

The Trinity Times

“Trinity United Methodist Church – God’s Place of Welcome and Worship”

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July, 2005

Amy has been using questions submitted by our congregation as topics for sermons or newsletter articles. Here’s the latest one:

How did Easter and Passover wind up on different dates?

Before we dive into that question, it’s important to note that our church is part of the “Western” churches while another strand of Christianity exists in the East – called the Eastern Orthodox Church. I had the pleasure of worshipping in a Greek Orthodox Church while living and studying in Bethlehem, Israel.

Also, please recall from your high school geography classes that we are dealing with three different calendars – our calendar is called the Gregorian calendar, the Eastern Orthodox is called the Julian calendar and then we have the Jewish calendar. The months are named differently, the days are numbered differently and each calendar compensates for leap year in a slightly different way. What is important to remember for the sake of this article is that our calendar is based on the sun – a solar calendar. The Jewish and Julian calendar is based on the moon. Therefore, the Eastern Orthodox Church will be more in line with Jewish holidays and our calendar will not.

Now, let’s begin: The celebration of Passover took place just before the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ, and the two holidays have been entwined from the beginning. Easter depends on Passover not only for much of its symbolic meaning but also for its position in the calendar. Look at the chronology in the story line of the gospels: the Last Supper (which is the Passover meal) shared by Jesus and his disciples before his crucifixion. Therefore, Easter should always follow Passover.

But finding the formula for Easter goes beyond the Biblical story and into the cycles of the three different calendars. The formula for Easter—“The first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox(when the Sun will cross directly over the Earth’s equator).”—is identical for both Western and Orthodox Easters, but the Western churches use the Gregorian calendar. This different calendar accounts for some of the time that elapses between Passover and Easter.

That much is straightforward. But actually calculating these dates involves a bewildering array of **ecclesiastical moons** and **paschal full moons**, the **astronomical equinox**, and the **fixed equinox**— and that’s in addition to the two different calendar systems

So why all the complication? The Western churches wanted a more predictable pattern. So the Western church does not use the actual, or astronomically correct date for the vernal equinox, but a fixed date (March 21). And by “full moon” it does not mean the astronomical full moon but the “ecclesiastical moon,” which is based on tables created by the church. These constructs allow the date of Easter to be calculated in advance rather than determined by actual astronomical observances, which are naturally less predictable.

With the natural movement of our solar calendar (a calendar based on the sun) and with the natural movement of the Jewish Lunar calendar (a calendar based on the moon) the dates often do not coincide. Due to the Western church’s appreciation for order and predictability (something that the Eastern part of the world does not value as much) the Easter dates will often not fall within range of Passover.

Calendar of Events

Sunday July 10, 2005

2:00-4:00pm-Drop in Bridal shower for Justin Branson & Karen Barnes

Friday July 15th-17th 2005

Buffalo Mountain Camp Family Weekend

Sunday July 17-22, 2005

Day Camp explorers for completed 3rd-5th graders

Monday July 25-29, 2005

Day camp for completed 1st-3rd graders

Tuesday July 26, 2005

12:00 pm-Seniors Luncheon

Friday July 29, 2005

Meals on Wheels

SERMON SIDE

Many of you have sent in questions for my sermon topics for the summer. Here is the list of topics for the questions that make the best sermons.

- July 3-Why did Jesus have to die? Couldn't God have saved us another way?
- July 10-Will there be banquets in Heaven?

(this sermon will SURPRISE you!!)

- July 17-Guest Speaker(Family Camp Weekend)

Amy will be a Buffalo Mnt. Camp.

- July 24-Women in the Bible
- July 31-Why ordain Women?
- August 7 (In response to my sermon "Why bad things happen to good people" I got a call asking this: Why should I be good if bad things happen to good and bad people?)
- GREAT Questions!!

(CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Attention HAPPY Campers:

Upcoming Camp Dates

July 25-29 Damp camp for completed 1st through 3rd graders. The cost is 90\$ and less if you "bring a buddy". We will leave the parking lot at 8am every morning and return at 4pm.

August 1-5 Day Camp explorers for completed 3rd through 5th graders. We will leave the parking lot at 8am every morning and return at 4pm. The total cost is 90\$ and less if you "bring a buddy".

July 17-22 and July 24-29 Middle Elementary OVERNIGHT Camp for completed 3rd and 4th graders. The total cost is \$90 but you get a break for "bring a buddy".

Amy will provide the use of the church van for all camps. PLEASE sign the yellow bus sheet in the narthex as Pastor Amy can make sure there will be enough seats.

Our Jr. High is at camp as I type -7 total (last year we sent 3). I'm sure they are having a great time.

Exciting Events in August

Waldo Miles (at Sugar Holler) * August 14 * 10am till 10pm

We are having worship at Waldo Miles at 11am followed by a potluck THEN the pool will be open (1pm-6:30pm). Dinner will be provided (hotdawgs).

Ice cream Supper * August 21 * 6pm

Make some homemade ICECREAM and bring it by (or buy some from your local grocery) and come for a good time. Entertainment will be the Youth Pie throwing Auction.

Serving our church and others in July

Scripture Readers

July 3-Helene Denny
July 10-Sallie Rowley
July 17-Robbin Ryan
July 24-Bob Bailey
July 31-Mark Denny

Acolytes

July 3-Jordan Marsh
July 10-Kalin Bailey
July 17-Abbi Sage
July 24-Felicity Russell
July 31-Daniel Rasnick

Children's Church

July 3-Frances Ryan
July 10-Robyn Ryan
July 17-Sue Sharp
July 24-Sharon Branson
July 31-Colleen Marsh

Food Pantry

Nancy Smith

Bread Runner

Brady & Patsy Hudson

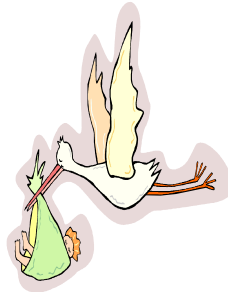
Please note that July 11th through July 30th I will be out of the office during the day. Announcements and other messages should be directed to my cell phone. 423-340-2138 *Lisa Trinkle*

A Reception for The Reverend Howard and his wife Barbara, celebrating 50 years of martial bliss will be held July 10, Sunday, from 2pm till 4pm at St. Elmo UMC. No gifts please, cards may be sent to 137 Blocker Lake, Chattanooga, TN 37412.

The city of Bristol has awarded Trinity United Methodist Church the Bristol Beautification Award for the month of June!!! We would like to thank those who keep our church looking spruce and (most importantly) inviting to outsiders. A special thanks to Newland Haire and her family, Brady Hudson and Sharon Branson.

Congratulations!!!!!!!

To Russ & Leeann MaHaffey on the birth of Grayson Russell born on April 30th 2005, weighing in at 8lbs and 12 oz Leeann and the baby will be visiting their Great Great Grandfather Dobby Hudson on August 5th if you would like to stop by and visit with the baby. Note that they will only be there in the morning hours. Other proud grandparents include Don & Carolyn Hunigan



There will be a drop in shower for Karen Barnes, Fiancée' of Justin Branson on Sunday afternoon, July 10th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. At Trinity UMC. Karen and Justin are registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond and Target in Johnson City and Belks in Bristol.

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

1st-Jordan Lambert
1st-Jonathan Holbrook
2nd-Melissa Bushwack
3rd-Suzanne Staton
4th-Jim Eldreth
6th-Daniel Chapman
8th-Sandra Eldreth
9th-Gordon Perkins
10th-Gary Alexander
10th-Kylie Garrett

11th-Trey Latham
11th-Elizabeth VanRyn
12th-Daniel Rasnick
14th-Thelma Hamilton
16th-Gracie Lambert
16th-Amanda Alexander
16th-Annie McKamey
17th-Doug Sims
22nd-Rex Lawson
30th-Jean Marion

Anniversaries

2nd-Charles & Carolyn Denton
2nd-Marcia & Scott Harrison
6th-Don & Carolyn Hunigan
10th-Gary & Doris Alexander
10th-Warren & Sue Sexton
12th-Donnie & Sharon Branson
14th-Charles & Patty Hurley
19th-Jasen & Christy Eidge

OUR PRAYER LIST

MEMBERS

Wes & Winnie Hill
Arizona Scott
Bruce & Jackie
Hamilton
Newland Haire
Audrey Clark
Lisa Trinkle
Pastor Amy & Kevin
Mary Arnold

FRIENDS

Heath Calhoun
Dot Barnes
Charles Lowe

SHUT-INS

Betty Hopkins
Ella Blair
Jessie Fullen

Names on our
prayer list rotate
off after
approximately
six months
unless
otherwise
notified. Please
contact the
church office to
make any
changes.

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
320 Carter St Bristol, VA 24201

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