Trinity Tidings

October, 2017 - Tidbits

Thank you to our Trinity Family for all the kindness displayed at the loss of our daughter in-law Mary.

We are especially grateful to Pastor Izzy for coming to the funeral and offering much needed support.

To our friends who attended the service- also the tall person who took time from his busy schedule, drove all the way to Muskegon just to offer condolences and a hug - then returned home to other commitments!

Thank you to the diaconate for the thoughtful gift of a lovely fruit basket.

This my friends is what it means to be part of the family of God at Trinity. God's Blessing to you all.

John Fowler & Helen Thompson

Library News

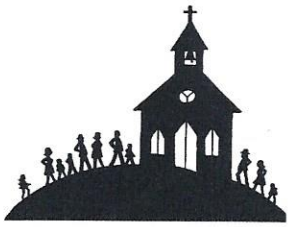
John and Connie Lown have donated a book for our Trinity Library called *Left to Tell* written by Immaculee Ilibagia. She tells of her living through the Rwandan Holocaust and discovering God in its midst. Her views on life changed for her and her country during this terrible event. Enjoy this wonderful story of a brave Christian. Thanks for sharing John and Connie!!

Teri Filius

Also, I am donating *The lucky One* by Nicholas Sparks and *Falling Leaves* by Adeline Yen Meh. This is a true story about an unwanted Chinese Daughter. I am also donating *The Prayer of Jabez* by Bruce Wilkenson.

Enjoy reading any books in our library. Please return them so others may read them also.

Thank you!



176th Michigan Conference of Congregational Christian Churches will be held on October 20th and 21st at Mt Hope Congregational Church in Lavonia MI. Registration begins on Friday, October 20th at 3:00 and concludes with lunch in the early afternoon on Saturday.

If you are interested in Attending or if you would like to have more information on this conference, please see Pastor Izzy! The Cost is $25.00 plus Hotel stay for 1 night.

Oct 1st
Christian Ed
6:00pm
Chairman
Pastor Aaron Smith

October 4th
Diaconate
6:30pm
Chairman
Wally VanHouten

October 11th
Trustee Meeting
6:30pm
Chairman
Steve DeGraaf

October 18th
Council Meeting
6:30pm
Moderator
Steve Dyke

October 25th
Fireside Chat
Cancelled

Mission News
North West Food Pantry

The need is so great over the winter, please consider donating money for the pantry to use on most needed items or donate from the following list of suggested items.

Toilet paper, soap, shampoo, toothpaste and brushes, soup, tuna, canned fruit and vegetables, hamburger helper, stew, oatmeal, cereals, pastas, jello, pudding, flour and sugar.

Mission News
Change 4 Change

Please give your loose change on Sunday Mornings to this Month's Mission...

Northwest Food Pantry

Volunteering at the pantry will be announced soon!

You're invited to a

Fall Harvest

Party!

On October 21st at 1:00 pm

It's time to have some great fall fun by picking apples and pumpkins. You may also decide to go for a hayride and/or through the corn maze.

Prices:
Hayride $7 / person
Corn maze $7 / person
H/CM combo $12 / person
Kids Rides $3 / ride or 3/$8

Trunk or Treat

Join us on October 29th from 6:30-8:00 pm for Trunk or Treat at Trinity. Please help us by bringing in candy. Last year we had tons of people come!!

Reminder: Pastor Izzy will be on Vacation October 23 through October 29.

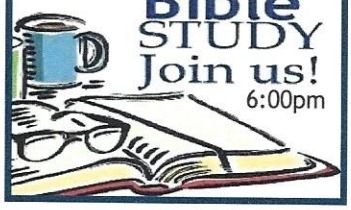
Sep 9th 8:30am Russ' on Alpine

MEN'S BREAKFAST

FIRESIDE chats

Cancelled for October

8:30am Bible STUDY Join us! 6:00pm



Women's Fellowship
October 25th at 12:00p
Logan's Restaurant

Serving Among Us For November

Deacon of the Month
Ralph Thurston

Date	Acolyte	Coffee	Greeters/Ushers	Opener	Nursery
5	Autumn VanDyke	Jim & Josie Piccard	Roger & Fern Alberts	Wally VanHouten	Cherie DeHaan
12	Austin Fetterley	Tim & Lisa Piccard	Sean & Mayra Smith	Wally VanHouten	Jan Hoogewind
19	Sammy Timm	Soup & Salad Luncheon	Kathy Wilson	Wally VanHouten	MaryBeth Hoogewind
26	Abby Dyke	Laura Young	Steve & Missy Dyke	Wally VanHouten	Linda Borck

Congratulations Ken Willard on your 100th Birthday!!

Come help celebrate this wonderful milestone at Fellowship hall after Church on Sunday October 1, 2017.

Ken was born in a house on Peach Ridge before his family moved to 4 Mile and owned a farm across from the church.
Ken started milking cows at the age of 8 and was always active as a youngster. His first job out of high school was working at a gas station on the corner of Leonard and Walker. He then worked 3 years at American Seating for Walter Roth. He went into General farming from 1942 - 1953 where he milked about 35 cows. He also did custom farm work such as baling hay, combining, and planting corn. He did this from 1953-1988 along with selling insurance for Farm Bureau during the same time period.

Ken raised English Setter hunting dogs since 1936. His last dog was named Bridget and was his best dog ever according to Ken. The dog was 13 years old before she died 3 years ago.
Ken's hobbies are hunting and fishing. He also had a pilot's license from 1976-2000 and used to fly a Cessna 150 which is a two-seat tricycle gear general airplane that was designed for flight training, touring and personal use. Ken also loved his 4-wheeler and drove it like a kid until he was in his mid-90s.
Ken and Joan lived in a beautiful log home near Lamont until 3 years ago when they sold it. They now live in a lovely condo in Hudsonville.

Ken has had many experiences in his life. He once saved a man who was ice fishing when he fell through the ice. The man was very heavy and Ken struggled but was able to get him onto dry land.
Ken also used to love to cut trees with his chain saw. Once Ken was up in a tree cutting some limbs when he fell out of the tree and the chainsaw was still on. He could have been seriously injured but he came out of it without a scratch. Joan says that he could cut off the tree limbs that he was standing on and still be fine.
Ken had many such adventures and got into many scrapes but Joan always said that Ken had 9 lives. We now have the honor of celebrating his 100th birthday!! Way to go Ken!!

How Long have you been attending Trinity? Ken has been attending Trinity since the church began in 1909. Joan started coming to church when they got married 37 years ago.	What Brought you to Trinity? Ken's parents started coming to the church when Ken was a baby. Ken brought Joan to the church once they were married.
Do you have any children? Ken and Joan have 7 children altogether. They also have 18 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.	Do you have any Pets? Ken and Joan used to have hunting dogs and numerous cats in the past. But now they have a cat named Tootsie. She is 4 years old.
How long have you been married? Ken and Joan have been married for 37 Years.	When is your anniversary? Ken and Joan's anniversary is March 26th.
When are your Birthdays? Ken's Birthday is September 30th and Joan's Birthday is May 26th.	What is your favorite Color? Ken's favorite color is Red and Joan's favorite color is green.
What is your favorite meal? Ken and Joan both like a great pork chop meal but their favorite place for Pizza is Fricanos.	What is your favorite dessert? Ken's favorite dessert is homemade cherry pie and Joan's favorite dessert is ice cream.

A story you may have heard before but one that goes to the heart of helping others and paying it forward. It should inspire us to reach out to others in their time of need!

One day a man saw an old lady stranded on the side of the road, but even in the dim light of day, he could see she needed help. So, he pulled up in front of her Mercedes and got out. His old truck was still sputtering when he approached her. Even with the smile on his face, she looked worried. No one had stopped to help for the last hour or so as she sat there stranded on the road. Was he going to hurt her? He didn't look safe; he looked poor and hungry.

He could see that she was frightened standing out there in the cold. He knew how she felt. It was that chill which only fear can put in you. He said "I'm here to help you ma'am. Why don't you wait in the car where it's warm? By the way, my name is Bryan Anderson."

Well, all she had was a flat tire, but for an old lady, that was bad enough. Bryan crawled under the car looking for a place to put the jack, skinning his knuckles a time or two. Soon he was able to change the tire. But he had to get dirty and his hands hurt. As he was tightening up the lug nuts, she rolled down the window and began to talk to him. She told him that she was from St. Louis and was only passing through. She couldn't thank him enough for coming to her aid.

Bryan just smiled as he closed her trunk. The lady asked how much she owed him. Any amount would have been all right with her. She already imagined all the awful things that could have happened had he not stopped. Bryan never thought twice about being paid. This was not a job to him. This was helping someone in need, and God knows there were plenty who had given him a hand in the past. He had lived his whole life that way and it never occurred to him to act any other way. He told her that if she really wanted to pay him back, the next time she saw someone who needed help, she could give that person the assistance they needed, and Bryan added, "And think of me." He waited until she started her car and drove off. It had been a cold and depressing day but he felt good as he headed for home disappearing into the twilight.

A few miles down the road, the lady saw a small café. She went in to grab a bite to eat, and to take the chill off before she made the last leg of her trip home. It was a dingy looking restaurant. Outside were two old gas pumps. The whole scene was unfamiliar to her.

The waitress came over and brought a clean towel to wipe her wet hair. She had a sweet smile, one that even being on her feet for the whole day couldn't erase. The lady noticed the waitress was nearly eight months pregnant, but she never let the strain and aches change her attitude.

The old lady wondered how someone who had so little could be so giving to a stranger. Then she remembered Bryan.

After the lady finished her meal, she paid with a $100.00 bill. The waitress quickly went to get change for her $100.00 bill, but the old lady had slipped right out the door. She was gone by the time the waitress came back. The waitress wondered where the lady could be. Then she noticed something written on the napkin.

There were tears in her eyes when she read what the lady wrote: "You don't owe me anything. I have been there too. Somebody once helped me out, the way I'm helping you. If you really want to pay me back, here is what you do: Do not let this chain of love end with you." Under the napkin were four more $100.00 bills.

Well there were tables to clear, sugar bowls to fill and people to serve, but the waitress made it through another day.

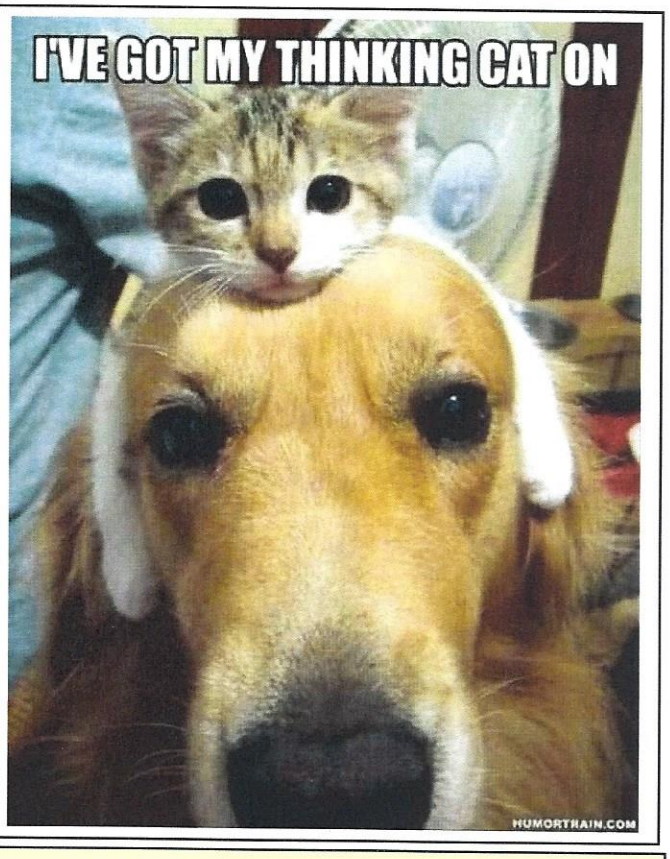
That night when she got home from work and climbed into bed, she was thinking about the money and what the lady had written. How could the lady have known how much she and her husband needed the money? With the baby due next month, it was going to be hard...She knew how worried her husband was and as he lay sleeping next to her, she gave him a soft kiss and whispered soft and low, "Everything is going to be all right. I love you, Bryan Anderson."

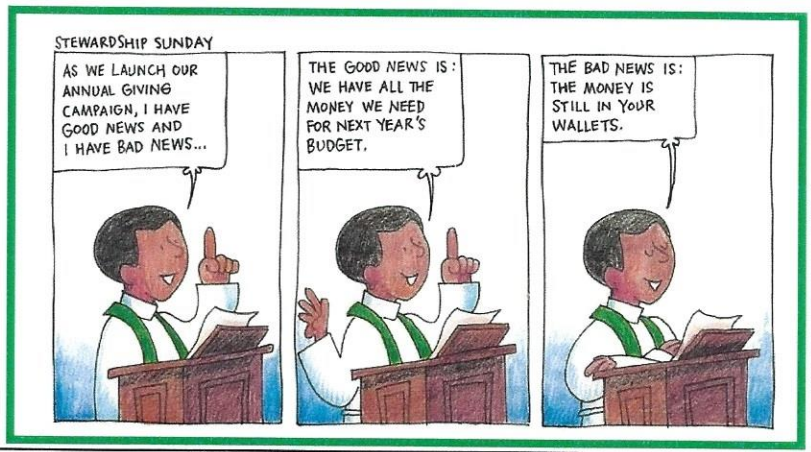
God works in mysterious ways and sometimes puts people in our lives for a reason. I hope you enjoyed this story!! Blessings

An inexperienced preacher was to hold a graveside burial service at a pauper's cemetery for an indigent man with no family or friends. Not knowing where the cemetery was, he made several wrong turns and got lost. When he eventually arrived an hour late, the hearse was nowhere in sight, the backhoe was next to the open hole, and the workmen were sitting under a tree eating lunch.

The diligent young pastor went to the open grave and found the vault lid already in place. Feeling guilty because of his tardiness, he preached an impassioned and lengthy service, sending the deceased to the great beyond in style.

As he returned to his car, he overheard one of the workman say to the other, "I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years and I ain't never seen anything like that."





A 10 year old little girl was asked by another classmate, "what is it like to be a Christian?". The girl replied, "it's like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then he cuts open the top and scoops out all of the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc., and then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."

One Sunday morning at a small southern church, the new pastor called on one of his older deacons to lead in the opening prayer. The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said,"Lord, I hate buttermilk."

The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going. The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was totally perplexed. The deacon continued, "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour. But after you mix 'em all together and bake 'em in a hot oven, I just love biscuits."

"Lord help us to realize when life gets hard, when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, that we need to wait and see what You are making. After you get through mixing and baking, it'll probably be something even better than biscuits. Amen.

Making places to come home to.

September 14, 2017

Pastor Izzy Young
Trinity Congregational Church
2725 4 Mile Rd. NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49544

Dear Pastor Izzy,

Thank you for Trinity Congregational Church's recent gift of $700 in support of ICCF and the individuals and families we serve. We are so grateful for your partnership through both volunteering and financial support in advancing ICCF's mission of working towards ***equitable opportunity, affordable homes, and thriving neighborhoods***.

As you may know, we are currently experiencing much growth in Grand Rapids—new restaurants, new businesses, and increased investment. While for some of us, this growth has been very positive, for others of us it has resulted in significant challenges.

Over the past five years:

- Median **household income** in Grand Rapids **rose 6%**
- Median **monthly rent** in Grand Rapids **rose 44%**
- Median **home prices** in Grand Rapids **rose 60%**

The disconnect between these numbers is staggering. As a result of the rapid increase in housing costs and nearly stagnant wages, many of our neighbors are being pushed out.

Our work at ICCF is in response to God's call to justice. With your help, we will continue to faithfully answer that call—seeking to ensure our community is a place where ***all*** people can experience equitable opportunity, affordable housing, and thriving neighborhoods.

Thank you again for supporting this work and for your generosity and commitment to ICCF.

Warmly,

Michelle

Michelle Covington
VP of Advancement

ICCF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
No goods or services were provided to you in exchange for your contribution.

Your gift will be a blessing to the families we serve!
Thank you!

ICCF
INNER CITY CHRISTIAN FEDERATION
www.iccf.org

Program and Administrative Office
920 Cherry Street SE Grand Rapids, MI 49506
tel: (616) 336-9333 fax: (616) 336-9323

Family Haven
701 Prospect SE Grand Rapids, MI 49503
tel: (616) 247-4949 fax: (616) 247-7999

Pastor Izzy's Ramblings...

The foremost characteristic of living by grace is trust in the redeeming work of Jesus Christ.

Brennan Manning Ragamuffin Gospel

One of you reading my ramblings this month will feel as if I'm speaking to directly to you but rest assured this rambling is not because of you. Instead, this rambling is for all of us. We all need to be reminded that Jesus' redeeming work is for all sinners and living by grace is never easy.

The hardest work before any believer is always the work we do with sinners, especially the one looking back at us in the mirror. Sinners deserve punishment. Sinners deserve condemnation. Sinners deserve what they get. And Jesus agrees with every one of those thoughts and statements about sinners, but there is a catch.

GRACE

Let me ask this: In working with sinners should we treat them as they deserve to be treated or do we treat them in the same manner that Jesus treats us in our own sin?

Several years ago I lead a mission trip of teenagers into the Black Hills of South Dakota. Our mission trip took over a year to plan and in the planning that took place we needed to find committed adults who would be willing to go along.

This was not an easy task. We had to find adults who were willing to give up two weeks of their summer to drive from Indiana to South Dakota with a van full of smelly teenagers.

When the smoke had settled we had 3 extra adults besides me who had committed to going on this trip.

We had a young man who was recently married as our main coordinator. We had a nurse who was on temporary disability and we had a retired stay at home mom, who was more than willing to take charge and was more than willing to put her nose into every aspect of the trip and into everyone's personal business.

It didn't take long for the retired stay at home mom to busy herself into the lives of everyone going on the trip.

She knew which teenagers were couples, which ones were single, which ones were taking along contraband, and which ones didn't pack deodorant.

She even did enough digging and found out that our newlywed young man who coordinated the entire trip was not being honest in his relationship with his wife.

She then shared all this information with me and then looked at me and said what are you going to do about all of this, especially about the young man?

She didn't feel as if this young man was worthy of going on our trip, since he would not be a good role model for teenagers.

My initial plan was to ignore her concerns and deal with it when we got back from the trip. But she wasn't satisfied with my laissez-faire attitude of let it lie and deal with it when we get back home.

She wanted me to either find someone else at the last moment or cancel the trip if I couldn't find a replacement.

So, I continued to ignore her concerns as we packed up and headed out on the trip. But just because we had left and everything was going according to plan, it didn't mean that she was going to let the situation go until we got home. She continued to pursue me in saying I needed to confront the sin.

On the very last day of our mission week, I finally caved to her relentless pressure and I confronted the situation and it went exactly as I had thought it would go. It was an utter disaster. In the matter of 5 seconds, I had alienated my friend, our coordinator, and a confident of the teens.

The ride home was very quiet because of tired teens and because of the tensions that I had caused.

There are so many lessons that can be taken from this experience but the greatest lesson I learned was a message of redemption through grace. Because of one person's desire for punishment for sin, I lost the ability to redeem a brother who had lost his way.

REPEAT AFTER ME…SIN IS EVERYWHERE AND WE ARE ALL GUILTY OF WELCOMING IT INTO OUR LIVES.

I had a choice in dealing with my brother and I chose the easy human way of dealing with him instead of choosing the hard way of dealing with him, the way Jesus deals with each of us.

We so much need to remember that judgment belongs to the Lord and we need to let the Lord do his work in that area.

Our job in these situations is to do the work of grace. And what that means is our focus is always on doing our best of maintaining the relationship, while being very firm about confronting the sin.

What I did wrong in that situation is confronted him as a person and I lost his friendship and trust.

What should have been done was to confront the sin and let him decide what would come of our relationship.

We all learn as we grow in our walk with Jesus, but learning to love through grace is one of the toughest challenges we have as believers.

Trinity Congregational Church ~ October 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Bible Study 8:30a or 6:00p Christian Ed 12 b- John Lown	2 Membership Class 7p	3 Youth Group 6:30-7:30p Comparative Religions 6:30-7:30p Crafts – 6:30-8:30p Ragamuffin Gospel 7:30-8:30p Drama 7:30-8:30p b- Kathy Wilson b- Steve Dyke	4 Deacons 6:30 pm	5 Bells 6:00p Choir 7:30p	6 Wedding Rehearsal For Katelind & Tyler	7 Katelind & Tyler Wedding 3:00pm
8 Worship 10:00a Bible Study 8:30a or 6:00p	9 Membership Class 7p	10 Youth Group 6:30-7:30p Comparative Religions 6:30-7:30p Crafts – 6:30-8:30p Ragamuffin Gospel 7:30-8:30p Drama 7:30-8:30p	11 Trustees 6:30 pm Pilgrim Gala 7p	12 Green Acres 10:00 Herron Woods 11:30 Bells 6:00p Choir 7:30p	13	14
15 Worship 10:00a Bible Study 8:30a or 6:00p	16 Membership Class 7p b-Pam Whiting	17 Youth Group 6:30-7:30p Comparative Religions 6:30-7:30p Crafts – 6:30-8:30p Ragamuffin Gospel 7:30-8:30p Drama 7:30-8:30p	18 Boulder Creek 1:30 Council 6:30 pm	19 Bells 6:00p Choir 7:30p a- Bill & Betty VerStrat	20 b. Betty Walters	21 **Fall Harvest Party** **Pumpkin patch** **Hayrides and** **corn maze 1:00p**
22 Worship 10:00a Bible Study 8:30a or 6:00p	23 Pastor Vacation	24 Pastor Vacation Youth Group 6:30-7:30p Crafts – 6:30-8:30p Drama 7:30-8:30p All of Pastor Izzy's groups are cancelled b- Ethan Reynders	25 Pastor Vacation Women's Fellowship Logan's at 12:00p b. Pastor Izzy	26 Pastor Vacation Bells 6:00p Choir 7:30p	27 Pastor Vacation b. Ryan Bouwkamp	28 Pastor Vacation
29 Worship 10:00a Pastor Vacation **Trunk or Treat @** **the church 6:30-8p**	30 Membership Class 7p	31 Youth Group 6:30-7:30p Comparative Religions 6:30-7:30p Crafts – 6:30-8:30p Ragamuffin Gospel 7:30-8:30p Drama 7:30-8:30p			b- Birthday a- Anniversary	

SERVING AMONG US

October, 2017

	Acolyte	Coffee	Greeter/Usher	Opener	Nursery
1	Autumn VanDyke	Ken's 100th Birthday Celebration	Jim & Josie Piccard	Harry Moore	MaryBeth Hoogewind
8	Isabelle Fetterley	Dort Bishop & Julie Naill	Bill TenBrink	Harry Moore	Cherie DeHaan
15	Abby Dyke	Rose Baker & Donna Lillibridge	Tim & Lisa Piccard	Harry Moore	Linda Borck
22	Caleb Smith	Sara Edge & Sue Host	Ryan & Amber Bouwkamp	Harry Moore	MaryBeth Hoogewind
29	Jennifer Dyke	Dan & Teri Filius	Donna Lillibridge	Harry Moore	Jan Hoogewind

Deacon of the Month - Jan Hoogewind

If you are unable to fulfill the assigned dates, please find a replacement

Acolyte will light candles at 9:45 AM Opener will ring bell at 9:50 AM

FALL ADVENTURE

OCTOBER 21, 1 PM
AT
FRUIT RIDGE HAY RIDES

Fruit Ridge farm has a variety of old-fashioned farm activities to enjoy with your friends and family. Take a horse-drawn hayride, find your way through the corn maze, visit our animals ,pick pumpkins or apples, and more!

cost:
hayrides$7.00/person
Corn Mazes$7.00/person
Hayride & Corn Maze Combo$13.00/person

Trunk or Treat!
October 29, 2017
6:30 to 8:00 pm
At
Trinity Congregation Church
2725 4 mile Rd.
Grand Rapids MI 49544
Come join us as we have fun dressing up, games, snacks and CANDY!