

# CONNECTIONS

## God On the Move

Dear Trinity Church,

I believe God is on the move among us here at Trinity Church! Do you feel it? I don't just mean, are you having warm fuzzy feelings when you are here, but can you sense in the core of your spiritual heart that God is up to something good? Call me optimistic, call me overly excited, call me whatever you want! But don't ignore the leading of the Spirit of God.

As I listen to stories of people's lives changed, influenced and encouraged by their contact with us as a family of God, I am reminded of the goodness of God. God is revitalizing our congregation. God is giving us new hope. God is bringing us new people to love and embrace.

I ask that each and every one of you prayerfully consider how you can invest in the life of someone else in our church or community. Here are a few suggestions: Prayer partner for a young person, help serve on the Wednesday Night meal team, join the Sanctuary Choir, serve on a ministry team, help with the preparation, serving and clean up for Sunday morning Connection Café, help with small maintenance projects around the church, visit shut-ins, lead a small group, serve as a youth leader, participate in worship leadership, volunteer time in the church office, help set up tables and chairs for weekly events or join the sound room team. I can come up with 25 more ways for you to deepen your service to God as he is at work. Come talk with me! I want to hear from you.

Blessings,  
Pastor Chris



### **Ministry Update from the Consistory**

We are looking forward to a new year here at Trinity Church and believe that God has good things in store for our ministry together. The newly elected Consistory members are getting acclimated to our roles and responsibilities and are looking forward to serving among you. May God bless our work as a Consistory as we provide leadership and guidance to the overall ministry of our church. We pray as well that every person here at Trinity will find a way to serve God and others in the life of our congregation. We invite you to speak with any Consistory member about how you can get involved.

We also wanted to address one question that came up during our congregational meeting about the timing of our Consistory nominations and the communication of those individuals to the whole congregation. In our process over the past couple of years in nominating, praying over and electing by the casting of lots we somehow overlooked one portion of our bylaws. We want to clarify the process and ensure that we follow the correct communication process in 2013. Our bylaws state that "...preparation for the election shall be made in sufficient time as to allow a final double slate to be presented to the congregation two weeks prior to the congregational meeting." It was this two week notice to the congregation that we missed. All this is to say is that we plan to "make known" to the congregation the slate of nominees prior to our congregational meeting so that you all can bathe the entire process in prayer. We hope this explanation helps to clarify any confusion you may have had.

#### **Elders**

Jim Allen  
Sandy Bedard  
Carol DeBoer  
Warren Kooyers  
Dianne Moker  
Doug Schurman  
Bill Stehouwer

#### **Deacons**

Scott Baumgartner  
Kevin Brower  
Teresa Harrington  
Ross Helmus  
John Houting  
Tom Lampen  
Steve Schurman

### **Financial Update From 2012**

The Finance Team is happy share this report from 2012 about God's faithfulness and your generosity. Below is a short summary of how we ended up for the year. We want also to take this opportunity to express our thanks to each of you who have invested in the ministry of Trinity Church with your faithful stewardship of God's resources, as well as to encourage you to faithful giving in the upcoming year.

2012 Budget:	\$415,480
2012 Receipts	\$413,309
2012 Disbursements	\$397,212
2012 Surplus	\$16,097

The Consistory approved that we want to further God's ministry and mission through a portion of these funds. The Mission Team will be allocating \$8000 of the surplus toward one or more mission opportunities in the coming month. Look for where these funds were distributed in next month's Connections newsletter. The remaining \$8000 will be placed in a cash reserve fund to be utilized in the upcoming year as necessary. Praise God that we ended the year in a great place and are able to bless others in ministry.



# The Key to Congregational Singing...

As this new year begins, I have a resolution of sorts for the worship ministry here at Trinity Church! One of the most challenging tasks worship leaders take on is the task of choosing the right keys for the music to be sung and played. Many of today's most popular praise songs are written to fit the voice of the singer/song writer, but they often are not the best keys for an entire congregation of people who have widely varying vocal ranges. So, after doing a good amount of research on the topic, I am ready to begin the task of going through the songs we do each week and making sure they are in keys that will be sing-able for the majority of the congregation.

You may wonder why this is important. Music is such a powerful tool in worship. Not everyone is a musician, and everyone has their own unique way of worshipping, but I believe that for many, music has a way of moving the heart, soul and mind like no other medium! And if a song is difficult to sing - too high or too low - it distracts from the powerful message that song might otherwise express.

So if you notice that some of the songs we have been singing for years are suddenly a little different, now you know why. May this new year bring a renewed passion and excitement for worshipping the God who loves us, saves us and redeems us!

Your Worship Coordinator,

Becky Bierma



## “HIS MEN” CONCERT

On Sunday, February 17 at 6 pm, “His Men” will be presenting a concert at Trinity Reformed Church, 712 Apple Ave. in Holland. This is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the group, and the Trinity concert will include a variety of music, including crowd favorites such as “This Little Light of Mine” and “Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho”.

“His Men” recently sang at the Christmas concert of the Schubert Chorus of Grand Rapids, and have sung at places as well-known as the Crystal Cathedral. While those sound like great achievements, the concerts that are most memorable to the members are those sung behind the bars of maximum security correctional facilities like the Cook County Jail in Chicago and the Bellamy Correctional Facility in Ionia. Those concerts often make up entire weekends of travel to jails, prisons, veterans homes and nursing homes all over the state of Michigan.

“His Men” has sung benefit concerts for numerous Christian organizations, including Love, Inc., International Aid, Youth for Christ and for chapel financing for Brooks Correctional Facility in Muskegon. The beneficiary of the freewill offering taken during the Trinity concert will be Humanity for Prisoners, whose current president Doug Tjapkes is a former musical director and one of the founding members of “His Men”.

“His Men” has 22 singing members from Muskegon, Kent and Ottawa counties, from as far north as New Era, as far south as Holland, and as far east as Byron Center. Holland-Zeeland area members include Milt Bos, Vic Helder, Lyle Ahrenholz and Fred Groen. John Mattson, who is also director of worship arts at Central United Methodist in Muskegon, has been the director for the past 19 years and Sherry Merz is the accompanist.





## 7 Habits of a Highly Effective Steward

Much has been written about the habits it takes to be a highly effective person or a highly effective family or a highly effective teen. This seven-part series will reflect on the habits of a highly effective steward.

Since stewardship is a part of discipleship, and discipleship is a journey for each of us, we hope that these habits will help us reflect on this area of our Christian life.

### Habit 3: Be Content

We live in a world of obsession with material possessions. Far too many of us find ourselves in debt because we've been swept up in the frenzy of accumulation. In our consumerist society, it is difficult to distinguish between our needs, and our wants and desires. We often believe that the more money we have, the happier we will be.

There's an interesting paradox when we finally recognize that nothing we have really belongs to us. Even though we have many things, none of them actually belongs to us. As we come to understand that everything belongs to God, our perspective changes...we become more content.

*"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have,"* (Hebrews 13:5). A Christian steward is content because he knows that God will give him everything he needs. In speaking at a regional conference, Ted Boers, chair of a stewardship task force, indicated he had just read a book by a secular author entitled, "Want What You Have". Ted commented, "This was the secular author's secret to happiness, but what a great way of restating the truth of Hebrews 13:5 ... want what you have!"

We wrestle with the question, "How much is enough?" most of our lives. What is the limit? As Christians, we need to actively seek God's guidance to help us continually differentiate between our real needs, and our wants and desires. Accept God's provision in your life, and find contentment in the source, not the supply. (I Timothy 6: 6-8).

## Trinity Reformed Church



### The Essential 100 Bible Reading Program

February 2013

#### *Psalms and Proverbs*

51. The Lord is My Shepherd	Psalms 23:1	Psalms 23:1-6
52. Have Mercy on Me	Psalms 51:10-11	Psalms 51:1-19
53. Praise the Lord	Psalms 103:1	Psalms 103:1-22
54. Godly Wisdom	Proverbs 3:5-6	Proverbs 1:1-4:27
55. Proverbs of Solomon	Proverbs 16:8	Proverbs 16:1-18:24

#### *The Prophets*

56. The Suffering Servant	Isaiah 53:5	Isaiah 51:1-53:12
57. Jeremiah's Call and Message	Jeremiah 1:9-10	Jeremiah 1:1-3:5
58. Daniel in the Lion's Den	Daniel 6:21-22	Daniel 6:1-28
59. The Story of Jonah	Jonah 1:15-17	Jonah 1:1-4:11
60. The Day of Judgment	Malachi 3:5	Malachi 1:1-4:6

March 2013

#### *The Miracles of Jesus*

61. Feeding the Five Thousand	Luke 9:16-17	Luke 9:1-36
62. Walking on Water	Matthew 14:31-33	Matthew 14:22-36
63. Healing a Blind Man	John 9:6-7	John 9:1-41
64. Healing a Demon-Possessed Man	Mark 5:18-20	Mark 5:1-20
65. Raising Lazarus from the Dead	John 11:43-44	John 11:1-57

#### *The Final Days of Jesus*

66. The Last Supper	Luke 22:19-20	Luke 22:1-46
67. Arrest and Trial	John 18:38-40	John 18:1-40
68. The Crucifixion	John 19:17-18	John 19:1-42
69. The Resurrection	John 20:19-20	John 20:1—21:25
70. The Ascension	Acts 1:9-11	Acts 1:1-11

#### The Church is Born

71. The Day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1-4	Acts 2:1-47
72. Growth and Persecution	Acts 4:1-4	Acts 3:1—4:37
73. The First Martyr	Acts 7:59-60	Acts 6:8—8:8
74. Sharing the Word	Acts 8:34-35	Acts 8:26-40
75. Good News for All	Acts 10:34-35	Acts 10:1—11:18

# YOUTH MINISTRY MOMENTS

**My review of the book “Sticky Faith — Practical ideas to nurture long-term faith in Teenagers”** By Jon Wolters

## Chapter 2 — The Sticky Gospel

In this chapter the authors took a look the data they collected in regards to how students look at the gospel. One thing that struck them was that “many of our kids - even those who grew up in church - have surprising views of what it means to be a Christian.” Of the 168 youth group alums that were asked to define what it means to “be a Christian”, 35% didn’t even mention Jesus in their answer, some of them however did mention God. The most common theme mentioned by these youth group alums was that being Christian meant to “love others”, but even atheist teens would agree that loving others is a good idea.

They found that many youth group kids have adopted a “gospel of sin management”. Basically what this means is that a lot of kids want to put God in a box, bringing Him out when it is convenient for them and hiding Him at inconvenient times. (a little side note here - if you want to see a great video about this, search “the skit guys—god in a box.” I will also try and post this link to both our church website and our church Facebook page.) This phrase “gospel of sin management” was coined by the philosopher Dallas Willard who said: “History has brought us to the point where the Christian message is thought to be essentially concerned with only how to deal with sin: with wrongdoing or wrong-being and its effects. Life, our actual existence, is not included in what is now presented as the heart of the Christian message, or it is included only marginally . . . The current gospel then becomes a “gospel of sin management.”

So how do we move from the gospel of sin management to the acknowledgement of the true gospel in the lives our teens?

The authors of “Sticky Faith” have expressed that one of the best ways to make this transition in teens is to look at Paul’s words in Galatians 5:5 (But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope.)

## Faith + Waiting on God = Righteousness

If we are to help our students truly understand Sticky Faith then every decision, every thought and every action comes down to this: Where do I place my trust? Do I trust my own instincts, desires, and convections, or do I trust Christ?

Another way that they have written to make this transition is to realize that Sticky Faith in teenagers is not about “doing,” it’s about “trusting.” Kara writes on page 37: To help our kids discover and grab hold of a sustainable, long-term and vibrant Sticky Faith, we must stay true to the words of Jesus and heed the counsel of Paul: Trust in the one the Father has sent and live convinced that the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

These last two statements from Paul are great and if a student really grasps them they could live a life of Sticky Faith, but with most students they need another factor. That factor is YOU!!!! Sticky Faith is “More Caught Than Taught.” “When the students in the survey were college seniors, the authors asked them how participation in their High School youth group had shaped them - both then and now. Youth group activities were rarely mentioned. Youth group talks were mentioned even less frequently. What was mentioned was the legacy of youth leaders - a legacy derived not from what the leaders said or even what they did, but more from who they were. Our own love for the Sticky Gospel of trusting God will be more caught than taught!

**If any of these words have resonated with you please check out one of the Sticky Faith Books on the youth table and read the rest for yourself.**

## **OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED**

- Provide Cookies for Sunday Morning Connection Café
- Prepare, Serve and Clean Up for Sunday Morning Connection Café
- Prayer Partner for A Young Person
- Youth Leader
- Nursery Attendants (Infant and Toddler)
- Visit Shut-Ins
- Monday Morning Work Group (small maintenance projects around the church)
- Wednesday Night Dinner Helpers and Cookie Providers
- Community Kitchen at Western Seminary (1st Thursday@11am)
- Breakfast With Baby @ New Community 4th Church (Feb. 9, June 18, Sept. 14 and Dec. 14, 2013 from 9-11:30am)
- Tutor, Provide Supper, Receptionist at ROCK Youth Ministries (Tues-Thurs, 4-6pm)
- Holland Public Schools LSPC "Books", Buses and Breakfast Program
- Trinity Care Closet (Every Wednesday 4:30-6pm)
- Snacks & Beverage for Wavecrest Basketball Team
- Provide Gatorade for Tuesday Night Basketball
- Help Set Up Tables and Chairs for Weekly Events
- Worship Leader / Praise Team
- Join the Sanctuary Choir
- Sound Room (training provided)
- Serve on a Ministry Team (Worship, Mission, Spiritual Growth, People Care, Building & Grounds, Finance)
- KIDS.COM (Kids Choir) Helpers (teens/adults)
- Volunteer in the Church Office
- Start / Lead a Small Group Based on Your Favorite Hobby

***For these and other opportunities,  
please contact the church office (396-6526).***

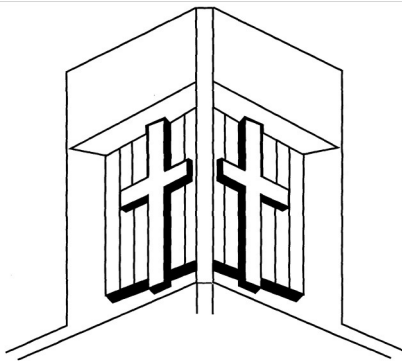




## **FEBRUARY 2013 CALENDAR**

- ♦ **Feb. 1** - Go Fish Middle School Retreat @Cran Hill Ranch  
Pastoral Care Office Hours with Nancy Smith  
*11am-1pm*
- ♦ **Feb. 2** - Go Fish Middle School Retreat @Cran Hill Ranch
- ♦ **Feb. 3** - Go Fish Middle School Retreat @Cran Hill Ranch  
Worship & Communion *9:30am*  
Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Class *11am*  
Sunday School for All Ages *11am*  
High School Youth Group Super Bowl Party *6pm*
- ♦ **Feb. 4** - Wavecrest Basketball Practice *3:30pm*  
Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Class *6:30pm*
- ♦ **Feb. 5** - Worship Planning Team *11am*  
Adult Bible Study *2pm*  
Wavecrest Basketball Practice *3:30pm*  
Basketball for Teens & Adults *7pm*
- ♦ **Feb. 6** - Men's Bible Study *6:30am*  
Care Caller Meeting *10:30am*  
Wavecrest Basketball Practice *3:30pm*  
Care Closet *4:30-6pm*  
Family Dinner *6pm*  
Beth Moore "Fruit of the Spirit" Bible Study *6:30pm*  
Middle School Youth Group Service Night *6:30-8pm*  
KIDS.COM Choir *6:30-7pm*  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal *6:45-8:15pm*  
Traveler's Kids Class *7-8pm*  
Praise Team Practice *8-9pm*
- ♦ **Feb. 7** - Community Kitchen @ Western Seminary *11am*  
Wavecrest Basketball Practice *3:30pm*  
Beth Moore "Daniel" Bible Study *6:30pm*
- ♦ **Feb. 8** - Pastoral Care Office Hours with Nancy Smith  
*11am-1pm*
- ♦ **Feb. 9** - Breakfast with Baby @ 4th Church *9am*
- ♦ **Feb. 10** - Worship *9:30am*  
Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Class *11am*  
Sunday School for All Ages *11am*  
High School Youth Group *6pm*
- ♦ **Feb. 11** - Wavecrest Basketball Practice *3:30pm*  
Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Class *6:30pm*  
Spiritual Growth Team *7pm*
- ♦ **Feb. 12** - Prayer Group *10am*  
Worship Planning Team *11am*  
Wavecrest Basketball Practice *3:30pm*  
Basketball for Teens & Adults *7pm*
- ♦ **Feb. 13** - Men's Bible Study *6:30am*  
Care Caller Meeting *10:30am*  
Wavecrest Basketball Practice *3:30pm*  
Care Closet *4:30-6pm*  
Family Dinner *6pm*  
Beth Moore "Fruit of the Spirit" Bible Study *6:30pm*  
Middle School Youth Group Service Night *6:30-8pm*  
KIDS.COM Choir *6:30-7pm*  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal *6:45-8:15pm*  
Traveler's Kids Class *7-8pm*  
Praise Team Practice *8-9pm*
- ♦ **Feb. 14** - Women of the Word *9:30am*  
Turning Pages Reading Group *noon*  
Wavecrest Basketball Practice *3:30pm*  
Finance Team *7pm*  
Beth Moore "Daniel" Bible Study *6:30pm*
- ♦ **Feb. 15** - Pastoral Care Office Hours with Nancy Smith  
*11am-1pm*
- ♦ **Feb. 17** - Worship *9:30am*  
Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Class *11am*  
Sunday School for All Ages *11am*  
High School Youth Group Service Night *6pm*  
His Men Concert *6pm*
- ♦ **Feb. 18** - Wavecrest Basketball Practice *3:30pm*  
Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Class *6:30pm*
- ♦ **Feb. 19** - Worship Planning Team *11am*  
Wavecrest Basketball Practice *3:30pm*  
Basketball for Teens & Adults *7pm*
- ♦ **Feb. 20** - Men's Bible Study *6:30am*  
Care Caller Meeting *10:30am*  
Wavecrest Basketball Practice *3:30pm*  
Care Closet *4:30-6pm*  
Family Dinner *6pm*  
Beth Moore "Fruit of the Spirit" Bible Study *6:30pm*  
Middle School Youth Group Service Night *6:30-8pm*  
KIDS.COM Choir *6:30-7pm*  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal *6:45-8:15pm*  
Traveler's Kids Class *7-8pm*  
Praise Team Practice *8-9pm*
- ♦ **Feb. 21** - Women of the Word *9:30am*  
Wavecrest Basketball Practice *3:30pm*  
Ladies Night Out *5:30pm*  
Beth Moore "Daniel" Bible Study *6:30pm*
- ♦ **Feb. 22** - Pastoral Care Office Hours with Nancy Smith  
*11am-1pm*  
High School Winter Blast Retreat @  
Grace Adventures
- ♦ **Feb. 23** - High School Winter Blast Retreat @  
Grace Adventures
- ♦ **Feb. 24** - High School Winter Blast Retreat @  
Grace Adventures  
Worship *9:30am*  
Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Class *11am*  
Sunday School for All Ages *11am*
- ♦ **Feb. 25** - Wavecrest Basketball Practice *3:30pm*  
Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Class *6:30pm*  
Mission Team *7pm*
- ♦ **Feb. 26** - Prayer Group *10am*  
Worship Planning Team *11am*  
Wavecrest Basketball Practice *3:30pm*  
Basketball for Teens & Adults *7pm*
- ♦ **Feb. 27** - Men's Bible Study *6:30am*  
Wavecrest Basketball Practice *3:30pm*  
Care Closet *4:30-6pm*  
Family Dinner *6pm*  
Beth Moore "Fruit of the Spirit" Bible Study *6:30pm*  
Middle School Youth Group *6:30-8pm*  
KIDS.COM Choir *6:30-7pm*  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal *6:45-8:15pm*  
Traveler's Kids Class *7-8pm*  
Praise Team Practice *8-9pm*
- ♦ **Feb. 28** - Women of the Word *9:30am*  
Turning Pages Reading Group *noon*  
Wavecrest Basketball Practice *3:30pm*  
Beth Moore "Daniel" Bible Study *6:30pm*  
Worship Team *7pm*





# Trinity Reformed Church

712 Apple Avenue Holland, MI 49423

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**Pastor: Chris DeGraaf** Email [chris@trinityrc.org](mailto:chris@trinityrc.org)

**Director of Youth Ministry: Jon Wolters** Email [jon@trinityrc.org](mailto:jon@trinityrc.org)

**Worship Coordinator: Becky Bierma** Email [becky@trinityrc.org](mailto:becky@trinityrc.org)

## MINISTRY TEAM CHAIR PERSONS

Pastor Chris DeGraaf - Executive

Steve Schurman - Building & Grounds

Doug Schurman - Finance

Teresa Harrington - Spiritual Growth

Roger Mulder - Mission

Bill VanAuken - Worship



## Happy Birthday!!



Dan Baker	2/1	Betty Vredevelt	2/9	Pat Kleis	2/21
Joey Obaseki	2/1	Mary Fris	2/10	Lucile Kooyers	2/21
Bryan Stehouwer	2/4	Merle Boes	2/16	Rob Harrington	2/22
Ron Kalmink	2/5	Janet Oosterbaan	2/17	Amanda Baker	2/23
Tom VanderKuy	2/7	Paula Wassink	2/17	Karen Bos	2/27
Doug Dykstra	2/8	Rodger Dalman	2/19	Paul VanderStarre	2/29
Steve Kleis	2/9	Lauren Bedard	2/21		

## Happy Anniversary!!



Carl & Melinda Reed	2/1	Jack & Winnie Welton	2/21
Gord & Elsie Kossen	2/1	Doug & Robin Dams	2/22
Gene & Joyce Dozeman	2/2	Neal & Jamie Dams	2/24
Tom & Linda Lampen	2/11	Jerry & Mary VanMalsen	2/24
Rob & Jeanne Dannenberg	2/13		

