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Trinotes

October 25, 2017





For All the Saints

“And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.” Romans 8:27

When I was six months pregnant with Aiden (that’s the younger one), my mother had a heart attack and died. For years I think my family had reconciled ourselves to the fact that mom was going to die. She’d had several strokes. She had high blood pressure. The root of the problem was that my mother was an alcoholic. Please don’t confuse that with drunk. My mother wasn’t a drunk. She was a functional, capable, beautiful, brilliant (albeit) alcoholic.

Even though we’d prepared ourselves for the day, I wasn’t ready. I remember getting the phone call from my brother, hitting the floor (much harder than anyone who is pregnant needs too) and lying there, sobbing, screaming, begging God for it to all be a nightmare. The days were a blur. I couldn’t sleep. I didn’t eat. I lost a good bit of weight, which isn’t very easy for someone making a person.

A few days in, I think we all realized at once that we’d need to plan a memorial service. We didn’t want a funeral. To me that’s different. We didn’t want a celebration of life. I wasn’t ready to celebrate her life. Her life wasn’t long enough. Her life wasn’t everything that, in my mind, I imagined it would’ve or should’ve been. To my chagrin, my brother and my dad looked to me. I’m the pastor. This is what I do. Right?

It was the hardest thing I can remember ever doing and, for the short life I’ve lived, I’ve experienced a number of very hard things. We sat at the table at the funeral home. The director was a friend of my mother’s. We all stared blankly at each other in disbelief. I began mapping out the service. We’d sing “This is my Father’s World.” It was her favorite. We’d sing, “Hymn of Promise.” It’s my favorite. It talks about the beginning and the end. A dear friend of mom’s would play his guitar and sing, “Let it Be,” by the Beatles — my mom and dad’s favorite. We’d read a poem by Mary Oliver, and the eulogy would be given by a dear family friend and former pastor.

It is still undoubtedly the most beautiful service I’ve ever planned. I sobbed the whole time. It’s hard enough being pregnant — hard experiencing great loss in the middle of it — harder knowing I’d have to raise my children without my mother. It’s been three years and it’s still hard.

As hard as all of this was, the hardest part was still to come. Nothing compares to having to fill the “Phoebe-shaped hole” we all had. There’s nothing harder than

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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:

Joan Smith—granddaughter Sean’s vision; Amanda England, inoperable brain tumor; Ira Holborn’s family as they grieve his loss

Jeanne Napoli, who has persistent, severe back pain

Charlotte Comes—Ramona McWilliams’ family as they grieve her loss

Melba Abraham—Charles’ knee surgery successful—recovering at home

Whendy Merryman, successful back surgery: recovering at home

Rosemary Potter—Margaret Spain, outpatient surgery on arm

Jeri Ashley—Gwen Stuart very ill at home

Alyson Foreman—aunt, Peggy Duane, died recently; cousin, Zack

Cook, back home after a month dealing with disasters

Mary McConnell—niece Laura Fellin, cancer—pray for her husband Marco & two sons

Debby Marston—Houston Brown, slow improvement in rehab following concussion

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

Upcoming

EVENTS

Daytime UMW Meeting

Tuesday, November 7th at 10:30. Bring "A Can! A Box! Or a Dollar!"

Evening UMW Meetings

The fourth Monday of each month in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m.—a potluck meal will be shared. (November 27th is the next meeting.)

Trustees Meeting

Monday, November 6th at 6:30 p.m., Conference Room

SPPRC Meeting

Monday, November 13th at 6:30 p.m., Conference Room

Worship Committee

Monday, November 20th at 6:30 p.m., Conference Room

Church Council Meeting

Sunday, November 26th at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Members of the congregation welcome. Lunch will be provided.

Covenant Discipleship

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

Choir Rehearsal

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Narcotics Anonymous now 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.

Trinotes

The deadline for submissions for the next Trinotes is November 6, 2017. 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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learning the new routines — living life without someone who was once so much a part of it. There's nothing more important in grieving death than deciding how we will live honoring the legacy of the one who's left us. But we do.

When Christ ascended, the people of faith were left with what could've been Jesus-shaped holes. Instead of holes, however, the Holy Spirit descended to fill the community in their emptiness so that, instead of life ending for them also, they might live on emulating Jesus and, by-so-doing, honoring his legacy. This, of course, isn't a gift solely for the people of Jesus' day. We too are gifted with the same Spirit. That Spirit fills us in our emptiness that we might live on, persevering in faith. That same Spirit fills our loved-one-shaped holes in such a way that we may find peace and also honor those who've gone on before us in who we now are in their absence.

As All Saints Day approaches, it is my prayer that we may each find the time and holy space to breathe in a Spirit of remembrance — one of honor — and one that blesses us in our continued journeys of faith and life.

Blessings,
Rev. Sara

Communion Offering

Some of you may be aware of the history and connection we have at Trinity with The Commons on Merton. The Commons is the hub of a dynamic network of nonprofits and other groups who value **relationships**, value community, and seek out opportunities to make a greater impact in Memphis through collaboration. The partners at The Commons find that their service to others is stronger when they operate in **collaboration**, not competition. Their work has **greater impact** when they learn and share ideas together. Their work is **sustained** by a community of support and a place that helps them stretch their resources. Their **spirits are strengthened** for the work ahead as *all* experience true **belonging**.

10 Years has passed since old Everett Memorial UMC was transformed into The Commons. Binghampton United Methodist Mission is one of the nonprofits that is a collaborative in The Commons.

As they mark this milestone, Center for Transforming Communities is inviting United Methodists across west Tennessee to donate to a capital campaign that will insure that The Commons continues to be a building with a heartbeat right in the center of Memphis, and as a vibrant legacy of the UMC for the next 10 years.

Our communion offering for All Saints Sunday will benefit The Commons' capital campaign. Please be in prayer for how you might contribute to this offering.



Getting Ready for Room in the Inn

By Lois Young

We've seen several positive developments for Room in the Inn (RITI) during the off season.

Donations

Together the kids attending Trinity Vacation Bible School gave \$624.00 to help fund RITI this fall. Yea, VBS! Our generous Trinity members, RITI volunteers and neighbors have donated needed clothing items and supplies, as well as money. We currently have \$2,019.00 in the RITI account. We're off to a great start.

Pledges

Our wonderful Fellowship Class and Nowlin Class members have pledged to buy all the breakfast sandwiches for the entire season (21 sessions). Whoo hoo!

Members of our RITI partner Binghampton United Methodist Ministry will once again supply all of the survival bags for our unsheltered guests. Love in action!

Local churches, neighborhood groups and some Trinity members have signed up to provide every RITI evening meal except one – Tuesday, January 2nd. Let me know if you would like to provide that meal for our guests. These are our current meal providers:

The Neighborhood Church, Evergreen Microchurch

Jan Young

Redeemer Presbyterian Church

Ruby Slippers Soccer Team

Avalon Street Neighbors

Food for the Hungry Ministry

United Methodist Women Evening Circle

The Hopper and Brown/Merryman Families

Living Hope Vollintine Evergreen Church

Midtown Memphis Rotary Club

Crystal O'Guin and Mary Day

Midtown Montessori School

The Guleff Family

Pathway to Dignity

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Memorials & Honorariums

Memorials have been received:

*In memory of **Virginia Blanton** from Meadowbrook Preschool*

*In memory of **Virginia Blanton** from Amy & John MacNeill*

*In memory of **Virginia Blanton** from Collierville Sewing Club*

Honorariums have been received:

*In honor of **Alfred Douglas** from Mike & Rosemary Potter*

*In honor of **David Randolph** from Mike & Rosemary Potter*

*In honor of **David Randolph** from Louise L. McCarty*



TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES®

Alternative Market needs volunteers November 10-12!

Although we will be working with Ten Thousand Villages Nashville store, we still need volunteers. They are sending three volunteers and will serve as set-up supervisors, cashiers, and pack-up supervisors. We need volunteers to help set up (9 am-4 pm on Friday, Nov. 10), be on the sales floor to assist shoppers (5-7 pm on Friday, 9-5 on Saturday, noon to 3 pm on Sunday), and help re-pack and clean up (3 pm Sunday, until we finish). Kay Jordan will have the sign-up sheets Sunday morning, October 29th, or you can call her at 901-299-2624 or send an e-mail to jordanck2@gmail.com. We are looking forward to this new experience and hope to have plenty of volunteers!



Evening UMW Circle

The Evening Circle has changed its meeting night to the 4th Monday of each month. Our next meeting will be on Monday, November 27th at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share and a can, a box, or a dollar for the United Methodist Neighborhood Center.

Sue Taylor will present our lesson on Chapter 4 of our Holy Spirit book. Our December meeting will be at 6:30 on December 4th at Carol Miller's house.

Benevolence Giving

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. Since our last Trinotes, we have handed out nine vouchers at \$25 each.



Because of the great demand for food vouchers, and in order to be good stewards of the resources available to us, we now distribute vouchers on the first and third Wednesday of each month. An applicant can call the office to request a voucher. His/her name is put on a list for the next Wednesday on which vouchers are distributed, and on that day applicants come to the education building, picture ID in hand, to pick up their vouchers. Because we have to limit the numbers distributed, we have to turn some people away. Priority is given to families with children. Nine vouchers are promised so far for November 1st.

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."

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Clean-up Session October 29

On Sunday, October 29, from 1–2:30 p.m. we will hold a clean-up session to prepare our sleeping rooms and other common areas for our unsheltered guests. Please come and help us clean.

To learn more about donating or volunteering for Room in the Inn at Trinity, please email or call Lois Young, coordinator (loislane.young@comcast.net, 870-559-2228).

GUATEMALAN MOBILE CONSULATE

October's consulate event was an incredible success. It could not have gone more smoothly. Thank you to each who participated in this event and be on the look-out, because there will be another.

The consulate issued 1,050 different documents. Over 100 of those were for children. Methodist LeBonheur Health brought their mammogram bus Sunday and were able to see around 40 patients.

This collaboration was with five other area United Methodist Churches. The connection in the midtown area of the Metro District is strong, and Trinity shined as we were thanked again and again for our hospitality.

Pat yourselves on the back for a moment for being kind, compassionate, patient, and flexible. Thank you for over-looking the messes that needed to be cleaned and "other people" using our things. In the economy of God, we are called only to be faithful. That is often with our resources, often with our time, and always with the way we exhibit the Greatest Commandment: to love our God and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Be blessed! You have been a blessing.



← Waiting for Assistance

Consulate Staff at work





CHOIR NEWS: A Music Note



Performance or Ministry?

John Holtzman – Music Director

Each week you hear the choir sing and you listen as I play the piano, direct the choir, and lead the congregational singing. I receive many kind and loving responses from people in the congregation who appreciate what I do each week. I can feel the love, and we all like to feel the love. For that matter, I enjoy it when people applaud when I play or sing a song. It's a response that I have grown accustomed to over the years as a church musician. This leads me to a question, "Is that what it's all about?" "Am I here just to get that 'pat on the back'?"

I believe for myself, the answer to that question is, "No." We all appreciate being appreciated. This is not the core reason for what I do or what the choir does each week. I believe God has given all of us at least one gift. Many people have more than one gift. I believe we are to use these gifts for God so we can minister to others. This brings me to the key word: minister or ministry. I define this word, which I use as a verb, to mean helping, encouraging, and leading others to a deeper understanding of God. I have had this discussion with our choir several times. I want our choir to sing their parts well, to use good vocal technique, and do their best each time they are given the opportunity. However, our focus cannot be about "performance," but about how we "minister."

I once worked with a choir director who was a great arranger and director who sought perfection in everything she did. Sometimes seeking perfection with her came at a price. In recording sessions she would go over sections of music repeatedly, sometimes for hours, to the point that the "feeling" or "anointing" was lost in the piece.

I believe my role and the role of the choir is to minister to you each week. Our goal is to convey through music a thought or a feeling that brings each person to a greater understanding of Christ and His love for us. With that being said, I am not ashamed to ask for your help. We need more people in the choir. I don't believe in being a spectator; I believe in being a participant. How about you? Maybe you sang in this choir or in another church choir or group, or maybe you have never sung in a group but have always wanted to do so. A very dear friend of mine passed away five years ago. Years earlier he decided to act on his desire to sing and asked his

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(Performance or Ministry? ... continued from page 6)

partner to help him. At first he struggled to learn, but God rewarded his faithfulness, and he learned to harness his bass voice and became a blessing to many people through his singing.

Each Wednesday the choir meets in the fellowship hall at 6:30 p.m. and we practice until 8:00 p.m. We have a seat that is waiting for you, and we would welcome you to join us as we work to minister—not perform—each week. Come, be a part of what God is now doing at Trinity.



happy birthday!



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER 4	HAYDEN BELUE
NOVEMBER 4	EDNA HOFFMAN
NOVEMBER 5	JEANNE CRAIG
NOVEMBER 6	SARAH MCFALLS
NOVEMBER 17	MARY MCCONNELL
NOVEMBER 18	JOE HECHINGER
NOVEMBER 18	FRANCES SKINNER
NOVEMBER 21	GEORGE PENCE
NOVEMBER 25	CARSON WITT
NOVEMBER 27	SHIRLEY FLINT
NOVEMBER 27	DONNA WINDHAM
NOVEMBER 29	CARA HECHINGER

If your birthday is not listed, please contact Sally Ramsey or Debby Marston at the church office: office@trinityumcmemphis.org or (901)274-6895.