

# Trinity Youth News

Volume 3, Issue 1

April 2006

## UPCOMING DATES

- April 9—Easter Egg Hunt
- April 16—Happy Easter!!!
- April 22—Join Hands Day
- April 23—Youth Group - ALL youth participating in youth service MUST attend!
- April 28—LUAU LOCK-IN!
- April 30—Youth Service/ Luau/Youth Extravaganza!!



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## What Are You Waiting For?

For those of you who were in Youth CIRCLES, you may remember writing personal mission statements. A personal mission statement is simply a way of defining your purpose in life. It can be a quote, a Bible verse, an original thought...mine was "Serve others with excellence" and had a few Bible verses and quotes that went along with it... Mark 10:45, John 13:14-15 and then two quotes:

*"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others'"*  
Martin Luther King Jr.

*"I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble."*  
Helen Keller

I found my mission statement the other day in a box of papers I was sorting through. Isn't that how it normally goes? It is so easy to think inspiring things and set goals and make plans, but in the end does it really matter if you don't do anything with those goals and plans and mission statements?

I like to think that mine has not been gathering dust entirely, but I I will

be the first to admit that it is hard to keep your focus on God and on serving others in this world we live in. A world where homework and family commitments and chores keep piling up, and we are surrounded by TV shows, magazine articles and countless self-help books encouraging us to focus on ourselves.

Then you may start thinking that it is not like you will make a difference anyway. Now, I could launch into the starfish story right now (if you do not know the starfish story, let me know and I will share it with you) but instead I would like to share the lyrics of a song that has become something like a "theme song" for me. It is called "What Are You Waiting For" by Natalie Grant

*Sometimes I get that overwhelming feeling  
So sad those faces on TV  
If I tried to make a difference would it help anyway  
But then I stop and to myself I say*

*So you wanna change the world  
What are you waiting for  
You say you're gonna start right now  
What are you waiting for  
It only takes one voice*

*So come on now and shout it out  
Give a little more  
What are you waiting for*

*Sometimes I feel a little helpless  
Seems like I can't do a thing  
But anything is possible just you wait and see  
Good things happen if you just believe*

*Someday somehow  
Gonna take that step  
Cause time is ticking away*

*Right here right now  
Before it's too late  
Gonna face tomorrow today*

So, what are you waiting for? Easter is a perfect time to refocus our lives and our attention on Christ and our *real* purpose: serving God and sharing the wonderful news of salvation with those who need His love. This is something we will be working on a lot in the coming months, but for now I just want you to take a moment and think about it. What are you waiting for?

*Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."*

Mark 10:27

## Exciting Times are Growing by Pastor Bob

Pretty exciting times here at Trinity it seems to me. Branson designed a great, neat, perfectly lovely, awesome website for the church. I hope you have surfed to it recently to see the great work she has been doing. Oh yeah and confirmation is coming up soon—Emily and Erica are being confirmed on April 9 and classes are done on April 5. This is exciting for obvious reasons for me and for them and I hope you tell them you are excited for them too. Also the church is soon buying a brand new computer that will be able to do video editing and all kinds of cool stuff for the office and for the youth too. A kind member has also given a memorial to the youth for some furnishings for the basement youth

lounge and a digital video camcorder. Her name is Helen Skaggs and she lives at St. Joe Manor. If you get a chance to visit her tell her THANK YOU! And Easter is coming soon. Now that is really exciting for me for several reasons---first, Jesus is ALIVE! (of course), second, for the first time in a long time I get to lead two services that morning (wuhhuh!), third, the Easter breakfast sounds like fun, finally, the end of a very busy season comes to a close and I survived (I hope).

And there are some exciting things happening in my own life too. Our daughter's dog has been staying with us since Christmas and soon I'll be taking him to reunite with

our daughter and son-in-law in Denver. And then they'll be flying him and themselves to Hawaii to live for 3 years. To top it off she will be giving birth to our second grandchild in August there. We'll be going to Hawaii to meet him or her in September. (Any of you want to come along to demonstrate your hula?) Also Mr. Guenther is beginning the finishing of our basement by adding walls to make a couple of rooms. It's coming along very nicely. He's a really good carpenter if you didn't already know that. Anyway lots of exciting things are happening and continue to happen here and there. Don't miss any of this excitement.

## How Well Do You Know Your Peeps?

*Nope...this is not a quiz about your fellow youth members...I am talking about those squishy marshmallow "treats." Did you know:*

Just Born produces enough MARSHMALLOW PEEPS® to circle the earth twice.

It would take approximately 9,000 vertical PEEPS® to equal the height of the tallest building in the world, Taipei 101 in Taiwan.

In 1953, it took 27 hours to create one MARSHMALLOW PEEP®. Today, it takes six minutes.

People like to do curious things with PEEPS®- eat them stale, freeze them, and use them as a pizza topping. PEEPS® are always in season!

PEEPS® Chicks and Bunnies come in 5 colors. Yellow Chicks are the

most popular, followed by pink, lavender, blue, and white.

Just Born is America's largest manufacturer of seasonal marshmallow confections, with PEEPS® hailing as the top selling non-chocolate Easter candy brand for the last decade. PEEPS® even out-sell jellybeans.

(<http://www.marshmallowpeeps.com>)

## Thank You, Thank You, Thank You Helen Skaggs!

We are very excited to be moving forward with two big youth group projects thanks to the generosity and kindness of Trinity member Helen Skaggs. Mrs. Skaggs made a memorial donation, in honor of her husband, to the youth group and we will now be able to continue our work on the youth lounge and also purchase a digital camcorder which will enable us to produce VBS vid-

eos, record things for the website and youth members and more! We are very excited about both of these projects, so from the entire Trinity Youth Group we would like to say a great big Thank You! Thank you also to ALL of the members of Trinity who continue to support our youth through prayers, time and financial support. We appreciate each and every one of you!

Thank  
You

# Star Wars Lock-in

by Emily Gallaher

Our last lock-in was March 3rd and the theme was Star Wars. Some people might argue that Star Wars is not an appropriate theme for a Youth Group lock-in, but there was much more to it than that. This lock-in, however, focused on Star Wars from a Christian perspective, because we all know that Jesus is by far better than "The Force."

First we sang youth group songs and danced around like lunatics. Then after we were energized and awake, we headed downstairs to start the games. As always, we had a scavenger hunt. But, unlike the scavenger hunts we've had in the past, this one had a total of thirty-two clues! Each clue led to searching the church for another and trying to find R2-D2 before the other teams. These clues made us make brief visits outside, climb on top of things, look inside and under things where you wouldn't normally find a slip of paper, and certainly use our brains! The last clue led the teams up the "hidden staircase" and there, in a box, was R2-D2.

We also made short movies. Our groups worked out a five-scene Star Wars movie in which everybody had to play a part. First we worked out what we were going to do, and then

Branson took the groups one at a time into the Toddler Class to shoot the films while the others attempted to knock down bowling pins with a wind-up vehicle.

Another game we played had everybody put on a Darth Vader mask and step on balloons to find a word inside of them. After stepping on the balloons, we had to try and put together as many Star Wars movie titles as possible using the words that were inside the balloons.

My favorite part of the lock-in was the Jedi Training Course. In this game, each of the group members had two or three tasks they had to accomplish in the shortest time possible while not letting the noodle you were holding onto touch the ground. First, somebody had to climb through hanging hula-hoops. Second, another person drank bananas, chocolate syrup, and Diet Mountain Dew blended together, which I thought was horrible. Then, somebody had to dress up as a clown. Then, another team member had to hop on their left foot. After that, somebody had to climb under the "hidden tunnel" and over chairs that were tied together. Next, somebody had to stack ten blocks on top of each other. Then, a person had to

eat a banana. After that, someone had to jump rope three times. And finally, a team member had to catch three balls in a basket. Sounds like fun, right?

Then we had our lesson. In this lesson, we learned that God is similar to "The Force." Like the force, the Holy Spirit is inside of us. Jedi's have a choice to use the force for other's needs, or to use it for Evil and turn Sith. This is similar to the choice we have. We can either believe in Christ and go to heaven, or turn away from him and go to Hell.

This lock-in had a great message and was also fun. It taught us that God is greater than the force. It also told us about how we are tempted by evil and how we could end up if we do what we are tempted to do, even if it is for a loved one. So may God be with you, because he is more superior than the force!



## It's Luau Time!!!

Get those hula moves ready because it is that time of year...time for the Trinity LYF Luau fundraiser!

April 30 we will be having an all out Youth Extravaganza!!! It all starts with a youth-led worship service including a drama and special music.

Then, it's time to put on those grass

skirts and hula the day away at the Luau! There will be good food, good fun, and of course good entertainment provided by our youth group hula dancers!

You won't want to miss this! Join us April 30 for a little piece of tropical paradise right here at Trinity!



## Something for your Heart

*"April is the cruelest month, breeding Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing Memory and desire, stirring Dull roots with spring rain."*  
- T.S. Eliot

T.S. Eliot had his reasons for thinking April is the cruelest month. Perhaps you have your own. Chances are, your Aprils may be worse than Eliot's ever were. For one thing, you probably have to contend with much more sadistic jokes on April Fool's Day than he ever did. And Eliot, being a British subject, never had to endure the "spring ahead" clock setting, forcing him to get up an hour earlier every day as April rolls in.

Another popular quote about April isn't any more promising: "April showers bring May flowers." The month of May gets credit for the best nature has to offer—bright colors and sweet floral scents. But April? Showers. Gray skies. Storms. The calendar says it's spring already, but the lingering snow and ice in many parts of the country beg to disagree. When the sun comes out, the air is still chilly. And when it warms up, the clouds roll in and pour down rain.

In addition, April is about the time you start looking forward to summer. Yet you have another couple of months of school to finish. And not

ordinary school, either. These next two months bring due dates for all the big assignments you've been putting off ... and final exams ... and stress and exhaustion. If T.S. Eliot thought April was cruel a century ago, he should try being a teenager in 2005!

Of course, it's easy to talk in generalities and arrive at some bleak conclusions. Sure, April brings rain, daylight savings time, numerous school commitments and (for you working types) income tax. Yet when we move beyond the general malaise of weather and responsibilities, we should be able to list a number of specific antidotes to the "cruelty" of April.

This year, especially, we should cling to the power of the Easter story we celebrated at the close of March. We should be propelled into cruel April with the promise that no matter what tends to knock us down, God offers us the power to get back up and prevail.

April may be the cruelest month. Your boss may give you the cruelest chores at work. Your math teacher may be the cruelest grader. Your so-

called friends may give you the cruelest treatment. No matter. Your God is an infinite source of kindness, mercy and strength. HIS gifts are all "good and perfect" (James 1:17). His mercies "begin afresh each day" (Lamentations 3:23).

If you find yourself looking around this April and resenting the cruelty of the early mornings, the weather or anything else that creates a sense of despair or frustration, you're not seeing the whole picture. God's goodness is all around. You're just not looking hard enough.

O n y o u r o w n . . .

Read Habakkuk 3:17-19.

These verses are the prophet's expression of faith in God even when circumstances (and weather conditions) were not what he would have wished. Create your own

statement of faith in God's sovereignty by substituting your own "cruel" circumstances in place of Habakkuk's. (Those of you with your own fig trees and olive crop won't need to adapt the passage.)

*From the Youth Specialties student newsletter:  
[www.youthspecialties.com](http://www.youthspecialties.com)*

*"yet I will rejoice in the LORD,  
I will be joyful in God my Savior."*

Habakkuk 3:17-19

## Something for your Health

### Top 10 Ways to get active and enjoy Spring like a kid again:

10. Play hopscotch outside on a sunny day with friends.
9. Go hunting wildflowers on foot all over the neighborhood
8. Get some friends together and jump rope like you are back in

grade school...don't forget Double Dutch!

7. Walk around and find puddles to jump in after a spring rain shower
6. Plant a garden
5. Climb a tree
4. Go to the park and play on the playground for a while

3. Have a friend blow bubbles for you to chase

2. Build a fort in the back yard

1. Check out Matt and Branson's hiking website to find new trails to explore!

<http://extension.missouri.edu/stfrancois/hiking.htm>

## It's All About the Dress...or is it?

by Karlee Gallaher

As many of you may know, prom is coming up soon. You may also know that having the perfect dress is very important to the average teenage girl. It is all about the color, the number of layers, and whether or not you want straps. My dress is the color green, has a bunch of layers, and is strapless. The first time I saw it, I knew I had to have it. It was so beautiful. After I tried it on, I took a peek at the price tag and I was shocked. \$323! I have never tried anything on before that cost so much. When I told my mom how much it was, her eyes just about popped out of her head. She said NO WAY! She also said she

*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...for where your treasure is there your heart will be also."  
Matthew 6:19-21*

did not want to pay over \$200. But being who I am, I argued with her. She told me I could not get it and I was sad. The next evening, she came to me and said, "I will get you the dress if you pay for half," and I said, "okay." Then Branson comes along to lend a helping hand and said, "Hey, I will give you some money in exchange for labor," to which I agreed. Then she offered to spread the word, and lined up some jobs for me. I am working very hard to pay off my dress. You may be wondering why I would choose this topic for a newsletter article. What does this have

to do with church? Well, it got me to thinking about how I have to work hard to pay for the dress. The same is true for everything in this world. However, you do not have to pay to earn God's love. The moment you are born, He loves you even though you are a sinner right off the bat. Isn't that great? You don't have to do anything! You don't have to pay any money or do any good deeds. He loves you anyway. So much, in fact, that He sent his only Son so that we could have eternal life in Heaven with Him. The things we try to earn here on Earth don't even compare to this, because it is the ultimate gift. So, this means that even though prom dresses may be important right now, they're nothing to worry too much about because I've already got what's MOST important!

## Being an Egg-cellent Witness

by Matt Merrill

*"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."* Matthew 5:16

Anybody who is familiar with Easter tradition has probably taken part in an Easter egg hunt at one time or another. Not necessarily for real eggs, but those colorful plastic ones that split open across the middle. I remember hunting for those eggs myself when I was a child. Half the fun was discovering them in obscure locations after a lengthy search. The other half of the fun was finding out what was inside of them after they had been discovered. It could be candy, gum, or sometimes, even little trinkets. Yes, sir, that Easter bunny really knows how to have a good time.

Most of you may be familiar with the significance of the egg as an

Easter symbol (if not, you can read all about it at [www.easter-traditions.com](http://www.easter-traditions.com)). Well, it occurred to me that these little plastic Easter eggs have a symbolism all their own, and can serve as a metaphor for our lives as Christians. Let's take a quick look at how that is, shall we?

When someone first buys a bunch of plastic Easter eggs, they're usually empty, waiting to be filled. We too were empty, before God gave us his Holy Spirit at our Baptism. When we have faith in Christ through the Holy Spirit, we become like the Easter eggs that have some sort of goody inside them, and it's something that's worth sharing. However, someone unfamiliar with Easter or the tradition of the Easter egg hunt might not be interested in looking further than the colorful outer shell, and may never know

what they're missing. Well, that won't work...we've got something good inside, and it needs to be shared!

There is one big difference between Easter eggs and the way we are as Christians. The eggs are usually hidden, and they make no effort to "unhide" themselves so they and the good stuff inside them can be discovered. As Christians, we should not be hiding ourselves or the message of Christ we have to offer through the Holy Spirit. Being colorful on the outside is okay, but it's no good if you're not sharing the Gospel you have inside. If that's the case, well, you're just being a bad egg!



This IS NOT the proper way to display the fruit of the spirit Gal. 5:22



WHO COMES UP WITH THIS STUFF?: The sound of E.T. walking was made by someone squishing her hands in jelly.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH: The Bible talks plentifully about joy, but it nowhere talks about a "happy Christian." Happiness depends on what happens; joy does not. Remember, Jesus Christ had joy, and He prays "that they might have My joy fulfilled in themselves."  
- Oswald Chambers

PARTING SHOT : "Bigfoot IS blurry, that's the problem. It's not the photographer's fault. He's a large, out-of-focus monster, and that's extra scary to me." *YS Student Newsletter*

## The Latest from the Youth Blog

### Question of the Week (4/6):

As you all should well know this weekend is the Easter Egg hunt!! So, for this week's question I want to know what the best thing you could hope to find in an Easter egg would be! It must be small enough to fit in a standard Easter egg and it can NOT be money! So, what's in your egg?

I think the best thing that I could find in an Easter egg would be a gift certificate to my favorite Chinese restaurant, First Wok. Mmmmm...Chinese! :-P First Wok has great Garlic Chicken and the people who run it are super nice. The one guy, Jeff, knows me by voice on the phone and calls me buddy and asks how my family is

doing. That does it! Now I am going to look for Easter eggs with Chinese coupons! See ya!

posted by **Matt**

In my egg I wish happiness could fit in there, but I do not think that would fit. Or how about an angel kiss to relax me, but where are you going to find an angel? Maybe a note that says I love you from someone, anyone, just to put a smile on my face to know that someone thinks about me.

posted by **Meg**

If I could find one thing in an Easter Egg, I would think it'd be sweet to find a secret admirer type letter! I've always wanted one..tehehe :)

posted by **Karlee**

Well, I think the only thing out of an Easter Egg that could truly please me would be putty. Because they *do* come in Easter eggs! But, I did mention putty in my last blog entry and need something fresh....hmm....well if it could be money I'd say a quarter to buy me a soda (or candy bar).... okay, how bout just a plain tootsie-roll? I mean, really, they're good, the fit inside an Easter egg, and they are pretty much the only thing that somebody would actually put (or find) in an Easter egg. Like I'm going to fine tickets to a rock concert in an Easter egg. Plus, hasn't anybody informed you that tootsie-rolls rule the earth??

posted by **Emily**

<http://trinitylyf.blogspot.com>