

Trinity TrILites

February 2012



What I've Learned from Pie Charts

"Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches" Revelation 3:22

At the start of each calendar year, I've begun a valuable exercise. I've asked our elders if they would sit down with me in groups of three or four to share what's on their minds. We call them CHATTER GROUPS. They talk and I listen, for a whole hour. Mind you, I ask questions, but for the most part I simply listen and take notes.

After filling a hand-scribbled legal pad, I condense a number of these ideas into ten succinct statements.

When we have our 1st Session meeting, we then analyze what THEY'VE shared.

At that same meeting, through the miracle of digital technology, we then compile the results. We see their

opinions put out as a group— formatted as a PIE CHART—in living color!

This year, three statements jump out:

First, in the face of a hostile culture, over 81 % of our elders are convinced that "the future health and flourishing of the Christian church in the world is a major concern."

Second, 75% are in absolute agreement that "we have large numbers of people [members and friends] who *worship regularly* at Trinity and *choose not* to become involved. This needs our immediate attention."

Third, 87% were in lockstep that "as leaders we need more emphasis on

prayer. We need to be praying with and for each other, as well as our congregation and the larger church."

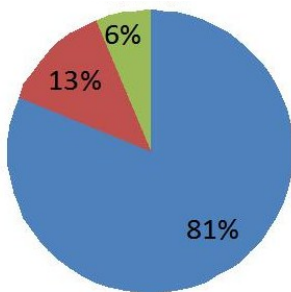
There were other eye-catching convictions as well. But these three were the most startling.

In the coming months, pray for and encourage our Session. They truly desire to serve Christ and lead Trinity Church into the future. After all, it was Jesus who challenged: *He who has ears, listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. (Rev. 3:22)*

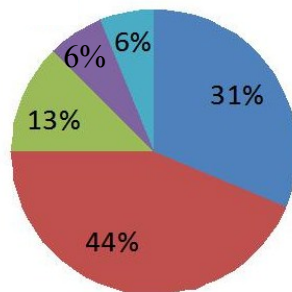
See you this Lord's day,



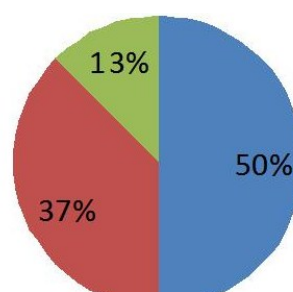
Chue



The future health and flourishing of the Christian Church in a hostile culture concerns me.



A large core of people [members and friends] worship regularly at Trinity and choose not to become involved. This needs immediate attention.



As leaders, I think we need more emphasis on praying with and for each other as well as our congregation and the larger church.



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.

**COMING TO TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ON FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10th at 7:00 PM
the movie:**

COURAGEOUS

*If you are a dad or a mom you owe
it to your family to see this film!*

Showing simultaneously for the
children: **"DOLPHIN TALE"**

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 4365 State
Road 776, South Venice

Phone: 941-493-0018 www.Trinitypc.org

This is a FREE Family Event

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE MARCH 3, 2012

The Women of Trinity will be holding
their Annual White Elephant Sale on
Saturday, March 3rd, 2012.

This year's proceeds are designated
for the Stephen Ministry program to
help train additional persons as
Stephen Leaders.

It's time to bring in those hidden treasures and donate
them to the cause. . Please note: we do not accept
clothing, televisions, or computers.

We also need workers for getting set up, helpers on the
day of the sale, and clean up following the sale.



If you need larger items picked up, please
let us know. Contact Florence Barker
(493-1439) for more details and
information.



Missions MAT to Sponsor Shower for SPARCC

Trinity's
Mission
Ministry Action
Team is

sponsoring a
Personal Care Shower during
February for the Safe Place and
Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC) of
Sarasota.



SPARCC's mission is to provide
services to victims of domestic and
sexual violence, and promote a
violence free community through
awareness and education.

SPARCC's free and confidential
programs protect families, empower
victims to create a brighter future,
and work to prevent future violence.

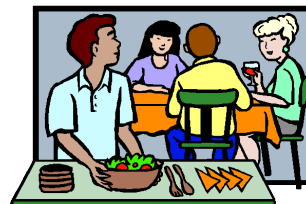
In addition to shelter, SPARCC
provides food and other basic
necessities to these families. From
their wish list, Trinity will be
collecting new personal care/
hygiene items which include: hair
care products, hand and body
lotion, deodorant, hairbrushes &
combs, shampoo & conditioners
(full sizes), toothbrushes &
toothpaste and soap.

Look for the decorated laundry
baskets at both services on
Sundays during February to make
your donation. Your donations will
help SPARCC continue to meet the
needs of the families they serve.

Sharon Ingleton

Mission MAT

Trinity Couples Fellowship Group



3 Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 29
Broadway alms, Ft. Myers
BRIGADOON—Lunch and
Matinee—\$45/pp includes
tax and gratuity. Make your
reservation by Feb 19 (Kay
Hesterhagen—485-6791).

Sunday Brunch: March 11
at La Stanza in Englewood.
We will meet and carpool
following second service.
\$9.95pp.

Wednesday April 4th 5:30 at
Left Coast—8:00 PM see
"Stand by Your Van" at
Venice Theatre \$24.00 PP
(Show only) Reservations
by March 16th

Talk with Kay Hesterhagen
for any of these events (485
-6791).

ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 26TH

Our Annual Congregational/
Corporation meeting will be
held on Sunday, February
26th at 12noon.

NOTE: Copies of the Annual
Report will be available to
the congregation on Sunday,
February 19th following both
services.

Deacons' Greeting Card Ministry



Ever wonder what to do with those beautiful cards you receive in the
mail? Did you know that we have a group of women who gather each
month that recycle used cards to make new ones? These cards are sent
to our shut-in and homebound members and friends. The group meets
each fourth Saturday morning at 10am. Call Beverly Page for information
(1-863-640-0026).

VOLUNTEER Appreciation Luncheon

2/18/2012



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

In appreciation for all you do for Trinity and its ministries throughout the year, we (the staff) will host a special luncheon in your honor on Saturday, February 18th.

So be sure to block, February 18. from 12Noon-1:30pm, out on your calendar and plan to attend.

RSVP to the Church Office (493-0018) or by signing up in the Foyer following worship on Sunday mornings.



SARASOTA CONCERT
BAND

**An Afternoon of
Concert Music!**

Join us for the Latin Rhythms Concert by the Sarasota Concert Band on Saturday, March 24th at 4pm.

They will perform numbers from Mexico, Spain and Latin America. Special youth performers will present *Attitudes in Dance*.

Tickets will be available from at the Church office (941-493-0018) or on Sunday mornings. Ticket price is \$10.

Come enjoy an afternoon of concert music. See you there!

SATURDAY
MARCH 24TH
4PM

“...Paco, meet me...”

The following was on the cover of a worship bulletin and brings to our mind the importance of forgiveness as a theme for “Lent.” Perhaps as we journey towards Easter we will remember this story and relate it to our own lives, our own families and our own faith journey.

Earnest Hemingway wrote a story about a father and his teenage son. In the story, their relationship became strained and the son ran away from home. His father began a journey in search of his rebellious son. Finally, in Madrid, Spain, in a last desperate effort to find his son, the father put an ad in a local newspaper. The ad read: *“Dear Paco, meet me in front of the newspaper office at noon, all is forgiven...I love you, your father.”*

The next day at noon in front of the newspaper office, 800 “Pacos” showed up. They were all seeking forgiveness and love from their fathers. There is no doubt that each of us has a need for love and acceptance. We want relationships in our

lives to be restored and revitalized. We want to know some one cares about us.

This is not only true within our families and circle of friends but also with our relationship with God.

LENT offers that time to share and know forgiveness within our lives. It is a time to mend fences with others and to share new acceptances through forgiveness...the giving of and accepting forgiveness.

So, let us be thankful for those around us and for the presence of Christ within us. Remembering it is Christ who gives us new life, hope, and peace welcoming us home through the cross and knowing all is forgiven.

*Blessings, Lewis Trotter
Pastoral Associate*



IRON SHARPENS IRON

The 2012 “Iron Sharpens Iron” National Men’s Conference is coming to Sarasota on April 21, 7:30 to 5:30. The conference is for men of all ages; Emerging Men (13-19) Pioneering Men (20-29) Full Throttle Men (30-55) and Seasoned Men (55+). These conferences are about more than exhortation – they are about equipping men for Godly living and spiritual leadership. Early registration is \$40.00 and includes lunch. If you are interested or need financial help contact John Cosgrove.

Cover2Cover Book Discussion Group

Cover2Cover will meet on Tuesday, February 28 at 7pm in the church lounge to discuss our latest reads.



We are currently reading “Snow Falling on Cedars” by David Guterson and “Into the Beautiful North” by Luis Urrea.

So if you enjoy discussing what you have read with others, pick up the books at your local bookstore and join this book discussion group.

For more information contact Nancy Miller at 423-7183.



Music @ TRINITY



Psalm 150

Praise God in his Temple!

*Praise his strength
in heaven!*

*Praise him for the mighty
things he has done.*

*Praise his supreme
greatness.*

Praise him with trumpets.

*Praise him with harps
and lyres.*

*Praise him with drums
and dancing.*

*Praise him with harps
and flutes.*

Praise him with cymbals.

*Praise him with loud
cymbals.*

*Praise the Lord,
all living creatures!*

Praise the Lord!

We are so thankful that God provided TWO TIMPANI FOR TRINITY!! (say that one a couple times real fast!)

Stew Beyer and I were working with the Sarasota Concert Band to book them for a special concert this spring. The president of the Band then e-mailed me to ask if I knew of a church or school in need of two good used timpani!! WOO-HOO!! How AWESOME is God! Not only did we get the two copper Ludwig professional timpani, but they completely refurbished them with new heads, making sure everything worked well! We were blessed to get them for only \$599 each (new timpani of this quality begin at over \$7,000 MSRP for two).

You heard our "new" timpani put to use throughout the Christmas season as our gifted percussionist Bobby Ryan played the timpani first for the Choir Cantata, then throughout Christmas, adding much to our worship and music! We first used the timpani (borrowed from First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte) last Easter with the presentation of "The Seven Last Words of Christ."

Many of you indicated you would like to contribute to the purchase of our own timpani for TPC. If you wish to contribute, please be sure to mark your gift "for timpani." We want to pay for the timpani separate from our regular music budget, so please help us by sending your gift as soon as possible.

If you have questions about the tax implications of your gift, feel free to contact Linda Singleton in the church office.

Thank you again for supporting our music ministry! We look forward to many years of praise and worship with the glorious sound of the timpani!

—Sharon Sutherland



BETWEEN THE AGES OF 10 AND 99?

Calling all men, women, and children. We are looking to put a "Paintball Team" together. If you are between the ages of 10 and 99 and would like to join in on the fun contact John Cosgrove at jcos1@comcast.net or 813-500-1663.

This is a terrific opportunity to spend some quality time with your children or grand children as well as fellowship with other believers. The cost will be approximately \$25.00 and will include lunch.



SECOND SATURDAY MEN'S GROUP— Trinity has a special group of men that meet each second Saturday of the month at 8:30am for breakfast and program. This month, February 11th, our guest speaker will be Steve Benz giving a slideshow presentation about his Safari trip to Africa. We will have a Continental breakfast. The meeting starts at 8:30am on February 11th. Be sure to join us.

All Points South of Dearborn



Our Membership MAT is hosting a special gathering for all those folks, forty plus members, affiliate, snowbirds, & friends, who are part of the Trinity Church family who live all points south of Dearborn to Rotonda.

These folks will have an opportunity to get to know each other on Sunday afternoon, February 19 at the Forest Part Clubhouse (4260 Placida Road, Englewood) at 3:00p.m.. We'll enjoy some finger foods and great fellowship. Pastor Chuck will be there to greet each of you. He is especially interested in these "southerners" who travel great distances to worship.

For more details you can all Anne and Gerry Broshar at 941-697-2532. Bravo to these folks who come 'hither and yon' to be part of the Trinity Church family. Let's plan on a great turnout.



Suncoast Chorale to present Pops Concert

As part of their concert series, the Suncoast Chorale will be presenting their Pops Concert at Trinity Church on Friday, February 24th at 7:30pm. Tickets will be available at the door at the cost of \$15.

They will present the music you love from stage, screen and concert hall of the 1930's to the present.

Mark it down and join us.

EUCHRE CARD PARTY

Join us for an evening out playing Euchre with friends.

We meet every second and fourth Thursday of the month in classroom 1.

In February we will meet on the 9th and 23rd at 6:30pm.

Reservations close on the Tuesday prior. Call Betty Kuhlman (497-6852).

CROP Walk 2012



The annual Venice CROP Walk is scheduled for Sunday, February 26th at 3pm. We will meet at the Gazebo in Centennial Park on the Island of Venice. What is CROP Walk? CROP is a program in which all dollars raised go towards Hunger Needs. 25% of monies raised stay in the local community with our own Community Assistance Ministry (CAM) being one of the recipients.

You, as a member or friend of Trinity, can help us by being a walker or a sponsor of someone who is walking. Our goal this year is to get 35 walkers. Stop at the CROP table after each worship service and sign up to be a walker or a sponsor.

If you have any questions, please see Roberta French or call 484-7465.

**TRUST
IN THE
LORD
WITH ALL
YOUR** 
{preverbs 3:5}



SESSION HAPPENINGS

—from the January 28, 2012 meeting

The Session heroically took their lives in their hands by eating a warm breakfast of Eggs, Sausage & Cheese Casserole prepared by Pastor Chuck. (They lived.)

Intensely analyzed the results of the Chatter Groups in creating a vision for future congregational growth. (Were both stunned and excited).

Maxed Out the number of commissioners who could represent Trinity at all four 2012 Peace River Presbytery meetings. (A first in the annals of Christendom).

Learned About the Fellowship of Presbyterians Conference, January 18-20 in Orlando as well as the emergence of a small, new Presbyterian denomination. (Hope tinged with sadness)

Stepped Up to chair the various Ministry Action Teams (MATs) & Committees. (No slackers).

Set the Date for the Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting: Feb. 26, 2012. (Hey, it's the law).

TriLites

Trinity Presbyterian Church
4365 State Road 776
Venice, Florida 34293



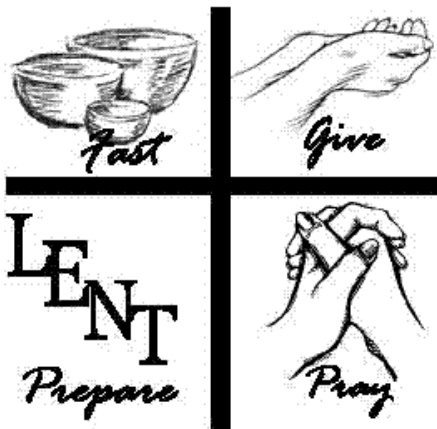
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 22 @ 7pm

ASH WEDNESDAY is the beginning of Lent. It is a rich tradition that the Trinity Church family and friends have come to love.

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of adherents as a sign of repentance.

Our congregation will gather at 7pm for praise, the preaching of the word, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. It is a very meaningful experience. Join us as we begin this Season of Lent.



**MAUNDY
THURSDAY
APRIL 5
WORSHIP
& HOLY COMMUNION
SERVICE 7:00PM**

2012 LENTEN PROGRAM



**Thursday Evenings
In Lent
March 8, 15, 22, & 29**

MARCH 8 — Pastor Chuck and Kathi Wiggins will share their Holy Land experience on the "Footsteps of Paul." A meal will be served with this event.

MARCH 15 & 22 — Lenten Program to be announced.

MARCH 29—Special Guest Speakers
Dr. & Mrs. Fletcher, PCUSA Missionaries to the Congo. Dr. & Mrs. Fletcher are two of our budget supported missionaries. Come hear their story. A meal will precede the presentation.