

TRINITY TRIUMPH

TRINITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN

November 2013

From the Interim Pastor

You Might Wish To

Read Luke-Acts as part of your preparation for Advent.

The author of the Gospel of Luke is also the author of the book Acts. It's a two-part series. It is unfortunate that the biblical book John appears in between Luke and Acts. I am not the only one to suggest that this has caused some to approach the book of Luke primarily as a companion to the other Gospels, and primarily to compare it to the other Gospels. In like manner, some read the book of Acts in primarily to illuminate the start of the Church, or the timeline of the life and letters of the Apostle Paul.

But Luke-Acts stands unique in the New Testament. Luke-Acts is a masterful literary work. It is the acting of God through His Christ and His Spirit beginning with the Hebrew people and finding fulfillment in the Church "*which He obtained with his own blood [Acts 20:28].*" Luke-Acts is first century literary history supreme. *Literary* I will understand to mean: excellence of varied form and expression in dealing with ideas of permanent and paramount importance. With cultural literary historians then, and today, Truth within the historical is seen without difficulty through song (psalm), saga, apocalypse, poetic-myth, and legend.

As well, the Luke style set forth in the first chapter of the book Luke, with that chapter's polite and cultivated introduction (Luke 1: 1-4), clearly seeks to address the reader of the day who is used to being treated as an equal partner in considering things of serious consequence, even things involving life over death.

Luke-Acts is action. And note that it was God acting -- that "First Person" of the Trinity means something to Luke, perhaps more than to any of the others, a God of the Old Covenant initiative -- God in Christ responding, God in Christ reinterpreting and correcting previous understandings. And then it becomes God in Christ in the Spirit continuing *now*, even with *us* now -- the editorial shift, past to present, immediate and upsetting or thrilling as the case may be -- so that all might know, so that *we* might be witnesses of Something immense, Something here, and Someone *now* (Acts 2:22-36).

And more than just witnessing as in standing and observing, this is a personally engaged witnessing. Note that the emphasis is on the here-and-now present aspect of the Spirit, the experience of that Spirit in the lives of those subject to it. It is an experience that has depth psychological and spiritual meaning, then *and now*, this life in the Spirit. Note the times in Luke-Acts that Jesus or Peter or Paul is marked as being "full" of the Holy Spirit. Think about that in contradistinction to being merely "led by the Spirit" (such as in Matt. 4:1-11) or driven by the Spirit (such as in Mark 1:12-13).

And note particularly the discussions surrounding the Divine up and against the demonic. Consider that this is presented in a larger way, as a part of an ongoing creative chaos resulting from the Divine gift of freedom. A gift that has been abused. It is a chaos being eradicated through the good fight of a self-giving Master Craftsman who will not let destructive distorting forces have the final say.

And in that, note the elaborate attention given to all events surrounding the birth of Jesus as the Christ. Not in the least that Luke has taken time to talk with Mary, the mother of Jesus, or at least he has talked with someone who knew her well, well enough to know that *“Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.”*

Which is what Luke asks of his readers, those subject to his Luke-Acts work. You and me. We are being asked to *treasure all these words, treasure them and ponder. To Carefully weigh* words of such magnitude that the Church would come to find that these words actually create a reality, the New Life Strength of the One who is with us, the Christ here and now.

“Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully for a long time, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed. In the days of King Herod of Judea”



BIRTHDAYS FOR NOVEMBER

Nov. 1	Deidra Spargrove
3	Katherine Allison
4	Floyd Sours
5	Terri Sidwell
7	Timothy Patterson, Joe Johnson
8	Dick Keys, Lou LeMaster
13	Natalie Van Horn
19	Elva Frick
20	Ann Nicholas, Diane Bunker, Denise Bunker, Danelle Morosco
21	Jake McLoughlin
22	Mindy Patterson
24	Joan Miska
29	Jackie Kolometz

50+ Anniversaries

We have no 50+ anniversaries this month.

Special Thanks!
(Meditation of an Aging "Emeritus" Pastor)
Jim Schumacher
October 1, 2013

It's not often I really find myself at a loss for words! The kind recognition extended to Sally & me only yesterday --not only by our pastor & Session -- but also by all of you as a congregation, nearly (please note: I said ALMOST) leaves me speechless!

I was ordained right before World Communion Sunday in 1959. Before then, I'd spent seven years in college & seminary getting ready to be ordained. Oddly enough, not even once in all those years have I personally known an "emeritus pastor." Somehow, church life has developed in such a way that congregations seldom seem moved to take that action. Who knows? Maybe it's because we Presbyterians are so busy "doing all things decently and in order." In any case, the relative rarity of your gracious gesture makes it all the more appreciated. Basically, it's just wonderful to be remembered!

As we completed our ministry at Frazeyburg/Muskingum, Sally & I faced a strange question: "Where should we go to church?" Naturally, we gave the matter some serious consideration. Finally, the two of us reached our decision. "Where else but Trinity?" Through all of those twelve years we devoted to our two, smaller churches, Sally kept her membership at Trinity. Not many folks know this, but no ordained pastor in our tradition can belong to a church. By denominational law, we're members of presbytery. Sally was a founding member of Trinity. For that, and other reasons, it made sense to leave her right here where we met, fell in love, and were married.

As we returned, each of us had the strong feeling that God was calling us to be here. For me, that feeling was nearly as obvious and strong as my initial call to service in God's church. It was our hope, as we returned, that we might be used by our Lord to provide comfort and support through this difficult time of pastoral change.

Reading the wording of the lovely certificate you had prepared for us, we were heartened and encouraged that you also understood exactly why God called us to return to Sally's home congregation.

Even without an installed pastor, Trinity has managed to maintain a vigorous program for the Christian education of children, youth, and adults. With the help of our organist and choir director, Trinity's music program remains second to none. Last year, Frank Walburg and I completed a program for teens focused on the Gospel in the New Testament. With the arrival of Dennis Allison as our interim pastor, we've broadened that program to include communicant instruction. We're looking forward to full church membership for a number of new, young Presbyterians.

I especially appreciate Dennis' work in our church. He combines a complete and wide-ranging knowledge of the Bible with theological and practical skills. Thanks to the fine work of our elders, teachers, staff, and interim leadership, Trinity's moving into a whole,

new, and positive way of being Christians together. That's just what Sally & I have hoped as we returned after our twelve years spent in what our Board of Pensions called, "post retirement service."

We thank each one of you for this emeritus recognition, and look forward joyfully to see the new and creative ways our church will continue to respond to the leading of God's Holy Spirit.

What's happening this month

Thanks for all the hugs!

The kids made almost \$150 for the adopt-a-hug program. Thank you for your support!

Halloween Candy Collection

We will collect your leftover and extra candy on November 3rd and November 10th in the Narthex. All kinds of candy are accepted! The candy will be sent to soldiers serving over seas. Please take the opportunity to sign one of the cards in the Narthex. The cards will be sent with the candy.

Save the date... Christmas Program December 8th

The annual children's Christmas program will be held on December 8th during the service. Songs are being practiced, costumes are being made- it will be a wonderful example of joyful adoration! Please join us!

Acolyte Schedule

November 3rd
Katherine Allison
Carolyn Geis
Sub: Miranda Geis

November 10th
Aaron Johnson
Connor Allison
Sub: Katherine Allison

November 17th
Mark Patterson
Miranda Geis
Sub: Jonathan Patterson

November 24th
Tillman Hawk
Jonathan Patterson
Sub: Mark Patterson

Community Thanksgiving Service- November 27th at 7:00

Help us welcome the community to our church on November 27th. We are hosting the Thanksgiving service this year, and I think you will agree that we have a lot to be thankful for here at Trinity. Help us fill the church and show not only our thanks for our Pastor and church family, but also for all the wonderful gifts God is giving us every day. The service lasts about an hour and is filled with the talents of many area churches.

Hanging of the Greens

Come help us on November 24th right after church as we decorate the church in preparation for the Advent and Christmas seasons. We'll have pizza and beverages for all of our volunteer decorators, and the youth will be selling fundraising cookies for the angel tree in case you need a tasty dessert! Join Amanda in the fellowship hall while your parents help upstairs for some pizza, crafts, fellowship and fun! We will be making ornaments for our own kid's tree in the Narthex. Many thanks to Gigi Monath for organizing this year's event and the youth for pre-volunteering to help out! Don't forget that many hands make light work- we'll see you there!

