



Trinity United Methodist Church
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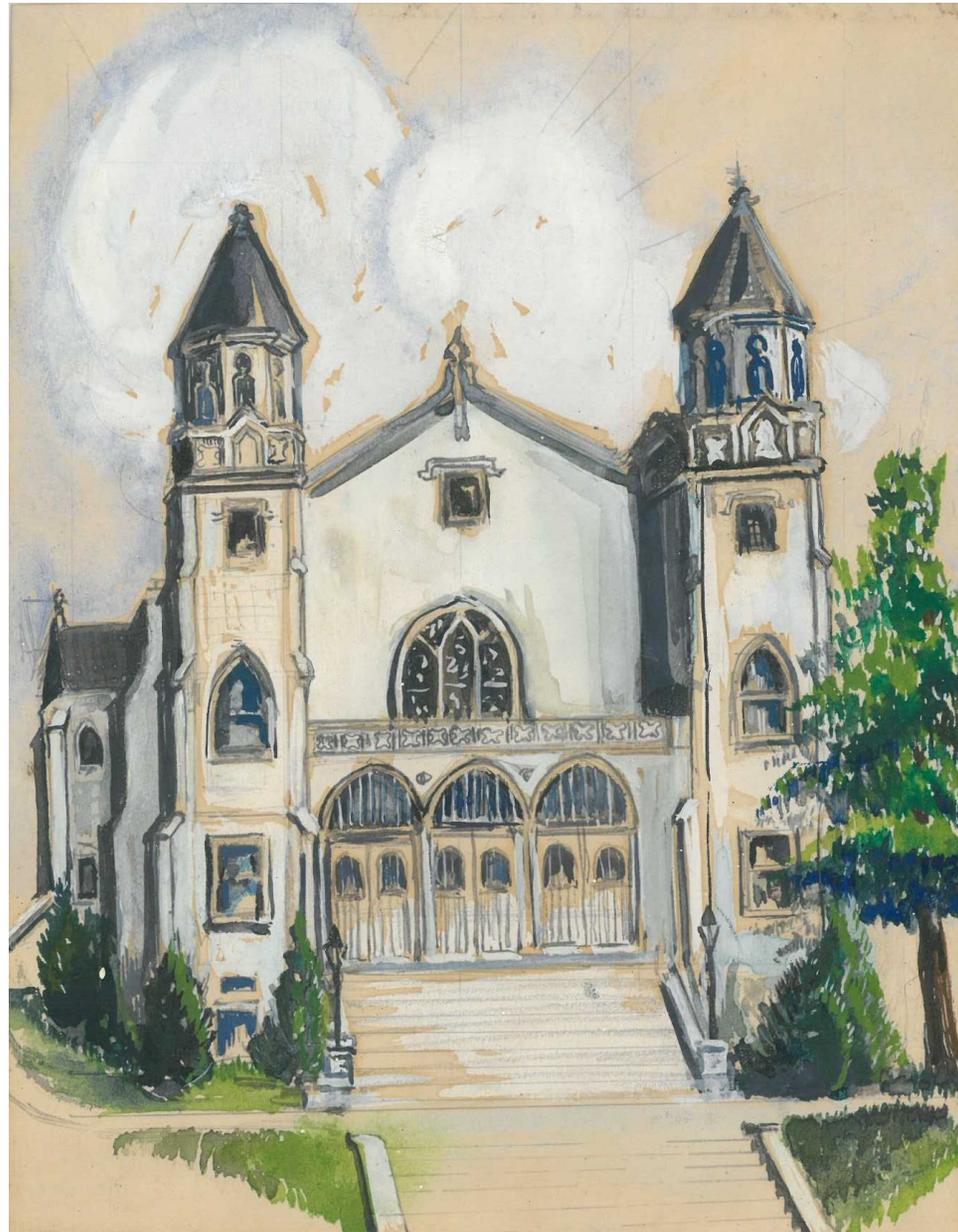
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Trinotes

July 26, 2017





Identity Crisis and Identity Awareness

For in Christ, all the fullness of the deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. Col. 2:9-10

But whoever is united with the LORD is one with him in Spirit.

1 Cor. 6:17

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. Romans 6:6

Almost every summer I dean (lead) a camp at Lakeshore United Methodist Assembly, our conference's youth camp. My camp is always Junior High 3 -- the last week of July—the hottest week of the summer—100+ junior high kids. You must think I'm crazy. Well, I am. It's a crazy week. There are 10 teaching sessions with object lessons, video clips, games, story writing, and small group discussions. There are seven different worship services that take place all over camp. There are about 20 late high school to early college-aged "kids" that work to keep the 100+ junior high kids alive, happy, and in the Spirit of God alongside two colleagues who are my co-workers and program coordinators. It is an exhausting type of holy, and a holy type of exhausting.

I love junior high kids. Honestly. They are at such a fun age. They're avidly discerning who they are and asking all the best questions about life, love, each other, and God. I love watching how their minds work (from a distance.....). I love hearing some of the reflections they concoct. I love seeing them 'get it,' perhaps for the first time. They connect on a visceral level with each other, with nature, and with their Creator.

They're also hysterical to watch. Inevitably, we'll have the kid with purple hair, the kid with wacky clothes, and the kid with, well, *odd* talents. It's always clear to me that I inherit, for a week, 100+ confused, lost, goofy, discerning kids who are yet to be too cool to have fun, and so we get to embark on a journey together to *find* ourselves.

There's always a handful of kids who are nowhere near the finish line yet. Usually, those are the kids whose lives have been pretty stable. They're the kids who aren't quite self-aware because life hasn't tested

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; safety for children starting back to school.

The United Methodist Church - for our Pastor, Rev. Sara Tate, as she and her sons continue to settle into their new home and community, 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. Praise for a successful Vacation Bible School! 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's family as they grieve his death

Jeanne Napoli, who has persistent, severe back pain

Irene Dycus—Jeanne Dycus recovering from a serious fall; tests pending

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

Whendy Merryman, back issues and upcoming surgery

Sue Taylor—Kate Taylor, recovering from a fall

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

Upcoming

EVENTS

Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, August 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

SPPRC Meeting

Monday, August 14th at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

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.

Blessing of the Backpacks

August 6th during worship.

Back to School Bash

August 9th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Hot dogs and blow-up water slides! Bring the whole family and invite your neighbors!

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

Workers Interfaith Network: Save the Date!

The 15th Annual Faith and Labor Picnic will be held at Trinity UMC on Labor Day, September 4th, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., behind the Education Building.

Trinotes

The deadline for submissions for the next mailed out Trinotes is August 7, 2017. Please email or deliver any articles to our administrative officer, Debby Marston, at: office@trinityumcmemphis.org.

them enough for them to figure out the value of their responses and how that might effect the person they are. It's the kids who've had a tough home life who have a clearer vision of who they are, how much they need a Savior, and who they want to be someday. The dichotomy has always been a strange phenomena for me. Either way, we spend a week working through the classic and inevitable Junior High identity crisis.

It's easy to find ourselves, like my camp kids, in a similar identity crisis. Who exactly are we? I'm Sara. I'm a pastor every second of the day. My other hat is *mom*. Still another is daughter. Another is friend, God's child, an inheritor of the Kingdom, a disciple, and so on. Within the confines of those reflections, the story gets more complicated and it gets easy to lose sight of myself. When I have to put on more than one hat at a time (pastor/mom), it gets really tough and in more-than-complicated moments, I forget which hat I'm wearing, which hat I should be wearing, and, really, who God wants me to be in that moment.

Scripture paints a helpful picture for us, however, when we find ourselves knee-deep in an identity crisis. We are able to remember who Christ is, who we are in Christ, and how Christ's presence—in us and in the greater Creation—has affected who we might be in the days to come. We're reminded that Christ came embodying the Creator, mirroring a Savior, and resurrecting new life out of us from within—that what we're left with is absolution from the power of sin and freedom to, well, make the world reflect the Kingdom of God a bit more with each movement we make.

Over a week, 100+ teenagers and their older cohorts learn these things and, as we send them home and prepare them for High School, they scatter to their respective towns with a little clearer illustration of the Christ in them. Our time as a community of faith, in worship, is to engender the same sense of identity awareness—an awareness that guides us to look ahead, since that's the direction we're going, reminds us that God is in that *ahead*, and that God has a hope for all we might accomplish in it.

Essentially, Trinitarians, our identity is *faithful*. I wonder what we might accomplish if every decision we made, going forward, was through this lens. More on that to come.

With great love in Christ our Lord,
Rev. Sara



Vacation Bible School "By the Numbers"

Thanks to the hard work of numerous leaders and volunteers, Trinity's VBS was a resounding success this summer. There were 34 children in attendance, 12 youth, and 17 adults. The VBS mission offering this year was designated to Room In The Inn, with \$640.00 being raised. We want to thank all the adult and youth volunteers and, at the risk of leaving some key person out, they are listed below:

Adult Volunteers

Elizabeth Hopper
Cile Brooks
Joan Smith
Kay Jordan
Rosemary Potter
Carey Miller
Les Johnson
Marc Taylor

Sue Taylor
John "Mac" Gardner
Whendy Merryman
Lori Brown
Lois Young
Irene Dycus
Alyson Foreman
Sara Tate (aka "Super Sara")
Mary McConnell

Youth Volunteers

Graham Brewer
Sophie Cervetti
Ella Coleman
Julian Cullen
Samuel Davidson
Ayden Grauer

Logan Guleff
Lily Knox
Charles Pratt
Phillips Pratt
Jane Rich
Joey Hopper

Memorials

Memorials have been received:

*In memory of **Gwen Owen** from Mac & Mary McConnell*

*In memory of **Gwen Owen** from Elaine Amis*

*In memory of **Gwen Owen** from Mike & Rosemary Potter*

*In memory of **Helen Williams** from Mike & Rosemary Potter*

*In memory of **Jane Jones** from Mike & Rosemary Potter*

*In memory of **Gwen Owens** from Doris Webster*

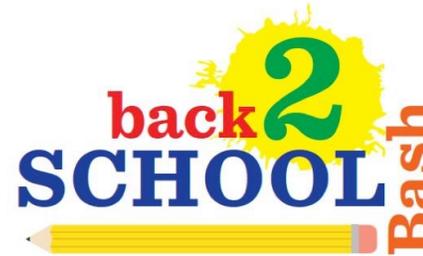
*In memory of **Gwen Owen** from Sally Ramsey*

*In memory of **Gwen Owen** from an anonymous donor*

*In memory of **Jane Jones** from an anonymous donor*

*In memory of **Helen Williams** from an anonymous donor*

*In memory of **Randy Bruce** from Elaine Amis*



Back to School Bash!

Trinity UMC is hosting a Back to School Bash, complete with blow-up water slides and hot dogs! Please reach out to our VBS kids,

your neighbors, and friends and invite them to the fun. We want you to come and be in relationship with our community. Yes, we need hot dog fixers and water-slide watchers, but what we need most is for you to come and learn names – to come and hear the stories of our neighbors with whom we are called to be in community. So, come one and all to our Back to School Bash, Wednesday,



FAITH & LABOR PICNIC

The 15th annual Faith and Labor Picnic will take place on Trinity's campus on Labor Day, Monday, September 4th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is a fundraising event that is designed to bring together people of faith, labor leaders, and community supporters to honor the hard work and efforts that have gone into fighting for worker's rights, as well as, the social and economic achievements the Workers Interfaith Network (WIN) has gained for economic justice.

Those interested in sponsoring this WIN event should contact Anne Smith at (901) 332-3570 or anne@workersinterfaithnetwork.org. Sponsorship can be in the form of booth space or an advertisement in the event program. Advance tickets can be purchased without becoming a sponsor: adults \$10, children \$5, and family tickets \$30. Kay Jordan will have tickets available soon.

REFLECTIONS

(By special request, we are publishing an excerpt from a devotional submitted by a former pastor, the late Dr. John R. Bonson, Sr., on the occasion of Trinity's 100th year of ministry:)

Trinity has a wonderful history, but Trinity can have a more wonderful future. To do so, we enter into a time of introspection and reflection that offers us "glimpses" into the mind of God. Some questions that may come to mind:

- What does God expect of our stewardship of time and place?
- Who is God putting in our path to serve?
- Who is God calling to focus and expand the grace found in Jesus Christ to a hurting world?
- What do we leave behind to allow us to move more faithfully into God's future?

Prayer: God grant us wisdom that comes from listening to your dream for your creation. Amen.



AUGUST 6	AUDREY WILKERSON
AUGUST 16	CILE BROOKS
AUGUST 17	PHYLLIS HOFFMAN
AUGUST 18	CHRIS COMES
AUGUST 26	GRANT HECHINGER

IF YOUR AUGUST BIRTHDAY IS NOT ON THE LIST ABOVE,
PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (901) 274-6895.

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## 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.

## BUILDING A BETTER FIRST-AID KIT

After a hectic week of Vacation Bible School, during which there were two children needing bandaids, but, thankfully, nothing more, we found that we need to update our first-aid kit. We want to give everyone an opportunity to contribute to this basic—but essential—collection of supplies.

The following supplies, medications, and emergency items are recommended by Mayo Clinic:

- Adhesive tape
- Elastic wrap bandages
- Bandage strips and “butterfly” bandages (assorted sizes)
- Nonstick sterile bandages and roller gauze (assorted sizes)
- Triangular bandage
- Aluminum finger splint
- Instant cold packs
- Cotton balls and cotton-tipped swabs
- Antiseptic solution and towelettes
- Disposable nonlatex gloves (several pairs)
- Petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- Scissors and tweezers
- Soap or hand sanitizer
- Antibiotic ointment
- Eyewash solution
- Thermometer
- Breathing barrier
- Medicine cup or spoon
- First-aid manual
- Aloe vera gel
- Calamine lotion
- Antihistamine (diphenhydramine)
- Hydrocortisone cream
- Pain relievers, such as, Acetaminophen (Tylenol, others), Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin IB, others), Aspirin (never give aspirin to children!)
- Small, waterproof flashlight or headlamp
- Extra batteries
- Small notepad and waterproof writing instrument
- Emergency “space blanket”
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Whistle



## Monthly Fellowship Breakfast

Officially, beginning in August, the Fellowship Breakfast will take place on the 2nd Sunday (August 13). Many of you have noted that, during the past three months, the breakfast has been held on the 2nd Sunday. We made a strategic decision to permanently move the breakfast to the 2nd Sunday going forward unless a known conflict arises. So we will see everyone again on August 13 with the food line kicking off at 9:30 AM.

## Church Council Meeting: You are invited!

Beginning in August, Church Council meetings will be held on the 4th Sunday each month, following worship. Members of the congregation are invited to attend in order to learn firsthand about what's going on at Trinity UMC. A potluck meal is planned, so please bring your favorite dishes to share. Mark your calendars for August 27th and plan to come.



## ~ Notary Public Available ~

If anyone in the congregation is in need of the services of a notary public, please contact Debby Marston in the church office: (901) 274-6895. This service is free to church members and/or friends of Trinity UMC.