

From The Pastor's Heart

My dear Trinity Family,

We made it! Is that not amazing and a testimony to grace? We made it to the end of one of the most traumatic years in modern times. In the years to follow people will read in their history books of those who lived during the time of the terrible COVID-19 pandemic. When they do, they will be reading about you and me and of all the people who shared life on this planet with us at this time.

For the optimists among us, there were good things too! The season brought families together (whether we liked it or not), brought creativity to the next level (did you not hear all those quarantine songs?). Those of us who sweat a lot saved on perfume costs – thanks to social distancing.

I wonder what you are feeling as you look back at the days that you have lived through since March of 2020. It will be no surprise if many an individual's journal entries speak of hopelessness and helplessness for most days in the year. These have not been ordinary days, weeks and months. Our world has been on edge ever since the words 'COVID-19' began to appear in our newspapers, broadcasts, television programs, web and social media pages. For a while it appeared like the problem was 'out there' until loved ones we know began to fall sick.

While our pain and loss as a global community are truly great, we also see images of human resilience and faith. I recently heard of a 91-year-old who tested positive, was quite sick for a while and then made it back to regaining health. At Trinity we have been inspired by the witness of three of our members in their nineties who chose to be present at in-person worship services when we reopened- Doris Bernardo, Betty Hannum and Jack Baumbach. Members of our congregation have been faithful in preparing and distributing love-boxes to our community under the leadership of Carol Everrtts. Others have joined Carol Crossley and Starfish Ministries to serve homeless and needy people in downtown Harrisburg. There are those among us who have joined Mickey Minnich and friends at Vickie's Angel Foundation to bring hope to families challenged by cancer. Our homebound ministry team and

youth brought cheer to members by sharing gifts of love. As a congregation your generous giving on many counts has helped us support ministries and missions that are serving people in need. Across the country and world, we have seen individuals and teams on the frontlines of the medical battle, putting themselves in harm's way to help fellow human beings. We have witnessed governmental, social and church-based organizations stretch financial and human resources to help those in need. During these dark days human stories of grace, compassion, faith and heroism have reminded us that "we are all in this together".

In their outstanding musical offering of "USA for Africa", Lionel Richie and Michael Jackson penned these words,

"There comes a time
When we heed a certain call
When the world must come together as one
There are people dying
Oh, and it's time to lend a hand to life
The greatest gift of all

We are the world
We are the children
We are the ones who make a brighter day, so let's start giving
There's a choice we're making
We're saving our own lives
It's true we'll make a better day, just you and me".

In the bigger scheme of life those who hope for a better day will find their lives galvanized by purpose. On the contrary when purpose is lost, we may find ourselves stranded anywhere between Hopeless Avenue and Dead-End Alley – or may simply be non-starters. May I suggest that there are two mindsets with which we can enter 2021 – the victim mindset or the game-changer mindset. The first will take us down, the second will lift us and others up. Yes, "there comes a time when we heed a certain call". What does that call look like in your life today?

Moses with his stammering tongue heard the call to challenge the most powerful ruler of his times. ¹

Gideon who saw himself as the least in the weakest clan heard the call to lead God's people. ²

Jeremiah who thought of himself as a child, heard the call to be a prophet for challenging times.³

Ruth with her story of bitterness heard the call to be a sweet testament of grace. 4

Rahab with her questionable past heard the call to a God-ordained future. ⁵

Mary who was a humble young maiden, heard the call to bear the very son of God.⁶

Simon the fisherman heard the call to be a fisher of men. ⁷

Zacchaeus the tax man with a story to hide became a new man with a story to tell.⁸

The list goes on.

In God's plan, your story is meant to be included in that list. You are not only loved by God; you are called to be an ambassador of his love. The problem arises when you don't recognize who are. Could it be that at the heart of the question of identity lies the question of security? Jesus cuts across the mist of insecurity and sees people for who they are. He not only sees them for who they are, he sees them for what they were meant to become. Too many lives have been haunted by the question, "What am I?" That question defined by our cultural moments throws light on struggles ranging from identity issues those based on the color of skin to human sexuality. As we look into the Scriptures and the heart of God, we may be redirected to another question, "Who am I?". In that question we can find the path to God-given security that defines God-given identity. "Who am I?" A child of God. Loved by the Father. Purchased by the blood of the Son. A forgiven sinner. A saint in the making. A child of the King. An agent of hope. An ambassador of love. The list goes on.

It is no surprise that in his early call to discipleship, the Lord Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you...." 9

We are called to follow Jesus.

It is his commitment to make something beautiful out of our lives.

If we are true followers of Jesus, two elements will be an integral part of our purpose on this planet. One is to grow in our love for the Lord daily and in that to become a little more like Jesus with every passing moment. The other is to unreservedly and fearlessly share the love of Jesus with those who come into our lives. May I suggest that you ask yourself two questions at the end of every day in 2021.

Question 1: Did I become a little more like Jesus today?

Question 2: Did I share the love of Jesus with someone who needed it today?

These two simple questions have had a special place in my heart over many years. Simply put, they have the potential to change the purpose of your life radically. Since we moved from India in 2014 Miriam, Nihal and Nehara have heard me say this repeatedly, "Let us not forget that God did not primarily bring us to the US to give us a better life but to share the better Gospel". That is a motivation that drives my life every single day.

If you have been part of Trinity over the last six years, you would be aware that it has been my practice as your pastor to help you focus on a theme for each year. After prayer and thought I am happy to share that our theme for 2021 will be "Fearless". I pray that each of us will live our lives with courage not only to get through these challenging days but to also get through to our families, community, neighbors, friends, colleagues and even strangers with the love and the Gospel of Christ, fearlessly.

JANUARY THEME

Fearless to Follow

January 3

Follow me and I will make you

Scripture: Matthew 4: 18-22

January 10

He appointed twelve – designating them apostles

Scripture: Mark 3: 13-19

January 17

Put out into deep water

Scripture: Luke 5: 1-11

January 24

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves

Scripture: Luke 9: 8-26

January 31

No one who... looks back... is fit for service

Scripture: Luke 9: 57-62

I am completing writing this letter on an important day in the history of modern America. It is the day on which some people have received the first doses of the approved vaccines against COVID 19. Could you for a moment imagine what it might be like if those whose research led to the creation of the vaccine selfishly kept it to themselves while billions of people suffer? Christians who know God's love and keep it to themselves would be no different. Billions of people are experiencing hell on earth without knowing God's love and are facing an eternity without hope not knowing the way to heaven. As singer Keith Green sang, could it be that "The world is sleeping in the dark that the church just can't fight cause it's sleeping in the light"?

Let me say this as best as I can:

A church that keeps the Gospel a secret is soon bound to become one!

Let's go Trinity! Let's face the year with the courage of God.

In Him who said, "Fear not, for I am with you". 10 and "And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age" 11 Pastor Arun

Notes

- 1. Exodus 4:10 4. Ruth 1: 20, 4:13-22 7. Luke 5:1-11 10. Isaiah 41:10 2. Judges 6:15 5. Joshua 2 8. Luke 19:1-10 11. Matthew 28:20 9. Matthew 4:19
- 3. Jeremiah 1:6 6. Luke 1:34-38



Your prayers for my son-in-law, Ralph Lantz during his illness lifted my countenance and gave me hope. I am so thankful to all of you who sent cards of sympathy and Memorial Gifts at his death. They soothed my grief and gave me assurance and hope for the future.

Please continue to pray for his daughter (my grand-daughter) Mackenzie, age 24, as she finishes her studies at West Chester University, that she may come to know Jesus and His plans for her life.

In His peace, Pastor Peggy

Thanks you for all your prayers, cards and support over the past several weeks. I'm doing therapy and showing some improvement. Thank you again.

Sincerely, John Keefer and Shirley

We want to thank you for your generosity this year, in what was an unusual year, for your donations and your contributions to Operation Christmas Child. As a result of Covid, we went to donations and we were delighted with the fact that Trinity was able to send a check to Operation Christmas Child in the amount of \$1000. We're hopeful that next year we will be able to collect and pack shoe boxes for less fortunate children as we've done in the past. The purpose of Operation Christmas Child is for children around the world to know that God loves them and has not forgotten them during this time of uncertainty and fear. Your donations are appreciated more than you can imagine and Trinity is proud to be part of such a worthwhile effort.

Jane Bittner and Patricia Stacey

The family of Elizabeth (Liz) Lyter want to thank all the church members for their thoughts, prayers, cards and phone calls. The sanctuary was so beautifully decorated for Mom's funeral. It was just the way Mom would have liked it. There were over 300 people that viewed the service on Facebook Live. Many Thanks to Pastor Arun, Todd Davis, Nihal and the office staff.

God is GOOD all the time! Cathy Baum

There are no words to express what a person feels when they find out that their child is very ill. Our thoughts immediately went to asking our relatives, friends, and our church family for prayers. Some days are very difficult, but we want to thank each one of you for the lovely cards and for all the prayers you are sending to our Heavenly Father to help John heal at this crucial time. God bless each one of you.

In Christian love, Nancy and Don Miller

Miriam, Nihal and Nehara join me in thanking you for your lovely Christmas cards and greetings. Thank you for taking the time and effort to share your love and good wishes with us as your pastoral family. It means a lot to us especially during this special season when we miss our family back home in India.

Sincerely, Arun

Thank you to all of you who remembered me during Pastor Appreciation Month.

Your gifts and cards warmed my heart and gave me encouragement as your pastor of prayer, discipleship and evangelism. It is a joy to be part of the Kingdom of God at Trinity.

Pastor Peggy

A simple "thank you" seems inadequate to express my gratitude to you for the countless ways you have been kind to me when injuries left me disabled. Your hospitality has been evident in the gift basket from my Sunday School class (which existed before the pandemic era), as well as other bags of gifts containing goodies and welcome devotional materials: (the Upper Room and the Daily Bread) for Lee and me.

Most recently Beth Sider delivered a bag with the usual items plus a special surprise: a beautiful poem, "Always" written by Pastor Arun. Perhaps he will share it with everyone in a newsletter sometime.

We are all so blest at Trinity and I thank each one of you for your prayers, cards and notes and all thoughts and well wishes during my absence.

I especially thank God and our Lord Jesus for their gift of love and salvation and New Life for us all.

In deep appreciation, Elaine and Lee Ocamb

Here at Paxton Ministries, we are giving thanks! Despite the many changes and challenges this year has brought, we are grateful for the many blessings we enjoy. Your kind support helps us continue providing a warm, comfortable home with lots of fun traditions and tasty meals, even through these difficult days of COVID-19. Thank you for your donation of 2 boxes of quilts. May you be blessed for your caring support of our mission to provide affordable housing and support services to adult in need with Christ-like love!

With thanksgiving, Jodie Smiley, Executive Director.

Thank you so much for believing in Medard's House and supporting what we do! You are so appreciated. I hope you are all doing well and navigating these difficult times with ease.

God Bless you all! Saundra Colello

I would like to personally THANK YOU for the generous contribution of Trinity United Methodist Church to Vickie's Angel Foundation. All \$720.00 will go to local families. Your donation will allow us to continue to help those struggling families who because of cancer cannot work and, therefore cannot pay their bills. Love, surround us; Faith, sustain us; Hope encourage us.

God Bless! Mickey Minnich

JANUARY PRAYER FOCUS

Every time you see a church building, would you pray for spiritual renewal and a Holy Spirit revival in our land?

Also pray for those who feel especially down-hearted in winter.

FAST AND PRAY FOR 2021 AND AMERICA

Await article from Pastor Peggy Spengler with our upcoming bulletin. Also access this very important and inspiring article at the church website.

OUR BEST WISHES

The pastor and team of staff at Trinity wish you and your loved ones a blessed and happy new year. We love serving you! Thanks for all your encouragement and support!

TRINITY YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

by Haley Warner

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20 NIV

Trinity Youth gathered around the campfire, over Snapchat, indoors, outdoors, over Zoom, at the Nativity, and on the streets in December. They prepared their hearts for Christ with daily advent devotionals and spread Christmas cheer by Christmas caroling with Starfish Ministries in Harrisburg. They daily lift up prayer requests in a group chat and pray for one another and shower those in need with cards and love. These youth have stayed strong through all the up's and down's of 2020 and have shown us that even when life changes, God does not. He is always good, always faithful, and always present.

Lessons That 2020 Taught Trinity Youth:

"To be content with what you have" – Gabby M.

"Not to take our family and friends for granted" - Sky C.

"To put our trust in God" – Nick E.

"To appreciate the little things and not take anything for granted" – Jeanne C.

"How to enjoy quality time with the people I love" – Alex P.

"The people you care about the most will be with you through thick and thin no matter what" -Mal S.

"To roll with the punches life can bring and trust in God that He has a plan for you and can lead you to a better place." - Ben S.

"To praise God through both the highs and lows because He is with us through it all." – Jessi W.

"How great a blessing family is to me; whether the family I was born into, or the newer family of youth group that has blessed my life by God's grace! I am so blessed!" - Jim L.

"You never know what the future holds. Appreciate what you have in the now, because it might change tomorrow." -Shane S.

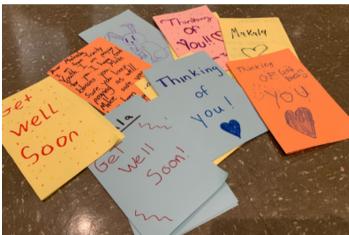
"To make the most of the time you spend with others." - Owen R.

"You don't have to do everything on your own, it's okay to lean on those around you and ask for help." - Rylee F.

"To appreciate the people around you, and the things you have." - Dacey M.

"Its not that you have to thank God for sufferings its that you still need to thank him for being there and seeing you through it." - Michelle L.







DUTIES FOR JANUARY 2021

DUTIES	JAN 3	JAN 10	JAN 17	JAN 24	JAN 31				
LITURGIST	Raymond	Carol	Gary	John	Katy				
	Brooks	Evertts	Forman	Mickle	Wickenheiser				
CHILDREN'S	Rylee	Haley	George	Betsy	Jennifer				
TALK	Sorrells	Warner	Karnes	Leppo	Beshore				
COUNTING TEAM	Charlie Klinger and Tom Baum								

WORSHIP TEAM THANKS

To Ron Winter:

Ron Winter has served on the Trinity Worship Team since 2005 as the coordinator of the liturgists. Ron has been faithful to schedule the liturgists for each service at Trinity. He has done a remarkable job at scheduling many different people, and even broadened the number who were serving as liturgists by having two each Sunday, one for the 8:15 service and another for the 10:45 service. You likely know that the liturgists' names for the coming month are printed in the Tidings, too. Ron's commitment involved many phone calls over these fifteen years!

In addition to being the liturgist coordinator, Ron also was the funeral coordinator. He says he was really blessed by the ministry of being the liaison between the funeral director and the church. He arrived early for a funeral and assisted the funeral director with their needs. He lit the chancel candles, passed out the bulletins, turned the lights out, whatever was needed.

We thank Ron Winter for his service to God and the church as he retires from his positions on the Worship Team. May God richly bless him for his service!

To the Sunday morning volunteers:

Thank you to the volunteers who have assisted for the inperson worship services, serving as ushers and greeters. Your service has been crucial to the safety of those coming back to in-person services during the month of November. We hope to resume the services when we receive clearance from the Bishop.

To the Congregation:

Thank you for adhering to the safety protocol that was established by the regathering committee. When we regather again, know that Trinity is serious about being responsible for your safety. The safety protocol is for your well-being. You may be assured and come in confidence that we are following safe practices of cleaning. A reminder that masks are required in the church building and social distancing is essential.

MISS YOU!

We miss seeing you at Trinity. We miss visiting with you as we have done in the past. Hang in there and let's continue to stay connected. Thanks to all of you who are doing your best to help us cope and manage through this challenging time.

We are especially concerned about those in our congregation who have not been able to worship with us online. We hope you are receiving the bulletins and they are helping you know what we are seeking to include in our worship and community work.

SERMON BY TELEPHONE

We are studying the possibility of being able to share parts of our church services via telephone. If you are not using a computer or the internet, would you be interested to dial a number and listen to a sermon or music from Trinity? We would like to hear from you. Please tell us if this would interest you. Call the church office or send us a letter.

PHONE CALLING SYSTEM

If you would like to receive phone voice message with important announcements from the pastor kindly register your preferred phone number with our church office.

SECRET SISTERS PROGRAM

Secret Sisters (SS) program is open to all ladies of any age. New ladies are welcome to join this program in December by completing a pink information sheet; it is to be returned to Vicky Forman by 12/31/2020. A pink sheet must be completed by you indicating information about you (favorite color, food, etc). You will be given your Secret Sister's name and information sheet for 2021. Your name will be given to a different Secret Sister selected by lottery.

Requirements for this program are a gift on Mother's Day, her birthday, Easter and Christmas. Since we are unable to gather together this year, a Sister's name will be pulled out of a hat and given to you for the year 2021. This program is a ministry that offers dedicated prayer for each and every woman. You will receive encouragement and loving support from your Secret Sister. You do not reveal yourself to anyone for the Your information is completely entire year. confidential. We build deeper, lasting friendships. You will give encouragement to your Sister as often as you can by card or note. You in turn will receive the same care from your Sister that receives your name. currently gather with Zoom for an hour from 10:00 to 11:00 every 3rd Saturday of each month, for a time to chat, share and prayer. A Zoom meeting schedule will be provided to each SS with a pink sheet. Please text Vicky Forman at 717-623-6568 or email vickyforman1@gmail.com with any questions.

LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR 2021

Rev. Arun Andrews, Pastor Shirley Sharpe, Chairperson Barbara Zimmerman, Lay leader Gary Forman, Head, Finance Gordon Taylor, Finance Ken Gable, Head, Staff Parish Rick Bittner, Staff Parish Scott Loomis, Head Trustee John Mickle, Trustee Bill Northey, Trustee Dave Leppo, Trustee Brian Weller, Trustee

Janice Ocamb, Lay delegate to Annual Conference Jed Beshore, Lay delegate to Annual Conference

Alternate delegates to annual conference:

Joyce Klinger Sue Beshore

2021 LAY LEADERSHIP & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Pastor Arun Andrews Lay Leader: Barbara Zimmerman

Greg Cassimatis
Sally Ray
Jody Wickenheiser
Mary Herr
Sue Beshore
Jane Gable
Ben Sylor

We thank the following members who have served on the Leadership Team and have completed their service ending 2020:

Mary Herr, Kathy Miller and Beth Sider.

We ask your prayers for those who will be serving in 2021.

PRAYER, BIBLE READING, DAILY DEVOTIONS AND FAMILY PRAYER TIMES: SOME TIPS

When you are falling in love, you would give anything to read a love letter from the one you care about. Better still you would love to spend time with that one and just enjoy being with the other. That can be the same in our journey of falling in love with God.

Would you commit to praying and reading your Bible daily? Even if you have done it for years, this is a good time to recommit to the discipline.

Don't miss committing to a specific time to have your quiet time with God daily. Choose a quiet place. Wake up. Be bright and come to meet God eagerly and with a heart of worship.

Read your Bible in a systematic manner. You can read book after book and a good place to start can be the Gospel of Mark. Take time to highlight words in your Bible and write your reflective notes in a journal. Also keep a journal of prayer requests and answered prayers. Four simple questions can help you discover blessings in your Bible reading.

- 1. Is there a command to obey?
- 2. Is there a sin I must confess?
- 3. Is there an example I can follow?
- 4. Is there a promise I can claim?

Focus on one verse/ word/ thought from your Bible reading for the day. Write it on a piece of paper, card or in your phone so that you can revisit the words every two hours and reflect upon them.

Fast and pray once a week.

Gather with your family if you live with them for a daily time of reading a devotional together and praying together. It is true that "the family that prays together, stays together"

These simple disciplines can add much to your intimacy with Jesus and enjoying your love-relationship with him.

A NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

On December 24th, members of the Youth Choir sang "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing/King of Heaven" by Paul Labloche and Jason Ingram. Based on the traditional hymn tune and text, the composers add a praise chorus with these fervent words of prayer, "King of heaven, come down; King of heaven, come now…" The composers complement the traditional hymn tune and the text and music move quickly, with driving rhythms, constantly pushing us to praise and prayer.

As the New Year arrives, I am always reminded of Psalm 90. Seasons change, times change, we change, but God never changes. As the prelude to the January 3rd service, I will offer an arrangement of the hymn, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," UMH #117. It is a favorite of mine, especially the text, and the strong, sturdy tune with which it is associated. I cannot help but to always reflect on the hymn's words, as paraphrased by the hymn writer, "time like an ever-rolling stream soon bears us all away, we fly forgotten as a dream dies at the opening day."

Since the beginning of this pandemic, Pastor Arun and Nihal have been amazing in the ways they are able to bring worship services together online. We have been blessed to have the capacity to interact through remarkable technologies. I know in this New Year we will learn and be able to do even more!

For much of January, I will be out recovering from surgery. Thank you for all of your prayers and support. I will do my best to do my best to continue to serve in whatever ways I can from home. May we always continue to minister and serve in any way possible so that we can touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace. May all feel God's warm embrace!

Praying for hope and healing in this new year! Todd

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
					Office Closed NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	
3 Online Worship Service 9:30 AM Children Sunday School Zoom 6 PM Youth Group	4 7 PM "Zoe Mazi" Young Adult Bible Studies	5 7 PM Facebook Live Time of Prayer	6 No FB live Midweek Music. Pray for Todd's post surgery recover. Await announcement.	7	8	9	
10 Online Worship Service 9:30 AM Children Sunday School Zoom 12 PM Starfish Ministry - HBG 6 PM Youth Group	11 7 PM "Zoe Mazi" Young Adult Bible Studies	7 PM Facebook Live Time of Prayer	No FB live Midweek Music. Pray for Todd's post surgery recover. Await announcement.	14	15 Tidings Articles Due	16 10 AM Secret Sisters Group Zoom	
17 Online Worship Service 9:30 AM Children Sunday School Zoom 6 PM Youth Group	18 7 PM "Zoe Mazi" Young Adult Bible Studies	19 7 PM Facebook Live Time of Prayer	No FB live Midweek Music. Pray for Todd's post surgery recover. Await announcement.	21	22	23	
24 Online Worship Service 9:30 AM Children Sunday School Zoom 6 PM Youth Group	25 7 PM "Zoe Mazi" Young Adult Bible Studies	26 7 PM Facebook Live Time of Prayer	No FB live Midweek Music. Pray for Todd's post surgery recover. Await announcement.	28	29	30	
31 Online Worship Service 6 PM Youth Group			STOP & PRAY TIMES AT 8:30 PM Imagine the power of 100 or 200 or 300 individuals praying united in Spirit for 5 minutes or more! Let us pray for unity, love and a true revival from the Holy Spirit.				



Trinity United Methodist Church

Susquehanna Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

415 Bridge Street New Cumberland, PA 17070 717-774-7146 www.trinityumnc.com

Sunday Worship Services 8: 15 AM and 10:45 AM

Sunday School Classes For all ages at 9:30 AM

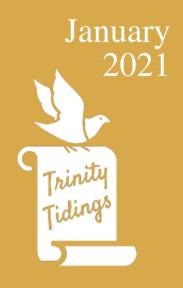




FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world



Please submit articles for the FEBRUARY 2021 TRINITY TIDINGS by January 15th

"Words of Wisdom" ~gleaned from the year 2020.

- "Time" given and/or shared is love without measure and often without words.
- "Music" is worship, unspoken and sometimes unsung.
- "Prayer" is our intimate conversation with God.
- "The Blessed Sacrament" is remembrance-eternal and everlasting remembrance.

Something else I've learned this year... God provides ~ always ~ even when we don't recognize HIS provision.

Case in point: For those of us unable to worship online or through various media resources, Pastor's messages on Sunday's Radio broadcast (WDAC @1PM), brought hope, comfort, strength, and encouragement. That half-hour ministry was more healing than years of my attempt to spiritually enrich, however sincere my efforts. Trinity's radio program Maximizing Life, was truly a blessing for me and for those with them I shared. If it blessed you too....perhaps an earnest request to the station master of WDAC (94.5 FM) to consider a continuation of this ministry, would inspire another look. You can contact the station master at (717) 284-4123. I pray our enthusiasm will be rewarded.

Thank you for your help. ~ Barbara Z.