

TRINITY TRIUMPH

TRINITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN

October 2013

Culture Of Discontent

OR ...

Attitude Of Gratitude

What follows is one of those issues an Interim Pastor is supposed to address. And frankly I haven't seen it here. To your credit! However, I'll put it forth anyway because I'm still too new to have seen everything and no group is completely perfect and maybe it's lurking here or there and this might help.

The letters of the New Testament in large part have to do with messy misapplications of the Gospel. These occurred almost immediately after the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus as the Christ. Christ called himself the Truth that sets free. The tellers of that Truth are the Gospel writers and letter writers of the Christian Scripture, and with a couple of exceptions they are the ones who had known, physically served with Jesus. They became the Apostles and all of them note how quickly the Church began to crumble when the foundation began to grumble.

The book Jude is about this. Reading in Jude with a Sunday school class during the summer we came across a harsh denouncement: *"But these people slander whatever they do not understand, and are destroyed by those things that, like irrational animals, they know by instinct. Woe to them! For they go the way of Cain, abandon themselves to Balaam's error for the sake of gain, and perish in Korah's rebellion. These are blemishes on your agape-feasts, while they dine with you without fear, feeding themselves. They are shepherds who care only for themselves."*

And what Jude says is pretty much easy to understand. But what's this *Korah's rebellion*.

An Auckland, New Zealand minister, Elizabeth Ostring, writing in a journal for pastors, begins her article with the following:

"Is your church membership on the decline? Has the stewardship growth and financial position of the church not been as robust as you planned or expected? Is your church finding itself unable to attract and minister to the youth?"

"Look out for the hidden enemy within your church ... common but deadly condition that infects most churches ... lethal to the spiritual body of the church ... hard to overcome Its name? Discontent. *Murmuring discontent.*"

She's read her bible. "Murmuring" is a common English translation, for example, in the Hebrew telling of the complaining of the Israelites during their escape from Egypt. They complained and complained about this or that hardship. They complained about their leaders not doing things right, fast enough, complete enough, just plain not enough.

Murmuring discontent is something "deadly and dangerous," Ms. Ostring writes, threatening Church life and Church growth, Church power and Church strength, thus threatening the power and strength of individual members.

Sometimes, she writes, the effects take years to be seen. She draws from Israel's history to point out what she calls dangerous cliques within the various tribes, from within the tribes the cliques suffocating the life of the tribes, with some demagogue at the helm, one of which was this *Korah*, a cousin of Moses (Exodus 6:20-24), who became a malcontent leader of the rebellion against Moses (Num. 16). She writes about Korah's associates in the rebellion. They turn out to be his next-door neighbors, the people closest to the rebel Korah -- Dathan, Abiram, and On. As she put it, these three would gather around their tent doors to chitchat (behind-back gossip) for the express purpose of encouraging discontent. And these rebellious thoughts, actions, something that was initially confined to these men and their immediate families and friends, finally spread wildfire like and ended up destroying the community.

As the Interpreter's Bible has it, "Korah was the leader of a group of malcontents who 'became arrogant and took their stand before Moses.'" They "gathered in a body against Moses and Aaron, and said to Moses and Aaron, 'Enough of you; for all the community are holy, ... since the Lord is in their midst; why then do you exalt yourselves above the Lord's assembly?'"

And, we're told, the Lord was not at all pleased with this. But even so the faithful leader Moses still plead for those that turned against him. This is reminiscent of another man, another leader from another time who said something like "*forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do*".

Korah, gathered "*the whole community*" against Moses. And yet if it had not been for Moses' intercession, we're told, the Lord would have consumed the whole community. Moses is finally able to induce Israel to move away from the "*the tents of these wicked men*." And the ground under their tents "*opened its mouth and swallowed them up, ... and all the men who belonged to Korah. ... So they ... descended in to Sheol alive ... and the perished from the community*" (Nu. 16: 1-34; Josephus *Antiquities* IV.2.1-4.2).

Mercy! Gets this pastor's (a potential Korah?!) attention!

Back to Elizabeth Ostring's article. After a litany of this and other like events in the life of the Hebrew people discontented, complaining, *murmuring*, she offers the following:

1. Take statistics seriously. If your church membership, participation, witness, stewardship, and other hallmarks of effective ministry begin to show a decline, ask the congregation and leaders for self-examination. Is there a spirit of discontent and complaint slowly spreading in your midst? If so, approach it prayerfully and, in time, deal with it so that harmony and unity once again return to the church.
2. Complaining leads to decline. If a group is declining or just not growing, murmuring discontent *may* be an unrecognized cause. This message needs to be shared with the membership. Personal appeal is probably a good place to start, but public messages are also important. These messages can be general or explicit if the nature of the discontent is clear. This is not easy work, especially for those dedicated to caring for others, such as pastors.
3. Examine your own heart. A discontented pastor, such as the Levite Korah, is just as much a church risk as a discontented church member.
4. Look for unhealthy cliques that spread a culture discontent. They need to be confronted in a spirit of God's love and power. The Israel narrative indicates that here are three characteristics of groups that lead to danger: (a) they know *better* than anyone else, usually in retrospect (Korah, Dathan, and Abiram); (b) they consider their own *leadership* superior (Korah); and (c) they *focus on their own needs* to the exclusion of the community [look up "Zimri"].
5. Recognize that the issues may have either occurred, or been around, for decades.
6. Encourage members to develop an attitude of gratitude. Research shows that this is a powerful factor in general good health and well-being. Simply asking people to note and record a few things each day for which they are grateful is powerfully effective.
7. The reality of the Promised Land needs to be kept before the congregation. Christians need the vision of building up the kingdom of God, not the kingdom of the church in the wildwood.

And it's possible to be a grand Church, she says, quoting Paul's theme of Christ empowered triumph: "*With God all things are possible.*" And also the Revelation words of Jesus, "*To him or to her who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life' ... and 'He or she who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death' ... and 'I will give some of the hidden manna to eat And I will give them a white stone...[with] new names' ... and 'I will not blot out their names from the Book of Life; but I will confess their names before My Father and before His angels.'"*

All premised on *constructive*, not destructive, critique. A difference! And what is that difference, what's it like to live there as opposed to where Jude and how many others have lived contending against pastors and people inspiring churches to stumble. The difference is between that which downdrags and that which is the Force that "*gives us the victory.*"

Trinity United Presbyterian Church
830 Military Road
Zanesville, OH 43701
Unicameral Session Minutes
For August 18th, 2013

On Sunday, August 18, 2013, at 11:45PM we met in the Chapel for devotions led by Rev. Allison. At the conclusion of the devotions and prayer, we moved to the High School classroom for the business portion of the meeting. Our Moderator Rev. Dennis Allison called us to order and service. A quorum was declared with 12 Elders present.

Clerk's Report: The agenda for August 18, 2013 was approved along with the minutes from the June 16, 2013 meeting. Various publications received have been placed in the library.

Correspondence:

Received a letter of thanks from the Rev. Ken Graham, Disaster Recovery Team, Presbytery of Long Island for the Gift Card donations from Trinity.

A statement from the Muskingum County Community Foundation for the Gale-Trinity Fund.

Facility use requests:

Clay Foster and Perry Fletcher request use of the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and Kitchen for their wedding on October 19, 2013 from 4:30 – 9:30pm.

On behalf of the Tuesday Morning Music Club, Marge Overdorff requests use of the Sanctuary for a meeting on March 4, 2014 at 7:00pm.

Requests Approved.

Moderators Report: Dale Vandembark will return to Building and Grounds and session. With great celebration and thanksgiving we enthusiastically welcome Dale Vandembark back to our session. Motion Approved.

Deacon Report: No meeting.

Presbytery: No report.

Old Business: None

Worship and Music Report: Holy Communion was served to 70 on July 7 and 83 on Sunday August 4, 2013.

Mary Flanagan and the Kimble family would like to donate candle lighters for the acolytes to replace the old lighters which are now falling apart. Therefore the committee moves to replace the old lighters with 2 five foot long candle lighters in memory of Robyn Kimble. These will be used by the youth that she loved and taught. Motion approved.

The committee moves that the Apostles creed be included in the worship service once again and also the addition of the reading of one question and responsive answer per Sunday from the Heidelberg Catechism, of which there are 129 questions. Approved.

A reminder was given that for the safety and well-being of the members during worship, all doors except at the main entrance will be secured as the service begins. This will be the duty of the head usher.

Outreach: Reported with no action items.

Christian Education: The description and duties for Christian Education Committee was presented, discussed and approved

Trinity United Presbyterian Church
Session Minutes for August 18th, 2013

Information from committee:

Fall Curriculum for the adult class will begin with the Heidelberg Catechism study. The 2nd adult class which meets in the parlor will use the Lord Teach Us to Pray curriculum.

Finance: The monthly finance report was presented. The balance figure for **Error! Reference source not found.** was negative.

The facility use policy as regards the Zanesville Kids Stuff sale has been reviewed, and compared with policies from other churches. The committee recommends a review of the current use policy (ca. 1991) and to allow the Kids Stuff Sale as in the past. They may use facility and donate out of profits.

No update on the property tax issue for the picnic shelter.
Report was accepted.

Personnel: Reviewed Rev. Allison's job performance per the contract.

Nominating & Membership: No Report. The committee will meet next month.

Building and Grounds: Reported with no action items. The elevator did not pass state inspection; as a result the sump pump was replaced. We will try to have the boiler repaired, but it may need to be replaced. It is only 5 or 6 yrs old. The mandatory backflow devices will be installed.

Missions: Reported with no action items. Met in July. Bullying program may be beyond our scope. Researching a homeless program instead, as something we can be involved in as a church.

Youth Committee: Reported with no action items.

New Business:

Motion to allow Rev. Dennis authority to establish a date for a congregational meeting.
Approved.

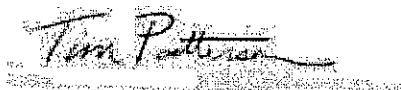
A question was raised about creating a Memorial Garden / wall / tree on the grounds as place to remember members who have been cremated. The Grief Share Group will research the idea. Motion to indicate if Session might be interested in pursuing the research for a Memorial Garden.
Approved.

Time of Sharing Joys and Challenges: Thanks to God for all the blessings at Trinity. Greg Williamson - is doing well, getting married in September.

The meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer at 1:46PM by Rev. Dennis Allison, Moderator.

The next scheduled Session meeting is September 15, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,



Tim Patterson, Clerk of Session

What's happening this month

We will be hosting International Peacemaker Rev. Winfred Orr

On Saturday, October 5th from 10:30 to 12:00 Trinity United will be hosting an International Peacemaker from Northern Ireland named Rev. Winfred Orr.

In an increasingly violent and fragmented world, God calls Christians to understand and address the root causes of violence and injustice so that we may share in mending the brokenness that exists in our world. Peacemaking is the human response to God's gift of peace giving.

As a leader in one of our partner churches located in Newtownbreda, Rev. Orr will be sharing his experience working with the Ballynafreigh Clergy Fellowship. He will discuss how his experience in the Fellowship working to promote stronger ties between churches of all traditions is applicable to all our situations and how his proactive role is contributing to the stability of his part of Northern Ireland.

He is coming a very long way to be with us, so please plan to come and welcome him to our church, town and country.

Acolyte Schedule

October 6th

Connor Allison and Carolyn Geis

Substitute: Jonathan Patterson

October 13th

David Johnson and Miranda Geis

Substitute: Mark Patterson

October 20th

Aaron Johnson and Katherine Allison

Substitute: Connor Allison

October 27th

Tillman Hawk and Jonathan Patterson

Substitute: Mark Patterson

Acolyte Training October 27th 9:00 a.m. in the Narthex

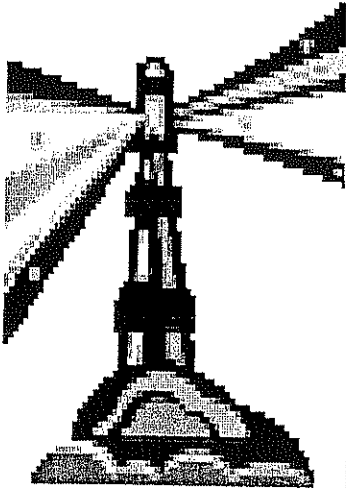
If you have a child how is or who would like to be an acolyte, please be sure to have them in the Narthex on October 27th. We will be practicing with the new taper lighters and reviewing our duties and goals as acolytes. If you can't make it to the meeting please let Amanda know so that she can get the information to you. Only kids who have gone to the meeting or who have talked to Amanda will be put on the acolyte schedule. See you in October!

Feed and Feedback October 13th

Join us for conversation, lunch and fellowship after the service on October 13th. This time is set aside for you to ask questions about the sermon, general theological questions, or anything else that has been on your mind. Pastor Allison will be there to answer as many questions as he can and to inspire us to think a little more deeply about things we might see every day. Lunch will be served and the entire class usually takes about 90 minutes. No need to RSVP- just come if you are able.

Hug Booth on October 6th

The kids from Children's church will be holding a hug booth fund raiser to support the Adopt-a-hug program. Adopt-a-hug is a program started by area youth to bring hand stuffed animals to children in need during their time of crisis. The idea is to have stuffed animals in the vehicles of first responders. When they meet a child who has suffered a trauma, fire, or accident, first responders can give the stuffed animals to the children. The animals come with a little tag that explains how they were stuffed with love and are full of prayers from other kids all over Zanesville. Each animal is expected to cost \$5 to purchase and stuff. The kids are hoping to raise \$100 to help this worthy fund. The booth and the play the kids perform during service is completely their own creation and idea. Help them help others by getting lots of hugs and by being generous in your donation. Thank you in advance from all the kids in Children's church!



DEACONS BEACON

At our last meeting it was asked if we could help out for snacks for our guest speaker Rev. Orr on October 5th. This was discussed and we have agreed to help.

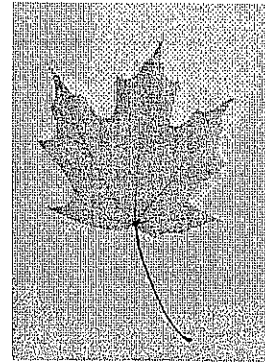
Our monthly meeting will be on Oct. 8th at 6:00 p.m. If you are unable to attend, please contact Helen Dixon or

the church office.

October Deacons on Duty are: Julie MacLaine, Elva Frick, Terri Sidwell. Devotions will be lead by Hinda Ardrey.

The October Cookie Coffee by the Deacons is October 13th.

Nancy



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

The annual Souper Bowl Luncheon will be held on October 20th at the Senior Center in the Sunrise Center. Our youth will be helping out at this event. We have 8-10 kids signed up to help.

Each sponsor is asked to bring 20 dozen cookies. We need your help. We would ask everyone who can to bring 2 dozen cookies here to the church by Oct. 13th. We will freeze them and have them ready for the 30th.

The tickets are adults in advance \$5.00, children 12 and under \$4.00. The tickets at the door are \$6.00. The hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Proceeds will benefit the following agencies that provide food for the hungry. Eastside, FCC, Christ's Table, Salvation Army and Muskingum County Center for Seniors. We will be selling tickets on Sunday, Oct. 6th and 13th, before and after the service in the narthex.

Nancy





BIRTHDAYS

for October

October 2	Pauline Fowler , Frank Walburg, Melanie Poorman, Ally MacLaine
October 6	William Hubal
October 8	Alta Thoria , Barbara Hightower
October 9	Cody Meadows
October 11	Nancy Thompson
October 12	Tillman Hawk
October 17	Bob Payne
October 18	Bob Lyle
October 19	David Frick, Connor Allison
October 21	Clara Hansen
October 25	Jim Wright, Karen Sidwell
October 26	Keith Van Horn
October 27	Dave Purkey
October 31	Elaine Williams

50+ Anniversaries Ken & Gretchen Sayre

October 3, 1959

Bernie & Betty Baldwin

October 31, 1957

GRIEF SHARE

We will be meeting in the church parlor on October 14th at 6:00 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE on October 29th, Tuesday we will be traveling to Duncan Falls and having dinner at The Stagecoach. This is the former Polly Diner .

Nancy

THANK YOU for your many cards, notes and most especially, your prayers. They have been inspiring, uplifting and greatly appreciated! May these blessings return to you tenfold!
Norma Adams.

YOUNG AT HEART

YOUNG AT HEART we had only one person join us last month. Do we need to discuss the future of the group? Is a different day better for some?

The lunch will be at Donatos on Maple at 11:30a.m. on Tuesday, Oct.8th.

This group is open to anyone who would like to have lunch and visit with friends. If you are new to the group, here is your

opportunity to make new friends. If you need a ride, please let the office know.

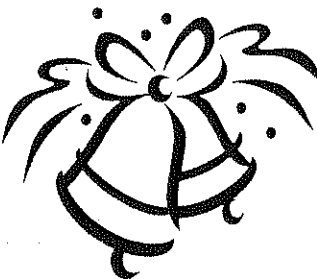
WEDDING NEWS

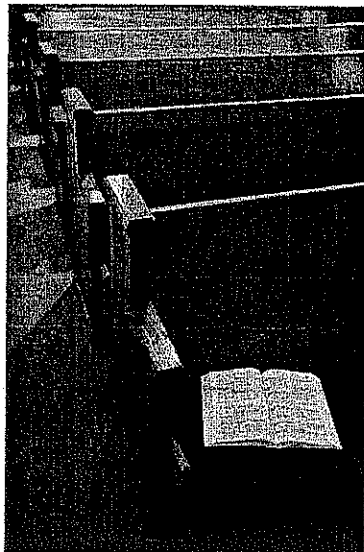
On Sept. 7th Rachel Poorman and Dakota Matz were married at The Wilds. Their address is 920 Somers St. Zanesville.

Tom & Tara Poorman are the parents and Bill

& Nancy Thompson are the happy couple grandparents.

Congratulations!





A VIEW FROM THE PEWS

Library news, we have several books that have been donated to the church. We also have been blessed with several new books purchased with memorial funds from Robyn Kimble. Thank you to her mother and husband for this.

Also one of the donated books is called "AND THE SHOFAR BLEW" by Francine Rivers. Take a look at several of the new items in our library.

HOMESPUN AUCTION presented by the Pieceable Quilters Guild on Thursday, October 17th here at the church in the fellowship hall. Holiday Gift Items, Home Décor, Wall Hangings and Quilts! Public Preview noon—4:00 p.m. Registration, Social Hour, Chinese Auction— 5:00 p.m. Live Auction Bidding with Jim Brown, Auctioneer —6:00 p.m. For more inform 740-221-1227 or www.pieceablequilters.weebly.com

ADDRESS CHANGE Kaylan Patterson, 1730 West Rocket Dr. International House, Rm 2106B, Toledo, Oh 43606.

OFFERING ENVELOPES it is that time again to order the envelopes for 2014. As we have done in the past, we will order only the ones that people request to have. Everyone is assigned a number with your name, so if you use regular envelopes or just place a check in the offering plate, your giving will be recorded.

If you would like to have your envelopes for the next year, please fill out this form and you can place it in the offering plate, place on the desk or mail back to

the church. Thank you

NAME _____

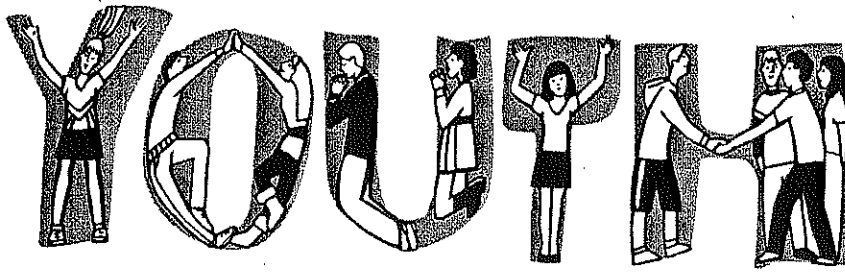
Yes _____

No _____

MANY THANKS. Mary Flanagan would like to thank everyone for their cards, calls and prayers during her recent surgery. Special thanks to Pastor Allison for his visits.

HELEN PURCELL we have received word that Eileen Bagent is now living at Helen Purcell, 1854 Norwood Blvd. Rm# 216. Let's shower her with cards!

Nancy



YOUTH GROUPS-YOUTH

COMMITTEE-PARENTS

**** Youth save the 1st Sunday of each month for Youth group and Parent Committee meeting following the church service.

CALENDAR FOR THE REST OF 2013.

SUNDAY, Oct. 6 meeting and eating (bring a sandwich) Fellowship Hour Activity we will re-organize the Youth Area. (earn 2 hours community service credit) All Youth, Parents, Committee-Welcome. Finish time is 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 20 Volunteer/Serve at SOUPER BOWL at Sunrise Center. Gather at 9:30 a.m. in Youth room finish time is 11:30-12. 8-10 Youth signed up. We will need 3 drivers. Please wear black TUPC t-shirts, extra t-shirts will be available that morning. Shirts are \$8.00. (2 hours community service credit)

Sunday, Nov. 3 Meet and Eat (sack lunch) right after church. Fellowship hour activity (to be decided).

Sunday, Nov. 24 "Hanging of the Greens" right after church. Signup sheet/pizza party while working.

Dec. 1 we will meet in the Youth room. We will travel to the mall to shop for gifts for the "Christmas Angel Tree" children; back to church by 1:30 p.m. to "show and tell" and sack the gifts for Salvation Army distribution. (2 hours community service credit).

Sunday, Dec. 8 participate in church Children Christmas program.

Dates to be announced for Youth bake sale "Holiday Cookies" fund raiser for Angel Tree Shopping before and after church.

Nancy Thompson

Reformation Sunday... what is it?

The last Sunday in October is the occasion for churches in the Lutheran and Reformed traditions to commemorate a key date in the Reformation movement in 16th-century Europe. On 31 October 1517, Martin Luther, a Catholic cleric, posted a note of protest to a church door in Wittenberg, Germany – an act that provoked reaction in church and state circles throughout Europe and fed into the movement that led to the creation of the Lutheran and Reformed churches. It is important to remember that the first reformers understood themselves as trying to rectify abuses from within the one church; they did not set out to form a new denomination. On Reformation Sunday we hope to emphasize the ongoing nature of church reform, which is in continuity with the original ideal of the Reformation. This is an opportunity to look not only back at the 16th century, but ahead to the ways in which the church is “reformed and always being reformed according to the Word of God.” What do you see God doing among us now? How is He shaping us to be more faithful Christians?

A Prayer “For Renewal and Unity” A prayer for Reformation Sunday, October 27th, 2013

From Prayers from the Reformed Tradition
In the company of a great cloud of witnesses by Diane Tripp

O Lord, you gave one Shepherd to your scattered sheep to bring them, by the sacrifice of his life, to you and to one another. Be pleased to bring them into one fold, through the power of your Holy Spirit. We ask your forgiveness for the divided state of the one catholic church. We ask your forgiveness for our ingratitude for the liberation and enrichment which you brought us through the Reformation. You gave to your church the assurance of salvation and set the conscience free from the burden of human failure. But we confess to you our narrowness of heart, double mindedness, small faith, our failures in self-denial and love.

Make us thankful anew. For you do not cease to call us, even now, to have one heart, for the sake of the breadth and length and depth of your love in Christ which, with all the saints, we can comprehend only in part.

Lord, lead all that belong to you to live the faith of their own baptism, and bring them out of narrowness into the openness of your truth, so that they may seek what unites and abandon what divides; so that they may truthfully make their own the prayer of their Lord and Savior: that they may all be one, even as you, Father, are in him and he in you, that they also may be one in you and in your Son through the Holy Spirit, so that the world may believe that you have send Christ.

Amen.

—Kornelis Miskotte, 1894-1976; alt.

Super Bowl Tickets on Sale October 6th, 13th and 20th

It's that time of year again! Time to enjoy a delicious bowl of soup, a plate full of cookies, and farm fresh apples while giving to a cause that supports charities across the entire city. The Souper Bowl is on October 20th this year and will be held again at the Muskingum County Senior Center in the Sunrise Plaza. Tickets will be sold in the Narthex each Sunday in October. If you would like to donate cookies to the event you can bring them in any Sunday in October. Cookies brought in early will be frozen and taken the day of the luncheon. Be sure to keep an eye out for our youth volunteers when you have lunch. They are leaving early that morning and will be working throughout the worship time.

TRINITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN

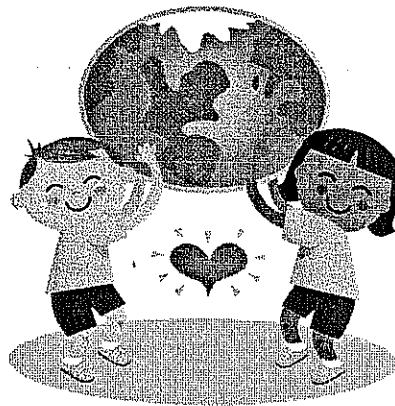
830 Military Road
Zanesville, Oh 43701
Office hours M-Thurs. 8:30-3:30
Friday 8:30-12:30

Phone 740-452-8482
Fax 740-452-8483
Sunday School 9:00 a.m. for all ages
Worship 10:30 a.m.

We are on the web.
www.trinityup.org

Fall & Winter Kids Stuff Sale

The twice a year sale will be here Oct. 6-12th. The items for sale will be any size children's clothes for fall and winter.



Toys, books, games and all things for children are for sale. Several of the large items are:

cribs, car seats, strollers, bikes. The sale will start on Wednesday evening for the sellers. The actual sale starts on Thursday at 8:00 a.m., Friday also. Saturday is half off day for items that are pre-marked. The Saturday hours are 9-12:00.

Nancy