

Trinity Spring Voters' Meeting

May 7 2023

Ministry Council Report

Bible Focus Verse/Intro/Greeting

Ministry Areas:

Outreach

- **Wiley School Partnership** - The future of our ministry to Wiley School is uncertain. Wiley is closing its doors for the 2023-24 school year for asbestos abatement; and the district is considering using the facility for something other than an elementary school thereafter. We intend to stay in contact with key Wiley personnel (principal, social worker, mentorship coordinator) to explore alternative ministry partnerships with the school district going forward.
- **Empty Tomb** - We have members that assist with Empty Tomb food deliveries and furniture pickups. More hands are always welcome, and you may contact Chris Roegge if you would like to help with furniture or Susan Sheppleman if you would like to help with food delivery. Also please see the May newsletter for more information about the food pantry ministry.
- **Trinity Hope** - We continue to sponsor two schools, Yahve Nisse in Baintet and Institute Olivier in Port Au Prince, through our partnership with Trinity Hope. Our sponsorships feed 254 students in these schools: one meal, five days a week, for the entire school year. Our Haiti Hunger Fight fundraiser last November was wildly successful. Through a combination of contributions made at the event and various donor matching opportunities we raised \$22,570, which, at the time, translated to 92,000 meals for school kids in Haiti.
- **Operation Christmas Child** – We collected items for and sent 53 boxes in November 2022. The boxes arrived to needy children in various countries in Latin America and Africa. We'll start this again in November 2023, but you can be gathering items year-round.
- **Live Nativity** – The 2022 event included a children's book walk, which was well-received. We are looking forward to offering a meal this year now that the new fellowship hall is complete. We have also discussed adding a narration of the Nativity story (live or pre-recorded) for the benefit of visitors who may not be familiar with it.
- **Stout Missionary Support** - We continue to provide financial and prayer support for Don and Kristen Stout's missionary work in France.

Worship

- It's a blessing to be in worship weekly and partake of the Lord's Supper, and also to resume Sunday School and the adult Sunday Bible Class.
- Weekend attendance has remained fairly steady. Informal communication with acquaintances from other churches in Champaign-Urbana suggests that our numbers are representative of the wider situation (with a few exceptions).



- Unfortunately, accurate attendance data for November, December, and January are not available due to missing entries (see the item under “Service” about the need for a church secretary). However, the weekend numbers for February, March and April 2023 are encouraging.
 - February average = 86
 - March average = 72
 - April average = 91 (including the expected “Easter bump)
 - Lenten service average = 41
 - Maundy Thursday = 32
 - Good Friday = 49
- We have discussed publishing a “We are Trinity” brochure to help familiarize visitors with our congregation.

Fellowship:

- With the completion of the new fellowship hall, we concluded the monthly “No-Fellowship-Hall-Fellowship” gatherings. By all accounts they were enjoyed by all the participants. The regular weekly coffee fellowship hour has resumed.
- The new fellowship hall was dedicated on April 23.
- Lenten suppers were well-attended by a mix of worshippers from all three weekend services.

Discipleship:

- It’s a blessing to study God’s Word, individually and in group settings. Please consider joining a group and reserving time daily for personal prayer and devotion with Jesus.
- New members have been added to our family by affirmation of faith.
- Sunday Morning Bible Class now meets in the new fellowship hall classroom between Sunday services.
- Small groups and group facilitators:
 - Women’s Book Group, DeeDee Williams
 - Pieces of Love at church, Jennifer Holhubner
 - Women in Mission (LWML), Faith Wetzell
 - Tuesday Bible Study, Pastor Ehlers
 - Young Adults Fellowship, Pastor or Jill Boylan
 - Breakfast Bible Study at Urbana Gardens, Phil or Joyce Bell
 - Couples Bible Study, Hilary Rouse
 - Home Bible Study at the Rouse's, Hilary Rouse

Service:

- It’s a blessing to give of time, talents and resources in response to God’s love through our gifts, our service and our witness in the church, the community and the world. Considering our small numbers and the median age of our members, we have an amazing variety of ministries that are organized and led by volunteers, including ministries that were previously organized/led by DCE interns, pastors, and assistant pastors. *That said, marshalling the human capacity to carry on*



desired ministry activities without tapping the same people over and over again is a growing challenge.

- *The lack of a regular church secretary compromises many aspects of all operations, including ministry.*
- Ministry Council meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month, and meeting minutes are posted on the “TLC Members” area of Trinity’s website. However, we are quite behind on posting the minutes, which again speaks to the need for a church secretary.
- Current members of the Ministry Council are Pastor Boylan, Jill Boylan, Kathy Bull, Kevin Donoho, Brenda Donoho, Gayle Holderfield, David Nation, Chris Roegge, Hilary Rouse, Jess Strong

