



**November 2017
Newsletter**

COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

Words of Life

Mark your Calendar

10-20 Fish Fry @ 2nd Pres Ch

10-29 UNICEF Halloween
Party

11-1 Book Study 1:00 pm

11-2 Bible Study 6:00 pm

11-4 Turn Clocks Back -
Daylight Savings'
Time Ends

11-8 Book Study 1:00 pm

11-9 Bible Study 6:00 pm

11-15 Book Study 1:00 pm

11-16 Bible Study 6:00 pm

11-22 No Book Study

11-23 No Bible Study

11-29 Book Study 1:00 pm

11-30 Bible Study 6:00 pm

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME - Saturday, November 4, 2017.

Before you go to bed,
please remember to set
your clocks back an hour
for Daylight Savings
Time.

From Your Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

It has been a beautiful autumn. I hope all of you have had the opportunity to enjoy the pleasures of this season—the crisp, cool air, the laughter of children in their costumes, the smell of cinnamon and spice, and the crunching bite of a fresh picked apple or the warm deliciousness of a homemade pie. It is soup and sweater time as days get shorter and nights grow colder. November has struck as the perfect time to consider the blessings of life. It is a time of thanksgiving.

A famous quote from H.U. Westermayer goes like this, ***"The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving."*** Think about that for a moment, the odds were 7 to 1 against survival for these travelers and still they felt it necessary to set aside some time to offer thanks to God. All of them had seen their fair share of sea sickness, disease and suffering, even most likely the death of some of their children and parents—and still they chose gratitude over anger and resentment toward God; they chose hope over despair, they chose praise instead of complaint.

One of the dilemmas of Interim ministry is the issue of timing. What I mean is that some programs and events take a little longer to get off the ground. One of these events this year for me is the annual stewardship campaign. Soon the Stewardship Committee will be sending you more information about the campaign and their hopes for the mission and ministry of Countryside Trinity. I have been asked over the years what makes for a good stewardship program. I usually answer with a one word response: Attitude. The answer usually surprises the inquisitor which leads to a much deeper conversation. (Continued on Page 2)

From Your Pastor, Continued from Page 1

When I speak of attitude I mean it in many ways. Stewardship is about the "Attitude of Gratitude". From my perspective stewardship is not primarily about a specific program, nor is it about the church budget, nor is it about the church building. Granted all of programs, budgets and buildings benefit from the gifts received through the stewardship of each and every giver—but faithful stewardship occurs when we realize that all that we have, all that we are is a gift, and that each of these gifts brings up from the depths of our soul a sense of thankfulness, an attitude of gratitude. If stewardship does not begin with a deep sense of gratitude toward the gifts that God has given us it is not stewardship but simply fund raising masked in church speak.

The mystic Meister Eckhart once said, ***If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, "thank you," that would suffice.*** Faithful stewardship is taking that prayer and putting it into action—through our service to others, through our continual praise and worship of God, through the giving of our gifts to lift the souls who feel that the odds of their life are 7 to 1 in favor of death.

So what are you thankful for today? What do you hear and see and feel around you that gives you that attitude of gratitude? What do you taste and what comforts do you share with those around you for which you are grateful? And finally, what insurmountable struggle, what arduous journey have you traversed, what indescribable pain have you been through and have somehow found yourself now on the other side only by the grace of God—which causes you to sing today, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"

Peace,

Pastor Dave

COVENANT ASSOCIATION FALL ASSOCIATION MEETING Sunday, November 5th, 2017 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

"What Do Youth Have to Say to the Rest of the Church About...?"

- Feeling Welcome...Feeling Involved
- Church's Use, or Lack of Use, of Social Media
- Leadership – Their Involvement
- Programs, Events, Groups the Church might offer to help deepen Spiritual Bonds with God
- Worship, the Bible & Others

At St. Paul U.C.C. 122 W. Michigan Ave. Saline, MI 48176. Supper & Childcare will be provided. (RSVP 734-429-7716)

Flyer posted on bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Boar's Head Christmas Festival Performances at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 808 Weiss, Saginaw, are on November 30 and December 2 at 7:30 pm and December 3 at 4 pm. Freewill offering. Handicap parking available. www.BethlehemSaginaw.org



BIBLE INSIGHTS

The Psalms of David

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name! For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations. **Psalm 100:1-5 ESV**

Gratitude is an attitude that comes out of the habit of giving thanks. All through the Psalms, no matter what David was facing, we read his outpouring of gratitude to God. As he encountered good times and bad times, David always turned back to the truth of God's goodness. This attitude often carried him through the hardest of situations. Use this example to teach your child that gratitude is a habit that is learned through practice. Just as we teach little ones to say please and thank you through repetition and relentless reminders, we learn to express our thanks to the Father through consistency. Yet, while gratitude is a habitual attitude, we want our thanksgiving to come out of a genuine heart. The more we meditate on God's goodness and practice our thanks no matter what our circumstance, the more it will naturally flow out of a heart that loves Him.

Related verse: I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. **Psalm 9:1**



From Clerk of Session

Mary Ann Parker

Tidbits of information from Session/Council meeting of October 17, 2017, that you may find helpful:

Opening: Pastor Dave opened the meeting with a reflection and devotional reading from Philippians 2:3.

Deacons' Report: Nancy Easlick gave a report from the deacons and then was excused. Eleven homebound members and one caregiver received communion October 1, 2017.

Clerk's Report: Church membership is 100. Session books will be reviewed by Presbytery on Saturday, November 4, 2017. Communion was served to 48 worshipers on October 1, 2017.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dave's request for a continuing education workshop in Louisville at the end of January 2018 was approved by session. The two study groups have been started with interesting and spirit-growing information.

Finance & Stewardship: Mari presented the 2018 budget which was approved by Session.

Christian Education: Session approved the UNICEF Halloween party on Sunday, October 29th.

Mission: Information regarding the "Backpack Program" at Weiss Elementary School was given by Kitty.

Personnel: Pat reported that the performances reviews have been completed as of October 12, 2017. Personnel will now be working on employee contracts which will be instituted at the beginning of 2018. **Worship:** Pastor Dave presented an idea for the Advent programs which the worship committee will make a decision on in the near future.

Women's Association: Kathy Loviska reported that she has 16 paid applications for Bazaar vendor space.

Previous Business: Pastor Dave reported that the Presbytery Committee on Ministry had approved our request to form a Pastor Nominating Committee "when we are ready".

New Business: Fund raising by and for the youth was discussed. Pastor Dave will work with the youth of the church in this process with some possible goals, as a mission trip, in mind.

Submitted for your information,
Mary Ann Parker, Clerk of Session

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Paige Pequignot (2004)
- 3 Sam Nolan (1991)
- 7 Judi Westendorf
- 7 Christine (Dowling) Greenwood (1971)
- 8 Duncan Redfield (1961)
- 9 Stephanie Plater (2001)
- 10 Anjel Vernon (2000)
- 11 Dave Fitzgerald (1968)
- 12 Jacob Plater (2008)
- 15 Dick Woodke
- 16 Pervez Yusaf
- 19 Edwin Iles (1924)
- 20 Judith Lorenz (1940)
- 21 Ronald Miller (1945)
- 22 Jacob Groom (1999)
- 24 Matt McLaren (1975)
- 26 Bill Lacker
- 28 Jennifer Nolan-Heyn (1962)

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 17 Jerry & Virginia Brachear (1962)
- 22 Dave & Dora Fitzgerald (2014)



Missionary Update

"Marcia Lacker"

The mission for the month of November is Hidden Harvest. This mission collects extra food which is not needed by restaurants, stores, events a total of 305 donators. Since 1994, 30 million pounds of food has been rescued in the Tri-Cities. The food is then distributed to soup kitchens, homeless shelters, food pantries and youth programs – a total of 183 agencies. Remember the many blessings you have been given. Please donate generously.

We are still collecting items for the Underground Railroad. Lists are available in Fellowship Hall. Money is always welcome. Place in the offering plate in a mission envelope: Attention: URR.

We will participate in The Shoebox Program again this year. Decorate (if you wish) and fill a shoebox for a child. Lists of ages and appropriate items for the boxes are in Fellowship Hall. \$9 is the suggested donation this year. You may make out a check to CTC if you don't want to use a personal one. Collection week is November 13 – 20.

We will be packing Thanksgiving Baskets for needy families. School social workers will be contacted for names. Judi Westendorf will keep us posted on items needed and packing date.

CROP Walk totals are not yet available. The CTC Team had beautiful weather for the walk day.



Bickford Assisted Living

Elaine Kraenzlein

Health Source

Bob Gulliver

Edgewood Assisted Living Center

Betty Huber

Meadowview Manor

Carolyn Pendell

Swanhaven Manor

Fern Evon Little

New Hope Valley Independent Living

Ed Iles & Dorothy Gray

St. Francis Home

Judith Lorenz

Shattuck Manor

Shirley Roof & Carol Williamson

In Hospital or Private Homes

Betty Burr, Dawn Curtis, Bessie Daugharty,
Betty Hauk, Barb Klein, Fran Preuter, Fred
& Kathy Williamson

Treasurer's Report

	September				
	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers	Ending Balance
General	16,775.59	5,779.07	7,869.56	1,580.00	16,265.10
Building	-	80.00		(80.00)	-
Memorial	18,156.83			(1,600.00)	16,556.83
Special projects	1,099.18	140.00	678.49		560.69
Mission					
Hunger	621.30	-			621.30
Heifer proj (Church School)	153.32	-			153.32
Christmas Joy/Peace	-	130.00			130.00
Good Samaritan	2,428.28	180.00			2,608.28
Muriel Lakey Scholarship	3,430.10			100.00	3,530.10
Miscellaneous	30.00	500.00			530.00
Bricks	1,325.40				1,325.40
	44,020.00	6,809.07	8,548.05	-	42,281.02
Endowment	164,074.52	10,288.68			174,363.20
	208,094.52	17,097.75	8,548.05	-	216,644.22

Haunted Train Ride



&



NEWLY RESURRECTED

Haunted House

Roethke Park 400 Leddy Rd.

October 13 - 14 & 20 - 21

Dark till ??

\$6/each or \$10/both

(Children 5yrs and under are free)

Sponsored by:



TRUNK OR TREAT AROUND THE TRACK AT SVSU.

SVSU Athletics will host the 9th annual **"Trunk-or-Treat Around the Track"** event on Friday, October 27, 2017 from 5-7:00 p.m. inside Ryder Center's O'Neill Arena on the campus of SVSU. This event is for kids 12 and under who are accompanied by a parent/guardian, free and open to the general public. Come in costume and join Cardinal athletes, coaches and the Graff Chevrolet Bay City team for a safe, fun, and weather-proof trick-or-treating experience. Over twenty-five interactive stations offer candy and healthy snacks contributed by Meijer.

Women's News

The women will hold their Fall Meeting on Wednesday November 8, 2017 at 10 a.m.

Morning coffee and treats will be served. We will celebrate the Presbyterian Women's Thank You Offering, For the Healing of the Nations. We will decide where to send our monies this year.

We need your presence and input.

Annual Holiday Bazaar

This event will take place on Saturday, November 4th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We are expecting a great turn-out and have many vendors joining us for this wonderful day!

Please sign up to help - the list is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

If you have anything you want to donate to the "Trash & Treasures" room, please get it to the church by November 1st. Thank you.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

By Kathy Loviska



MARY ANN PARKER

Mary Ann Parker was born in Saginaw, Michigan and has lived here her whole life. She had two brothers and they attended Carr School, a one-room country school in James Township. She went to Carr from Kindergarten to 8th grade when she transferred to South School for 9th grade and then on to Arthur Hill High School where she obtained her high school diploma. Mary Ann then enrolled at Saginaw General Hospital School of Nursing and after graduation went to work at Saginaw General Hospital. The starting wage for a new registered nurse was \$1.50/hour. She worked for Saginaw General which then became Covenant HealthCare for forty years in various capacities. The last twenty of those years she was a national certified oncology nurse and worked in that area of care until she retired in 2009.

Mary Ann married Grant Parker in 1965 and together they built their home on Swan Creek Road in 1966 settling next to her parents. She cared for her aging in-laws, a couple of elderly aunts and the closeness of her home to her parents' home, allowed her to care for them as they aged. After 45 years of marriage, the Lord in His Wisdom, took another angel home when Grant passed away after surviving for 35 years following a quadruple heart bypass surgery. (At the time of his surgery, the doctors gave him a life expectancy of 5 years.)

During their marriage, Mary Ann and Grant were blessed with two wonderful sons who each married the love of their lives. Four beautiful grandchildren were God's blessing to the Parkers. They all live in close proximity of each other. Mary Ann treasures family time with them all. Besides spending time with her children and grandchildren, Mary Ann enjoys knitting, cooking, and cake decorating. She is an avid golfer and enjoys going out to lunch or on day excursions with her friends. She is also involved with the Saginaw General Alumni Association and has served on the Presbytery nominating team for the past five years.

The Parkers came to Countryside after Grace Presbyterian closed. Countryside Trinity Church is blessed to have a member who is as dedicated and hard working as Mary Ann. She currently works tirelessly as our Clerk of Session and has held many offices and positions here at CTC over the years. She also lends her beautiful soprano voice to our choir. Please take the time to say hello to Mary Ann and thank her for her service to CTC.

2017

CALENDAR YEAR

NOVEMBER

CALENDAR MONTH

SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF
WEEK

Countryside Trinity Church

4690 Weiss St. Saginaw, MI 48603

Email: trinitychurch40@att.net Phone: 989-793-0125

Sunday

Monday



Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

29	30	31	01	02	03	04
			ALL SAINTS' DAY Book Study 1:00 pm	ALL SOULS' DAY Bible Study 6:00 pm	CHURCH CLOSED	
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS 10:25 am - Announcements in Sanctuary 10:30 am - Worship Service With Communion 11:30 am - Coffee Hour: Celebration of November Birthdays & Anniversaries		6:30-8:30 p.m. Family Game Night "Hosted by Evangelism" (Bring a snack to share)	Book Study 1:00 pm	Bible Study 6:00 pm	CHURCH CLOSED	VETERANS DAY
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:25 am - Announcements in Sanctuary 10:30 am - Worship Service 11:30 am - Coffee Hour: Frank & Pat Gandt		ALL DAY - ZONTA CLUB MEETING 4:00 p.m. Christian Education Meeting	Book Study 1:00 pm	Bible Study 6:00 pm December 2017 Newsletter Deadline; submit your news to the office	CHURCH CLOSED	
19	20	21	22	24		25
10:25 am - Announcements in Sanctuary 10:30 am - Worship Service 11:30 am - Coffee Hour: Judy & Garth Westendorf		7:00 p.m. Session/Council Meeting			PRESIDENTS' DAY CHURCH CLOSED	
26	27	28	29	30	01	
10:25 am - Announcements in Sanctuary 10:30 am - Worship Service "Christ The King Sunday" with Communion 11:30 am - Coffee Hour: Marcia & Bill Lacker		6-8:30 p.m. Bead Club Meeting	Book Study 1:00 pm	Bible Study 6:00 pm	Office Hours: Mon - Thurs 8:30 am-12:30 pm Worship Service Sundays at 10:30 a.m.	 <small>Psalms 37:5, NRSV</small>

COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

4690 Weiss Street

Saginaw, Michigan 48603

Phone: (989) 793-01250

FIRST STD
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Psalms 100

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

Serve the LORD with gladness:

come before his presence with singing.

Know ye that the LORD he is God:

it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,

and into his courts with praise:

be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

For the LORD is good;

his mercy is everlasting;

and his truth endureth to all generations.

