



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

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MEMPHIS, TN
PERMIT number 817



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.

Trinotes



Discovery and Discernment

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. — Jeremiah 29:11

I admit that I didn't know what to expect when I walked into the church Saturday morning at 8:30. I knew what we, the Community Connections Steering Committee (CCSC — what once was your "Outreach" committee) had come to do. I knew what our hopes were. I didn't know if we had communicated what we were gathering to work toward with great clarity. "We want to begin to look at where God is leading us, knowing that we are freed for joyful obedience," — a phrase I say a lot and something that's a direct quote from our communion liturgy.

With those words the hope wasn't that we were gathering to look back (we're not going that way). We weren't gathering to talk about all that had just happened across the street. There would be other times for that — phone calls to one-another, perhaps. We weren't meeting to strategically plan — long-term plan — 5-year plan. We weren't coming together to make concrete goals and map out the future. After all, the easiest way to make God laugh is to make plans of our own. Our hope was that we were coming together to assess all the gifts we have as a congregation, all the assets we have in our immediate geography, and all the things we'd be willing to do with the support of one another in the coming days. It was the beginning of what's next — reflections on who we are as individuals, who we are as a body, and who we are willing to be.

Here's the hard part I think, and this is a real struggle. This wasn't a time for consumer church. At consumer church, we attend, we sit quietly, we participate minimally, we leave having taken something away and contributed little. The church exists for **us** rather than we for the church. This discovery and discernment event, the first of several this year, was participatory. Every one of the 39 present (and your pastor) needed to participate to make it work — very much like the body of Christ. And the reflections were about a body of Christ that exists, not for itself, but for the world. It reflected on the world — on the Evergreen Historic District — on the neighboring school, and park, and businesses. It helped to gain and regain a helpful perspective that in connecting to our own gifts and

(continued on page 3)

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our country and the world - for the family and friends of those killed or injured in school or workplace shootings; 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; for the Dreamers, who seek to remain in the United States legally.

The United Methodist Church - for our Pastor, Rev. Sara Corum, her husband Josh McClurkan, and their five children; 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 all families who are grieving. For our congregation as we face transitions. Wisdom for our Trustees and Church Council.

Also, specific prayer requests by and for:

Joan Smith's granddaughter **Sean's** vision

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

Phil Phillips continues to battle leukemia at home.

Maggie Comes' niece, Katie Pendleton, has not had a stroke in 11 days.

She has had other mild events, but nothing else serious.

Dorothy Sue Smith, as she continues to recover from her auto accident

Patricia Bladon, Nancy Maddox's sister, is improving and continuing to recover at home.

Chris Glover's sister, **Carol**, in crisis from heart surgery.

Marico Mason, needs lung transplant; trying to get back on transplant list.

Mark Hudson, recovering from a kidney stone and the flu

Julie McMahan, upper respiratory infection

Bryce Smith, teen facing 6 hour back surgery February 26 to correct lordosis & scoliosis so he can breathe.

(Please contact the church office with any changes or additions to prayer list,

Upcoming

EVENTS

Youth Group Mid-Week Meeting

The youth will gather at Elemento Neapolitan Pizza on Wednesday, February 13th, between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. On February 20th, they will meet at Area 51 Ice Cream at the same time.

Manna on Monday

Servers needed on February 18th at Highland Heights UMC between 11:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Clean-up workers needed from 12:30—1:30 p.m.

UMW Unit Meeting

The UMW Unit Meeting is scheduled for February 19th at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

UMW Evening Circle Meeting

The Evening Circle of the UMW will meet at 6:30 p.m. on February 25th in the Fellowship Hall.

Holy Communion

A Service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel.

Room in the Inn

Trinity UMC will host our unsheltered neighbors each Tuesday evening through the end of March. (See article on page 8.)

Binghampton Food Pantry

Tuesdays & Fridays at 258 Merton, 8:00-11:00 a.m., fresh produce is distributed.

Covenant Discipleship

The Wednesday evening Covenant Discipleship group continues to gather at 5 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Guatemalan Consulate—Save the Date!

The Consulate will be on site at TUMC on May 18-19 and September 21-22.

Trinotes

The deadline for submissions for the next *Trinotes* is February 25th. Please email or deliver any articles to Debby Marston at office@trinityumcmemphis.org. *Trinotes* is now available as an electronic file. Make a note on your Sunday attendance sheet or call Debby at 901-274-6895 if you prefer to receive the newsletter via e-mail. Access it on our website at: www.trinityumcmemphis.org.

(continued from page 2)

connecting to the assets both within our organization and those that are our neighbors and neighborhood.....as Dr. Suess said, “Oh the places we’ll go!”

The results were amazing. Step into the Worship Center (formerly Fellowship Hall), and look around at all the gifts that are taped on the walls. Look at the “Asset Maps” that reflect all our opportunities to connect that are near to the church. And look (because this one is very important), at the brainstorming that begins with, “If someone will join me, I’d be willing to.....” Look at the places we can go. Look at what **freedom** means. Look at what God has given us to work with. It covers the walls in all directions. If you weren’t present, add to it. What are your gifts of the mind, and hands, and heart? What do you know that someone else might not? What are your passions that move you to action?

I know for some this was an exercise in uncomfortable stretching. It’s not everyone’s forte to reflect personally and to then share that with each other. We are the body of Christ — called to love, honor, and uphold one-another, but that isn’t one-size-fits-all. If you were present and this method of discernment wasn’t for you, thank you for sticking it out. I hope that something about the process was still meaningful to you. Thank you for sticking it out, because someone **did** need you there. Thank you for sticking it out because not everyone who came was a member and it meant something for them to be with you.

This was just the beginning. We have a lot more discerning to do. Each Saturday event will build on the last. If you weren’t at the first, it’s ok. Come to the next one. If you came and declared this just wasn’t for you, come to the next one. Keep stretching because someone needs you there, and if you don’t come, you’re not giving God the chance to work. If you don’t think you have something to offer, you do — bring it. If your gift of passion is Trinity United Methodist Church, we need you there. Look for a date soon and come expecting a new and hope-filled future.

Blessings and Hope,
Rev. Sara

Flip, Chris, Brad, and Myra team up to brainstorm during the February 9th Discovery & Discernment experience. (More photos on page 5)



just a
..... note

... FROM THE TRUSTEES

As you are aware by now, the sale of our former sanctuary building was final on Monday, February 4, 2019. The building

was sold to the Memphis Historical Trust, a private real estate trust that will restore and manage the building. Carl Tisdal, managing partner of the trust, will oversee the renovation of the building. He has been involved in several historic preservation projects in Memphis, mostly located in Victorian Village – and he is very excited about acquiring this building.

It is Mr. Tisdal's intent to offer the sanctuary space and other space in the building to community and non-profit groups (including Trinity UMC) for weddings, funerals, and other events and uses. He anticipates the renovation will take 6-12 months, and he expects to spend about \$400,000 on the project.

It is my opinion (and one that is shared by Rev. Sara and the other trustees) that we could not have found a better buyer for the building, nor could we have had a quicker, smoother transaction. Memphis Historical Trust paid \$287,500 for the building. After closing costs, title searches, and attorney fees, the sale generated net proceeds of just over \$276,000. Per the Book of Discipline, these funds can be used solely for capital improvements and maintenance of church properties (i.e., the Worship and Education Center and the parsonage), and cannot be used for ongoing operating expenses, salaries, or ministries. These monies have been placed in the nearly depleted Holmquist Fund.

Again, I would like to thank all those who helped over the past six weeks to make this transaction possible. It was a monumental task – but together we made it happen. A special shout out goes to Carey Miller and Joe Hatter for being at the ready to help with the heavy lifting – and doing so with a smile (even when I wasn't!).

P.S. There is an article about the sale in the Daily Memphian (by Tom Bailey, press date February 5, 2019), and I've posted a copy of the article on the hallway bulletin board.

We are Blessed beyond measure.

Jinx Winn / Head Trustee

Honorariums & Memorials

Memorials have been received:

*In memory of **Jeanne Dycus** from Rosemary & Mike Potter*

*In memory of **Jeanne Dycus** from Melba & Charles Abraham*

*In memory of **Jeanne Dycus** from Cile & Flip Brooks*

*In memory of **Jeanne Dycus** from Sally & Eddie Ramsey*

*In memory of **Jeanne Dycus** from Shirley Flint*

*In memory of **Peggy Sanderson** from Shirley Flint*

*In memory of **Peggy Sanderson** from Sally Ramsey*

*In memory of **Roberta Henderson** from Sandra L. Wynns*

★ **HAPPY** ★
BIRTHDAY!

February 6	Beryl Willard
February 7	Sally Ramsey
February 12	Jane Collins
February 12	Myra Finch
February 19	Paul Skjoldager
February 27	Amy Moritz
February 27	Rev. Sara Corum

March 1	Nelda Gray
March 3	Heather Jacoby-Keller
March 6	Becky Waldon
March 6	Joe Spake
March 13	Leanne Wilson
March 14	Anne Steinaway
March 16	Jane Waldrip
March 19	Alyson Foreman
March 19	Charles Abraham
March 31	Hadley Keller

(If your name or that of a loved one has been omitted from this birthday list, please contact the church office at 901-274-6895.)



Clothes Closet Needs:

- Disposable rain ponchos
- Women's travel-sized antiperspirant
- Women's winter gloves
- Women's new underwear and bras, all sizes
- Gently worn blue jeans, both men's and women's, all sizes



A [former] Sanctuary Synopsis

I wanted to take a little space in this newsletter to write a brief synopsis on the status of the former sanctuary building. Based on some of the questions that are coming, it has come to my attention that perhaps not everyone was privy to the article that the Daily Memphian published last week with all the details about the sale. If you have access to a way to view that, the link can be found at the bottom of this article. Regardless, here are a few of the highlights that I hope will answer some questions. Do know that you are always welcome to call the church office if there are unanswered questions you'd like addressed.

The building sold for \$287k — above the appraisal value — with the understanding that there is \$200k of deferred maintenance ahead.

The buyer is Carl Tisdal. Carl is a resident of Victorian Village and is a historic preservationist who intends to restore and preserve the building.

Carl's hope is that the sanctuary will be used for its intended purpose — weddings and funerals, but also for community gatherings in the Evergreen Historic District.

The back of the building will house a few small offices for U.S.

Vascular — a medical device company Carl is involved with — a company with close ties to the Medical District, Crosstown, and the Evergreen Historic District.

Trinity did not find Carl. Carl found Trinity before the former sanctuary building's listing went live. Carl had heard for some time that the building might go on the market.

Carl's hope is that Trinity's ministries will still thrive as he works quietly across the street and with the neighborhood.

These are what I believe to be the most important facts about the sale. Carl has been wonderful to work with and is highly affirming of all we do on our corner. He and his son, Charlie, were present at our sale a month ago with the hope that he could simply be supportive. He is a kind man who is involved in his neighborhood and committed to his connection with Memphis. If you see him around, please introduce yourself — share the history you have with the building.

If you'd like to read more (and this article is too long for us to publish here), here is the entire article from the Daily Memphian: <https://www.dailymemphian.com/article/2878/Midtown-church-sells-its-oldest-building-to-preservationists>

Rev. Sara



<—Beryl



Charlotte, Jeff, Kay, Rosemary, Sally, & Nancy



<—Marc

Sara—>



Brad & Jeff —>

Karen, Beryl, Jeri, Nancy, Shirley, and Barbara



21 Sundays

Let's try something. It's not really new. It's not very hard (or, it doesn't have to be). However, it can make a world of difference. Yes, a world. It can actually make THE world of difference.

I'm talking about a little change (one now and maybe a few more later...) that would help us be better caregivers of creation. And that's a "thing." I promise it is. Look at these, for example:

"You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you." Nehemiah 9:6

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters." Psalm 24:1-2; Psalm 89:11; 1 Corinthians 10:26

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." Genesis 2:15

According to scripture, God made everything and called it good. God has a special place for all that God's made. God loves creation and all that's in it — not just humanity. God loaned creation to humanity with the provision that we would care for it.

Scripture is always the most profound way to begin. If we push further, we find that our doctrinal roots also attest that as United Methodists we are to care for creation. In paragraph 160 (page 106) of the 2016 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (our church's book of polity and doctrine — what we believe and how we are organized), in the first of our Social Principles, we find sentence after sentence concerning our theological interpretation of scripture about the natural world and how we are to act to care for it. It begins:

All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings.

Scripture guides us, the church we are committed to reminds us, and we are to "do." Let's begin, then, with something small. It takes 21 days to form a habit, so let's give it 21 Sundays and see if we can make it work.

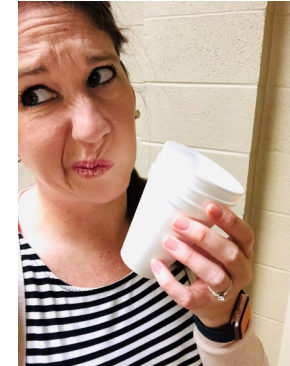
(continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

There are many (MANY) Trinity UMC coffee mugs in the kitchen. Instead of using styrofoam cups this Sunday, and then throwing them away, let's use the mugs we have. There will be a spot you can sit your 'dirty' mug when you are finished with your coffee. Perhaps an angel will load those into the kitchen dishwasher before they leave (if not, your pastor commits to it). It's a small start — do this, don't do that. But it's a meaningful way to listen to God, give thanks to God for creation, and insure that we are caring for it in the ways that we are called.



Do this.



Don't do this.



Becoming an Answer to Prayer

By John Holtzman

Ever wonder how you can be an answer to prayer? Several choir members have been praying for more people to join the choir. Although we have a wonderful group of very dedicated folks with whom I count it an honor to serve, we would like to have a few more individuals join the choir. I know it is a time commitment, but it is a commitment that will be a blessing. If you don't believe me, ask a choir member if we have fun during rehearsal. One of the objections I hear from people about singing in choir is, "I don't have that great a voice." One of my all-time favorite gospel performers was told, "There are other people who play and sing better than you." His response was, "That may be true, but God has given me an audience that does not seem to know the difference." I agree, he was not the 'best' musician and singer, but the joy he shared was a blessing to thousands of people.

Maybe it is time to share some of the joy you have by singing with the choir. We have plenty of robes, plenty of music, and plenty of chairs. One of them is waiting for you, and you can become an answer to prayer.