without all the old philosophic limits of exclusiveness?"

This promises to be an exciting month for Trinity and the Betty Phifer Advanced Class. It is a measure of Betty's standing in the community that the three visiting teachers mentioned above all called and volunteered to come when they heard what we were doing. Everyone is welcome to be with us for all of these events. In our class study of Sartre's *No Exit* we learned that part of the experience of the wicked in after-life was *knowing* that they were forgotten. Betty knows that we remember.

E. Single Persons. We affirm the integrity of single persons and we reject all social practices that discriminate or social attitudes that are prejudiced against persons because they are unmarried.

F. Human Sexuality. We recognize that sexuality is a good gift of God, and we believe persons may be fully human only when that gift is acknowledged and affirmed by themselves, the church, and society. We call all persons to disciplines that lead to the fulfillment of themselves, others, and society in the stewardship of this gift. We encourage the medical, theological, and humanistic disciplines to combine in a determined effort to understand human sexuality more completely.

Although men and women are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sex between a man and a woman is only to be clearly affirmed in the marriage bond. Sex may become exploitative within as well as outside marriage. We reject all sexual expressions which damage or destroy the humanity God has given us as birthright, and we affirm only that sexual expression which enhances that same humanity, in the midst of diverse opinion as to what constitutes that enhancement.

We deplore all forms of the commercialization and exploitation of sex with their consequent cheapening and degradation of human personality. We call for stern enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation or use of children by adults. We call for the establishment of adequate protective services, guidance, and counseling opportunities for children thus abused.

We recognize the continuing need for full and frank sex education opportunities for children, youth, and adults.

Homosexual person no less than heterosexual persons are individuals of sacred worth, who need the ministry and guidance of the church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship which enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. Further we insist that all persons are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured, though we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.

G. Abortion. The beginning of life and the ending of life are the God-given boundaries of human existence. While individuals have always had some degree of control over when they would die, they now have the awesome power to determine when, and even whether, new individuals will be born. Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life makes us reluctant to approve abortion. But we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of life and well-being of the mother for whom devastating damage may result from an unacceptable pregnancy. In continuity with past Christian teaching, we recognize tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion, and in such cases support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures. We call all Christians to a searching and prayerful inquiry into the sorts of conditions that may warrant abortion. Governmental laws and regulations do not provide all the guidance required by the informed Christian conscience. Therefore a decision concerning abortion should be made only after thoughtful and prayerful consideration by the parties involved, with medical, pastoral, and other appropriate counsel.

H. Death With Dignity. We applaud medical science for efforts to prevent disease and illness and for advances in treatment that extend the meaningful life of human beings. At the same time, in the varying stages of death and life that advances in medical science have occasioned, we recognize the agonizing personal and moral decisions faced by the dying, their physicians, their families, and their friends. Therefore, we assert the right of every person to die in dignity, with loving personal care and without efforts to prolong terminal illness merely because the technology is available to do so.

(to be continued)



Kim Simpkins and LuAnn Huggins created the winning pizza in the "Original Creation" category at Sunday Night Live's Pizza Bake-off on February 14.

If You're 18 to 29,
Join Sunday Night Alive

Is Sunday Night Live the group for you?

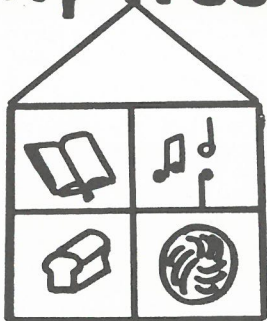
Are you between the ages of 18 and 29? Do you enjoy painting, pizza, videos, caving expeditions and both intellectually stimulating and rib-tickling funny group discussions?

Then join your friends at Trinity in the Gregory Room each Sunday evening at 8 p.m. (unless noted otherwise in the worship bulletin). Each week's activity is noted in the column at the top of the back page of the bulletin.



Carol Stirling, coordinator of Young Adult programs, demonstrates pizza construction using the traditional method.

Trinity Troopers



A great big "THANK YOU" to each and every Trinity Trooper volunteer. We couldn't have done it without you! We hope this year has been as exciting and rewarding for you as it has been for the Troopers themselves.

In order to begin making plans for next year's program, parents will be receiving an evaluation form in the mail. It will be most helpful to us if you take the time to complete the form and return it promptly. We are especially interested in your comments and suggestions. If anyone is

interested in joining the Trinity Trooper staff, or would like to help in the planning and preparation for the next year's program, we would be delighted to have you. Please make a notation on your evaluation form and we will contact you.

Plans are well underway for our big end-of-the-year celebration. Mark your calendars for March 29. This will be the last Tuesday night of this term and we do hope that all parents will be able to join us for the dinner and fun! You will be receiving more party information later.

Our "Teacher Appreciation Banquet" is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15. Here again, watch your mail for more information concerning this special event.

Once again, thank you, thank you to all you wonderful volunteers. We love you and the children do too!

-Alison Mattice

Order Mother's Day Carnation Through Youth

Trinity youth are selling carnations for Mother's Day, May 8, to raise money for the Appalachia Service Project trip to McDowell County, West Virginia, July 30-August 8.

Please fill out the form at the bottom of the page and mail it to the church office, attention Linda Haggard, or give it to any youth or adult going on this year's trip. Thank you for your support.

MOTHER'S DAY CARNATION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Do you want delivery to your home between 1:00-3:00 p.m. ____yes or ____no.

Do you want to pick-up your order at the church, May 8 ____yes or ____no. I would like to order _____ carnations at a cost of \$1.50 each. Please make check payable to Trinity United Methodist/carnation or you may send cash.

Youth Calendar

Friday, March 4 - Sunday, March 6 Human Sexuality Weekend in Leesburg, FL	
Sunday, March 6	
5:00-6:00 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal
6:00-6:30 p.m.	Covered dish supper
6:30-7:30 p.m.	Sr. High and Jr. High Movie, "It Can't Happen To Me"
7:30-8:00 p.m.	Recreation
Sunday, March 13	
5:00-6:00 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal
6:00-6:30 p.m.	Snack Supper, \$1
6:30-7:30 p.m.	Sr. High program with Clarke Evans
	Jr. High program, "Cheating"
7:30-8:30 p.m.	ASP study session in the Senior High meeting room
7:30-8:00 p.m.	Recreation
Sunday, March 20	
5:00-6:00 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal
6:00-6:30 p.m.	Snack Supper, \$1
6:30-7:30 p.m.	Sr. High program with Clarke Evans
	Jr. High program, "What If My Parents Do Not Like My Friends?"
7:30-8:30 p.m.	Parents and Youth Springtime Tallahassee final meeting.
	Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.
	*Second \$25 payment due for the ASP trip
Saturday, March 26	
Springtime Tallahassee/Youth Sponsored Spaghetti Dinner 11:00-3:00 p.m. in Moor Hall; tickets are \$3 for adults and \$2 for children under 10. For more information call Linda Haggard at 222-1120.	
Sunday, March 27	
5:00-6:00 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal
6:00-6:30 p.m.	Snack Supper, \$1
6:30-7:30 p.m.	Sr. High's and Jr. High's plan Youth Worship Service for April 17
7:30-8:00 p.m.	Recreation
**NOTE: There will be no Youth Choir or UMYF on Easter Sunday, April 3.	

UMCOR Serves in 80 Countries,
Ministering to the Hungry, Suffering

This question is often asked by persons in our church who see the letters "U.M.C.O.R." and wonder just what they mean and what this agency does.

Since 1940 when a small beginning was made to reach out to the suffering of the world, United Methodists have been ministering to others less fortunate in areas where disaster, disease and hunger have struck. Today, the United Methodist Committee on Relief serves in more than 80 countries, providing more than \$12 million in aid. The four "Rs" of UMCOR provide the basic programs of relief, rehabilitation, refugee resettlement and attacking the root causes of hunger.

UMCOR is supported in several ways. One is through special giving to designated projects. A resource book is available listing all of the ongoing programs supported by UMCOR. Individuals, churches or classes may select projects to which they may send full or partial support. In the past few years Trinity has sent funds for emergency disaster relief and for world hunger relief.

Another means of support and perhaps the basic one for UMCOR is provided by all of the United Methodist Churches through the "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering taken each year during Lent. This year that offering will be taken on March 31. This offering provides money for programs not fully funded through special giving and for immediate needs in times of disasters. Whenever possible, UMCOR works through agencies on the scene to save administrative costs; therefore, persons giving to UMCOR can rest assured that the money given is directed to the project specified.

Trinity members are asked to remember when the offering is taken on March 13 that the money given will do many things—only 50¢ will pay for oral rehydration therapy for five children, \$5 will immunize one child against six dread diseases, \$10 will buy two pounds of cabbage seeds for a family, \$20 will provide polio vaccine for 40 children and \$50 will buy medicine and equipment for a clinic. Each year when we share our offerings we at Trinity are helping to keep alive the witness to suffering people that Christians do care about their hurts and want to minister to them.

-Rubie Butterworth

For Singles Only!
Now Meets Monthly

"For Singles Only!" is a new monthly lunch gathering in Trinity's Moor Hall, offering single adults, employed in the downtown area, an opportunity to fellowship with other single adults.

"For Singles Only!" had its first gathering on Tuesday, February 23. This first lunch was a brown bag lunch from noon to 1 p.m. Future plans include offering a prepared meal with reservations at a \$3 cost per person.

The March lunch date is scheduled for March 18. A hot meal will be served. If you would like to be added to the Singles Only mailing list and receive notices of these and other activities for single adults, give your name and address to the church office, 222-1120.

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