

# Trinity Trilites

August 2011



## Summertime and the Livin' Is... Behold, Some *Zingers* from Jesus

*"...have salt in yourselves..."*

Mark 9:50



Don't worry. Jesus was *not* telling us to increase the sodium level in our diet. But he *was* telling us to have some zip in our lives and zest in our witness and speech. *If salt loses its saltiness...it's not even good for the dung hill.* (Check that one out in Luke 14:35).

I've thoroughly enjoyed preaching on—*Zingers from Jesus*. Jesus had an amazing way of presenting "gospel truth" in one-liners. Although truth is always deep and searching, in a sound-bite culture our Lord's knack for getting to the heart with a phrase or two is wonderfully refreshing.

To wit: "If your right eye offends you, pluck it out!" (Matthew 5:29). "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's...." (Luke 20:25) "Truly, they have their reward." (Matthew 6:2) And my own favorite "You make converts ...a child of hell." (Matthew 23:15) That's just for starters.

I'll be preaching on these **Zingers** through Labor Day. And really, aren't you glad that on the way to providing for salvation, Jesus was both winsome and fun?

See you in worship this Lord's Day.

## Informational Q & A Times Positive Response, Good Turnouts



Where are all the people in SW Florida these days, especially in the middle of July on a hot, humid Sunday morning? At Trinity Church, a good number of them came to one of our worship services and stayed afterward for an engaging Informational Q & A Time concerning a recent decision by our Trustees and Session on refinancing the mortgage.

They liked what they heard. The main presenter was Elder Steve Benz from the Endowment Committee with support from Trustee President Bud Beeman and Church Treasurer Bryan Page. Pastor Chuck even chimed in a few times.

In short, here's the deal: Trinity is able to refinance the mortgage rate on the Community Life Center, chapel, classrooms and other new facilities at a lower rate of interest. Our current interest rate is 6%. We are able to refinance with SunTrust with a fixed rate mortgage of 4.75%, with 400K transferred from Endowment Fund to pay down the principal. In addition to a lower interest rate, we will now be able to make prepayments on the principal as well..

-continued see Q & A Page 5

Trinity Presbyterian Church 4365 State Road 776 Venice Florida 34293  
Phone: 941.493.0018 Fax: 941.493.4661 www.Trinitypc.org Worship 9 & 10:45 a.m.



## Session Happenings...

*Highlights of Session Meeting  
on June 25, 2011*

- ◆ Our elders **devoured a great egg, cheese & spinach casserole** for breakfast provided by our Clerk Susan Gastony as they discussed *The Externally Focused Church*.
- ◆ InReach brought up the issue of the lack of **parking space on Sundays for those disabled or infirm**.
- ◆ Approved a proposal from Personnel **to add a fourth day of employment** for CAM Director Karin Barbito.
- ◆ Approved beginning **A Services of Wholeness and Healing** to be scheduled periodically in the Chapel. The first one: June 26, 2011.
- ◆ **Evaluated the effectiveness of Town Meeting held on June 12<sup>th</sup>** to discuss Amendment 10-A, with hopes of similar forums in the future.
- ◆ Approved **teaching qualifications** for those who lead Adult Education.
- ◆ Appointed **Elders Don Stewart and Susan Gastony to be Commissioners** at the meeting of Peace River Presbytery on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at the Chapel by the Sea in Fort Myers Beach. They will be first-time commissioners.
- ◆ **Hired Lewis Trotter beginning October 1st** as seasonal Pastoral Associate.
- ◆ Adjourned with a **Season of Prayer** shared by everyone present.

## Buildings / Grounds Summer Projects

### Projects include:

- ◆ Repairs to Fire Alarm System
- ◆ Refinished CLC Floors
- ◆ Repaired lawn sprinkler system
- ◆ Sodded courtyard
- ◆ Repairs made to Memorial Tower
- ◆ Replaced dilapidated doors to trash receptacle areas
- ◆ Contact with Roofers regarding roof leaks for repair

## Trinity Hosts ‘Lively’ 10-A Pastors Luncheon

Trinity recently hosted a lunch gathering on July 13<sup>th</sup> of twenty Peace River Presbytery pastors concerned about the passage Amendment 10-A the previous month. This lively mix included the current and immediate past Clerks of Peace River Presbytery, in a show of support.



A robust discussion included each pastor sharing perspectives from their respective congregations, the Presbytery Clerk sharing the latest “news” out of Louisville, and information about a nationwide gathering of evangelical pastors and leaders on August 26-27 in Minneapolis.

Church politics may be one thing, but how about the food? The repast featured a delicious spinach salad with grilled chicken breast topped off with homemade raspberry and pomegranate dressing. The “cookers and servers” were Karin Barbito, Vera Fanjoy, Juanita Fauser, Roberta French, Sharon Ingleton, along with chief instigator Sharon Sutherland. It was yummy!

About a dozen pastors sent their regrets with the expressed desire to stay informed. The next meeting of 10-A Pastors will be held on September 7<sup>th</sup> in Punta Gorda.

**Suncoast Chorale** will be holding Auditions for this coming season on Friday, September 2nd and Thursday, September 8th from 5:30-7pm. If you would be interested in auditioning and joining the Chorale contact Joan Byron at 941-625-4945 for more information.

# C.A.M. CORNER



## Did you know?.....

*In June - CAM provided to it's clients*

- ★125 monthly bus passes.
- ★51 people with \$10.00 of gas.
- ★Helped 7 families with their FPL bill.
- ★Helped 5 families with their water bill.
- ★Paid for 2 nights in a hotel each for 2 homeless families— *one with a physical disability, the other with 2 small children.*
- ★Spent over \$450.00 exclusively on items for the homeless— *i.e., bug spray, tents, propane stoves, backpacks, etc.).*
- ★Provided services for 1,118 people.
- ★Provided food enough for a week for 1,096 individuals. his equals approximately 23,000 meals.
- ★Thousands of hugs and smiles.

## Did you know?.....

*To accomplish the above, each month, it takes approximately....*

- ★250 volunteers, totally 1,250 volunteer man hours
- ★\$5,000 dollars
- ★\$16,000 dollars of in-kind donations from Sweetbay, Publix, Panera, and Yum Yum bakery
- ★2,000 pieces of donated clothing
- ★2,000 pounds of food donations
- ★22 partnering Churches
- ★20 partnering organizations and communities
- ★Cooperation of 19 other "service" oriented agencies that partner with us to serve the people of Venice.

**C.A.M.—Serving The Community**

In Christ's Abundant, Never Failing Love.

*Karin*

*Blessed are the merciful:  
For they shall obtain mercy*



## Drop In And Browse...

Were you aware that Trinity's Media Center is open on Sunday mornings. We'd be delighted to have you stop in and browse through the stacks. All of our books have been catalogued in the computer for ease of looking up something specific.

You will also find a card rack filled with note cards. Something for everyone. These cards are for purchase at a nominal price. We use the proceeds to purchase stamps and materials needed for our Card Group who make and send notes to our shut-ins.

Why not come and take a look? The Media Center is here for your use. If you have any questions, please contact Lois Odom at 497-4860.



John Cosgrove and our Children / Family MAT will be heading up some Family Fun Nights this fall. The events will include movies, games and lots of fun for the entire family. Save the dates now and watch for more details in the coming weeks. The dates are September 16, October 21, and November 18 — and will be held from 6:30-8:30pm.

## WHAT'S A TRINQUIRER?

Our Outreach MAT will be hosting a class for those seeking to become new members or would like more information into church membership. We will gather on Saturday, August 20th from 10am—12noon. You may join in one of several ways:

**PROFESSION OF FAITH--** If you are not now a baptized Christian, Pastor Chuck will be happy to discuss the meaning of baptism with you.

**REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH--**Those who have at one time been members of a Christian church and are currently inactive.

**LETTER OF TRANSFER --** At your request, we will write for your letter of membership from your former church.

**AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP --** If you wish Trinity to be your "home away from home", but wish to retain your membership in your "home" church, we invite you to join us as an Affiliate Member. This grants you full participation in our church, except voting privileges.

Pastor Chuck will lead the class of TrinQuirers in classroom 1. This will be your opportunity to learn all about Trinity, who we are, as well as some of the 'basics' about the Presbyterian Form of Government. You will also have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. Call the church office (493-0018) or talk with Pastor Chuck to let us know you will be attending. Our Outreach MAT will be providing a light lunch following the class.



Grand Group

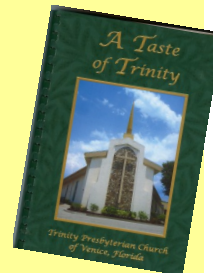
### GRAND GROUP MEETS HERE

This support group for grandparents meets on the second Monday of each month from 10-11:30am in the Stephen Ministry Lounge at the church. All are welcome! For more information contact Norma (258-2016) or Vicki (223-5572).

I can do  
*All Things*  
Through  
*Christ*  
Who  
*Strengthens Me*  
Phil 4:13

### A TASTE OF TRINITY

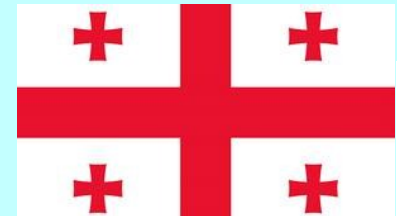
*The Cookbooks have ARRIVED!*



The Presbyterian Women are taking orders at this time with distribution to follow in the fall. Place your order now to reserve your copy. The cost is \$12 each or 5/\$55. Why not order several to send as Christmas gifts. Talk with Florence Barker (493-1439) for more details or to see a sample copy.

## Reaching The "Mingrelian" People

Part TWO, continued from last month by Jim Brown of our Missions MAT.



WITNESSING IN THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

They are one of the world's 6,000+ yet-to-be reached with the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The effort to evangelize to some of the world's yet-to-be reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ (the Mingrelian of the Republic of Georgia) is well underway.

A small American Team of 3 Florida based Presbyterians plus missionaries from Germany and Georgia will be on site in late September.

"Prayer Walking" and Church Planting Training have been developed and will be used to better equip the young Georgian believers of Christ's Great Commission and to teach the Gospel in their country.

Be sure to check out our bulletin board outside classroom 1 for updates on this and other mission projects of Trinity Presbyterian Church.

—Jim Brown



**A Winning Combination:**  
**Walt and Joanne Fillman**

In her mid-thirties, **Joanne Fillman** went to college; afterwards, she taught Elementary Art in a Magnet School in New Jersey for twenty-five years. Joanne was elected teacher of the year, three times. Joanne is a Stephen Minister and will be helping with our VBS "Beach Bash" in August. In addition, Joanne is very proud of her son, Scott, who is a missionary in Togo, Africa.

**Walt** attended William and Mary College, earning a B.A. degree in Economics. After graduation, he joined the Marines and participated in a number of

activities, including the track team at Quantico Marine Base. For 32 years taught middle and high school students in Health and Physical Education. Walt, also, a Stephen Minister volunteers on the Spiritual Care Team at Venice Regional Medical Center.

Both Joanne and Walt were commissioned as Stephen Ministers in the spring of 2008, shortly after joining Trinity. Both, Walt and Joanne, agree that they receive more through being a Stephen Minister than what they give, it has been a blessing in their life.

—Paul Mrha



**Stephen Ministry Training Coming This Fall**

**USING YOUR GIFTS TO SERVE OTHERS**

In October, the Stephen Leaders at Trinity Presbyterian will be holding classes on Stephen Ministry. There will be twenty-five two hour sessions on Tuesday afternoons. Materials will be provided. If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact Barb Middelthon (486-4210), Wilson Barker (493-1439), or Paul Mrha (485-8575).



**July Financial Update**



<b>GENERAL FUND BUDGET</b>	\$40,401
Received to date	\$33,110
Needed for the month	\$ 7,291
<b>MONTHLY MORTGAGE PAYMENT</b>	\$17,500
Building Fund Receipts - July	\$10,652

*On July 21<sup>st</sup>, session approved refinancing the existing mortgage with SunTrust at a locked-in interest rate of 4.75%. We are proceeding with all the necessary site inspection, environmental survey and appraisal work being completed. It will be the middle of August when the actual closing takes place and then we will see a reduction in our monthly payments by approximately \$4,000. The good news is that we will be able to prepay on the principal balance.*

**Q & A — from page 1**



The savings will be substantial. The current monthly mortgage payments will be reduced from \$17,500 monthly to \$13,500. That lowers the debt payback by nearly \$48,000 per year. If you would like to receive the handout from the Q & A, call or email us for a copy.

A tip of the hat to goes to the Trustees, Session & the Endowment Committee. Thank you for "lookin' out for us."

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# TriLites

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
4365 State Road 776  
Venice, Florida 34293

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## Trinity To Host VBS... **Back-To-School Beach Bash**

**August 11-12-13**

**Thursday-Friday, 9:30\*-2:30**

**Saturday 9:30-11:30**

**2-1/2 day FREE VBS  
including FREE lunch!**

**Saturday BASH @ 11:30  
for the whole family...**

**FREE Family BBQ Lunch Saturday**

**...Open House...games...music...**

**...dunk tank...bounce house...more!**

**TO HELP OR REGISTER CALL:**

**941-493-0018**

Trinity Church will be the site of a rollicking two and a half days. This compressed VBS is billed as one last "bash" before school starts. John Cosgrove and Sharon Sutherland are "co-coordinators" for this exciting venture.

This year's VBS has a slightly different look. On Thursday and Friday it will run from 9:30am to 2:30pm. That means we'll be providing lunch for all the kids. Then Saturday we'll have a half day of classes with a "Carnival-like" event in the afternoon featuring an OPEN HOUSE so that the parents can see the great things Trinity is "growing" just for children and families.

A lead team of college students from Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) will provide the instruction and teaching with age-appropriate Bible stories. And curriculum. But we still need LOADS of volunteers for crafts, refreshments, games, and team leaders-so call us to help — 493-0018.