

The Trinity COMPANION

SUMMER 2014
volume 1 • number 1

A publication of Trinity United Methodist Church—Big Stone Gap, Virginia

FROM THE PASTOR



Let me take this opportunity to welcome you to the first edition of our new quarterly newsletter. I truly pray that this will be a way for you to keep up with some of the things happening at the church.

You are a vital part of our church family and we want you to stay informed and, maybe even be challenged to get involved. It is my hope that you might be inspired and that you will seek to lift up the ministries you see mentioned in this newsletter in your prayers.

I hope to hear from you. Give me a call, and let's find a time to get together.

The Shepherd Team Is Reaching Out to YOU!

As 2014 began, a new ministry was born. It was called the Shepherd Team. The goal of the team was to provide ministry to the members of our church. We have begun several different ministry initiatives. This newsletter, The Trinity COMPANION, is our attempt to reach out to our members that might not make it to church on a regular basis.

We feel that all our members need to be kept informed about the ministries of our church. This is the first of what we hope will be many quarterly newsletters. In each newsletter, we hope to keep you informed as to the ministries that our church has undertaken in our community and to also let you know of events and activities coming up that might be of interest to you. Our hope is that you might want to come and take part in some of them, if you are able. If you are not able, then we still want you to know about them.

Ministries of the Shepherd Team

There are several ministries that the Shepherd Team undertakes on behalf of the church. We hope that you will take a moment to read about those ministries.

The first ministry may not seem like a ministry, but we think that it is. We call it our Church Attendance

Tracking ministry. Each Sunday morning, we have someone in the choir taking attendance during the worship service. Then on each Monday, Becky Rogers enters the attendance into the church computer and generates a report for the Shepherd Team. The team will look at

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Home Communion Ministry to Begin

In June, we dedicated to Home Communion sets and we have trained teams of individuals so that they can bring the communion elements to our homebound members. Our goal is to begin this ministry in July. So, by the time you get this newsletter, we should have already begun.



Retirement Volunteer Opportunities

Adapted from an article by Mark Patterson

Many prospective retirees picture themselves leaving a paying job and using their free time as a volunteer. But finding a volunteer position suitable for a retiree may not be as easy as we anticipate.

Retirees are not alone in their desire to help others. Some 62.8 million Americans volunteered a median of 52 hours in 2010, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The median annual hours spent on volunteer activities ranged from a low of 40 hours for the 16 to 34 age group to a high of 96 hours among volunteers age 65 and over. Given these statistics, don't assume that your ideal volunteer position is waiting for you to fill it. Before targeting a volunteer position, consider some of the practical aspects.

Ask yourself why you are volunteering. Without that self-knowledge, you may have difficulty finding a position that fits your volunteer goals.

Seek a volunteer job that you will you be good at it. Do you have skills or experience suited for the position?

Will your commitment match the need? When selecting a volunteer position, be certain that the intensity, hours per week required, and duration of the work is suitable for the time you are able to give.

So why not, regardless of your age, find some volunteer position that lets you give back to your community.

Mark Patterson is an engineer, patent attorney, baby boomer, and author of The Fallsafe Retirement System. He blogs on matters of personal finance and retirement planning at Tough Money Love andGo To Retirement.

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the report and note who was absent. Depending upon the number of Sundays that have been missed, each absentee will be contacted either by phone or by notecard to let them know that he or she has been missed.

Another ministry we are about to begin is the **Bereavement Kit** ministry. We are creating a kit full of paper supplies that can be taken to a home when there has been a death. It will contain, plates, napkins, cups, disposable utensils. It will also contain other items that a family might need when there has been a death and friends and family members will be coming over for visits. We will also include some materials to help persons deal with grief and loss.

This newsletter is a third ministry that the team has begun. In addition to

this one that is geared towards our home bound members, we are also creating one that will be aimed at college students and high school graduates. It too, will be a quarterly publication.

As mentioned on the first page, we will also begin our Home Communion ministry. Most likely, we will take the elements to our home bound members on the Sundays that we serve communion at the church. In addition, we will be able to bring the sacrament to persons that might be in the hospital.

As time goes on, we hope to further expand the kind of ministries that we offer to our homebound members. If you have an idea, we'd love to hear from you. You can contact the pastor (276) 523-0789 or you can contact Patty Lynn Cooper (276) 523-0450.

Prayer Team Will Pray for You

Did you know that we have a Prayer Team at the church that will be more than glad to pray for you?

Each Wednesday night, we have a group of people that gather in the sanctuary at 6:00 p.m. for a time of prayer. We pray for all those that have asked for prayer both in our church and in the community. This ministry is led by Martha Spurlock.

Call her at (276) 523-5953 to get your request added to their prayers.

Also, if you have an urgent prayer, you may call the church office and we will then activate our Prayer Chain to send out your request. This can be done at anytime the office is open. If the office is closed, then please call Patty Lynn Cooper at (276) 523-0450.

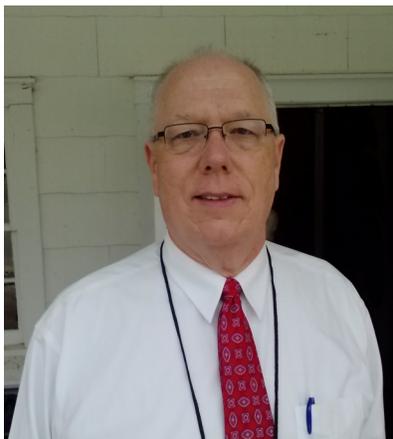
Do You Use the Internet?

If you use the internet, we would like to invite you to learn more about what is happening at our church by visiting us online at: <http://www.trinityumc-bsg.net>. By typing in this address, you will be taken to our home page and from there you can learn about our current ministries and activities. Also, we'd love to know if you have an email address. Send us a message at trinityumc-bsg@gmail.com



Meet Our New District Superintendent

On June 24th, the Rev. Jeff Wright, became the newly appointed Big Stone Gap District Superintendent. He and his wife Sandy will be settling into our community and we hope to be seeing them at church in the near future. Just thought you'd like to see a picture of him. He will be settling in and should be in the District Office by July 1st. If you need to contact him you can reach him at (276) 523-3025.



We Would Love to See You at One of Our Church Suppers

We have Church Potluck Suppers scheduled for the following dates:

- ⇒ Wednesday August 6, 2014 @ 6:30 pm
- ⇒ Saturday August 30, 2014—Our Community Block Party-Hamburgers and Hot Dogs will be served
- ⇒ Sunday August 31, 2014—Homecoming Meal after the morning worship service
- ⇒ Wednesday September 11, 2014 @ 6:30 p.m.
- ⇒ Wednesday October 1, 2014 @ 6:30 pm

Church Seeking New Director of Children and Youth Ministries



L to R—Jon Hall, Stuart Barton, and Paula Barton eating pizza in hotel at Resurrection 2014.

Citing more time needed to deal with family matters, Paula Barton, our Director of Youth Ministries for the past several years, tendered her resignation effective July 1st. The church recognized her service at a meal in her honor in May. We are currently in the process of looking for someone to replace her in this vital ministry of our church.



Tell Everyone about Vacation Bible School

Our Vacation Bible School begins on Monday night July 28th and runs nightly through Friday night August 1st. The school begins at 5:30 each evening. This year, we are having a wild animal sort of theme and are looking forward to ministering to the children of our church and our community. If you have any grandchildren or neighborhood kids near you, please be sure to tell them about the VBS and let them know that they would be welcomed.

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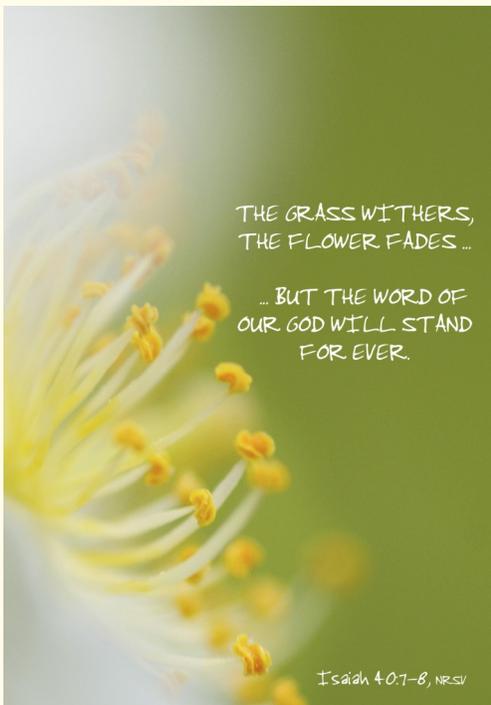
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Church Community Block Party is Scheduled for August

One of our biggest outreach events is back for its second year— The Community Block Party will be held on Saturday August 30th. We are going to block the street between the church and parsonage and we are going to have an outdoor music festival as well as a hamburger and hot dog cook out. There will be games for kids and we anticipate more than 200 in attendance. We'd love to see you at the event.

Church Plans Homecoming

To round out the last weekend in August, we are going to host our Church Homecoming service on Sunday August 31st at the church. The Rev. Jeff Wright (the new D.S.) will be the preacher for the day and we will also have a meal after church. You really need to put this on your calendar and plan on joining us for this special event.