

September / October 2012

## *The Pastor's Two Cents:*

Trinity UCC's Visitation Team is in full swing and out visiting our homebound and sharing communion with consecrated elements. This is a major accomplishment as now our congregation has embraced and has enjoined their Pastor in ministry once reserved only for clergy. Worship, visitation, Christian Education and governance are fully engaged with laity input, participation and performance. This is how a church grows, matures and thrives within its community. Laity empowerment is such a crucial aspect of what makes Trinity strong and vibrant. Several people criticized my use of Worship Leaders saying that worship is reserved for the Pastor and that's what we pay him for anyway. Obviously, due to the numbers of those volunteering to be liturgist this sentiment is not embraced by the majority.

In fact the laity of Trinity has become so involved in the leadership and participation of the worship service that there is little about our church year planning that is done in isolation. Some of our best ideas and most meaningful services have come out of the collective conscious of our membership. There are those in our church who due to family crisis or circumstances out of their control feel so bad because they cannot be more involved at this point in their lives. Trinity has a wonderful future as long as we continue to be a "MISSION" church deeply involved with our community near and far. Having a mission or purpose is what keeps the doors open. And keeping them open is only the beginning:

In the very near future a major campaign will be considered to allow the basement to become fully handicapped accessible both with a ramp and accessible bathroom. These improvements will allow us to be OPEN & AFFIRMING in a real sense and not just in word. By making our building open and accessible to all we become not only a welcoming church but a church with a heart and conscience regarding our neighbor. We send a loud message to the community that ALL are WELCOME here!

It won't be long before we will be voting on whether to become OPEN & AFFIRMING and I hope that those with concerns will not sit in the shadows and be silent but would rather come forward to me or a consistory member and voice their concerns or ask their questions. This is YOUR church and will always be, so get involved and be empowered to be a part of its growth and survival well into the future.

*Pastor Steve*