



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

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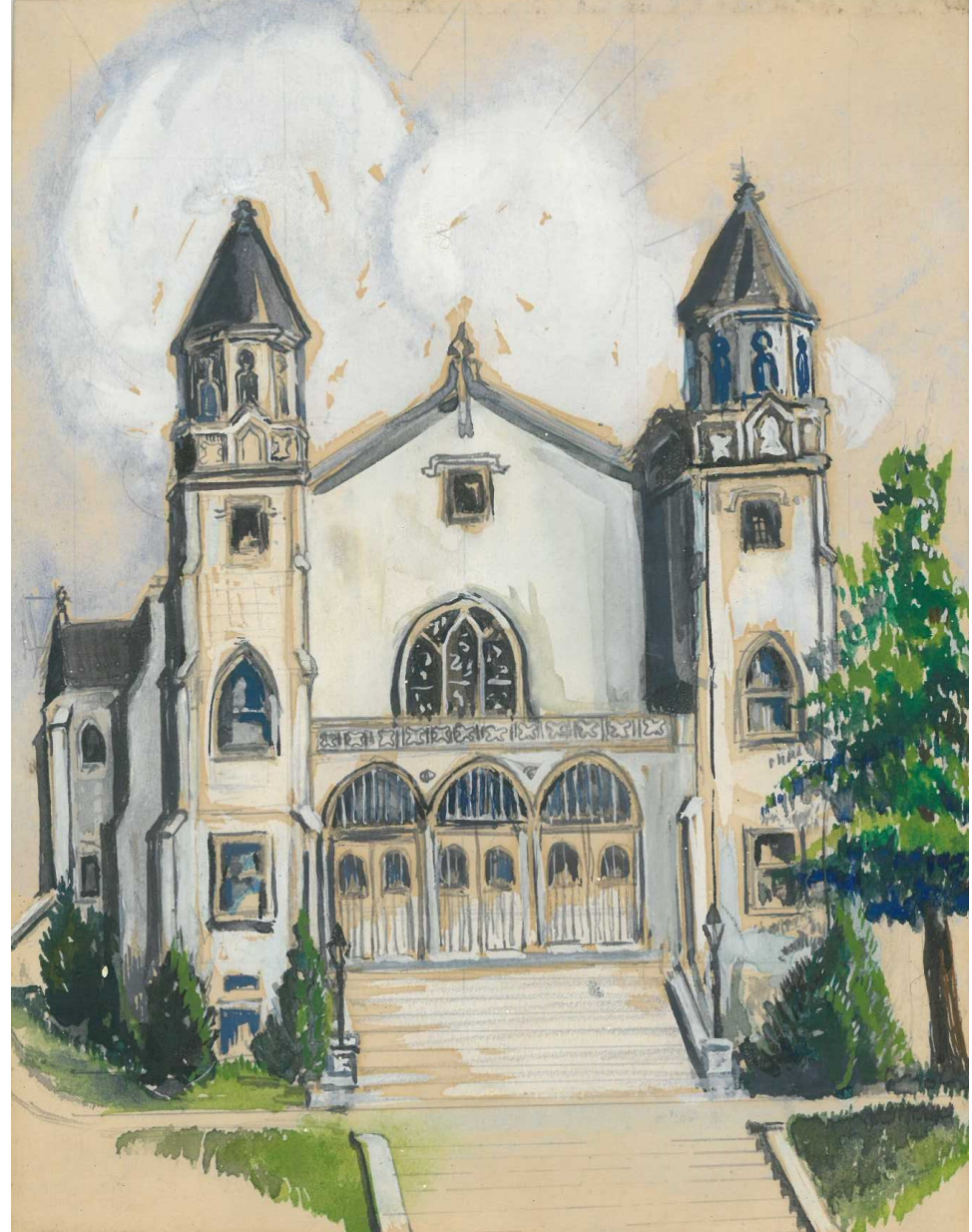
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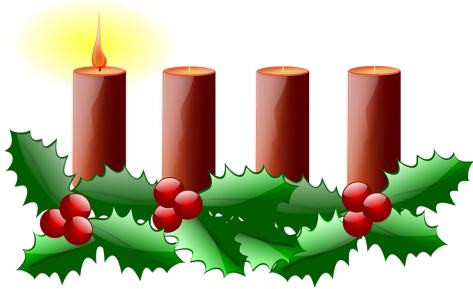
**MEMPHIS, TN**  
PERMIT number 817



*Trinotes*

November 29, 2017





## Hope

Most of you haven't been in the parsonage yet. That's intentional. There may or may not be one room that is still half-full of unpacked boxes. Usually there are children's goldfish snacks buried somewhere

in the couch. In better words: it's very much home. We very much live in every inch of the parsonage. One of my favorite spots isn't inside, but the porch swing.

At night I've gotten into the habit of putting the boys to bed, wrapping up in something fleece, and going outside to sit on the porch for a bit. You can hear the students at Rhodes from my porch but it's not too loud and so it is kind of a nice place to sit. In the summer things were much quieter, as the students were home for break. In the summer there were also birds EVERYWHERE. Lately I've seen fewer and I think I know why.

You can smell it. Winter has a smell and right now it's faint but when I come outside at night it's there. The air is crisp instead of humid. Things are quieter. The earth is preparing for a change. It's as if she is sighing -- her breathing is slowing down -- she's preparing for a long sleep.

With some sense of irony, though, as the earth prepares to die, the church wakes up. We have been, since I have been here, in what is called "ordinary time" in the liturgical year. That came to an end last Sunday as a new year in the life of the church began and this Sunday we will light the first candle of the Advent wreath -- the candle of Hope -- to signify the beginning of Advent. The world outside our doors is preparing to die and the world inside the doors of the church and the lives of Christians across the globe, is preparing to celebrate life -- a life that came hidden in a manger and the life we have because of his birth.

The first Sunday in Advent reminds us to look forward to the end of days when we can anticipate the coming of Christ in a much more victorious way than a baby in a manger. Looking forward we are called to alertness -- to vigilance. And so, good Christian people, it's time to be awake and to remember.

When we joined the church, we came to a place where we felt at home, where we could bring every bit of who we are, and where we felt the presence of Christ. We still gather for those reasons and for many others. As we come this season and make the journey to Bethlehem alongside one another, it is my prayer that we are alert. I hope that our eyes might be opened to understand just how amazing it is that we have

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*(Upcoming Events—continued from page 10)*

### **Christmas Eve Worship Service**

Come to the manger at 4:00 p.m. on December 24th. We will worship in the Sanctuary and celebrate our Savior's birth.

**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](mailto: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](http://www.trinityumcmemphis.org).

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### **New Security Policy**

In order to have a more secure setting for Sunday School and worship on Sunday mornings, the double doors to the education building parking lot will be locked at 11:00 a.m. The doors on the Evergreen side of the building will remain locked at all times, so entrance from that location will no longer be possible. The Galloway Avenue doors will remain open until 11:10 a.m., after which time they will also be locked. A greeter or trustee will be in the lobby area to admit people after the start of worship. All three sets of doors have crash bars on the inside, so they can be used as emergency exits at any time.

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### **Seeking Employment**

Experienced restaurant cook and member of the Nowlin Class, Chris Peck is seeking full time employment. In the meantime, he is a handyman seeking miscellaneous jobs. Can you help? If so, please phone his roommate, also named Chris, at 731-334-4991.

# Upcoming

EVENTS

## **Church Council Meeting**

Sunday, December 3rd at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Members of the congregation welcome. Lunch will be potluck.

## **Family Advent Celebration**

Sunday, December 3rd at 3:30 p.m., celebrate the Advent season with snacks and Advent crafts in the Fellowship Hall

## **Board of Trustees**

Monday, December 4th at 6:30 p.m., Conference Room

## **Evening UMW Potluck Dinner**

Monday, December 4th at 6:30 p.m., Carol Miller's house

## **Daytime UMW Meeting**

Tuesday, December 5th at 11:30 a.m. at the Grove Grill in Laurelwood Shopping Center.

## **SPPRC Meeting**

Monday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m., Conference Room

## **Manna on Monday**

Food preparation Sunday, December 17th at 2 p.m., with meal delivery at 11:30 a.m. on Monday the 18th.

## **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.

## **Evening UMW Meetings**

The fourth Monday of each month in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m.

## **Covenant Discipleship**

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

## **Choir Rehearsals for upcoming Christmas Musical**

Saturday, December 2, 9, and 16.

## **Christmas Musical**

On Sunday, December 17th at 4:00 p.m., the Trinity UMC Choir will present a Christmas musical, "A Trinity Christmas Homecoming."

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been brought together in this place by virtue of coming closer to the one who we celebrate in this season. It is my hope that we may be reminded to pray for one another and this church. It is my hope that we might each be faithful to being present as we prepare our hearts to receive the God who is with us. It is my hope that we are able to give of our tithes and offerings, not only because the church continues to need it, but also because we made covenant to do so. It is my hope that even though the world is preparing to sleep, we may, in this season, avidly look for ways to serve. And it is my greatest hope that, through these things and the way we live our lives after the example of the One born in the manger, our witness, in this season and always, might be a testament to the life he lived as he grew.

Hope is a beautiful thing. Hope realized, and shared together, is a gift. Will you join me in these hopes this Advent season?

Joyfully anticipating,  
Rev. Sara

## **Family Advent Celebration**

Next Sunday, December 3rd, will be another action-packed day for our Trinity Church family. Probably the most exciting part of the day will be the **Family Advent Workshop**, during which we will host our annual holiday get-together for the families of the Evergreen Historic District, Cub Scout Pack 13, and Midtown Montessori School. We need lots of help as we seek to offer gracious hospitality to our neighbors.

Specifically, we **need volunteers to be on hand to meet and greet and to provide hands-on help with the children's/family activities** which have been planned for the afternoon. Helpers need to **be on deck at 3:00 p.m.**; our first wave of kids (Cub Scouts) will come up at 3:30 p.m., and the neighborhood families will join us after their Christmas caroling is over.

Additionally, we **need volunteers to provide cookies for refreshments**. Our Cub Scout leaders have once again graciously agreed to prepare the hot dogs and fixings, and we need Trinity church families to provide **2 dozen cookies each**. You can bring your cookies to church that Sunday morning or that afternoon before the event begins. Contact Irene Dycus at [irenebdycus@hotmail.com](mailto:irenebdycus@hotmail.com) or 901-652-1105.



# Memorials & Honorariums

## **Memorials have been received:**

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

*In memory of **Frances Skinner** from Bill & Virginia Skinner*

*In memory of **Ramona McWilliams** from Charlotte Comes*

## **Why or Why Not?**

The question has been asked “Why don’t we move back to the sanctuary during the winter?” The Trustees considered this option a few months ago. Their decision was to remain as we are, in the Education Building. The following are reasons they decided it was advantageous to both the congregation and Trinity to remain in one building:

- We would have to move everything back to the Education Building in three to four months since there is no air conditioning in the sanctuary. We do not have the manpower or budget to be constantly shifting locations.
- The elevator in the sanctuary building is notoriously unreliable.
- The piano has been moved from the sanctuary to the Fellowship Hall. Moving it is expensive and not good for the instrument.
- The plaster ceiling in the choir loft is falling on the choir.
- For security reasons, the children and youth must be in the same building as their parents.
- The youth have a newly renovated, dedicated room in the Education Building but nothing in the sanctuary building.
- The dedicated teachers of the children’s department have set up an excellent learning environment for providing age appropriate biblically based learning. In this room real learning is taking place.

The above are some of the things the Trustees considered when deciding not to move back to the sanctuary at this time. The one exception will be the Christmas Eve Service, which will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 24th at 4:00 p.m.

*Phil Isbell*

# Holiday Expressions of Love

*“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ Matt. 25:40*

It’s a season of cheer for so many – the lights, the food, the sounds, the family. Our hearts are often filled with such a great and maybe overwhelming sense of joy, that we can’t but speak of our excitement and, hopefully, God’s goodness. We feel an even greater sense of peace and “at-home-ness” as we come together to worship, to sing, and to join hands as a family of faith.

We are not whole, however. For some, the holiday season isn’t filled with joy and wonder. This season can, in fact, be quite ‘blue.’ Pieces and parts of our family of faith are separated from our love and care because of age, illness, distance, or any number of other matters often outside of their control or hope. We still love them, though – very much.

Thus, ‘tis the season to take extra care in reminding our Special Care members how important they are to us and how missed and loved they are. It’s a wonderful time to send Christmas cards as a part of a ministry at TUMC that began 31 years ago. You are invited, then, to take part in this ministry and remind our very-loved ones how special they are to us.

If you wish to participate, please have your cards to the church before December 17<sup>th</sup>. At the end of service on the 17<sup>th</sup>, the cards will be on the tables in the back of the fellowship hall. If you feel lead to deliver cards to one of our Special Care members, you’ll have an opportunity to take those cards with you that day and make a special visit. And, remember, when we love one another we love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Below you’ll find a list of those who might need some extra cheer this season. Please make sure to have cards at the church on or before Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>.

Jane Collins	John Curry
Allane Demetrio	Roscoe Dodson
Richard Hackleman	Roberta Henderson
Maynell Horton	Jean Moss
Vanoma Newhart	Horance Phelan
Gwen Stuart	Peggy Tate
Doris Webster	Virginia Walters
Pat Lovington	Evelyn Hendren





## Daytime UMW Circle

The Daytime UMW will gather on Tuesday, December 5th at 11:30 a.m. at the Grove Grill in Laurelwood Shopping Center at Poplar and Perkins Extended. Please call Snookie Mason for reservations to ensure that there will be adequate seating.

## Being Thankful

We are almost finished with our first month of the Room in the Inn season. We have seen many women just like last year, although this past week we had eight men and four women. We've even seen a mother with a 14-month-old toddler named Elliott.



I was sick last Tuesday night, but Rosemary Potter, Jeanne Napoli and our crew of regular volunteers made sure everything worked perfectly for our guests. Many thanks for their dedication to helping our unsheltered neighbors.

On Wednesday morning, all our guests were happy to have been inside during the cold night. I recognized one man that we have seen several times over the past five years. Robert is quiet but friendly and always thankful for our hospitality. I don't know his story, and I'm not going to ask. Some guests will share their whole story the first time you meet them, others will hold it close. What I do know is that none of these individuals would be coming to us if they didn't need something we have to offer at Room in the Inn.

A few years ago, the late June Averyt, a social worker and founder of Outreach Housing & Community, would stop in on Tuesday nights and interview our guests in hopes of finding services that could help them, especially housing. One night after most guests had gone to bed, she pulled me aside and said, "You know a few of these people have other places they could stay, but they choose to come here." In other words, we were offering something they couldn't get in those other places. What was it? Kindness, a listening ear, a comforting meal, a feeling of worth? Whatever it is, we need to keep offering it to all those who come searching.

Around this time of year we often hear "What are you thankful for?" I'm thankful for all of you who care for the poor, the homeless and the outcast. I'm thankful that we can help them find what they are looking for even if it is just for one night.

*Lois Young*



## CHOIR NEWS: A Music Note



by John Holtzman

### Save the date & mark your calendar now!

On Sunday, December 17, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. the Trinity United Methodist Church Choir will present our Christmas musical, "A Trinity Christmas Homecoming." This musical may be a little different from past presentations by our choir. This is a more relaxed, interactive musical that is similar to the Gaither Homecoming style of music. The music is a mix of new songs along with older, well-known Christmas songs and carols. You will have the opportunity to sing along on the choruses as the lyrics will be printed in the program for you to join in and sing. When I arranged the music, as well as writing some of the songs, I wanted people to have the feeling of being at home with friends and family gathered around the piano and singing.

I am very excited about this time of music ministry. Our choir has been hard at work and I know you will want to attend to show your support for our choir and to enjoy some great music that will renew your hope in the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Since the performance begins at 4:00 p.m., please invite your friends and family that may attend other churches to come as I know this is an event you will not want to miss.

## BINGHAMPTON FOOD PANTRY

In October, Delta Door and Hardware held a company-wide food drive for needy families. I am proud to announce that Trinity's own Binghampton United Methodist Mission was the recipient of almost 300 cans of food and an additional cash donation of \$70.00. Binghampton's Fishes and Loaves food pantry serves many families and individuals in their neighborhood and I know that these additional provisions will really come in handy at this time of the year. Thank you, Delta Door and Hardware!

~ Carol Miller

# 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

**Melba Abraham**—Charles at home after brief hospital stay

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

**Sara Tate**—brother Charlie Corum having pain following surgery;  
for Mike Potter and family as they grieve his mother’s death

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

**Charlotte Comes**, undergoing radiation therapy treatments

**Tom Wilson**, pray for continuing recovery following heart surgery

**Sue Taylor**—the Howard family for health reasons

**Irene Dycus**—friend with cancer: Rosemary Norris and husband Noel

**Charlotte Comes**—Maggi’s brother Orville “Phil” Phillips—receiving treatment for leukemia, showing improvement

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

## With Gratitude or... ...How you can help.

There is no small volunteer job in the church. Every gear that spins is a necessary part of the machine — every piece essential to its movement. Every gift, time, talent, presence you may give isn’t only appreciated — it’s needed for the greater good. It’s necessary for the work of the church.

Carol Miller and Sandy Guntharp have served in some of our more challenging (and necessary) roles for substantial periods of time. They have been faithful to responding to their giftedness in God and said, “Here I am Lord,” when asked to use their gifts for our needs.

Don’t you love getting thorough, well-organized, minutes and notes for Administrative Council meetings? I know I do. I know that this is necessary for our successfully having a meeting. It takes dedication, patience, and commitment. Sandy has been that person and has done this job beautifully. It’s time to pass the baton. If this is your gift, if this can be your gift, or you are simply willing to give this a try, we will need a new recording secretary January 1st.

You’ve heard it said that the children are the future of the church. They are. They are also the present of the church. They are here and at Trinity we are committed to making sure that they are provided a safe and nurturing environment if parents present so choose to use our nursery. That we keep a nursery staffed and appropriately so, is a sign that we are a healthy, nurturing, caring church that loves even the least of these and is a sign of life. Carol has faithfully organized the volunteer base to work alongside our nursery staff in order to keep Safe Sanctuaries for many years. We are thankful for her commitment and feel as though it is time to pass the baton. If you have questions about what she does, I am sure Carol would be glad to answer them. This is another role that should be filled by January 1st. If you think you have these organizational gifts or that you can, please let me know.

These servants have been faithful to answering their callings and have said, “Yes!” to our need. I truly believe that God is saying, “Well done, good and faithful one.” But now, who will pick up the batons?

— Rev. Sara