

# TRINITY COMMUNITY CHURCH

"Go therefore and make disciples..." Matthew 28:19a

## Trinity Newsletter

*Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. Psalm 127:1*



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### A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

## Why Do We Love?

*"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19 (ESV)*

In this context, the Apostle John has already told us how we can know that God lives in us and that we live in Him – "by the Spirit" (3:24; 4:13). We have also been taught that God lives in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and those who confess live in Him (4:15). John then addresses the knowing, believing and perfecting of the love of God in the believer (4:16-18). When a believer has a close and loving relationship with God, then there is no fear of the future and final judgment. The love of God and the fear of punishment from God are in opposition to each other, and therefore, should not co-exist in a believer. This loving relationship that gives eternal confidence then is precious to every believer.

Because the love of God is vital for this confidence, then it is extremely important that the believer understand the nature and source of this love. It is important that the believer understands why we even love at all – this is the basis of our eternal future. Therefore, John gives the reason that every believer loves God, "We love because He first loved us." God showed His love for us first by sending His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (4:10). Those who are humble recipients and beneficiaries of God's love then love God in return.

Believers can never claim that our love for God was prior to His love for us or that our love for Him originated within ourselves. God always comes first in loving us and therefore, our love is actually a response to Him and His goodness to us. Our love is a copy of His love; He originates it and we follow His example. Our capacity or ability to love God (and our neighbor) is a result of God's love for us and in us.

Therefore my beloved brother or sister, do you see why it is so important to understand both the nature and source of the love that exists within us? Do you see why we must thank God that He has enabled us to love Him? Do you see why we must never take any credit for our capacity to love? We are a peculiar people who have been particularly blessed for this life and eternity. The love of God prepares us to live this life without fear of punishment. Thanks be to God who has revealed that, "We love because He first loved us."

*Pastor Willie D. Woodmore*



**2nd Annual  
Church  
Anniversary  
November 25, 2012**

### I AM TRINITY



"Recently, I've recognized I have a thirst to grow in my intimacy with the Lord. After all, I know I must first conquer that relationship before attempting to master earthly relationships."

**Dr. Dionna Jones**

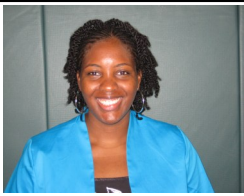
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# I AM TRINITY!



*Dr. Dionna Jones*

As many of you know, my life has been a time of ups and downs, thrills and hills, mountain tops and valleys. However, my journey has helped to bring more definition to my Christianity and who I am in Christ. Early on, I felt I was a Christian because that was all I had known. I had been in church all my life and I was a "good" person. But there came a time of clarity, most notably in college, where my Christianity was put to the test. No one was in the dorm room on Sunday mornings to make sure I was awake to go to church. It was up to me to find a church and attend. This began the time period of my spiritual growth. I was saved at a very young age, yet I remained stagnant in my walk with the Lord.

Fast forwarding to present day and time, the Lord is continuing to poke and prod me toward growth. Besides my ongoing struggle with my career, I also struggle with my current state of singleness. I've probably spent just as much time (if not more) crying about being single, as I have about not being where I want to be in my career. Through some self-reflection and council with various people, I soon realized that what I struggle with is intimacy with Christ. See, I have a head knowledge of who Christ is and what he has done for me, but I don't have full heart knowledge. I know Jesus loves me, but I don't always feel it, or at least not in the way I am expecting to feel love.

Recently, I've recognized I have a thirst to grow in my intimacy with the Lord. After all, I know I must first conquer that relationship before attempting to master earthly relationships. So for Lent this year, I've decided not only to give some things up, but to also grow in Christ during this time. I mean, how perfect a time as that leading up to His resurrection to learn the depths of His love for me. I have set out the challenge for myself to develop a healthy prayer life with the Lord in an attempt to truly put myself in a position to hear from Him. (For those who don't know, this is something I have always struggled with). I also am seeking studies that will help me to cultivate my relationship with my heavenly Father. I ask that you all pray that the Lord will use this time to open my eyes, or should I say, "heart", to the great love He has bestowed on me. I also pray I will view my life through new eyes of love "He has for me", realizing that every closed door was an act of love and not punishment.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ⇒ **Men's Fellowship:** March 2 & 16; April 6 & 20; May 4; June 1 & 15. All meetings start at 9:00am and are held at the Worship Center.
- ⇒ **Women's Fellowship:** March 9 & 23; April 13 & 27; May 11 & 25; June 22. All meetings start at 9:30am and are held at the Worship Center.
- ⇒ **TCC Family Film Night:** Friday, March 29, 2013 at the Worship Center. Films start promptly at 7:00pm. Flyers will be available soon and film information will also be posted on the church website.
- ⇒ **TCC Singers Musical:** April, 2013. Day and time to be announced later and also posted on the website calendar.
- ⇒ **Music Seminar:** May, 2013. Day to be determined. Check the church website for updates.
- ⇒ **Bike Riding Ministry:** Summer schedule begins May, 2013. We will ride once a month. Day and location will be posted on the church website.
- ⇒ **Men's Retreat:** Saturday, May 18, 2013 at the Worship Center. Check the church website for additional information.
- ⇒ **TCC Outreach Picnic:** June 8, 2013 at Blanchette Park in St. Charles. Please check the church website for additional information.
- ⇒ **Young Men's Ministry Event:** June 15, 2013. Additional information will be posted on the church website.
- ⇒ **Children's Ministry Event:** Friday, June 28, 2013 at the Worship Center. Additional information will be posted on the church website.

**NOTE:** You may also get more detailed information regarding any of these events by contacting the ministry coordinator at the Worship Center. Your call will be returned at their earliest convenience.

## **PRAYER REQUEST & PRAISE REPORTS**

- ◆ Continue to pray for our Sis. Carol Whittier's recovery from surgery. Pray for her complete healing and a peace which surpasses all understanding for both Carol and Brother Ernest.
- ◆ Continue to pray also for Deacon Taylor as he deals with issues with his kidneys. Pray that the doctors will use wisdom as it relates to our Brother's continued care.
- ◆ Pray for Sister Brenda Abernathy as she continues dialysis treatments. Pray for her comfort during the treatments as well as the issues with her eyesight.
- ◆ Pray for Brother Anthony Anderson as he awaits his disability determination and legal matters being settled regarding his home. Pray for God's favor and our Brother's peace.