

The Outlook

Trinity United Methodist Church

Something From "H"



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Character

Work on your character and a good life will come to you.

Jimmy Stewart.

An actor I've always associated with good character.

The blogosphere is abuzz with advice for the new year. We're given tricks and tips on getting ahead, becoming more efficient and so forth. But, as a guy who helps people live better God stories, I have to tell you the best advice I've ever heard is simple: Work on your character and a good life will come to you.

Of course we have to define "good life" and we also have to acknowledge this is far from a "biblical law" that is destined for success. To be sure, nothing is for sure. But I like the idea and find it comforting. I like the idea that I can stop trying to control the people around me and just work on myself, just work on being a slightly better "H".

Does it mean everything will be great? No, not really. Conflict is part of every good life. No meaningful story is void of conflict. But what it does mean is that in every context, I can always control what I can control, and that's me. Just because there's a storm on the ocean doesn't mean there has to be a storm within me. Please reread this again...

Here are some reasons I'm going to focus more on character:

1. I'm tired of tricks and tips. I just want to be. And I want to be better. And I am being drawn to slow-growth metaphors rather than quick-fix solutions.
2. I don't want to go get anything anymore. I don't want to stand in line at the "discount good life shop." I just want to enjoy a sunset or sunrise or drive in the country or book. I think having good character IS the good life, in a way. Practicing good character has a way of stabilizing us and keeps us from pining for the things we don't have. Having good character means cleaning up our inside world, rather than filling it with more stuff like an emotional pack rat.
3. In the end, having character is about settling. And I firmly believe one key to the happy life is settling. By settling I mean it's a decision to no longer be gluttonous. I'm gluttonous in so many ways. Not just with food, but with relationships and praise and money and so probably because our lack of character created compatibility. It's not always true, but like people often find each other. When we have good character, we have better, more easy conversation with others who have good character and our

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February 2012

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relationships soon become networks of good people. This is comforting to me.

4. Having good character means having fewer regrets. I hate regrets. I hate sitting around thinking of the crappy things I've said to people, or the crappier things I've done. I want to build in a few years without regrets to look back on.
5. Having good character is better than making people think you have integrity. It's fine to have integrity, but it's a waste of time to convince others that you do. Working on my character seems more Godward and inward focused than outward focused on what other humans think. Having good character feels more like having good weather inside you. I want good weather inside me.

I'm going to think about this for a while. Work on your character and a good life will come to you. Will you test it out with me? Let's see if it's true.

What Is Hope To Me?

By: Randy D. Rohm

Pastor "H" asked me how I would define the concept of HOPE and what that word meant to me. I must honestly admit that I couldn't immediately come up with a one-sentence response. So I thought about the "hope concept" for a few days and this would be how I describe HOPE at this point in my life.

HOPE is a verb and would indicate some form of action. When I thought about this, I thought about how many of us use the word hope in our daily lives. We can hope that you are feeling good. We can hope that no one was hurt. We can hope that "something" will happen. I can hope that this isn't boring to you. In short, we can Expect With Confidence. As HOPE guides our lives, you can see that in order to have hope, you must have something to base that "action" on.



Randolph D. Rohm, PhD
Evangelism Committee Chair

From a daily living routine, it is possible for one to "Hope Against Hope." or hope with no basis for expecting fulfillment. On the opposite hand, that would mean that HOPE is expecting some form of fulfillment. If you use that thought process, hope is not possible without the knowledge and understanding of what you are. This viewpoint would rely upon the beliefs, tenants, learning and understanding of what is expected in this life.

In John 3:16, it is said; "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **whoever believes in him** shall not perish but have **eternal life.**"

If we as Christians believe in that simple but resounding verse, it will give you everything you need for Expecting Fulfillment. That simple belief provides for the HOPE experience. The practice of Christian Faith will provide those who believe with the basis of expectations and fulfillment promised by God. Therefore, to me, HOPE is the Result of Faith in God. If you have no faith, you have no hope.

If you faithfully rely in God, you always have HOPE!



Barb Bixler

On Wednesday mornings, Trinity hosts a special hour of prayer beginning at 10:00 am. I find this ministry to be a meaningful time of directed prayer. My communication with the Lord is less self-centered and gives me reflection with a more global perspective. However, most Wednesdays I am scheduled to be at work.

As the new year began, I opened the current issue of the "Upper Room" and noted that the introductory article written by the publisher was titled "A Global Circle of Prayer." What a blessing to be reminded that each daily devotion concludes with a prayer. Every day I have the opportunity to pray to the Lord from a perspective I might not have recognized on my own. This devotional booklet is a great way to make a connection with God. Meditations are written by people from around the world and require as little as five to ten minutes of your day and is available in regular or large print. You are invited to pick up the current issue from the table near the stairway to the back parking lot.

Missions Committee

By: Barb Bixler, Committee Co-Chair

Henderson Settlement 2012 Mission Trip

Are you up to joining the district mission team at Henderson Settlement?

This year's trip is scheduled for the week of September 30 through October 6, 2012. Learn more about this life changing experience by picking up a brochure from the bulletin board in the hallway outside the sanctuary.

The cost for the trip is \$250 which includes room and board, insurance, travel cost and deposit. Team members are also responsible for their meal costs while traveling and any expenses to exploring the area on Wednesday.

Team members are also asked to secure money to cover the cost of supplies for the team projects. The Trinity missions committee is available to help raise project money for representatives from our church. Please contact Barb Bixler if you plan to participate in this trip so that the missions committee can make plans for a fundraiser.

Blessings Cupboard

For many years Trinity Church has collected food for the Sandusky County Food Pantry and more recently we created an in-house pantry. Our community has several organizations that provide free food and meals. For this reason, the Trinity missions committee would like to focus on meeting the needs of area residents for basic non-food items that cannot be purchased using food stamps. This includes items such as laundry detergent and fabric softener, toothpaste and toothbrushes, toilet paper, facial tissue, bath soap, and shampoo as well as other hygiene items. To kick off this project, we would like to collect donations to distribute from our "Blessings Cupboard" on the third Sundays in February, March and April. (See the "Soap-er Sundays" article for exact dates.) Please help us in the launch of this new ministry.

Worship Committee

By: Donna Thatcher



Donna Thatcher,
Worship Committee Co-Chair

With Special Thanks.....

The Worship Committee would like to express appreciation to Mary Baxter for her many, many years of service of taking care of the arrangements for the altar flowers each Sunday. Cindy Gillette will now be assuming that responsibility.

If anyone wishes to donate the altar flowers, please call Cindy at 419-332-8067 or the church office at 419-332-5032 or check the Flower Calendar on the bulletin board located in the hallway near the sanctuary. You are welcome to sign there on any of the open dates.

Ash Wednesday Service—Wednesday, February 22, 7:30pm

Let's Begin This Lenten Journey Together!

Join us as we begin a special part of the church year known as Lent, the six weeks before Easter. Ash Wednesday allows us to begin a Christian observance of Lent with self-examination. Lent is a time when we try to think about how we need to change to be a better person. We also think about forgiveness and the importance of asking God to forgive us and the importance of forgiving others. While some may choose to follow the custom of giving up something you like during Lent, another method is to make a special effort to do something for others.

Let's begin this Lenten journey together at the Ash Wednesday service which will include Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. We will miss you if you are not present and you will miss an important service as we begin Lent.

The Sanctuary For Lent: 2012

The Sanctuary for Lent: 2012 is a booklet of daily devotions for Lent will be available starting on Sunday, February 19th. Please feel free to pick up a copy for your family. Devotionals will be at the Welcome Center in the back of the sanctuary or call the church office to have one mailed to you. Every devotion includes a suggested Scripture reading and a closing prayer for each day in Lent and Easter Sunday.

Discipleship Sunday School Classes

Children & Youth:

Sundays 9:30 – 11:30 AM



- **Nursery**—Ruth Elshen
(Birth through age 3) – main floor near the secretary's office

- **Age 3 through Pre-Kindergarten**
Alice Jeanette & Kathy Zysek
main floor in room off the nursery



Sundays at 10:30 AM

- **Kindergarten through Third Grade** – Annette Swartz
third floor of addition off back parking lot, last door on right



- **Fourth through Sixth Grades**
Barb Bixler & Karen Auxter
third floor of addition off back parking lot,
second door on left



- **Grades Seven through Twelve** – Pastor H.
third floor of addition off back parking lot, first door on left



Adult:

- **CCC**—Randy Rohm
(Christ, Coffee & Conversation – Young to Middle Age Adults)
– Fellowship Hall (basement)



- **Discovery Class**—Donna Thatcher
(any Adults, short-term lessons of study)
– Discover Room -main floor near hallway to sanctuary



Sundays at 8:30 AM

- **Fellowship Class** - facilitator, Dan Secret
(Middle-Age Adults through Retirees)
– lounge, second floor of addition off back parking lot,
second door on right



Council On Ministries

MINUTES

- Missions-Barb reports that there was a good response to requests for winter clothing for school children at Otis and Hayes schools.
- Evangelism-Randy reports that the Congress on Evangelism will be held on Feb. 2. Hope will be the theme. They want to purchase a domain name for the next billboard.
- Higher Education-Christmas cards were sent to members in the military.
- Communications-Donna reminded all to be sure to give Diane the dates for all committee meetings for the coming year to avoid conflicts with double meetings.
- Rainbow Circle-The circle has plans to have a soup and muffin sale in March.
- New Business- Pastor H wants to have some new members on the council. They are studying from a new book called "Simple Church" on needs for the church. There are copies of this book in the office.
- Old Business: Many people helped to take down the Christmas decorations from the sanctuary. Thank you!

In Our Prayers

Jean Black, Brennen Reineck, Kaitiln Baker, Mahlon Miller, Richard Baker, Amanda Gibbs (cancer), Michael Kent—brother of Tamara Damschroder, Rev. Donald Irvin, Michael Lightner, John Stull—army, Sandy Sage (cancer), Dick Hufford, Neil Andecover, Michele Mathew, Ashleigh Souders, Abby Johnson, Beulah Sibrel, SandyTusen, Ted Wadsworth, Bud Burkett
John C. Aldrich -Iraq -(Gladys Aldrich's grandson), Katie Peterson (Missionary in Michigan), Adam Souders—Afghanistan (Ashleigh Mathew Souders' husband), Ruth Fausnaugh, Mary Klausz

Have a friend/relative you would like to add to the prayer list? Please ask them first, then just call the church office. Also If your prayer request has been answered and you would like to have the name removed from our prayer list just call.

Church office phone number: 419-332-5032.

“Soap-er” Sundays

Third Sunday in

February, March and April

(February 19, March 18 and April 15, 2012)

Help fill our Blessings Cupboard with laundry detergent, fabric softener, dish detergent, soap, toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo, toothpaste and other hygiene items.

Trinity Schedules & Misc.



Acolyte Schedule

February 5	Gabe & Devenn Reineck
February 12	Adam Auxter & Jacob Wott
February 19	Devenn Reineck & Sophia Biggins
February 26	Erin & Alex Thatcher



February Altar Flower Schedule

February 5	Frech Family
February 12	Open Date
February 19	Mr. & Mrs. Mark Toeppe
February 26	Shirley Mullholand

*Like to provide altar flowers for the above open dates?
Please call Cindy Gillette at 419-332-8067
or the church office 419-332-5032.*



Happy Birthday!

February 1	Erin Grob
February 2	Annette Swartz Wesley Talbert
February 11	Tamara Damschroder
February 17	David Pope
February 22	Thomas Decker
February 27	Bill Wise



February Anniversary

February 12	Tom & Renee Ackerman
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**Change
of
Address**

Dick Baker
1736 Japack Dr.
Fremont, OH. 43420

Emily Miller
1002 Hayes Ave.
Fremont, OH. 43420

Beth Ann Farson
3129 CR 198
Fremont, OH. 43420

Ruth Clark
Countryside Continuing Care Ctr.
1865 Countryside Dr. Rm. 231
Fremont, OH. 43420

Policy for Cancellation of Church Services



Church services and or activities will be cancelled if a Level 3 snow emergency is in effect in Sandusky County.

In the case of a Level 2 snow emergency, cancellation will be discussed between the Pastor, Lay Leader, Organist, and Worship Chair.

Please see your television/radio for cancellations.

Cancellations will be posted on TV channels: 11 (Toledo), 13 (Toledo), 24 (Toledo), Eagle 99 radio station.

Thank You's

Dear Friends at Trinity United Methodist Church,

Thank you for the very generous gift of \$479,20 to the Sandusky County Habitat for Humanity affiliate.

We have been abundantly blessed by your generosity and we are so very thankful for your continued support with our affiliate. With God's blessings and the generosity of many in Sandusky County, the ministry of Habitat will continue to grow and reach more of our neighbors in need.

With the support of many in Sandusky County, we were able to celebrate with a family this year when we dedicated their home in Gibsonburg. In 2012, we are stepping out with faith as we have committed to build in Clyde with another family. All contributions re helping families like these realize their dream of homeownership and enable us as we continue building houses and building hope.

On behalf of the Habitat for Humanity Board of Trustees, please accept our appreciation for the love and generosity that prompted your gift. We sincerely thank you for your generosity to this ministry and with you a very Happy New Year!

—Donna Thatcher, Executive Director, Sandusky County Habitat for Humanity

Dear Trinity United Methodist Church,

We would like to thank you very much for the donation of socks and underwear! They are greatly needed for our students! Thanks!

—Hayes School Staff

Dear Friend of Fremont City Schools,

At its regular meeting held on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, the Fremont City Schools Board of Education accepted your donation of campus wear clothing, hats and gloves to Otis Elementary School.

Your involvement in our schools is a positive step in making good schools even better. We are extremely fortunate to have congregations, such as yours, who are willing to share their talents and resources with our students. Thank you for your contribution.

—Traci McCaudy, Ed.D, Supt. Of Schools

Dear Trinity United Methodist Church,

Thank you for the daily devotional that was sent to me from the Discovery Class. It was a comfortable feeling and surprise to know the compassion you shared with me. I only wish I could be with you on Sunday mornings but because of health problems, I am unable to do that at this time. Thanks again.

—Jean Black

Dear Trinity United Methodist Church,

Thanks to the choir for the nice bags of cookies and candy for Christmas. I am enjoying it all! Miss you all!

—Neil Andecover

Relay For Life 2012

By Kathy Zyski & Patrick Hick

The decision has been made by our team "The Mighty United Methodists to not participate in this year's Relay For Life Events. This is based on the theme of the event "Viva La Relay" which emphasizes gambling and gaming themes. We felt that this was a conflict with our church doctrine. We would hope that your support for this cause would continue, helping those in need with their battle with cancer.

Our mission statement can apply to many situations:

"Helping One Person, In One Situation, One At A Time"

We thank all those who support us.



Valentines Day Word Find



Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell a popular Valentine's Day item.

P I H S D N E I R F D I P U C A L
V D H S U R C A C F B A L E N D O
N Y N T I A E A S O L C T O Y M V
S R N E N S N L Y E H O I E R I E
T L E D I D S F A O N T W S A R B
R E Y S L R R E C T C T L E U E I
A W S E R I F O N A I A I C R R R
E E S E E E L L R D S O O M B S D
H J C N S A V T R O N U N T E D S
T G D N T O T O P I P O A S F N A
E N Y E A A R O L L G C F E H I T
E I S D U M R B E L O V E D B I G
W L O D R P O A F F E C T I O N P
S R E M A L F R R E N T R A P A R
E A Y C N A F O R E V E R L I K E
R D R O T I U S D N O I T O V E D

ADMIRER
ADORE
AFFECTION
ATTRACTION
BEAU
BELOVED
BOYFRIEND
CANDLES
CANDY
CHOCOLATES

COUPLE
CRUSH
CUPID
DARLING
DATE
DEAR
DEVOTION
FANCY
FEBRUARY
FLAME

FLOWERS
FONDNESS
FOREVER
FRIENDSHIP
GIFT
GIRLFRIEND
HEARTS
JEWELRY
LIKE
LOVEBIRDS

LOVERS
PARTNER
PROPOSAL
RELATIONSHIP
RESTAURANT
ROMANCE
ROSES
SENTIMENT
SUITOR
SWEETHEART

