Trinotes

November 19, 2025

The Mission of Trinity United Methodist Church is to proclaim God's love by building community and living by the example and teachings of Jesus Christ.

From the desk of... The Rev.

The Passing of Time

"The world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God abide forever." 1 John 2:17

Yesterday during the children's message, I asked the children what they're afraid of. There were answers I expected. "Not the dark, but what might be IN the dark." I'm with you, Eli. We discussed how I am deathly afraid of small spaces — particularly elevators and being crowded by other people (I'm claustrophobic). We discussed my husband's arachnophobia (fear of spiders) and how he's not very fond of clowns either. These are pretty typical fears. Then there was an answer I didn't expect: "The passing of time." Paige always has a way of stumping me with a single sentence. I hadn't thought to be afraid of that, until she spoke its truth into being. The passing of time.

Cooper turned 14 years old last week. He was 5 when we moved here. He has chosen a high school he hopes to attend (White Station). He's chosen a college he'd like to attend (Duke). He's chosen a profession he'd like to pursue (teaching music). But wasn't it just yesterday that he was sounding out sight words and learning how to single-digit add? The passing of time.

They say that time flies when you're having fun. I think we've had a lot of fun this year! We've noted all year long how quickly time seems to be flying by and it has, or, well, it did. It's the middle of November. Advent begins in 13 days. I'm making plans to pull out the Christmas decorations at the house and the Advent ones at the church (in just a week). Didn't I just put them all away yesterday? Where did the year go?! I can only guess that it was buried in all the fun we had. Two weddings, confirmation, Vacation Bible School, Annual Conference, a wildly successful Easter Egg Hunt and Trunk-or-Treat, PRIDE, Charge Conference…We worshipped with energy and joy, with laughter and praise, every single Sunday. We've gone to protests together, choir practice, committee meetings, all in celebration of the ways that God has laid before us opportunity after opportunity to be together and do good things together and time, well, it's just gone. But our time was well-spent.

I lamented Cooper's birthday last week. The last 14 years have flown by as we have lived joy-filled lives and, by the grace of God, it is the joy that outshines the lament of losing the 'baby' Cooper I once had. I do not lament how quickly the last year has gone, though. Each year it simply gets better at Trinity, and I can't but give thanks. Thus I am not afraid of the passing of time. I welcome it. Seasons change. Life goes on. Time flies when you're having fun and each second we're given is a gift. At the same time, when you are a person of Christian faith, time is no more than seconds on a clock for our giftedness isn't in seconds. Ours is in eternity.

We are oh-so-gifted, beloved. Oh-so-gifted.

Giving Thanks for You,
Rev. Sara

Honorariums

Donations have been received

in honor of **Carol & Carey Miller** from Doris Porter
in honor of **Sue & Marc Taylor** from Doris Porter
in honor of **Sandy Guntharp** from the Trinity UMC
United Women in Faith

Calling all volunteers!

The last several weeks, I have been filled with great anxiety over upcoming responsibilities in Children's Ministries and at the Parkway House, where I serve on the Social Committee. My responsibilities in these two significant families to which I belong tend to cluster around the same weekends during the holidays, and having been through this several times now, I have grown to dread that experience. It's the kind of worrying that preys on my mind and invades my sleep at night. When it does that, it becomes a wilderness experience of sorts in my life.

But the Lord graciously sends me reassuring messages through His Word – in Bible passages and daily devotionals, even in text messages from others. There was a hope-filled message in this morning's devotional in ***The Upper Room***. These words were part of today's scripture from Isaiah 43:16-21: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." I took that message quite literally.

Then the Lord sent another hopeful message this morning through a beautiful text exchange over a couple of hours or so with our two young moms, Jessica Dycus and Heather Jacoby-Keller, who are coordinating the Advent Workshop for children on the afternoon of Sunday, December 7th. As we texted back and forth, I saw the plans for the workshop grow and blossom before my eyes. By the time I was ready to sit down and write this article, I was so excited about the creative - and spiritual - vision of these two young women that I had a hard time settling down enough to put my fingers on the right laptop keys.

Sunday, December 7th, will be a busy, busy day for us at Trinity UMC! The afternoon will be particularly action-packed. It features the seasonal excitement of the Evergreen Historic District Association's annual Caroling Event from 2-4 p.m. in the neighborhood. The Caroling Event starts and stops at Trinity UMC, where the popular Santa Stop will once again be in action. (Santa himself never STOPS, you understand.) Neighborhood families will be invited to join us inside for cookies and hot chocolate and to participate in the Advent Workshop while they're here, whether they are caroling or not. Cub Scout Pack 13 will join us for the fun and food; they will also be preparing cards for MIFA that day. The children from the Lab School will be invited to join us as well. Add our own Trinity children to the mix, and we expect to have a whole bunch of kids that afternoon!

To be ready for this big affair, we need volunteers to do <u>one or both</u> of these things: man/woman the craft stations for the Advent Workshop <u>AND/OR</u> provide lots of cookies! Cookies may be homemade or bakery-made, just so long as they are sweet and delicious. To offer your services in either capacity, contact Irene Dycus (text: 901-652-1105 or email: irenebdycus@hotmail.com). Sara Goff has graciously agreed to be our hot chocolate barista. She also needs a helper or two. So, when we say, "All hands on deck," that's a good description of what's needed for that afternoon. I look forward to hearing from YOU soon!

Peace in Christ,
Irene

Confirmation Class Schedule

December 14: Luke/John

This Sunday, November 23rd, is the last Sunday in the liturgical year. We are celebrating thanksgiving in worship. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the altar table. These will be donated to our feeding ministries.

United Women in Faith meets Friday, 21 November, at 1130, for potluck in the Center. We will vote on this fiscal year's major and minor missions and collect pledges.

Trinity is blessed to have a growing number of younger, working members. If you would like to start an evening Circle, please see me. We would be delighted to help you get started.

Former Trinitarians presented us with beautiful and priceless needlepoint kneeling cushions that were at the front of our former Sanctuary. They have been gathering dust since our move. Sam has tasked our Circle to find a way to display them, probably in the Center. Two will fit on the kneeling benches at the front of the Center. Please brainstorm how we can use/display the rest of these treasures.

The program will be from THE UPPER ROOM Wednesday 26 November, "God's Surprises." Be prepared to share a "surprise."

This is the first (and hopefully the last) time I have said or will say this, but bring money. If you read last week's email you know why. Come and be welcome. Bring a friend.

Joan S.

Day of Giving

This year's Day of Giving is Tuesday, December 2nd. We are encouraged to share our resources with Non-Profit organizations throughout our world. Churches are included in the long list of Non-Profits. As you consider participating in the Day of Giving please include Trinity in your list of agencies and organizations. Trinity is working towards once again serving as a Room in the Inn location for assisting and welcoming our unhoused neighbors. This ministry, along with Trinity's other outreach efforts, needs people and money. As we enter the holiday season let's once again open our wallets and our hearts in responding to Christ's call to care for people facing needs of body, mind, and spirit.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Lori Brown	December 1
Kate Ostenrude	December 5
Alexis Weatherly	December 12
Sue Taylor	December 16
Andrew Montgomery	December 19
Debby Marston	December 19
Melba Abraham	December 21
Carey Miller	December 25

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Joan Smith	November 7
Katy Spake	November 12
Cooper Tate	November 14
Mary McConnell	November 17
Martha Ostenrude	November 18
Abby Stanton	November 24
Raquel Norton	November 27
John Allmon	November 29
Venus Hamric	November 30

Food Support Update

Recently the Trinity Church Council approved merging our Food Voucher Fund with our Food Pantry Fund to form a new fund—the Food Ministries Fund. By combining these funds we have greater flexibility in responding more quickly to evolving needs. The Tiny Pantry Fund remains separate from the Food Ministries Fund for now.

The demand for Food Vouchers (Kroger Cards) remains high. Our Food Pantry continues to provide food boxes from Catholic Charities (Trinity's cost is 20 pounds of food for $5.00 per box). We supplement the food boxes with food bags we compile from your donations and from purchases from Aldi's. Together, families receive a significant amount of food at our monthly distribution day on the fourth Monday of each month. We would love to have additional volunteers for distribution Monday. If you are interested in serving please contact Kay Jordan (901 299 2624).

Craig Jordan

Prayer Concerns

Our country and the world - for the continued process of resolution of the conflict between Israel and Hamas; for victims of natural disasters, especially for those who have lost loved ones; for those families and communities who have fallen victim to the horror of gun violence in our country; for the people of Ukraine who are imperiled by the invasion of Russian troops, shelling of residential areas, and the terror being experienced by the civilian population; for all those in our country and around the world still impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and variants; for people of faith around the world who are experiencing persecution; for refugees seeking asylum from war and social unrest; for safe drinking water for those living in developing countries; for people around the world experiencing terrorist attacks; for the poor, homeless, and disenfranchised in our city; for immigrants who struggle due to lost jobs, threatened deportation, and lack of resources; for persons of color who are speaking out against racial profiling and injustice and for families who have lost loved ones due to race related violence; for the resolution of division among people of the United States and the wisdom and courage of all political leaders.

The United Methodist Church - for our Pastor, Rev. Sara Corum, her husband, Rev. Josh McClurkan, and their five children; for our Bishop, the Rev. David Graves; for our interim District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Deborah Smith

Trinity UMC - for members of the congregation homebound due to chronic illness or age; for new visitors joining us as we worship in person and online; for all families who are grieving; for our congregation as we deal with transitions; and wisdom for our Trustees and Church Council. Also, specific prayer requests by and for:

Clara Farabee, hospitalized recently for two days; please pray for her full recovery
Wendel Stoltz, recovering well after surgery for prostate cancer
Laura Comes Hubbard, incurable multiple myeloma
Carey & Carol Miller, tested positive for COVID; **Carey's** ablation went well, pain much reduced
Jimmy Rast, Melba Abraham's brother, diagnosed with genetic Alzheimer's
Millie, 8 month old infant with tumor on her liver; now at St. Jude (request from Myra Finch)
Betsy Black's friend **Ken Savage**, diagnosed with metastatic cancer
Baby Stella, born 7 weeks early with extra chromosome; developmental problems expected
Sharman Murley & Frank Cantrell's son, **Frank, Jr.**, heart issues
From Sandy Guntharp: **Pam Stafford** died peacefully Nov. 4th; husband **Jim Stafford**, living alone with dementia
Sandy's brother, **Jerry Newton**, died shortly after being diagnosed with sarcoma. Please pray for Sandy in her grief.
Martha Ostenrude's close friend **Ashley**, diagnosed with leukemia
Continued prayers for **Sally Ramsey** and daughter **Sandi**
Bobby Glover, Chris's brother, in care for early Alzheimer's
For Sharman Murley's grandchild **El**, for well-being, making friends, and a better school year
Chris Glover's sister, **Sherry Carruthers**
Seth Norton, Raquel's son, serious ongoing medical concerns
Gwen Dodson, bladder cancer, COPD, osteoporosis; cancer treatment
Kanyon Glover, good medical report; no sign of heart rejection
Jacob Foreman, for healing and pain relief
Gene Archer passed away after a long battle with cancer; his wife **Julia** has MS. (Friends of the Millers)
Carol Miller's brothers: **David Harrison** moved to new nursing home with in-house dialysis; **Jerry Harrison**, now in rehab.
Carey Miller's brother, **Lee Miller**, is in long-term rehab.
Val Coates, for relief of constant pain & healing of serious multiple issues, including depression
Karen Barker, Sara Goff's sister, lung issues; **Jonathan Goff**
Laura Major Conner, for her physical health and living situation
Bonnie Stubblefield, early Alzheimer's (Debby Marston's cousin's wife)
For Trinity's new **Youth Group** and **Confirmation Class**
For Trinity's **Children's SS Class**

(Please contact the church office if you have additional prayer concerns, need a concern removed, or need to make a change or correction.)