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Trinotes

November 15, 2017



Hymn of Promise



*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*



Some of you are aware that Hymn of Promise is my favorite hymn. From time to time I fight myself to not request we sing it for worship because, as perfect as I believe it is, I know that eventually it would become a broken record and many of you would come to approach the incredible expanse of theology and reflection that is in these short three verses with rote disdain. I don't want that at all. I want you to see the creation imagery as I do and hear and feel the words of hope and resurrection as you're reminded of God's vision for your life. Didn't hear that before in this hymn? Perhaps you will in the future.

For the last seven years, I've requested this hymn to be sung on days I've scheduled a baptism. It has a lot of *alpha* language in it — a lot of beginning of new life imagery which is a prevalent piece of baptismal theology. In baptism we begin something new. We enter the starting gate of a race we pledge to run with perseverance the rest of our lives.

And, for the three times that I've been on the planning side of a funeral (both my grandfathers and my mother), I've requested this sung at their memorial services. *In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity.....In our death a resurrection.....something God alone can see —*
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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; Carrie Holborn as she grieves the loss of her husband and daughter; Qahtan, Dalia's uncle with metastatic cancer ; Bill and Sharon Booth, Sean & Rowan's grandparents.

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

Jeri Ashley—Gwen Stuart very ill at home

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

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

Sara Tate—family of Frances Skinner as they mourn her loss

Tom Allmon—Rita's mother, Cecil Gray, in hospice care in Arkansas

Jonathan Bratt Carle—new baby son, Elliott, and wife Jessica: Rejoice!

(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 21st 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.)

Manna on Monday

Food preparation Sunday, November 19th at 2 p.m., with meal delivery at 11:30 a.m. on Monday

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 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 December 11, 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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much needed words of resurrection hope that have always offered me peace in a time of death.

Do you see why I love this hymn? In a way it offers something for every season of life — from birth and growth to a metamorphosis as we grow and change into our created purpose. It enters into the valley of the shadow of death reminding us that, in the quiet darkness that is the end, there is a song of hope and something worth waiting for on the other side of grief. And it takes us to the end, which is really just the beginning for those who have resurrection hope.

We have resurrection hope. At some point in our lives — birth, life, struggle, doubt, joy, song, or death — we have experienced, believed in, and professed an empty tomb. We have stood in the valley of the shadow of death many times this year already and grappled with fear and doubt and still, people of faith, we have professed a resurrection victory in Christ Jesus.

Be encouraged knowing that in every death there is a resurrection and in every end — a beginning. There is a God who **is** an ardent promise-keeper, who will reveal to us that promise as we move forward in faith. Simply, *unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*



With hope,
Rev. Sara

(A word of encouragement...)

A Vanderbilt nursing student placed in Memphis this fall for a clinical rotation sent us an e-mail recently. Here's what she had to say: "I'm a Christian, but my supervisor is very vocally not a Christian and very critical of the church. The other day though, she was telling me about your church and the wonderful things y'all are doing for the community and said something like, 'You know I don't like all that church stuff, but I can get behind a church like that.' I just wanted to pass on that little bit of encouragement and let you know that all of the work you're doing is truly a witness to the people of Memphis and reflecting the compassionate, generous character of Jesus."



Room in the Inn off to a great start

By Lois M. Young

We had a wonderful first night of Room in the Inn last Tuesday with 14 guests—10 women and four men. More than 40 volunteers were involved in making this session possible. That is one of the great things about this ministry—you do not have to be at Trinity the whole time to help our unsheltered guests. Some volunteers only come to set up beds in the sleeping rooms. Others drive the van and greet our guests. Some come just to spend the night.

We even have a crew of people who wash the linens. Most weeks we have 15 or more laundry loads. Two weeks ago, I sent an email to the laundry volunteers from last season and within four hours all had responded and committed to doing more laundry this season. We greatly appreciate these ladies for their time and efforts: Sally Ramsey, Mallory Binkley, Cile Brooks, Beth Bradley, Alicia Huettel, Jeri Ashley, Donna Windham, Rosemary Potter and Melissa Bridgman. Some shelters in Memphis do not wash their linens in between each guest, so you can imagine how much our guests appreciate clean, fresh sheets and blankets.

Thanks to your generosity this season and in the past, we had everything we needed to start the season. Even so, if you are out shopping and want to donate something, these are the items we will run out of first:

Women's travel-sized antiperspirant
Disposable rain ponchos

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Memorials & Honorariums

Memorials have been received:

*In memory of **Orion Blanton** by Chris Glover*

*In memory of **Virginia Blanton** by Chris Glover*

*In memory of **Frances Skinner** by Anonymous*

*In memory of **Frances Skinner** by Shirley Flint*

*In memory of **Frances Skinner** by Sally Ramsey*

*In memory of **Frances Skinner** by Elaine Amis*

*In memory of **Frances Skinner** by Snookie Mason*

*In memory of **Frances Skinner** by Wendel & Linda Stoltz*

*In memory of **Mary Curry** by Sally Ramsey*

*In memory of **Ramona McLendon** by Charlotte Comes*

*In memory of **Virginia Blanton** by*

UTHSC College of Dentistry Faculty Fund

*In memory of **Frances Skinner** by Dave & Margaret Kobelinski*

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.

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.



Daytime UMW Circle

The Daytime UMW will meet on Tuesday, November 21st at 10:30 a.m. Sara Jane Goodman will present the program. Jane Collins is providing the dessert. Don't forget

to bring a sandwich! A CAN! A BOX! OR A DOLLAR!

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. Since our last Trinotes, we have handed out seven 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. Twelve vouchers are promised so far for November 15th.

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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Kleenex travel packs
Booklights
Small flashlights
Reading glasses
Backpacks
Women's new bras and panties (all sizes)

You are always welcome to visit Room in the Inn any Tuesday night to see how the program works. If you have questions about Room in the Inn at Trinity, email me at loislane.young@gmail.com or call me at 901-559-2228. Thank you for your continued prayers for our unsheltered neighbors.



++ BiTs 'n PieceS ++

It's a wrap! The **Alternative Market 2017** sold over \$7,000 of crafts and foodstuffs for artisans and small farmers in developing countries. Thanks, Trinity UMC, Ten Thousand Villages, and Memphis area shoppers with a conscience!

Manna on Monday is coming up November 20th. To help in food preparation, please be in Trinity's kitchen at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, the 19th. The meal will be delivered at 11:30 a.m. on the 20th, but some volunteers will need to come to the church kitchen around 10:15 Monday morning in order to get the food ready for transport. Lunch is served at noon, and clean-up should be completed by 1:30.



Landscape Report for Trinity Education Building

1963 Beautiful Landscape:

Included young plants, boxwood, holly, barberry, spirea, beds of blooming azaleas.

2008 Overgrown Landscape:

Azaleas reaching for the moon; vagrants sleeping behind massive shrubs. The Covenant Class took action and removed all plants on the north end of the Evergreen entryway and replacement them with young new plants: cleyera, loropetalums, and colorful annuals. An enthusiastic landscape committee was formed to maintain this area and gradually took on other areas, including Elizabeth's Garden and the front entrance beds.

2017 Landscape Needs Assessment presented to Church Council:

A brief summary of urgent needs:

Remove dead and invasive plants, including monkey and Johnson grasses. Prune all plants. Apply preemergent herbicide and mulch. Build a leaf collection bin to create mulch. Build raised front entry beds. Buy supplies, retainers, soil conditioner, and mulch.

Summary:

Trinity's landscape needs are great, and the work force is small. Optimistically, plans are to chip away (or should we say, "prune away") until the Trinity landscape is beautiful again. Bear with us. This will take time, and severely pruned plants will need time to recover their beauty. Volunteers, please call Chris Glover at (901) 358-7201.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER 1	LORI BROWN
DECEMBER 3	BOB BROWN
DECEMBER 3	LIBBY STREET
DECEMBER 5	JEAN MOSS
DECEMBER 5	KARA SKJOLDAGER
DECEMBER 5	TUCKER SHAW
DECEMBER 8	MAYNELL HORTON
DECEMBER 9	ROSEMARY POTTER
DECEMBER 16	SUE TAYLOR
DECEMBER 17	DANIEL HOFFMAN
DECEMBER 18	BILL BERRY
DECEMBER 18	PHIL ISBELL
DECEMBER 21	MELBA ABRAHAM
DECEMBER 21	STEPHANIE POTTER
DECEMBER 25	CAREY MILLER
DECEMBER 28	LESLIE POTTER

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