

The Trinity Times

“God’s place of welcome and worship.”

Trinity UMC
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Questions from the congregation: infant baptism

Pastor Amy, why do some churches baptize babies and others do not?

The argument against infant baptism is very popular in our Scot-Irish community. Asking anyone from that tradition (of not baptizing infants), they will simply tell you – it’s not in the Bible. But the difference between credobaptists (those who only baptize professing members) and pedobaptists (those who include infants) is based on a much deeper disagreement than what the Bible has to say “in black and white”.

First of all – what is baptism? The credobaptist would argue the following: (1) baptism is a symbol of telling the world that you are a Christian. (2) It’s something a person chooses as a result of choosing to become a Christian. (3) Only those who have faith in Christ are members of God’s family. It is easy to see

why the credobaptist would not include infants. They have plenty of scripture verses to back up their baptismal understanding, but they do this at the expense of ignoring other scriptures.

Second of all – what does baptism do?

The credobaptist would argue that baptism (as well as communion) is only a symbol of what the person has chosen to do toward God.

So what is baptism for the pedobaptists?

Pedobaptists have a much wider view of the meaning of baptism and what it does to the recipient. This comes from a wider base of scripture and even a historical understanding of, not only Christianity, but also Judaism (ancient Jewish culture).

(con’t on page 5)

activities. Yes, that’s A LOT! So she will be asking your help on a regular basis as we minister to our children and youth and seek to draw new families into our spiritual family. We ask that you support Aimee and our ministries as you vowed to do when you joined the church.

What is the difference between pedobaptists and credobaptists?

Pedobaptists are branches of Christian faith that spring from a common root: the Catholic Church. Our particular branch is as follows: The church of England broke from the Catholic church, John Wesley was an Anglican priest of the church of England. Methodism springs from that Anglican branch. Proof of our history can be found in the “Articles of Religion” in the Methodist book, The Discipline. These articles are the basis of our scriptural understanding. Other pedobaptist (which are Methodist, Lutherans, Catholics and Episcopalians for example) have a similar line and similar connections. Pedobaptist practice infant baptism because of it’s long history which teaches God works through this sacrament, even in the life of a baby.

The credobaptist also have a tree much like our own. The difference is they completely separated from their roots (due to their perception that the “church” was being corrupted). Many took a “Bible only” stance, seeking to purify the faith. They dismissed the history and tradition that came before them. Each branch created it’s own “articles” which they also base on scripture. They do not practice infant baptism because it is not spelled out in “black and white” and if baptism only a “symbol” of what a person chooses to do, then a baby cannot make that choice. The difference is in the understanding of the role of baptism in one’s faith journey. This difference in a nutshell: Sacrament verses symbol (see lead article)

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Opportunities to serve:

- Our church needs pictures of our church activities, can you help? (page 4)
- Can you help us update our Birthday and Anniversary list by calling us if we leave anyone out? (page 3)
- Can you help our local food pantry? (page 5)
- Can you join our Tuesday morning study? (page 5)
- Would you like to read scripture is worship? Call the church office!

Welcoming a new staff member

We welcome to our ministry staff one of our own—Amiee Rasnick. Amiee will be overseeing our children and youth ministry and music as well as our Wednesday night



Wednesday

Night Menu

Sept. 6

Bring your own sandwich

Sept. 13

Chicken

Tenders & Sides

Sept. 20

Manwich

Sandwich, Chips & Pickles

Sept. 27

Hot Dogs, Chips, Baked Beans, Slaw

Children and Youth

Expanding our Horizons



During the month of September, our children (grades 4-5) will be starting an exciting new Sunday School study. Our young men will be participating in "Wisdom and Stature: Young Men Growing in God". This series will help them understand how to grow into men of faith by following biblical role models.

Our young ladies will be participating in "Beautiful in God's Eyes: Building Character, Wisdom and Faith in Young Women."

As these ladies study eleven biblical women, they will learn to combat stereotypes and develop strong self-esteem. During this 13 week Bible Study, the young men's series will be taught entirely by men and the young ladies series will be taught entirely by women. If you would like to teach one of these lessons, please contact me here at the church (669-1772) or at home (466-0461). Our children in this age group need our guidance as they begin to navigate the tumultuous pre-teen waters.



Serving our church this month

Scripture Readers

Sept. 3

Nancy Smith

Sept. 10

Raven Crusenberry

Sept. 17

Skylar Crusenberry

Sept. 24

Bob Bailey

Acolytes

Sept. 3

Cara Barb

Sept. 10

Daniel Rasnick

Sept. 17

Kalin Bailey

Sept. 24

George Denny

Bread Delivery

Linda Roberts

Food Pantry

Sept. 13

Patsy & Brady Hudson



**Thank You
Thank You
Thank You!**

Pastor Amy and I would like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who gave so generously of their time over the summer. We had many dedicated volunteers who went over and above the call of duty by showing up each and every Sunday. The level of support our children and youth ministries are gifted with is a direct testimony of the importance that Trinity places upon children, youth and their families. So once again, I offer each of you a heartfelt thanks, praying that you were greatly blessed by the time you shared with us. —Aimee

Promotion Sunday

PROMOTION PARTY

On Sunday, September 10, at 9:45am during the Sunday School hour the children and youth department will be hosting a Sunday School Promotion Party. We are excited to promote Tanner & Todd Adams, Haylee Cobb, Emma Grace Roberts, and Abbie Sexton to the Flowers in the Garden

Sunday School Class. Emma Grace will also be promoted from the Church Nursery to the Bible Buddies. Jake Sexton and Andy Wright will be joining the Rotational Blue Group. Jade Crusenberry and Felicity Russell will be moving up to the Rotational Red Group. Chloe Privette will enter our jr. high youth department. We invite these children and their parents to be our honored guests as we celebrate this special time.



Questions from congregation Con't from page 1

First of all – what is baptism?

The pedobaptist would argue the following: (1) Baptism is a sacrament, meaning God has chosen this path to convey spiritual grace to humans. Also meaning, at the moment of baptism God works in a very unique way. We believe God conveys spiritual grace to babies during baptisms. (2) Baptism is not something we solely “choose” to do on our own, but it is a response to God, who initiated this whole process of coming to faith by the life, death and resurrection of Christ. Christ died for ALL. Therefore, we include infants. (3) Baptism is an entry way into the larger Christian family, the church. Since babies are already part of the church family (being born to Christian parents), they are candidates for baptism. The community of God extends to those who have not made a profession of faith, but are being prepared to do so (thus the importance of children's and youth ministries).

Secondly, what does baptism do? Baptism is not just a sign that the person is “saved” and a member of the church. Baptism is a “means of grace”.

Meaning, baptism is an avenue set forth by Christ, himself, as a way that God works in a person's soul (a means in which God imparts grace to humans). We believe God imparts grace to babies.

Do you have a Biblical argument for a pedobaptist stance?

Yes, and here it is: In the Old Testament, if the head of a household converted to Judaism, all the males in the house, even the infants, were circumcised. Pedobaptists argue this pattern continues into the New Testament. Reference is made, for example, to baptizing a person *and their whole household* – the households of Lydia, Crispus, and Stephanas are mentioned by name [Acts 16:14-15, 18:8; 1 Cor 1:16](#).

Pedobaptists challenge credobaptists on this point: Why would a whole household be baptized just because the head of the house had faith? Shouldn't they baptize each member of the family as they come to individual faith? Household baptism implies that the rules for membership in Abraham's covenant has continued into the New Testament, the main difference is the sign of the covenant. Baptism has replaced circumcision

as the sign of membership in God covenant community. These household baptisms fit nicely with the argument for infant baptism and, so, is evidence for it. Household baptisms fit poorly with the credobaptists view of baptism as a sign of individual faith, and so, is evidence against it. (last two paragraphs from Wikipedia.com).

Here's a logical point: The book of Acts records the history of the church with stories from the lives of first generational believers – they were all adults. What about the following generations? Those stories are not in the Bible, but they are part of history. The leaders (we call them church fathers and church mothers), namely practiced infant baptism. Polycarp (69-155), a disciple of the Apostle John, was baptized as an infant. This enabled him to say at his martyrdom. "Eighty and six years have I served the Lord Christ" (*Martyrdom of Polycarp* 9: 3). Justin Martyr (100 - 166) of the next generation states about the year 150, "Many, both men and women, who have been Christ's disciples since childhood, remain pure at the age of sixty or seventy years" (*Apology I: 15*). Further, in his *Dialog with Trypho the Jew*, Justin Martyr states that Baptism is the circumcision of the New Testament.

So this is why we Methodist baptize babies.

**PROMISING TO SERVE
THROUGH GIVING**

Total given toward budget: 73645.00

Average per Sunday: 2104.14

PROMISED LAND UPDATE

Total pledged toward Promised Land: 185935.00

Total given toward Promised Land: 58646.00

Our local food pantry is in need of everything except canned corn and beans. Please help us fill our box

Upcoming Events

September 9
Sundaes and Games 7pm
September 11
Worship Team Meeting
September 12
Women's Bible Study 10am
September 25
Men's Club Dinner 6pm

Sundaes and Games
Saturday, September 9 @ 7pm
Enjoy an evening of fun and games with fixing's for your Sundaes—make your own!

Tuesday Women's Study
Join us on Tuesday
Mornings at 10am for
Beth Moore's teaching
on DANIEL.

SEPTEMBER



- 1 - Greg Sage
- 3 - Kelly Cobb
- 4 - Susan Roe
- 5 - Mildred Ellis
- 8 - Claudia Beach
- 8 - Nancy Reese
- 9 - Charles Bentley
- 11 - Jade Gentry
- 12 - Jennifer Shanks
- 14 - Becki Chandler
- 15 - Robbin Ryan
- 15 - Meredith Lawson
- 15 - Jim Sexton
- 18 - Charles Winter

- 18 - Aimee Rasnick
- 19 - Katherine Waddell
- 19 - Kathryn Myers
- 20 - Chase Collins
- 21 - Cheyenne Canter
- 22 - Sharon Cahill
- 23 - Minnie Sapp
- 24 - Omaha Lee Shaffer
- 24 - John Martin
- 27 - Randy Chapman
- 27 - Cara Barb
- 28 - Kathy Mitchell
- 28 - Phillip Roe
- 29 - Aaron Privette
- 30 - Mindy Miller

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Let us know so we can update our files! 276-669-1772 or email us at trinityoffice@bvunet.net

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



- 1
David & Mindy Miller
- 2
Warren & Dana Boggs
- 7
Jay and Jean VanRyn
- 8
Bill & Sharon Cahill
- 9
Mitch & Cathy James
- 11
Sam & Barbara Latham
- 26
Lyle & Robin Hilfigure

Calendar of Events

Church office closed on Labor Day

Tuesday, September 5

Mary Martha Circle -12 Noon

Wednesday, September 6

Family Night - 6:00 pm

Bring your own Fast Food or Sandwich

Saturday, September 9

Sundaes & Games - 7:00 pm

We will have all the fixings for sundaes

Sunday, September 10

Promotion Sunday School Party

Grandparent's Sunday

Monday, September 11

Lectionary Meeting of Area

Ministers - 10:30-Noon

Worship Committee Meeting

7:00 pm

Wednesday, September 13

Family Night - 6:00 pm

Chicken Tenders and Sides

Monday, September 18

Lectionary Meeting of Area

Ministers - 10:30 am-Noon

Wednesday, September 20

Wedding - 5:00 pm

Family Night - 6:00 pm

Manwich Sandwich, Chips & Pickles

Monday, September 25

Lectionary Meeting of Area

Ministers -10:30-Noon

Men's Club Dinner 6:00 pm

Wednesday, September 27

Family Night 6:00 pm

Hot Dogs, Chips, Baked Beans, Slaw

The Monday Invasion

For years the Bristol United Methodist ministers met every Monday to discuss sermon preparation for the following week. Pastor Amy joined the group within the first year of her time at Trinity. "These other ministers have been a source of comfort, guidance and humor. They help me see things in the scriptures I'd otherwise over look. We do that for each other, ya know, get fresh takes on the scriptures." The ministers also share prayer lists and requests from the churches they

represent and the ministers pray together each week.

Lately, the group has needed a place to meet. Since Trinity has Ms. Ruth at the office every Monday, Trinity seemed like the perfect place to meet. So every Monday, if you smell coffee and hear laughter in the hall, it's probably ministers from all over Bristol coming to study and pray. The UM area ministers meet from 10:30 till noon.

Address Change

Joyce Roberts has moved in with her daughter in Johnson City. Her current address is:

Joyce Roberts
c/o Karen Roberts-Corbett

2609 Austin Village Blvd

Johnson City, TN

**Opportunity to serve:
SEND A CARD TO MRS. JOYCE!!!**



We need pictures for our newsletter of church activities!!! You got em? Email them to

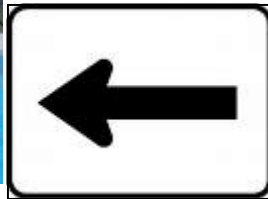
trinityoffice@bvunet.net



Thank you to “Rising Tide” for leading our worship at Waldo Miles! If you’d like to send a Thank You Card the address is: Rising Tide, c/o Phyllis Barb, 210 Andover Drive, Bristol, VA 24201



A great thanks to all who participated in our worship, eating, swimming and fellowship at Waldo Miles this year. The food and fun was outstanding— thank you Family Life Team for planning our time together.



Waldo Miles Pictures!

Much thanks to our Trustees who gifted the nursery with new swings, an excer-saucer, music and CD player and many new toys. This update will make families who visit feel that we value our little ones (and we do!).

Pastor’s Schedule

(when Pastor Amy is out of town)

Sat Sept 9 @ Kodak UMC meet with Asbury Seminary group

Tues Sept 12, 9am-1pm Abingdon District Minister’s meeting

Fri Sept 29, all day, sexual ethics training

Please contact the church office during these hours or call my cell 423 341 9576

I want to be available to you! —Pastor Amy



My family and I would like to express our appreciation to the many leaders in our church who stepped up during my leave. Thank you for giving us this precious time to begin our life together as a family. —Pastor Amy, Kevin and lil’ Autumn

