



Trinity United Methodist Church
1738 Galloway Avenue
Memphis, TN 38112
(901) 274-6895
www.trinityumcmemphis.org

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U.S. POSTAGE

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MEMPHIS, TN
PERMIT number 817



Trinotes

January 10, 2018





Of the Calling

The ordination process has revealed to me that the work required to experience something beautiful is always worth it.
-- Rev. Jonathan Bratt Carle

The ordination process has helped me to more clearly understand and experience my unique calling to serve and to be grateful for those who have accompanied me on this journey.
-- Rev. Mike Potter

The ordination process has helped to incorporate me into a community of servants who are called to the holiest of work but who, in very authentic ways, will walk through the life of calling alongside me. -- Rev. Sara K. Tate

I haven't been away from home in a while but tonight I find myself in Buchanan Tennessee, along the bank of Kentucky Lake at Paris Landing State Park. No, the lodge isn't amazing. It's a state park. It's cold and dreary outside. The edge of the lake is frozen. It's 8:41 pm and I didn't go outside today. I'm not really here because I chose to be, and this is the third January I have spent here. It's a required retreat for residents. It's required sabbath.

This week I, alongside 80 other prospective candidates for ordination, are at a winter sabbath retreat for Residents in Ministry. The majority of the candidates here are from the Tennessee Conference. About a third are from the Memphis Conference. We're here to experience a time of sabbath because we, clergy, that is, are the worst at prioritizing sabbath, unplugging, resting in God, and shutting down. So, of course I'm writing a newsletter article.....

I am a senior resident. I've been in the process as a candidate for ministry for a decade. The finish line (or the starting gate, depending on where you sit) is in sight. It has been an...arduous journey.

In the United Methodist Church the journey to ordination is lengthy. Most of it is prescribed in the Book of Discipline and brought about by the conference's Board of Ordained Ministry (somewhat affectionally referred to as the BoOM).

A person first recognizes a call to professional ministry, after which they begin working through a series of books and studies with a mentor. After completing the work in these books (a process that usually takes 1-2 years), that person, upon the recommendation of the mentor, goes before

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PRAYER CONCERNS

Our country and the world - for the people of Puerto Rico; 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; prayers for our country, that truth and justice will prevail; for people around the world experiencing terrorist attacks; safety for children going to and from school and while at school; for the poor, homeless, and disenfranchised in our city.

The United Methodist Church - for our Pastor, Rev. Sara Tate and her sons, Cooper and Aiden; for our Bishop, the Rev. Bill McAlilly; and for our 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:

Rosemary Potter—Jeanne Napoli, critically ill in hospital

Joan Smith—granddaughter Sean's vision; Carrie Holborn as she grieves the loss of her husband and daughter; Qahtan, Dalia's uncle with metastatic cancer; family of Barrett Holland as they grieve

Melba Abraham—cracked rib; Charles recovering at home—in rehab
— family of Dale Doty as they grieve her loss

Mary McConnell—niece Laura Fellin, cancer—pray for her family

Sara Tate—brother Charlie Corum recovering from successful surgery ; for her family following the death of her grandmother, Frances Frankland

Charlotte Comes, suffering from hives

—Orville "Phil" Phillips—continues to battle leukemia

— Maggi Comes seeing plastic surgeon following dog attack

Sue Taylor—the Howard family, for health reasons

Irene Dycus—friend with cancer: Rosemary Norris and husband Noel
— in auto accident with sister-in-law, both recovering

Elizabeth Hopper—death of David's mother on December 11th

Carol Miller—brother David—serious kidney & respiratory problems

Les Johnson—brother Frank in hospice care

Chris Glover—friend Joanne James with multiple major problems

(Please submit your prayer requests to Debby Marston at 901-274-6895
[voicemail available] or email to office@trinityumcmemphis.org.)

Upcoming

EVENTS

Binghampton Food Pantry

Tuesdays & Fridays at 258 Merton 8:00-11:00 am. In case of emergency, food can be obtained by calling Michael Anderson at (901) 503-2748.

Room in the Inn

Tuesdays through March 31st: volunteers gather around 4:00 p.m. in Education Bldg., guests arrive 6:00 p.m. Departure Wednesday a.m. at 7:00 a.m.

Daytime UMW Meetings

First and third Tuesdays of each month. The next scheduled meeting is January 16th in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m.

Worship Committee Meeting

The Worship Committee will meet January 22nd at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Evening UMW Meetings

The fourth Monday of each month in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on January 22nd in the Fellowship Hall.

Youth Lasagna Fundraising Luncheon

January 28th following worship (see article page 7)

Church Council

Meets following youth fundraiser luncheon on Sunday, January 28th. Members are welcome to attend.

Covenant Discipleship

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

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

Scouts

Cub Scout pack meetings are held Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. Boy Scouts meet Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. There are no scout meetings when school is not in session.

Trinotes

The deadline for submissions for the next Trinotes is January 22, 2018. Please email or deliver any articles to our administrative officer, Debby Marston, at: office@trinityumcmemphis.org. Trinotes is now available as an electronic file. Call Debby at 901-274-6895 if you prefer to receive the newsletter via e-mail. You may also access it on our website at www.trinityumcmemphis.org.

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the District Committee on Ministry (DCOM) to articulate their call and call story to the committee. That committee then recommends that they, upon a vote by the clergy executive committee (clergy body) of the Annual Conference, become certified as a candidate for ordained ministry.

The candidate for ministry then finishes their undergraduate degree and begins seminary work. Candidates for ordination, before being recommended for ordination, must receive a Masters of Divinity degree (MDiv) from an approved seminary. Toward the end of seminary the candidate may begin their work for commissioning. After answering, thoroughly the Disciplinary questions, videoing a worship service and writing and videoing a Bible study, a background check, a psychological evaluation, personal and professional recommendations, an SPRC recommendation, and recommendation from the candidate's District Superintendent, the candidate then goes before the Conference BoOM for a series of interviews covering their call and psychological assessment, theology and doctrine, and preaching and teaching. After these interviews the candidate, providing their work and interviews were adequate, are recommended for commissioning as a provisional elder or deacon (pending a final vote of the clergy executive committee at Annual Conference).

Next the provisional elder or deacon enters a residency period (of at least three years). During that three year (or more) period, the provisional candidate meets with their provisional class (monthly) -- studying each other's mission field and addressing scenarios of ministry and the work they'll be doing. They attend retreats (like this one). In the last year, the provisional candidate answers other questions from the Discipline, videos a worship service, writes and videos a Bible study, endures another background check and psychological evaluation, submits a fruitfulness project as prescribed by the Book of Discipline, submits more recommendations (personal, professional, District Superintendent, and SPRC of current appointment), and prepares for interviews. The provisional candidate then interviews again and is either recommended for ordination or prescribed a contingency plan to work on for a period of time before submitting the work and interviewing again.

After all of this, and much prayer, the employing of the Holy Spirit, and in-depth discernment of the BoOM, a final vote of the clergy executive committee of the Annual Conference, the provisional candidate is ordained, receives a stole symbolic of Christian servanthood, and is welcomed into the Order to which they have been called.

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Spiritual Formation New Covenant Discipleship Study

“Covenant Discipleship is a proven and effective means of equipping the people who respond to the invitation to discipleship. They are the ones the congregation can count upon to hear and to act upon Jesus’ teachings. The process of weekly accountability and support for acting upon Jesus’ words, living the Christian life, forms these persons into leaders in discipleship the congregation needs to carry out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ equipped to join his mission in the world.” – Rev. Steven Manskar, Director of Wesleyan Leadership

Happy New Year! We hope your 2018 gets off to a good start and that you and your family are blessed with abundance, possibilities, and newness of life in Christ.

Are you interested in deepening your faith and finding others to accompany you on your spiritual journey of discipleship? Have you considered the possibility of becoming part of a covenant discipleship group that will not only hold you lovingly accountable in your walk with Christ, but also help you develop a daily discipline of prayer, searching and being searched by scripture, and finding balance and spiritual integration in your life?

If there is sufficient interest, we will offer an 8-week study of David Lowes Watson’s book, “Covenant Discipleship – Christian Formation Through Mutual Accountability.”

At the conclusion of the study, one or more covenant discipleship groups of 5-6 members each will be formed. We are asking you commit to this 8-week study and then decide whether you wish to continue after you've learned how a CD group functions and whether it is a good fit for you at this time in your spiritual life. One or more members of the pilot CD group that was formed last year will then mentor the new group(s).

This invitation is open to anyone in the congregation who wishes to commit to this study. Please share this information with your friends and invite them to participate.

This study will begin during the week of February 11th and we'll meet weekly thereafter. Each session will be limited to one hour. The cost of the book is \$24. The church office will order the books once we know who will participate. **To register for this study, please call the church office at 901-274-6895 before January 29th.**

Yours in Christ,

Mike Potter, Spiritual Formation Coordinator

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I've articulated this because you may not know the depth of process. I've written this because Jonathan Bratt Carle is here, Mike Potter is here, and I am here, and because you, Trinity UMC, are a big part of our journey through this process. You have and are working—perhaps unknowingly—to mold and make us into the people God has called us to be as we have worked diligently to encourage you to allow God to mold and make you into who you are, too, called to be. You are a part of our stories—a part of this long and sometimes tedious journey of growth—and because of you, some day, when everything is checked off the list, we will kneel, surrounded by those who've already walked the road, and before our Bishop, in the presence of those who've prayed for us along the way, to say “Here I am, Lord.” Thank you.

With immense gratitude,
Rev. Sara

BINGHAMTON FOOD PANTRY

Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry at Binghamton

UMM, 258 N. Merton St., is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:00 am to 11:00 am for distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables....people can come as often as they want for these.



Once a month, persons can request an emergency food bag (canned goods, peanut butter, cereal, rice, dried beans, soup, etc). Neither of these options require any proof of residency or need....you ask, you receive. Individuals and families who need an emergency food bag can call Michael Anderson at (901) 503-2748.

Trinity members: bring staple items for the food pantry each Sunday—one item per household member—as we partner in this vital ministry to the poor.



Being there in the New Year

With two Room in the Inn dates falling close to major holidays – Christmas and New Year’s Day – I knew it would be harder to get volunteers for those sessions. Some regular volunteers would be out of town and others would have family commitments. What is always amazing about this ministry is that other people will just show up and help out when it looks like we might not have enough volunteers. Does the Spirit move them? Are they just nice people who hear the sense of desperation in my emails leading up to those days? I don’t know, but I’m happy it always seems to work out this way. We get to see people we haven’t seen in a while or have never seen at Room in the Inn. We are thankful for their presence and so are our guests.

One volunteer has come several times this season and in past RITI seasons to play the piano and talk to guests. Many of you already know Diana Kabakoff because she played in Sunday morning worship at Trinity after Lisa left, and she has played a string reduction keyboard during some of our choir cantatas. Diana has said more than once that maybe she should be doing some other volunteer jobs to help our guests, as if playing the piano isn’t enough. This week, I think she got her answer. She came to just sit and talk with guests at dinner, but one of our guests recognized her and asked her to play. She played several songs while guests bobbed their heads and tapped their toes. Music can remind us of happier times or make us believe that happy times are yet to come. Sometimes that is the greatest gift we can give our unsheltered neighbors.

Our Room in the Inn ministry received many monetary gifts over the holidays. We don’t have big expenses for this program, but we have many small expenses that do add up, so we greatly appreciate your donations.

Orange juice, coffee, tea, lemonade, cinnamon rolls, underwear, T-shirts, cleaning supplies, deodorant, razors, handwarmers, gloves – these are just a few of the items that we are able to purchase for our guests thanks to your donations.

If you want to learn more about Room in the Inn and how you might get involved, come by the Trinity Education Building any Tuesday evening. Our guests arrive at 6 p.m. We would love to show you around and introduce you to your unsheltered neighbors.



Happy New Year!
Lois Young

2018 Trinity Committee Servants

Lay Leader: Kay Jordan

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Edna Hoffman

Alternate Lay Member to Annual Conference: Jeri Ashley

Chairperson of the Church Council: Flip Brooks

Church Council includes all chairs of committees and the following at-large members:

Marc Taylor, Carol Miller, Charlotte Comes, and Barbara Johnson

Church Treasurer: Sally Ramsey

Congregational Care (Nurture): Kathy Isbell

Prayer Advocate: John Stuart

Witness/Evangelism: Katy Spake

Staff/Parish Relations Committee Chair: Jeri Ashley

Staff/Parish Relations Committee: Connie Johns, Myra Finch, Marc Taylor, Amy Webster, Mary McConnell, Rita Allmon, Chris Glover, and Kay Jordan (Lay Leader)

Finance Committee Co-Chairs: Jeanne Napoli and Rosemary Potter

Trustees Chair: Phil Isbell

Trustees: Lori Brown, Les Johnson, David Hopper, Wendy Merryman, Joe Spake, Mac McConnell, and Carey Miller

Lay Leadership Committee Chair: Sara Tate (Pastor)

Lay Leadership Committee: Alyson Foreman, Elizabeth Hopper, Christine Glover, Beryl Willard, Cara Hechinger, Libby Streete, Eleanor Brooks

UMW President: Snookie Mason

Worship Committee Co-Chairs: Sara Tate and John Holtzman

Worship Committee: Beryl Willard, Connie Johns, Jinx Winn, Nancy Rankin, Steve Humbert, and Mike Potter

This is a list of committees and committee members only. This list doesn’t include all the other ways that folks serve at TUMC: greeters, ushers, RITI, Sunday school teachers, communion stewards, and a thousand other important pieces.

Memorials & Honorariums

Memorials have been received:

*In memory of **Ann Laverne Hopper**, David's mother,
from David and Elizabeth Hopper*

*In memory of **Clarence Hitt**, Edna Hoffman's brother,
from Sally Ramsey*

Honorariums have been received:

*In honor of **Jane Roberts** from Jim Schaeffer*

*In honor of **Wendlandt Hasselle** from Jim Schaeffer*

*In honor of **Gene & Carol Katz** from Jim Schaeffer*

*In honor of **Rev. Sara Tate** from Chris Glover*

*In honor of **Debby Marston** from Chris Glover*

*In honor of **Sally Ramsey** from Chris Glover*

*In honor of **Joan Smith** from Chris Glover*

*In honor of **Alyson Foreman** from Chris Glover*

*In honor of **Edna Hoffman** from Judi Hoffman*

*In honor of **Mike & Rosemary Potter** from
Charlotte Lyles and Sam Cantor*



Youth Fundraiser

The Trinity UMC Youth are raising money to attend the winter retreat at Lakeshore UMA. On Sunday, January 28th, after worship and preceding the first Church Council meeting of 2018, the youth will host a lasagna lunch. They'll be accepting donations, which will help fund their trip.

Our youth group is new and budding and needs your support, so you are cordially invited to attend and to stay for Church Council (which is always open to the entire congregation).

Come and eat and support our students!



BENEVOLENCE GIVING UPDATE

Thank you for your generosity in donating to the grocery voucher fund so we can continue to help those who lack the basic needs for life. In 2018 so far, we have handed out eleven vouchers at \$25 each.

Unfortunately, as of January 3rd, we exhausted our grocery voucher account and had to put that benevolence program on hold temporarily. However, just by posting signs on the front and back entrances to the Education Building, we seem to be gathering momentum once again, with some donations being designated for grocery vouchers in last Sunday's offering.

The need for assistance in acquiring the essentials of life is ongoing among the poor in our community. We hope that you will continue your contributions to our grocery voucher fund so we can, in a small way, meet the needs of "the least of these."