



TRINITY TRIUMPH

TRINITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN

"Gifted Christians"

Dr. Jim Schumacher

Within the fellowship of Christ, the New Testament reminds us, all of us are "gifted Christians." Does that make sense for you? Do you feel that as a result of the Spirit, working through baptism and the Word, you have received special gifts from God? Our first inclination is to say, "Absolutely not! I'm just a run-of-the-mill Christian." Prudence teaches us not to volunteer for anything. Many learned that during military service. Being Johnny-on-the-Spot frequently proves difficult and dangerous.

The truth, however, is that all of us are "gifted Christians." Some have the ability to speak and teach. An impressively large number have musical gifts. A lot, but not all of them, are currently in our choir. I know this, because I now spend plenty of time sitting out there in our pews.

One of many ways that I realize just how gifted this congregation really is comes from what, to me, is a truly unique experience. For the first time in my life, I get to sit in a pew with Sally and worship my way through a pastoral vacancy. Previously, I was either the dirty bird who caused the vacancy, or the remarkably talented person who had just ended a pastoral vacancy. What I've discovered is how well we work together as a congregation to keep the life of our church working.

I've been particularly impressed by those of you serving as liturgists. Really, you do just as well as many of us who've served as associate pastors! This really is one of the Spirit's gifts. When it's done well, public speaking seems as natural as falling off a log. Truth is, however, there are plenty of those around us who would just as soon face a firing squad! Our liturgists use their special gifts to enrich each and every service.

Our Christian Education program continues a faithful and effective ministry, training adults and children. I'm not always sure that all of us appreciate just how vital the work of our Sunday School really is.

Our public schools need to practice religious neutrality, not favoring any particular tradition. Where else will children, men and women, learn the basic facts of Christian faith? Time Magazine observed in a 2007 cover story that only half of US adults could name even one of the four Gospels. Fewer than half could recognize Genesis as the Bible's first book. The church is the only place where that kind of instruction happens, except, perhaps, in higher education. All of that notwithstanding, the Bible and church history remain an important part of our cultural heritage!

The next time you hear a young person refer to Jesus, the Bible, or the church, thank a Sunday School teacher! Christian education isn't just what happens during the Church School's hour. Trinity's youth fellowship provides the social expression for our older students.

All who teach and administer this program offer a vital service both to our congregation and community.

I was really touched on learning that many of our elders have actually taken the training and are now administering home communion to our shut-ins. The fact that our presbytery offers special training for ordained elders, permitting them to provide what, otherwise, would be a pastoral responsibility, is a real help for our church particularly during this interim period.

Our Presbyterian system of church government offers support that's often overlooked. Our Session provides over-all guidance and supervision just as it would even if our new pastor were already in our pulpit. Presbytery provides a moderator chosen among its membership so that pastoral input always is available. While all of that goes on, our deacons continue their vital ministries both within our congregation and in our wider community.

Sally and I have "looked at clouds from both sides now." We've had the privilege of serving as your pastor and pastor's wife. Now, returning, we've also had the experience of sitting in our pews, being inspired by our music and our services. We're more than thrilled to see the many ways in which our congregation has learned to carry on the ministry of the church -- even during a time of "pastoral absence." As we wait for our next minister, we remain comforted that our Lord remains a constant presence through the Spirit's power. God really does need each one of us as, together, we serve him in and through our church.

Trinity United Presbyterian Church
830 Military Road
Zanesville, OH 43701
Unicameral Session Minutes
For December 16th, 2012

On Sunday, December 16, 2012, at 12:30PM we met in the Chapel for devotions led by Elder David Frick. Following devotions, we moved to the High School classroom for the business portion of the meeting. Our Moderator Rev. Bob Millspaugh called us to order and service. A quorum was declared with 13 Elders present.

Clerk's Report: The agenda for December 16, 2012 was approved along with the minutes from the November 18, 2012 meeting. Various publications received have been placed in the library. Following the service on January 20, 2013, the 'After Church Sunday School' will serve as a mini-leadership training session, to be lead by Dr. Schumacher.

The mortality report for 2012 was presented. In 2012, the following members went on to be with the Lord: Dorothy Bailey 02/02/12; Howard Bailey 08/10/12; Andi Merry 11/08/2012.

Actions taken:

Contacted Rev. Mary Jane Knapp, interim at College Drive, who will be our moderator beginning January 2013.

Correspondence:

- A. Received a letter from the Alzheimer's Association thanking us for our support and requesting that we sign the host site agreement.
- B. The Muskingum County Community Fund notified us that the distribution for the Gale-Trinity fund will occur in June, 2013.

Facility use requests:

- A. Adriana Winsley requests use of the Fellowship Hall on January 26, 2013, from 9am to 1pm for the Cub Scout Pinewood Derby. Approved.

Moderators Report: The following is the moderator's report to Session. Rev. Millspaugh will not serve as our moderator in 2013 due to health reasons. He is glad to see young life in the congregation and enjoyed the children's Christmas program this morning.

Deacon Report: Minutes received.

Presbytery: Arlene and Rev. Millspaugh attended the meeting at College Drive in New Concord. The following are items of interest from the meeting:
Report of Administrative Commission for Gracious Dismissal was presented to address the requests of churches to be dismissed from PC(USA).
\$750 was awarded to Mary Perone for the 2 Cents a Meal grant. Budget - \$1.50 increase to the Presbytery portion of per Capita was passed, bringing per Capita to \$28.48. The Committee On Ministry approved Alex Barnes for ministry. The new Moderator is Rev. Jon Carlisle.

Old Business: A motion was made to retroactively approve Jan Jenkins as Elder. Approved. Elder Mennega provided an update on the Natural gas pricing. His recommendation is to stay with Columbia. He is still checking on the best electric deal.

Worship and Music Report: No action items. We served Holy Communion to 108 on

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Sunday, December 2, 2012. The next communion service will be on January 6, 2013. The Christmas Eve service will start with the music at 7pm, worship at 7:30pm. Fredrick Frank, teacher at the New Concord Middle School will deliver the message.

The proposed budget approved by committee is the same as the 2012 budget.

The committee is considering the possibility of having Troy Lewis of Toledo, Ohio, as a possible speaker. He is the author of 'Another Second Chance', a story of his life experiences when he and his brother were each in need kidney transplants. The church would be asked to provide one night's motel stay and asks only for a love offering and provision for a book stand.

Outreach: No report.

Christian Education: No report.

Personnel: No Report

Nominating & Membership: No action items. The slate of officers for 2013 has been approved.

Finance: The monthly finance report was presented. The balance figure for November was positive. Elder Sidwell reported that a second stewardship mailing was sent and received good response. 59 pledging units have now pledged. This is a lower number of pledging units than last year, but we are only about \$8,000 less than pledged last year. The committee will continue to contact members who have yet to pledge. The next task is to finish our mission giving. Reminder to committee chairs to turn in any outstanding committee budget proposals.

Building and Grounds: More lights have burned out in the sanctuary. The committee received note from a member of the congregation about leaving the curtain to the parlor open slightly. Motion was made to leave the curtain open. Approved, with one dissenting vote.

Missions: Reported with no action items. The committee continues to look at providing some kind of anti-bullying program. Between \$1,200 – \$1,300 was raised for Souper Bowl. This will be divided 5 ways for community.

Youth Committee: Reported with no action items. Raised \$369 from cookie sale. Spent \$200 on each child for Christmas Angel program. 10 youth were involved and the youth also participated in the hanging of greens. On January 6, 2013 we will take down the Christmas decorations. The next youth meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2013.

New Business: Rev. Mary Jane Knapp has requested we move our meeting time to 1PM. She will be coming from New Concord after their service concludes. Approved.

A proposed communion schedule was presented. Approved.

A motion was made to set date for installation/ordination of officers as January 20, 2013, and communion on the January 6, 2013. Approved.

Motion was made to set the date of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for January 20, 2013. Approved.

Recommendation to have an AED training class to have members educated in its use. This will be directed to the appropriate committee.

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Time of Sharing Joys and Challenges: Thanks to God for all the blessings at Trinity.

We thank Rev. Bob Millspaugh for his service and friendship.
Thanks to those leaving session for their service.

The meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer at 2:10pm by Rev. Bob Millspaugh,
Moderator.

Next scheduled Session meeting is January 20, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,



Tim Patterson, Clerk of Session

