



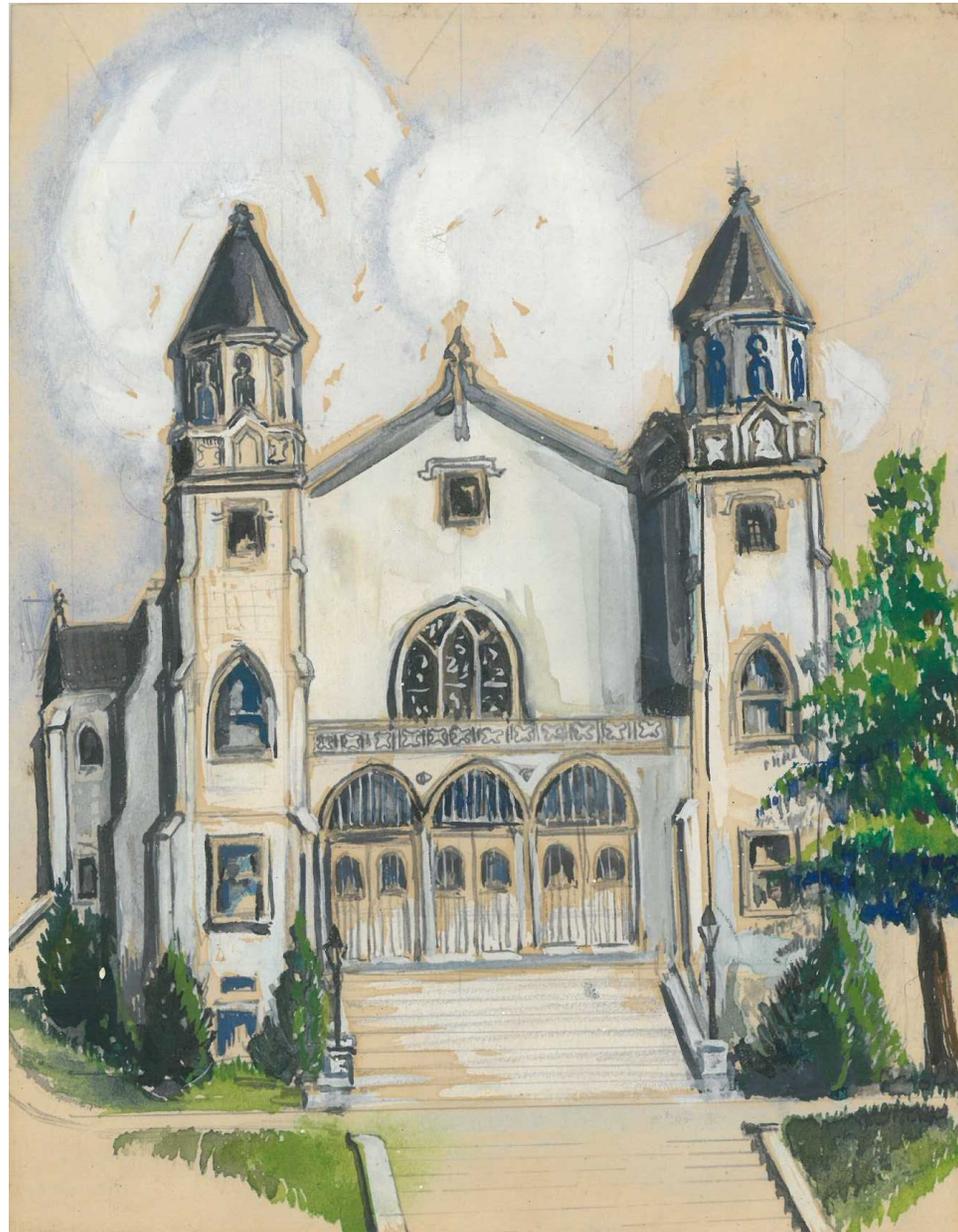
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# Trinotes

July 12, 2017





## Fearless Friendship

*As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord*

*has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.* Colossians 3:12-14

I'm often amazed at how quickly children make friends — that they are instantly compassionate little humans. Some of you have already reflected upon how quickly Cooper and Aiden have settled in at Trinity. The way a daycare is set up, the children switch rooms every few months based on their age and development. Every few months kids are making a whole classroom of new friends, settling into a new space with new rules, and adjusting to new teachers. They're quickly conditioned to trust and accept change.

We'll go to the park in the afternoon or early evening, and I'll sit on a bench and watch the boys make instant friends. The boys did that Saturday evening in Overton Park. In less than three minutes, they mapped out some new game in a language that only they understood and were completely consumed as though they'd known the other children for years. It makes me happy to see them acclimating so quickly.

We'll be at the store or at a restaurant, and Cooper will point across the room and loudly proclaim that the person he's pointing to is his best friend so-and-so's mommy. I'll exchange glances with this mother and enjoy a moment of awkwardness devised by our children in their feeble attempt to get us to embrace *friendship* as they have -- fearlessly.

It happens almost weekly in the church nursery. Children who don't know each other outside of Sunday mornings grasp the concept of friendship in its completeness and simply so. Grown folks, however ..... that's a whole other story.

I don't know when it changes for us and I don't know why, but for many of us, friendship doesn't come that easily. Friendship requires a certain

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Our country and the world** - for people of faith around the world who are experiencing persecution; for refugees seeking asylum from war and social unrest; that wise and humane decisions will be made by U.S. authorities regarding Haitians living in the U.S. since the 2010 earthquake; for safe drinking water for those living in third world countries; prayers for our country, that truth and justice will prevail; for people around the world experiencing terrorist attacks.

**The United Methodist Church** - for our new Pastor, Rev. Sara Tate, as she and her sons settle into the parsonage, for our Bishop, and for our new District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Deborah Smith.

**Trinity UMC** - For homebound members in the congregation. For children and youth ministries. For new visitors to this congregation. For families who are grieving. For our congregation as we face transitions. Wisdom for our Trustees and Church Council facing difficult decisions. Also, specific prayer requests by and for:

**Joan Smith**—granddaughter Sean's eye surgery completed, pray for healing  
—Amanda England, young wife & mother with brain cancer

**Chris Glover**—nephew Randy Bruce now in hospice care

**Jeanne Napoli**, who has persistent, severe back pain

**Irene Dycus**—Jeanne Dycus recovering from a serious fall

**Charlotte Comes**—Ramona McWilliams, chemo & radiation completed,  
hopeful prognosis—further tests pending

**Julie McMahan**—mother Peggy Tate still hospitalized at Baptist East

**Tom Wilson**, upcoming surgery

**Edna Hoffman**, recovering from a fall

(Please submit your prayer requests to Debby Marston at 901-374-6895  
(voicemail available) or email to [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org).)

# Upcoming

EVENTS

## Covenant Discipleship

Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

## Disciple Fast Track

This Bible Study's meeting time is 12:30 p.m. on Sundays, following worship.

## Worship Committee Meeting

Regular monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room on July 17th.

## Church Council Meeting

Regular monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall on July 24th.

## Back to School Bash

Community Potluck Dinner—Bring the whole family and invite your neighbors! August 9th from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous now meets at Trinity UMC five evenings a week: Wednesday through Sunday.

## Trinotes

The deadline for submissions for the next mailed out Trinotes is July 24, 2017. Please email or deliver any articles to our administrative officer, Debby Marston, at: [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org).

## Another Birthday...



It has come to our attention that yet another birthday was omitted from the July birthday list published on June 14.

Maggie Comes will celebrate the anniversary of her birth on July 13th. Please add her to your birthday list.

level of trust, acceptance, and forgiveness that we don't come by easily. Friendship, for us, isn't fearless. We're more apt to keep one another at arms-length until that level of trust is met and then, slowly but surely, we fall into the routine of what it means to be *friends*.

The heart of ministry isn't the Gospel -- the heart of faith is. Knowing the story and sharing scripture is how we used to approach inviting people around us to a life of faith and commitment to the church. In 2017, however, that approach to spiritual growth and community growth no longer works -- or, it does, but not how it used to. Today, spreading the Gospel begins with relationship -- it begins with viewing one another as though we are friends because of what we know we share in common, paying little mind to our differences. It's beautiful in writing but harder in concept because child-like faith in God and in one another doesn't come quickly or without hurdles. And fearing the death of the church, knowing that building relationships takes time, causes us to try to skip steps in relationship-making and wish desperately that building relationships came as easily for us as it does for children.

It begins, though, as easy as a conversation with someone we don't already know -- offering someone directions or suggesting a good place for lunch. I already know that you are very good at this. This is the sort of hospitality and friendship you've offered me. For others it might mean sitting in a new spot during worship with someone perhaps you don't know as well, inviting a co-worker to our monthly pancake breakfast, or suggesting to parents in our neighborhood that they might register their kids for our Vacation Bible School. It might mean sacrificing the wall we inherently build out of immediate distrust or fear. It certainly means a level of vulnerability. I bet, however, that it's a vulnerability we each share when we come, different as night and day, to something that we truly share in common -- the friend we each have in Jesus.

Tearing down walls to build friendships, living in child-like faith and love of neighbor -- *clothing ourselves with love* -- might be at the heart of what it means to be a 2017 disciple, in mid-town Memphis, on Galloway Ave., in God's mission field.

-- Rev. Sara

**TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AS OF JUNE 30, 2017**

The purpose of this document is to recap where we are financially through the first half of the year. The income and expenses are presented by major categories and an explanation of how we got to these numbers will be given.

January 1, 2017- June 30, 2017:	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>
Revenue Total	\$123,466	\$135,430	(\$11,964)
Expenditures			
Administrative/ General	\$56,938	\$58,412	(\$1,874)
Apportionments	\$24,416	\$24,416	-0-
Maintenance/ Operations	\$63,918	\$58,188	\$5,730
Program Expenses	<u>\$ 3,292</u>	<u>\$ 4,898</u>	<u>(\$1,606)</u>
Total Expenditures	\$148,231	\$146,314	\$2,250
<b>Net Loss</b>	<b>(-\$25,098)</b>	<b>(-\$10,884)</b>	<b>(-\$14,214)</b>

What has happened to create an even worse deficit than originally projected?  
Let's look first at the revenue side where the decrease is the major culprit.

- Pledged giving is under budget by (\$4,975)
- Non- pledged giving is under budget by (\$2,869)
- Easter offering was well below budget by (\$3,095)
- Loss of 6 pledging units for a monthly reduction of \$1,863, \$11,178 over the next six months

On the expense side

- Admin/ General is under budget by \$2,207. The absence of a Director of Music for the past two months impacted this result..
- Apportionments are being paid at 100%
- Maintenance/Operations
- Exterior Maintenance \$723 over budget
- Equipment Maintenance & Repair \$1,191 over budget
- Utilities \$1,472 over budget
- Pastor's Moving Expense \$2,150 over budget
- Parsonage expense \$1,493 over budget
- Program Expense \$1,606 under budget

**So, that's how we got to a \$25,100 deficit by June 30<sup>th</sup> instead of a deficit of \$10,884.**

Given that we have experienced a loss in pledging units and will have an increase in expenses due to higher health insurance premiums for our minister, here's a summary of the projections for the remaining six months:

*Continued on page 5*

# Memorials

## **Memorials have been received:**

- In memory of Jane Jones from Jane Collins*
- In memory of Jane Jones from Shirley Flint*
- In memory of Jane Jones from Elaine Amis*
- In memory of Jane Jones from Wendel & Linda Stoltz*
- In memory of Jane Jones Sue Caradine*
- In memory of Jane Jones Dorothy Sue Smith*
- In memory of Gwen Owen from Dorothy Sue Smith*
- In memory of Gwen Owen from Shirley Flint*
- In memory of Jane Jones from Beryl & Karen Willard*
- In memory of Jane Jones from Fellowship Class*
- In memory of Gwen Owen from Jane Waldrip*
- In memory of Gwen Owen from Fellowship Class*
- In memory of Gwen Owen from Beryl & Karen Willard*
- In memory of Gwen Owen from Wendel & Linda Stoltz*
- In memory of Gwen Owen from Jane Collins*
- In memory of Gwen Owen from Les & Barbara Johnson*



## **Calling All Keys!**

We are currently inventorying all our keys. Over the years, locks have changed and new keys have been issued to persons needing them to perform tasks and services related to Trinity's various ministries.

Because of this, and because we have a (relatively) new administrative officer, we need to keep track of who has what key. Please contact Debby Marston at the church office to report what keys you currently hold. If you have church keys for which you have no use, please turn them in to the church office so they can be inventoried and re-distributed as needed. Thanks for your help!

# Be a Hero!

Trinity's Vacation Bible School will be held from July 17 through July 21 in the Education Building. The hours are 9:00 a.m. to noon, and children between age 3 and up are welcome. You can register by going to Trinity's website home page or <http://www.trinityumcmemphis.org/summer-programs.html>.



Adults and Youth Volunteers are still needed! Please register online to serve as a VBS volunteer. We will be decorating immediately after worship July 16th. Please join us if you are able.

Questions? Please contact Elizabeth Hopper at (901) 289-7757 or [dehopper@hotmail.com](mailto:dehopper@hotmail.com).

A cash donation is always welcome: designate it to VBS 2017 by writing "VBS" on the memo line of your check to Trinity. Please also take note of the supplies still needed for Trinity's VBS (listed below). Supplies can be dropped off at the church office.

## Science Center Needs:

- \* 8 one pound boxes of baking soda (Aldi's price is 49 cents)
- \* 11 quarts of white vinegar
- \* 4 wooden rulers (12 inch size)
- \* 3 pints of unscented natural liquid soap
- \* 4 boxes of food coloring (sets of 4 colors)
- \* 3 plastic measuring cups (one cup size)
- \* Empty plastic bottles (16 oz. size) (Try Dollar Tree!)
- \* 1 box ice cream salt

Revenue	\$ 134,492
Expenses:	
Administrative/ General	\$ 63,600
Apportionments	\$ 24,313
Maintenance/ Operations	\$ 57,988
Program Expenses	\$ 3,362
Total Expenses	\$ 149,263
Net Loss for 7/1/17- 12/31/17	(\$14,771)

**Bottom line:** With the YTD deficit of (-\$25,098) plus the projected deficit of (-\$14,771), we will have a shortfall of (-\$39,869) and have no unrestricted funds available to offset the loss. We will need to pull funds from our Endowment Fund to make up the deficit. This figure is ½ of the fund balance.

What can we as members and friends of Trinity do?

- Pray for our church and for God's guidance in addressing our financial issues
- If you have pledged this year, please make sure your pledge is up to date. Quarterly contribution statements will be sent out this coming week.
- Consider an increase in your giving for the remainder of this year. Can you increase your giving by 10% or more? The 10% increase would generate about \$10,000 more in revenue.
- It is painfully obvious that we can no longer support two buildings, so we need to arrive at a decision about which building to keep sooner rather than later.



## Blessing of the Backpacks

*Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. -- Joshua 1:9*

These are the words we want to send with our children this year as they prepare to embark on the adventures of learning that lie ahead. On August 6th, during worship, we'll gather together to pray for our children as they prepare for a new year of school. Your children are invited to bring their backpacks to worship so that we can "bless" them. You are also invited to partner with one of our kids for the school year and pray for them throughout the year. One of the best gifts we can offer our kids is the support of our faith.

## Reelfoot Rural Ministries School Supplies Drive



Summer has finally arrived and we are closing in on the time of the season when our neighbor in Obion, Tennessee, Reelfoot Rural Ministries (RRM) - is collecting school supplies for low-income families it serves in the Northwest Tennessee and Southwest Kentucky region. RRM will be collecting and distributing school supplies from July 11 thru August 10.

As is our custom at Trinity, we will collect school supplies and monetary gifts towards the purchase of school supplies in the next several weeks leading into mid July. Our plan will be to make a caravan run to Obion either Monday, July 24 or Tuesday, July 25 to deliver the collected school supplies. We will also have lunch at a nearby Reelfoot Lake area restaurant for caravan travelers following the delivery of the school supplies.

If one chooses to make a monetary gift for Reelfoot, checks can be made payable to Trinity with a notation on the memo line that it is for Reelfoot Rural Ministries.

RRM also will accept monetary donations which can be mailed or delivered to the RRM Community Center, 6923 Minnick Elbridge Road, Obion, TN 38240. Further, Reelfoot's website ([www.reelfootruralministries.org](http://www.reelfootruralministries.org)) accepts PayPal donations.

For other questions about the school supplies collection, please feel free to reach out to Flip Brooks, or you may contact Laura Hunt of RRM directly at (731) 538-3900. You may also visit their website for additional information.

Below is the approved list of school supplies for RRM:

Backpacks  
Notebook Binders (1.5, 2, & 3 inch)  
Expo Dry-Erase Markers (Fine Point)  
Expo Dry-Erase Erasers  
Flash Drive (2 GB or larger)  
Plastic Folders with Pockets & Brads  
Plastic Folders with Pockets (all colors)  
Dividers (5 & 8 Tabs w/Pockets)  
Wide/College Ruled Loose Leaf Paper  
Composition Notebook  
Coloring Pencils  
Pencils #2  
Pencil Boxes  
Pencil Top Erasers  
Big Pink Erasers  
Pencil pouch zippered w/3 holes  
Multi Colored Pens  
Ticonderoga Pencils  
Glue (bottles & sticks)  
Fiskar Scissors  
Compass  
Stapler  
Baby Wipes  
Kleenex  
Nap Mat  
Headphones  
Scientific Calculator  
Highlighters (all colors)  
Washable Markers  
Index Cards (4X6 and 3X5 lined)  
Page Protectors  
Graph Paper  
Small Bottles of Hand Sanitizer

