



Trinity United Methodist Church
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Trinotes

February 14, 2018



From Ashes, to Ashes, From Ashes

*Nor shall this peace sleep with her; but as when
The bird of wonder dies, the maiden phoenix,
Her ashes new create another heir
As great in admiration as herself;
So shall she leave her blessedness to one,
When heaven shall call her from this cloud of darkness,
Who from the sacred ashes of her honor
Shall star-like rise as great in fame as she was,
And so stand fix'd.*

*The King, King Henry VIII, William Shakespeare and John Fletcher
(act V, scene V)*

I have a thing for interesting birds. I'm the proud 'mom' of a 13-year-old umbrella cockatoo named Eden. My father was a science teacher and a nature park naturalist. Growing up often meant that we had injured or imprinted birds of prey in our home for rehabilitation. We raised Great Eastern Screech Owls in my bathroom as a kid (enjoy the photo...). Thus my experience with wildlife of this nature has carved a little spot into my heart.

My favorite bird, however, is from Greek Mythology — the phoenix. Depicted through the centuries in art and poetry, phoenixes are said to be connected to the sun — often pictured with a nimbus around their heads to signify this connection. It's said that they will live for centuries and then combust — catch fire — and disintegrate into a heap of ashes. Not to be outdone by the spectacular display, a new bird arises from the ashes. In modern times, the phoenix, Faux (*Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* — J.K. Rowling), combusts and disintegrates and is born again from the ashes of its death as a baby, to start life all over again from the very beginning.

The bird lives forever, cyclically combusting and beginning again, but never without painfully dying to itself. Sometimes it's born again as the same being — just as great (or terrible for that matter). Sometimes it's born again at the beginning of life — given a new chance — a first chance, again. It endures the pain of literally dying to itself again, and again, and again.

I think of the phoenix as we approach Ash Wednesday. We gather to worship, give thanks to God for giving us life to begin with, and begin the oftentimes painful journey of self-reflection that we travel **together**

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PRAYER CONCERNS

Our country and the world - for the family and friends of those killed or injured in the shooting at Marshall County High School in Kentucky; 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 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:

The family and friends of **Jeanne Napoli** as we grieve her loss

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

Qahtan, Dalia Alnaaman's uncle with metastatic cancer

Charles Abraham, dealing with a lot of pain

The family of **Dale Doty** as they grieve her loss

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

Charlotte Comes's friend Carolyn Priori, erratic blood pressure control

Phil Phillips continues to battle leukemia at home.

Maggi Comes having surgery on February 19 for repair of broken nose

Sue Taylor—the Howard family, for health reasons

The family of **Rosemary Norris, Irene Dycus'** friend, who died recently

The death of **Les Johnson's** brother **Frank Johnson**

Chris Glover's friend **Joanne James** with multiple major problems; and Chris' sister **Carol Bruce**

Sue Taylor's brother-in-law, **Allen Helms**, receiving treatment for cancer

Robert Lawson, son-in-law of **Elaine Amis** and husband of **Diane**, as he begins treatment for throat and tongue cancer

Sam Comes applying for a new position

Elizabeth Hopper requests prayer for the **White Family** as the father undergoes treatment for cancer

(Please submit your prayer requests to the church office: (901) 274-6895 or 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.

SPPRC Meeting

February 18th at 12:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Manna on Monday

Highland Heights UMC at 11:30 p.m. February 19th. Food will be prepped Sunday, February 18, at 2:00 p.m. in Trinity's kitchen.

Daytime UMW Meeting

First and third Tuesdays of each month. The next scheduled unit meeting is February 20th in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. New Day Circle officers will take over at this meeting: Barbara Johnson, president; Joan Foley, circle leader; Shirley Flint, spiritual growth; Marie Park, social action; Sally Ramsey, membership program and nurture and unit treasurer; Mary McConnell, program resources; Elaine Amis, circle treasurer; and Melba Abraham, Methodist Auxiliary. Bring a sandwich! Snookie Mason will provide dessert.

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 February 26th in the Fellowship Hall.

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. A new Covenant Discipleship group will meet for 8 weeks, beginning on Saturday, February 24th.

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 February 26, 2018. Please email or deliver any articles to Debby Marston, our administrative officer 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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through the entire season of Lent. We are reminded of Christ's physical mortality and, more specifically, of our own. It can be a reminder that every day is a gift and that, that gift will someday no longer be. We, unlike the myth of the fiery bird, will not regenerate — will not physically be made anew. We are temporal — less than our Creator. We were created from the very ashes of the earth and someday, much of us, will return to that same place from which we came. It's a humbling reminder, a call to self-reflection, and a holy call to do with our time "all the good we can, in all the ways we can, as long as we ever can." (John Wesley)

In some ways we have an opportunity in the Lenten season to be resurrected from the ashes we wear Ash Wednesday evening. But, more about that as the season continues.

To be Continued....
Rev. Sara

"By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return." — Gen. 3:19

Lent



Save the Dates

Ash Wednesday Worship: Feb. 14th, 6:00pm.
Maundy Thursday Worship: Mar. 29th, 6:00pm.
Good Friday Worship: Mar. 30th, 6:00pm.
Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt:
Mar. 31st, 9:00 - 11:00 am.
Resurrection Sunday Worship: Apr. 1st, 11:00am.



LAKESHORE

united methodist camp & retreat center

Lakeshore is a camp and retreat center on the shores of the Tennessee River, providing Christian hospitality, rest, and reflection for guests of all ages and backgrounds. The mission of Lakeshore UMA is to offer ways for all to experience life, love, and the God of Grace.

Summer Camp - Lakeshore's summer camp program is filled with dynamic leadership, meaningful worship, lots of outdoor play, and opportunities to build relationships that last throughout a lifetime. Elementary, Junior High, and Senior High camps are available along with several specialty camps. For additional information and for online registration, go to lakeshoreuma.com.

Trinity has a limited number of partial scholarships available for members. If you are interested in a camp scholarship, please contact the church office or Carol Miller.

We count on member donations for these camp scholarships. Will you please donate to this wonderful program for our children? You may contact the church office or place your donation in the offering plate on Sundays. Please mark your donation for Lakeshore.

Blessings,
Carol Miller

Memorials & Honorariums

Memorials have been received:

In memory of Cecil Gray from an anonymous donor

In memory of Jeanne Napoli from Carol & Carey Miller

In memory of Jeanne Napoli from Mike & Rosemary Potter

In memory of Jeanne Napoli from Cile & Flip Brooks

*In memory of Ann Laverne Hopper from
Marty Acree & Mac Gardner*

In memory of Jeanne Napoli from Elaine Amis

In memory of Jeanne Napoli from Lois & Jan Young

In memory of Jeanne Napoli from Sally Ramsey

In memory of Jeanne Napoli from an anonymous donor

In memory of Frances Frankland from Sally Ramsey

Lenten Reflections

I grew up your basic public school Protestant kid. Mass was a definition on a science test. The Saints were a football team. Lent was what you cleaned out of the dryer.

This time of year, while all of my Catholic school friends were observing Ash Wednesday and Lent, I was getting ready for my own favorite 40-day season: baseball's spring training. Live and learn. Now I know Ash Wednesday is the first day of the Christian season of Lent, a time of self-examination and self-denial.

I know the smudge on the forehead -- ashes in the sign of the cross -- we get on Ash Wednesday isn't about getting dirty. It's a ritual about getting clean, a way to mind our mortality by reordering our priorities. I know Lent is a way to gain perspective, not lose weight.

In *The Rising*, author Wendy Wright said Lenten rituals invite Christians to change and grow. "It is not possible to enter into it without reflecting on our need for change and for God's mercy," she wrote. "We live in a world of both great beauty and great sorrow. We stumble along burdened by our personal limitations - our brokenness, our narrow perspectives, our fears and addictions, hatreds and suspicions . . . The stark reality of it is that we are not enough."

Robin and I were married during the Lenten season of 1979. We didn't plan it that way. Neither did Robin's grandfather, a United Methodist minister. It just happened to work out that way. Nearly 40 years later, these 40 days of Lent remind us both that we are not enough, and how grateful we are to be part of a faith community that helps us to continue to reflect on our need for change and for God's mercy.

--David Waters, Binghampton mission of Trinity United Methodist Church



March Birthdays

March 3	Heather Jacoby-Keller
March 6	Becky Waldon & Joe Spake
March 13	Leanne Wilson
March 16	Jane Waldrip
March 18	Alicia Butler & Patton Dycus
March 19	Charles Abraham, Benjamin Ashley, & Alyson Foreman
March 20	Sandi McNeely
March 24	Carey Wright
March 27	Jack Bearup
March 31	Hadley Love Jacoby Keller

Call us at (901) 274-6895 if your birthday is missing!

Providing a safe haven

By Lois M. Young

When you don't have a home, you have to keep walking. Sitting too long in one place is loitering, and it is against the law... even when you are tired or sick or totally worn out. One of our Room in the Inn guests this week was sick. She looked completely worn out from the moment she arrived until the minute she got on the church van to go back downtown the next morning. Tuesday evening she asked volunteer Ila McDonald if the church had any bus passes. We have not had any passes this season, but knowing this woman's condition Ila was determined to get some for our guests who needed them. She called Tuesday night, but the office was closed and would not open again until 7 a.m. Ila left ahead of our guests Wednesday morning so she could buy one bus pass for each guest and meet the church van when our guests arrived downtown. You see, even if you can't sit in a park or a business for very long, with a daily pass you can ride the bus if you need to sit down for a while. I'm certain every guest was grateful for this gift, especially the lady who just needed to get off her feet.

Another one of our guests this week was an 84-year-old man named Roger. You might think our elderly neighbors could not end up on the streets, because they usually have resources, at least Social Security and Medicare. Unfortunately, Social Security is not always enough to pay for basic living expenses. I don't know this man's story, but Room in the Inn Director Lisa Anderson said he should be back in an apartment soon. Even so, think about how vulnerable someone this age would be living on the streets. Our much younger guests are frequently attacked and robbed. I'm thankful we could provide this man with a safe haven for the night, but we must pray that improvements will be made to the safety net that protects our elderly neighbors.

I am often asked what items we need most for our unsheltered guests. Here is a current list of needed items:

- MATA bus passes (daily fastpass, \$3.50)
- Backpacks new and used (at least 1 guest asks for a backpack every week)
- Men's travel-size antiperspirant
- Men's new boxers and boxer briefs (all sizes)
- Disposable rain ponchos
- Small flashlights and book lights
- Kleenex travel packs
- Gently worn shoes and boots



Preparing for Easter Fun...

It's time to hop to it and get ready for Easter activities for children at Trinity Church! The Saturday of Easter weekend, March 31st, will be full of fun for the children of our church and neighborhood. Beginning at 9:00 a.m., all neighbors, adults and kids, are invited to join us for "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny." Our Breakfast Bunch, under the capable leadership of Flip Brooks, will be cooking up a wonderful meal for the morning. And, of course, the tables will be charmingly decorated by Beryl and Karen Willard.

If desired, parents may take pictures on their cameras or iPhones of their children with the Easter Bunny. Cost of admission for the breakfast is a canned food or cash donation toward the Binghampton Food Ministry.

The Easter Egg Hunt for toddlers through fifth graders will take place at 10:00 a.m. on the Trinity Church grounds. The hunt will go on, rain or shine. If the weather is bad, the hunt will take place inside the Education Building.

Before this fun affair can take place, there's lots that needs to be done to get ready for it. First of all, we will need bunches of Easter candy to fill those plastic eggs. Trinity folks always respond generously by donating lots of bags of individually-wrapped candy. Please remember that the candy must be small enough to place in regular-sized plastic eggs. If you would rather donate money toward the cause, we welcome that as well. Send it or bring it to the church office or give it to Irene Dycus or to one of the adults at the Children's Table on Sunday mornings. We will have an Egg-Stuffing Party prior to the hunt; more information will follow on that later.

We will need lots of helpers that morning, folks who can:

- greet and visit with folks as they arrive, during the breakfast, and during the hunt
- help Elizabeth Hopper and our Youth as they hide hundreds of eggs for the hunt that morning
- supervise the hunt and other children's activities on the grounds
- clean up after the breakfast and egg hunt.

As always, one of the most important things you can do in advance is to invite neighboring children, family members, and friends to join in the fun!

In addition, as you provide candy and cash donations for our Easter Egg Hunt, please give above and beyond to include the children whose families are housed at the New Directions Family Residence, a ministry of the Salvation Army's Purdue Center of Hope. Our goal is to prepare 75 Easter baskets for those children. The kids in Trinity's children's department will provide small stuffed animals for Purdue Center baskets. We will be filling these baskets at the same time plastic eggs will be stuffed for the Easter Egg Hunt, so keep this project in mind as you shop or donate. More later!

To volunteer your services, please email Irene Dycus at irenebdycus@hotmail.com or call her at 652-1105.



CHOIR NEWS: A Music Note



Play the Lyrics

By John Holtzman

So many of you come to me with compliments on the music that I share each Sunday. It is a blessing to be able to share my gift with you each week. Let me say I believe God gave music as a gift for me to share. For me, this gift keeps unfolding and has done so for many years. Some of you have come asking about the training and background, which has molded me into the musician I am today. I do attribute how I play more to the advice I was given than the formal lessons I received. Those words of advice, or someone taking the time to show me how they played something, are what I gleaned more from than the weekly lessons. Believe me, it did not come easy, and I did not play it right the first time. It took many hours of practice.

To me, music is not just about notes, chords, and phrases, it is about “the feeling.” So the question arises: How do you get the feeling out of the music? The answer to me is fairly simple: Play the lyrics. Have you ever taken the time to read the lyrics to the songs we sing? Some of the words and phrases are very powerful. As a songwriter I understand the struggle to write impactful words in songs. When I play, I want to express the lyrics through the melodies, chord patterns, arpeggios, and scales that I play. They are the expression of the lyrics of the song. They are what gives it all meaning to me. On Sunday, February 11th, I played a song, “Behold the Lamb” written by one of my all-time favorite writers, Dottie Rambo. Dottie had a true gift for writing meaningful lyrics.

Behold the Lamb, Behold the Lamb,
Slain for the foundation of the world
For sinners crucified, O holy sacrifice
Behold the Lamb of God, behold the Lamb
Crown Him, crown Him, worthy is the Lamb.
Praise Him, praise Him, Hea’n and earth re-sound
For sinners crucified, O holy sacrifice
Behold the Lamb of God, Behold the Lamb of God,
Behold the Lamb.

I start the piece very simply; however, when I am playing “Crown Him, Crown Him, Worthy is the Lamb”, that just makes me want to play
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arpeggios back and forth across the keyboard in worship of the Lamb. I return to the simply play in a reflective manner, “For sinners crucified, O holy sacrifice.” Then each time I repeat the phrase, “Behold the Lamb of God,” it just has to increase in volume with an ending that is bold and beautiful that matches the phrase, “Behold the Lamb.”

So how can this impact you? Take a few minutes before the worship service starts to look at our hymns and read the lyrics. Do the words have meaning to you? Do they resound your faith? Do they speak to you? Could the lyrics become your personal prayer? I believe lyrics that are inspired by the Holy Spirit are written to change our hearts and minds, and give us a deeper sense of direction and faith. I trust this will give you something to reflect upon during this season of Lent.

BENEVOLENCE GIVING UPDATE



Once again, “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, however, we have handed out only eleven vouchers at \$25 each.

Unfortunately, we exhausted our grocery voucher account in early January and had to put that benevolence program on hold temporarily. We have had several donations earmarked for vouchers, but we still need to build up the fund in order to be able to distribute these gifts to our neighbors whose grocery bills have outstripped their ability to pay. Calls come in the church office daily, sometimes several a day, from people needing help to purchase food.

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.”