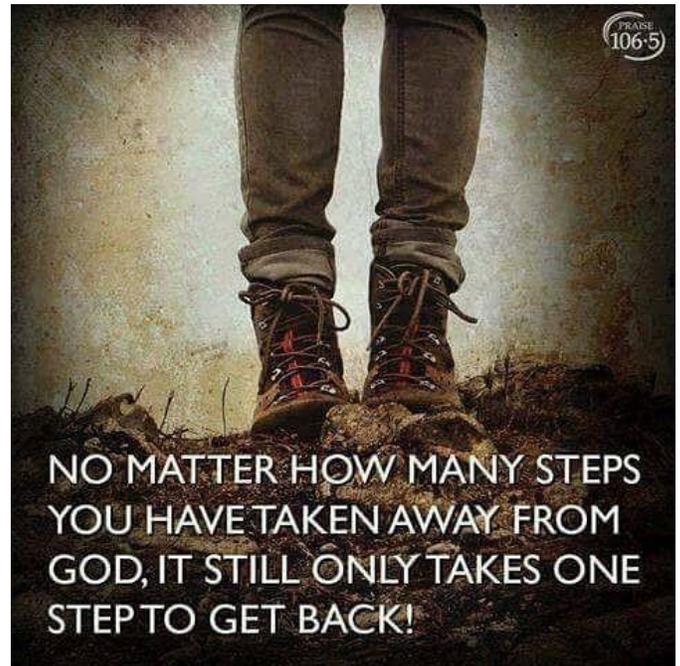


Faith's Happenings...

October, 2018

Happy Birthday

Fred Carley	1st
Roger DeMeritt	2nd
Jamie Boliere	2nd
Adeline Arnt	3rd
Bruce Rieck	4th
Bill Speth	6th
Frank Ulissi	6th
Autumn Hardenstine	16th
Jim Hardenstine	18th
Anne Silloway	19th
Larry Bennett	22nd
Pastor Brian	23rd
Tom Jasper	24th
Byron Speth	25th
Irene Foerster	26th
Harold Schultz	28th
Janice Junker	31st



Happy Anniversary

Carl & Marion Cooley 5th

**If we missed your name/date, we're sorry.
Please notify Barbra in the church office
to have your special dates added.**

October at a Glance

Mark your calendars now!
Men of Faith Breakfast: Oct. 2
Ladies Luncheon: Oct. 13
Halloween Safe Walk: Oct. 31

Financial Info

Church Council has decided we need to share the current donation total year-to-date, and the 2017 donation total year-to-date. This will appear in all newsletters from now on. Donations through August 31, 2017= \$125,631.70; donations through August 31, 2018 = \$113,157.00.

Lois Burger, Treasurer

Outreach Opportunity

The Halloween Safe Walk is October 31st. Please help us in this outreach by bringing bags of wrapped candy (not chocolate) and dropping them in the red container in the narthex.

October Ladies Luncheon

It's been a pain finding a place where we can dodge the red tide and the terrible smell, but we are going to one of our favorite restaurants (which is almost impossible to get into during season): **Mango Bistro**, located on the corner of Dearborn and Mango streets in Old Englewood.

Please join us on **October 13 at 11:30 am**. We will have inside seating, order off the menu with separate checks, and enjoy wonderful food and fantastic fellowship.

Sign the sheet in the narthex to ensure they have an accurate headcount.

Deadline is noon on October 10th. See you there – and bring a guest!

Questions? Call or see Kathie Wiley 941-662-5383.

Men, You Are Invited...

...to the October Men's Breakfast at Stefano's Restaurant (on Route 776 in front of Beall's Outlet). Meet at the restaurant on Tuesday, October 2, at 7:30 am for fun, food and fellowship. No sign-up required.

Stephen Ministry in Our Congregation

Could you benefit from the confidential, one-to-one care and support of a Stephen Minister? Call (941) 681-0297.

Thank You

A big thank you to all who contributed to Kids Needs on "God's Work Our Hands" Sunday. We collected 16 pairs of shoes, over 140 pairs of socks and donations of \$365. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Ways to Give

(Information from the Stewardship Committee)

Real Property

In the case of real property you may hold title to (with certain limitations), if this is transferred to the church, you may receive a tax deductible contribution, up to the full value of the property.

Long Term Prayer

In order to save the Sunday prayer list for current issues, we have created a special prayer list in our newsletter for long-term issues that need daily prayer. If you need to add someone to this list, contact Barbra in the church office (697-3313). Please keep these folks in your prayers on a regular basis.

Neal Schattauer, Steven Flagg, Joyce Hickman, Elizabeth Hickman, Carol Schleede, Roger DeMeritt, Michael Romanelli, Jim Buroker, Ethel Hunn, Jacky Magee, Ray Eifert, Danny DeGroot, Richard Wilder, Brittany Schneck, Monica Friend, Larry Hladun, Jim Kelly, Jack & Kathie Zura, Tom & Sandy McKitterick

Don't forget our new Capital Campaign to help meet the costs of recent improvements. Please give what you can!

Choir Members

Remember choir rehearsals begin again on Wednesday, October 3rd at 6:30 pm.



Welcome Fall!

Mark your calendars for a festive fall gathering at Faith. Family and friends of Faith are invited to attend an Oktoberfest on Sunday, October 28th. The fun will begin right after the church service. Brats, buns and beverages will be provided.

Watch the bulletin for more information on what/how to sign up. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the church office (697-3313) or members of the Fellowship Committee listed below.

Linda Bennett – 697-0882
Mary Lou Fitzgerald – 697-6228
Jim Hardenstine – 717-679-2559
Cyndy Hoops – 475-6176
Bobbie Myrick – 830-8793

The Salmon Colored Form

In the event of a hurricane or other emergency, we would like to have an emergency contact form on file for each of our members and attenders. These forms will be stored in a file, not in our database.

We are asking everyone to pick up a salmon colored "Emergency Information Questionnaire" in the narthex, fill it out, and return it to the church office.



Walking into the parking garages in San Francisco Bay areas, you are greeted by a sign which reads: **you may be exposed to toxins known to cause cancer.**

Signs point to something important. In this case, warning of the danger of the pollutants in car exhaust so you can modify your behavior. Unfortunately, they are still building parking garages in San Francisco, and they are still putting up signs.

All of this leads me to wonder somewhat sarcastically, do parking lots in Tampa, Pittsburgh or New York pose any less hazard? I think we would agree the answer is "No". A warning is useless unless it results in modified behavior.

I am afraid the signs in San Francisco parking garages are merely a feel-good measure, because they have not resulted in modified behavior on the part of people using the garages, or people designing and building them according to city codes.

While at Trinity Episcopal Church for a concert, my son, Stephen, noticed a different kind of sign on the window: "To the glory of God in loving memory of James Franklin Houghton and Caroline Sparhawk Houghton."

Stephen wanted to know if that was a relative of Willard J. Houghton the founder of Houghton College. A quick search of Wikipedia lead back to the 1800's, Vermont and Massachusetts. So the answer was a definite maybe as both families came from the same area.

What was interesting to us, though, is that these inscriptions on the windows remained as a witness, a sign, to the lives, faith and commitment of people over a hundred years ago.

Today Trinity church, in addition to being a place of worship and service, is a center for the community's performing arts.

Over the years, traveling through the Dakotas, New York and Pennsylvania, I was amazed at how many communities are marked by old churches. The houses and stores may be gone, but the church buildings remain as a testimony to the faith of a community.

In our community, the recent move of the Green Street Church to a permanent location is very significant. Although it no longer houses a worshipping congregation, but rather serves a variety of community purposes, it is available for religious services as well. It stands as a testimony to the early Englewood community, and the one today which values this heritage and witness to faith in God.

At Faith Lutheran we have our own signs. Not signs on the windows or walls, but a sign in the life of the congregation. At 43 years into our life as a congregation, no charter members remain, but we are thankful for their witness. This also means we reap the benefit of their work, sacrifice, and faithful stewardship.

We have received what they, and all the members of this community, have labored to provide. Our life together is a sign of their faith, and now a recognition that we have become stewards of their legacy.

Their legacy is our continuing to gather at worship today. Their legacy is our continuing to study God's word and support one another in faith and life. Their legacy is our continued service and witness in the community. Their legacy is also found in the

infrastructure and finances of our congregation.

Over the past two years we have performed a number of significant capital repairs. This was possible because of the faithful giving of those who previously donated to the capital/building fund. With those funds spent, now is the time for us to begin investing in our future as a sign to those who will come after us.

There are three ways you can support our congregation and God's work now and into the future:

- 1) Your **Regular Offerings** - by the week or month support our work day by day as we worship and engage in God's service to our community.
- 2) A special gift to the **Capital Fund** will help insure that the next time a major repair comes along we will have the funds available to make the repair or replacement.
- 3) A special gift to the **Endowment Fund** will help insure support for future ministry opportunities in the life our congregation.

Regular Offerings or special gifts to the Capital Fund or the Endowment Fund may be made using an offering envelope at church or on line using our electronic giving option (see the icon at the end of the newsletter).

The writer of Hebrews reminds us, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13.8)

While Jesus Christ is the same, and what God has done for us was completed at Calvary, we are challenged in our faith and life to make Christ known in our world today. The legacy we leave will be a sign to those who come after us; and like the windows at Trinity Episcopal in San Francisco, remind us, all we do is To the Glory of God...

+Pastor Brian

Excerpts from *The Critical Importance of Church Choirs* by: Vince Wilcox

Are church choirs going the way of pay phones and Blockbuster stores? From 1998- 2012, 21% of evangelical churches and 40% of mainline churches stopped using choirs regularly in worship (according to a National Congregational Study). That said, of the 200,000 such churches in North America, 70,000 continue to use choirs. That's a lot of folks who believe in the importance of church choirs. Here are seven reasons a choir can be vital to **your** church.

1. Choirs are biblical.

The Book of Psalms is filled with detailed notes to music directors explaining the style, melody, and occasion of a particular song. Old Testament worship was led by singers and musicians, and the Psalms were the hymnal of the New Testament church.

2. Choirs encourage excellence in worship.

A choir rarely performs "off the cuff." The director spends time finding the perfect song, then the choir spends time rehearsing the song. This allows the song to speak to and through them to the congregation, to inspire people to praise and worship as they join their voices as one.

3. Choirs celebrate the human voice.

There is something extraordinary about hearing a group of practiced singers use their God-given instruments to worship their Creator.

4. Choirs can inspire and lead worship.

One of the arguments against using choirs is that it relegates congregants to the role of bystanders. The issue isn't as much **if** a choir should be used as it is **how** a choir is used to help in meaningful worship. Yes, it's possible to make your choir the center of attention, but that misdirects your congregation away from the true object of worship, the Lord. Instead, a choir properly

viewed can lead your congregation to worship in Spirit and in truth.

5. Choirs can be redemptive communities.

A healthy choir affirms all its members—not just the high-profile ones. It should be a gathering where the entire Body of Christ is cherished. A choir is a place you belong, where you are missed when you're not there, and where you can contribute your talent.

6. Choirs make us work together.

Americans resist community—especially one where we must constantly subjugate ourselves to a leader and submit our talents to one another. Choirs can help cure this self-centeredness.

7. Choirs can encourage musical diversity.

How you can help...

Support your choir director.

Set aside funds to build a library of great music.

Celebrate your choir every time they sing.

* * * * *

ELECTRONIC GIVING is now an option at Faith. The codes given in the September newsletter should not be used. Instead, use this code to contribute and support God's work:



Scan the Code or Visit

https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe/ly/give-one-time/395692