



**TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**THE MESSENGER**  
**March 2010**

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

**L**ENT 2010 is half over by the time you receive this newsletter. Lent is traditionally a time of fasting, and denying ourselves. It is also a time of recognizing the sins and shortcomings in our lives and preparing for the entry of the risen Christ into our hearts. In brief, it ought to be an important and meaningful time in the life of the church.

It is at this point that I ask myself the question, "Why limit this time of inner searching and self-denial to forty days?" Didn't Jesus say that those who would follow him ought to, "Deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me?" This passage says nothing about doing this for only forty days. It implies that following Jesus ought to be a daily matter of denying ourselves and taking up our cross.

I don't want to take away from the meaning of Lent, but I do want to suggest to you that there ought to be more to commitment to Christ than simply setting aside forty days out of a year when we give Him special consideration and attention. My prayer for each of us would be that as we give special attention to the cross and resurrection of Jesus, we might begin to realize the depth of faith and commitment He wants from each one of us; and that this season of forty days of self-denial and following Jesus, might blossom into a daily walk with our Lord.

May God bless each one of us in this time of growth and renewal!

Ralph Pieper

## **Bishops Day 2010**

### *Creating New Places For New Faces*

Save the date! Saturday, March 13, 2010 is Bishop's Day.

For the first time ever, the UMC's Flint and Port Huron Districts will be holding Bishop's Day together at the Trinity United Methodist Church located at 1310 N. Main Street in Lapeer.

Bishop's Day is for clergy, lay leaders and church members alike. Our keynote speakers include Celinda Hughes and Dr. Jim Robey.

Celinda is the Production and Office Manager for Imagine No Malaria, a program of the Global Health Initiative, a focus area of the United Methodist Church. Her workshop is called "RETH\_NK: A Quest to find the "I" in How We Rethink Evangelism Ministry."

Jim is a United Methodist Elder and Life Coach. As Executive Director of Attentional Growth Inc., he will present a "Coach Approach" to creating a warmly welcoming congregation.

Trinity is hosting this event and you are encouraged to attend!

**Bishop's Day will run from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Please find the brochures on the Welcome Desk! Or  
for registration information, visit us online at  
[detroitconference.org](http://detroitconference.org) or call 810-664-9941.**

## **TRINITY - AN OFFICIAL DROP OFF SITE FOR HEALTH KITS FOR HAITI**

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is on the ground in Haiti and has asked local churches to aide its effort in two ways: through giving to **Advance #418325** - Haiti Emergency, or to send UMCOR Health Kits. Detroit Conference churches have already collected tens of thousands of dollars for UMCOR's Haiti relief and the UMCOR Health Kit collection is the conference's second response to the disaster.

UMCOR Health Kits are valued at \$12 each and contain the following in a sealed, gallon-size plastic bag:

- **1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", no kitchen towels)**
- **1 washcloth**
- **1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket sized)**
- **1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)**
- **1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)**
- **1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, no child-size brushes)**
- **6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages**
- **\$1.00 to purchase toothpaste (toothpaste is being bought in bulk at the distribution centers to avoid expiration)**

All items included in the kits must be NEW items. All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items-nothing more. Please do NOT include any personal notes or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

Health kits collected at local churches should be placed in stackable boxes that weigh no more than 40 pounds.

## **RED CROSS DRIVE SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup>**

Plan now to stop in and give blood during the Red Cross Drive on the 18<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-6:45 in the Fellowship Hall. Our attendance and support for this effort has been growing. We trust many will make the special effort to get out in spite of the cold.

**GUEST SPEAKER FOR  
MARCH 14 IS ONE OF  
THE KEYNOTE  
SPEAKERS FOR THE  
BISHOP'S RALLY**



Jim Robey brings a wealth of professional, educational, and personal life experiences to his practice. In addition to serving local churches for over 30 years, he has established ministries for divorced persons, singles, groups exploring issues of human sexuality, and support groups for those who have recently experienced the loss of a loved one. He has been active in Spiritual Formation events, including the weekend Walk to Emmaus and Young Adult Chrysalis, and the two year long Academy for Spiritual Formation.

He has helped churches transition to meet community needs due to changing demographics. Some of these transitions include establishing new alternative or contemporary forms of worship, starting afternoon youth programs, and leading inter-faith and inter-ethnic programs. Jim will be bringing our message on Sunday, March 14.

**WOMEN'S SPRING RETREATS**

Here is your chance for a life-affirming, faith-renewing experience to feed your body and soul.

Spring Hill Camp, Evart, Michigan, Women's Retreat scheduled for April 30 - May 2, 2010, will feature Dr. RoseAnne Colman. Music by Jennifer Stanley. Registration is on-line. [springhillcamps.com](http://springhillcamps.com). Cost per person is: \$142.00 for Peaks, Freedom Hall, \$124.00 for Cabins and Caboozes, \$90.00 for retreat with no housing provided. A group rate is available for 15 or more.

Win-Some Women Retreat at Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island will be held May 18-19 / 19-20 / 20-21, 2010. Keynote Speakers are Gary Smalley, ("The Blessing"), Rebecca Manley Pippert, ("Out of the Salt Shaker"). Music by Michael Card and Pastor Toby Jones. Cost is per person for 4 per room \$158.00. 2 or 3 per room is \$178.00. This includes retreat fee, round-trip ferry, 3 meals and accommodations at Grand Hotel and also all taxes, gratuities and baggage handling. Retreat begins at 12:55 on day one and ends at 2:30 on day two. A 2 night stay is available for \$306.00 with 4 per room or 2 or 3 for \$346.00. Registration will be on - line only beginning March 8th. A post card announcement will be mailed in March.

## **NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY DATES ESTABLISHED**

Please begin now to plan for a time when you and your family could get their pictures taken with Olan Mills for our new church Directory. Dates that are scheduled are:

April 27, 2010 from 3-9:30 PM  
April 28, 2010 from 3-9:30 PM  
April 29, 2010 from 3-9:30 PM  
April 30, 2010 from 3-9:30 PM  
May 1, 2010 from 10-5:00 PM



You are under no obligation to buy the pictures that are taken. This year's directory will be prepared in preparation for our 175 Anniversary in 2011. The Directory will be loose leaf in nature and allow for a brief bio of each family. We are excited about the possibilities for late additions and revisions.



## **THURSDAY EVENING LENTEN POTLUCKS AND SERVICES**

Each Thursday evening in Lent our Evangelism Committee will be offering a potluck and drama presentation for members of the congregation. These are intended to be times of fellowship, renewal and reflection. Please make every effort to participate and support the work of Kay Bashore and her committee.

## **LAPEER SCHOOL TESTING**

Lapeer Schools will be using our building for testing March 8-12. There will be limited access to rooms and facilities during that time as there are special set up needs and requirements. Please contact the office if you have a special need or activity during that period that is not on the calendar.



**DISCIPLE II CLASS**

I know how hard it is to commit to another Disciple Class knowing the work involved, but how about breaking it into smaller parts to make it less difficult? If enough people are interested we would start Disciple II on the following schedule:

March 18 - May 27, 2010	11 weeks
September 9 - November 18, 2010	11 weeks
March 17 - May 19, 2011	10 weeks

Disciple II covers Genesis, Exodus, Luke and Acts in 32 weeks. There is much less intense reading than in Disciple I.

Please prayerfully consider this, and let me know if you wish to study with us. The class would meet on Thursday nights at the church from 7:00 – 9:30 PM. Leave a note in my church mailbox as soon as you decide so we will know how many books to order. Nancy Brinker

**Trinity United Methodist Men**

Will have their regular monthly dinner meeting at the Farm House Restaurant on Monday, March 1, from 6:30 -8:30 PM with a program planned. Our February 1 program delighted the 30 attendees with a presentation of a mission trip to Haiti, called, "The Sound of a Wooden Bell" given by Genie Bank and Mary Solterman from the Lexington UMC. The speakers had been working about 120 miles from Port Au Prince and "felt" the tremors of the 7.0 earthquake, and fortunately were not adversely affected. They are in the beginning stages of putting together a program, and agreed to return to Trinity with an expanded version, in the near future.

**LAY SPEAKER COMMISSIONING-**

Members of our congregation who are going through the beginning or advanced class of Lay Speakers will be commissioned on Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Marlette Church. Please come and support this ministry of our church and denomination. These folks will serve us in the pulpits as liturgists, teachers, preachers, etc. We will list the participants in our bulletin as the time draws near.

## **YOUTH GROUP**

Hello again from the youth of our church. We are doing fine and surviving the winter. Right now we are in the middle of "Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren. The kids are playing it cool and getting really interested! (In the strange shirts he wears in the video). I know they are paying attention though because I see it in their attitudes toward one another. They are truly a family of young people, encouraging and accepting anyone who comes through their door.

We recently booked our mission trip to Nashville, Tennessee. We will be leaving on July 11 at 5:30 AM. I bet the teenagers sleep in the car! We will need your support in many ways. We will need your prayers, encouragement, and financing. Every aspect of your support will be needed and greatly appreciated. Thank you and God bless your lives with joy.

Creg June

## **VBS**

This years VBS will run from June 21-25. It will be held in the morning when everyone has lots of energy. As we found out last year the SportsLife Camp is a very active camp. We will be using the SportsLife Camps again this year. They were a great success last year. We will be getting out the registration forms as soon as we receive them. We look forward to having a great time getting to know Christ better together.

## **CAMP BROCHURES ARE HERE!**

Get yours and start planning your best summer yet. Check out all the new camps that have been added. Register soon to have the best chance of getting the camps that you want. View camps or register on-line at [www.umccamps.org](http://www.umccamps.org).



**TIME CHANGE –**

**SUNDAY A.M. MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup> -  
SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD  
ON SATURDAY NIGHT AND  
JOIN US ON TIME SUNDAY  
MORNING!**



## **CONCERNS WITHIN OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY**



### **Prayers of Concern for. . .**

Lorraine Jessup

Kyle Noel

Bob Whitman

Beverly Kelly

Bernice Ritter's daughter Mary and grandson David

Garman's great granddaughter

### **Christian Sympathy Extended to. . .**

The Dillon Family in the death of Jim's father

The Perry Family in the death of Christine's mother

The Ortega Family in the death of Monica's mother

**Those who have been Hospitalized:** Marie Green, Marilyn Garman, Dean Rudduck, Kate Wadesworth.

### **Prayer for those serving in the Armed Forces**

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