

July / August 2012

## *The Pastor's Two Cents:*

As we entered into our summer season back in June we watched our Sunday attendance begin to decrease. And as usual, along with the attendance goes the giving. As a Pastor it is certainly nice to see a full church but you always have to remind yourself that you are not in the pulpit for "numbers." A Pastor knows that the truly important aspect of any worship service is to show appreciation to God and to hopefully touch at least ONE individual who truly needs to hear God's word that week.

But the Church itself needs more than "ONE" individual to show their appreciation for its presence so to worship God and hear God's word for their lives. The Church needs a FAMILY that supports and nurtures its growth. Without support; emotionally, spiritually, physically, and YES--- financially the Church cannot survive. Today's world is full of distractions and busyness. A family, let alone, an individual have many responsibilities and commitments. Our hope at Trinity is that YOUR church & YOUR spirituality is one of them.

Recently, there has been a lot of talk about our envelope system, as well as, our active and inactive members. We, the leadership, at Trinity UCC know that not everyone can make the Sunday service and our new earlier start time is not as convenient for some people. So, we offer our Thursday night service as an alternative as well as our Adult Sunday school after the worship service and our discipleship classes in the spring and fall.

Yet, the one thing that still continues to plague the church is the lack luster participation that befalls our Sunday & Thursday services, our discipleship and Adult Education classes as well as the many opportunities to serve the church. On top of that the financial support for the church is also dwindling. Currently, as I reminded you last newsletter, you only have a part-time pastor. If attendance which is tied directly to giving continues to remain inconsistent, the growth of the church is sure to be impacted in a very negative way.

The answer is COMMITMENT! Commitment to God, commitment to your church family, commitment as a member of the church and commitment to giving so to support, nurture and grow the church. Our hope is not to JUST survive; we want to THRIVE and grow well into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Only your "COMMITMENT" to support the church can make that happen regardless of your attendance. We hope to see you in church on Sunday or Thursday this summer and maybe even discipleship or Adult Sunday school this fall but if our schedule doesn't match yours please consider serving your church financially or during one of our special events.

May God Bless All of Your COMMITMENTS,

*Pastor Steve*