



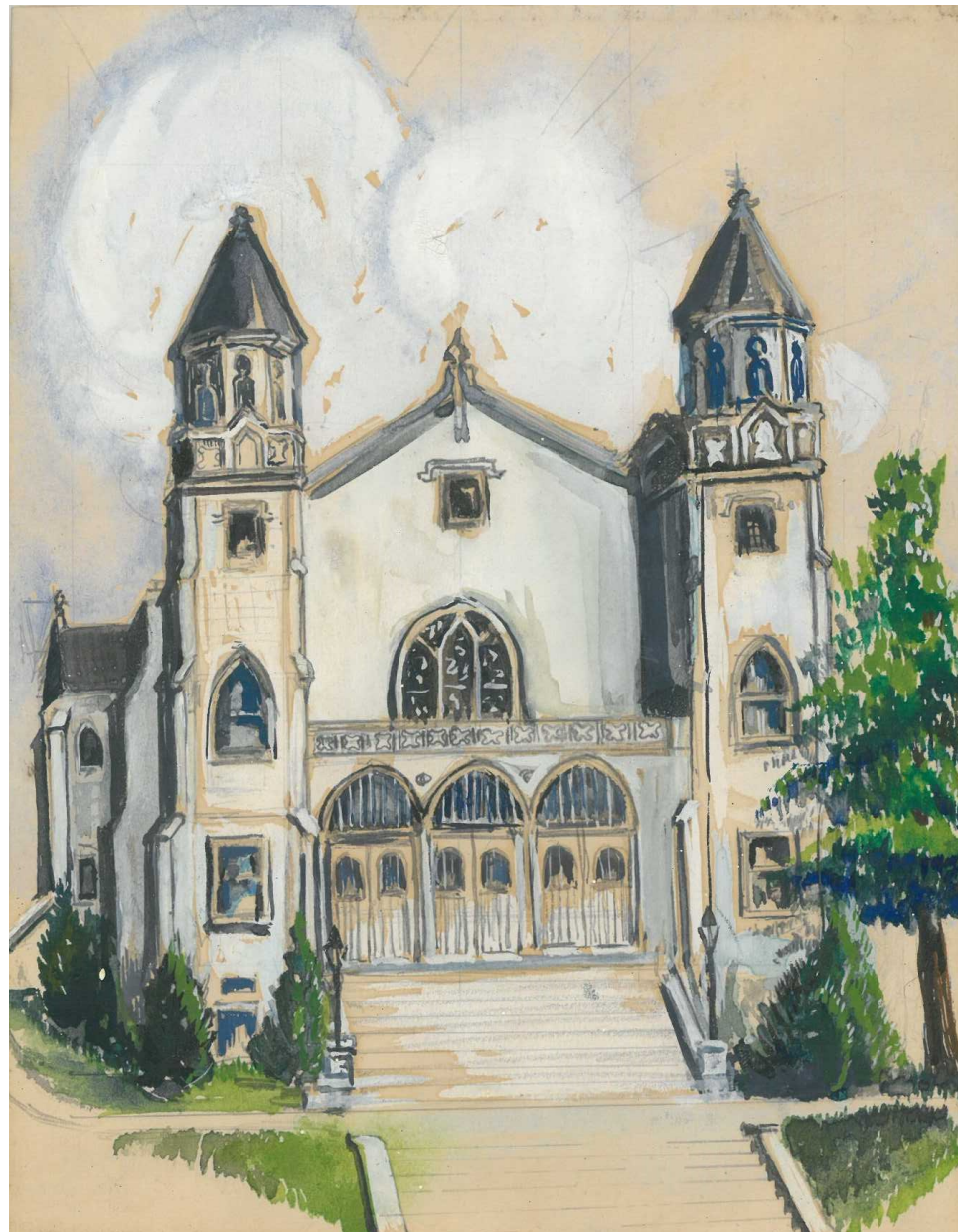
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Trinotes

April 11, 2018





The Other Shoe

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23

I never really thought I had small expectations. For me, it's easy to believe in a God who'll show up and show up in a big way. I've just been really good, for a very long time, at

dragging around that shoe. You know the one I'm talking about. The other shoe that—every time things are going really well, things are smooth and easy, stuff is exactly as it should be—drops. It drops. I drag around that ratty, old, worn, smelly shoe – the “other shoe” – and it drops. It never drops when I'm ready for it. It always leaves a heaping pile of mess when it does. And, for some reason, every time I throw it away, it comes back, and you know what it does? It drops again. Stinking shoe!

Oh, me of little faith – me of stinky, smelly, old shoe faith.

I know God is omnipotent, but I'm not at all unaware that that doesn't mean that God is going to take care of everything for me and so that understanding, and that ridiculous shoe, make for pretty low expectations. I also know, however, that God is omni-present. (3-year-old) Aiden reminded me just this morning that, “Mommy, God is in my heart. God is in YOUR heart too,” -- brilliant little theological offspring he is. God really is in all things – before me as I make my choices about all that's next, behind me in the trenches of my choices ill-made, and around me as I hurt and celebrate – even there every single time the other shoe drops to say, “Take a deep breath, Sara. It really IS going to be okay.”

And so why am I, at times, “me of little faith”??!?! There is no place for the concept of the other shoe when there is a God, ever-present, to pick it up every single time it falls. **That** God, despite our teeny-tiny expectations of what God will do, shows up big time just like the other shoe – when we're not at all expecting it.

I wasn't expecting it Holy Saturday when more than 200 folks from the neighborhood, Snowden School, and even further out in Memphis, came for pancakes (and their toppings), and bacon (that we ran out of), to eat on tables (we had to set more up of), and do crafts (in crammed corners of the fellowship hall because it was so crowded), before rushing outside to see where the bunny had hidden all of their eggs.

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PRAYER CONCERNS

Our country and the world - for the family and friends of those killed or injured in school 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 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's granddaughter **Sean's** vision

Molly Rosson, baby born with serious health problems and not expected to survive, is now at home. She slept through her first night at home.
To God be the glory!

Qahtan, Dalia Alnaaman's uncle with metastatic cancer

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

Phil Phillips continues to battle leukemia at home.

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

Chris Glover's brothers, **Bill, Don, and Bob**, have ongoing health concerns.

Robert Lawson, son-in-law of **Elaine Amis** and husband of **Diane**, ongoing treatment for throat and tongue cancer; now has feeding tube.

Charlotte Comes recovering at home from bad fall

Maggie & Chris Comes' great nephew, five month old **Luke Turner**, died recently. Pray for his parents, **Tyler & Amy**, and sister, **Avery Grace**.

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

Maxine Guerry, friend of **Jim Schaeffer**, diagnosed with abdominal cancer

Julian Cullen's grandmother, **Barbara Schneider**, at Regional One Hospital

Elise Davis, Nelda Gray's great-niece, recovering at home

Edna Hoffman, wrist broken in three places

Vickie, Edna Hoffman's daughter-in-law, facing eye replacement surgery

(Please contact the church office with any changes to prayer list.)

Upcoming

EVENTS

Manna on Monday

Food preparation will occur on Sunday, April 15th, at 2:00 p.m., with meal delivery to Highland Heights UMC at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, April 16th.

Holy Communion

Served every Wednesday morning at 10:00 in the Chapel.

Binghampton Food Pantry

Tuesdays & Fridays at 258 Merton, 8:00-11:00 a.m. In case of emergency, food can be obtained by calling Michael Anderson at (901) 503-2748.

Room in the Inn—Emergency Summer Housing

On the fourth Tuesday of each month from May through September, Trinity will provide overnight housing, a meal, and clothes closet access on an emergency basis. Housing will be limited to women without shelter. (See Lois Young's article on page 6.)

SPPRC Meeting April 15th at 12:30 p.m., Conference Room

Church Council Meeting May 6th at 12:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

UMW Meetings

The UMW Day Circle meets on the first Tuesday of each month. The monthly UMW Unit Meeting is scheduled for April 17th in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. The UMW Evening Circle meets the fourth Monday of each month in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on April 23.

Covenant Discipleship

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

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 April 23rd. 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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I wasn't expecting it Easter Sunday when we had to ask people to sit closer to one-another and bring up chairs from downstairs because we ran out of places for people to sit, when we ran out of hymnals and had to ask people to share with their neighbors, and when we had to apologize for running out of the 100 bulletins that Debby printed.

I wasn't expecting it Scout Sunday when the room was less-filled with those on the membership rolls and more-filled with our scout families and their scouts, when table space was limited for breakfast, when there was no room for me to sit on the quilt I sit on with the children during the Children's Sermon, and when (for a second week in a row) we ran out of bulletins and hymnals.

No shoes dropped.

God showed up.

Me of little faith.

What do you think, Trinity? Perhaps it's time to raise our expectations – not only of the church, but of ourselves. If God is going to show up, and I think that's evident, so can we. If God is going to fill this space with holy and fruitful ministry, shouldn't we join? If God is going to fill the tables, and send the Spirit, and bring us the joy to laugh and celebrate a Risen Lord, then perhaps we should.

We have been faithful and the blessings are right before us. Let's throw away the shoe one more time and embrace these fruits.

With Resurrection Hope,

-- Rev. Sara

DID YOU KNOW?

In an effort to bring back an "oldie but goodie" and discover opportunities to recognize the achievements of Trinitarians, young and old, the editor is requesting information about your fellow parishioners here at Trinity UMC.

If you know something special about someone, let us know! It might be an award received at work, school, or in the community. It might be a kindness performed that no one else knows about. Let's share some good news with each other about each other. It'll be fun. And we'll all get to know one another a little better.

Submit your ideas, info, and blurbs to Debby at 901-274-6895 or office@trinityumcmemphis.org

Pre-Easter "Hoppenings"

On Saturday, March 31st, Breakfast with the Easter Bunny was enjoyed by some 200 folks—children and their family members—as Joey Hopper performed in the role of Bunny Hopper, the Easter Bunny himself. There were pancakes, bacon (until we ran out), and all the fixings.

Following breakfast, the kids hunted Easter eggs on the grounds of the Education Building. Since some 2,000 eggs were hidden by the youth and a few hardy adults, there were plenty of eggs to find.



Cooper Tate

All and sundry had tasks to perform: painting bunny whiskers on children's faces, affixing bunny ears, and overseeing fun crafts of various kinds.



Joey "Bunny" Hopper

The Egg Hunt was lots of fun, with kids running all over the place in a quest for plastic eggs filled with treats.



Andrew & Nora Dycus



Krissi Moore & friend



Carson Witt

Memorials & Honorariums

An honorarium has been received:

In honor of Les & Barbara Johnson from Flip & Cile Brooks



Lenten Hunger Offerings

Please bring your Lenten Hunger Offerings to worship with you no later than **Sunday, April 22nd**. We need to mail a check to the Memphis Conference for the total amount donated, to arrive by April 30th. These funds will be added

to monies collected by other churches in the Conference and will benefit the following ministries:

- Local food pantry & feeding ministry grants
- Reelfoot Rural Ministries
- United Methodist Neighborhood Centers of Memphis
- Our Father's House (Nyumba ya Baba Wetu) in Tanzania, Africa
- Project Peanut Butter (Sierra Leone, Africa)
- Feeding Ministry Partners in Mexico

BINGHAMPTON FOOD PANTRY



FEED THE HUNGRY

Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry at Binghampton UMM, 258 N. Merton St., is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. 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. Individuals and families who need an emergency food bag can call Michael Anderson at (901) 503-2748.

Trinity members: please continue to bring staple items for the food pantry each Sunday—one item per household member—as we partner in this vital ministry to the poor. A basket has been placed on the counter at the front desk if you prefer to give a cash donation.

BAKE SALE TIME!

Mark it on your calendars now! Election Day, Tuesday, May 1st, is also BAKE SALE DAY at Trinity Church! We need lots of baked goodies for our sale on that day. Proceeds will go to the missions and ministries of Trinity UMC.

We are asking every family in the church to bake one or more items to sell at our bake sale. An “item” is a cake, a batch of cookies, a pie, a loaf of bread, a batch of muffins or cupcakes, etc.

All baked goods need to be delivered to Trinity Church no later than 3 p.m. on Monday afternoon, April 30th. Smaller baked items such as cookies and brownies should be packed in zip-lock bags, 4 to a package if large ones, and 6 to a package if smaller. We will price all bake sale items after you bring them to the church, so please don't put prices on your baked goods ahead of time.



Many of Trinity's neighbors look forward to our bake sales on election days, and often they arrive very early, eagerly looking for those delicious baked goods. We need everyone to help out with this project by baking items for sale. We also need helpers at the sales table, which will be located in the hallway outside the voting area in Trinity's Education Building;

we will need two

volunteers on duty at all times, from 7:00 a.m. until about 4:00 p.m. To volunteer your services, contact Irene Dycus at 652-1105 or irenebdycus@hotmail.com.



CHOIR NEWS: A Music Note



Testimony of Faithfulness

By John Holtzman

I want to start this article by expressing my appreciation to every choir member for all of their hard work during the season of Lent as we prepared for Holy Week, culminating with Easter Sunday. The faithfulness of the choir members was the inspiration for writing this article. We may not have the largest choir in the city, but we do have one of the most faithful choirs I have witnessed. Their dedication and their willingness to sacrifice their time each week demonstrates a fruit of the Spirit called faithfulness.

I believe faithfulness is something that God expects of each of us. That can be demonstrated in various ways: church attendance, giving, helping with projects and mission work, Bible studies...the list can go on and on. I believe each one of us has a responsibility to be faithful. The areas where that is demonstrated differ for each of us. It takes all of us being faithful to make the ministry of Trinity UMC have its greatest impact.

Faithfulness is not only a fruit of the Spirit, it is an attribute of God. The Bible teaches God is faithful. I love the lyrics to that great hymn, “Great is Thy Faithfulness.” There are so many well written, Spirit inspired phrases in this song such as “all I have needed thy hand hath provided” and “Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be”.

I believe our faithfulness to the call of God upon each of us will be rewarded. In one of Jesus' parables, it was said to the faithful servant, “you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.” My interpretation of this passage is that if we are faithful over a few things, God will increase that for which we are responsible, and growth will occur. Since this applies to an individual, can you imagine how that can be multiplied when you have an entire congregation being faithful?

I hope this challenges each of us to be faithful.



**ROOM
IN THE INN
MEMPHIS**

Providing hospitality to
women experiencing
homelessness

By Lois M. Young

It's official. Trinity United Methodist Church will be one of 18 Memphis congregations providing emergency shelter for women one night a month from May through September. Our night will be the fourth Tuesday of each month. Many thanks to the Church Council, Pastor Sara Tate, and many of our volunteers for supporting this extended ministry.

I'm excited to say that the meal schedule for these five Room in the Inn sessions filled quickly.

- May 22: United Methodist Women Evening Circle
- June 26: Redeemer Presbyterian Church
- July 24: The Neighborhood Church/Evergreen Microchurch
- August 21: Food for the Hungry Ministry
- September 25: Avalon Street Neighbors

Of course, we will still need volunteers to complete many other duties for these sessions. If you want to get involved, please contact me at loislane.young@gmail.com or 870-559-2228.

If you don't know why women need this special service, an enlightening article was published recently about the plight of homeless women in Memphis and the lack of shelter spaces for this vulnerable population. Read it online at: memphis-mirror.com/with-few-options-homeless-women-in-memphis-struggle-with-lack-of-shelter/.

According to the Community Alliance for the Homeless, about 450 women in Shelby County experience homelessness each night. Unfortunately, there are only 80 total beds throughout the city specifically for single women. Some of these beds require special qualifications, such as, the women have children with them, or the women must be victims of domestic violence. Only 20 of the shelter spaces are dedicated for women who are just homeless. That leaves a lot of women on the streets each night.

During the winter, Room in the Inn-Memphis provides about a fourth of the available beds for homeless women in the city. The hope is that we can get other congregations involved, so the city-wide program can continue to provide at least 12 beds each night during the summer. Any break that we can provide these women will be welcome and helpful.

Current Clothes Closet Needs

- Men's Large T-shirts
- Travel-sized Gold Bond Powder
- Travel-sized women's deodorant
- Small packs of baby wipes
- Women's tank tops (all sizes)



Vacation Bible School

During this summer's Vacation Bible School at Trinity Church, we will be embarking on a "**Rolling River Rampage**," in which participants will be experiencing the ride of a lifetime with God. This exciting adventure will take place July 16-20, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon daily. The week will be filled with an abundance of fun, fellowship, and learning for children, adult leaders, and youth helpers.

You don't want to miss out on the fun! Lots of volunteers are needed – decoration helpers, registration helpers, crew leaders, center leaders, snack coordinators, the list goes on! To offer to help, contact Irene Dycus or Joan Smith, co-directors for this year's VBS. More details about this mid-summer fun event will follow in future editions of the *Trinotes*, so stay tuned...



BENEVOLENCE GIVING UPDATE

Again, we say, "**Thank you!**" to all of you who have given to the Grocery Voucher Program.

Thanks to YOU, we were able to start up the Grocery Voucher program again on March 7th. Since that time, 28 individuals have received vouchers, and another 10 people will receive

vouchers on April 18th. As before, we are limiting distribution of vouchers to the first and third Wednesdays of each month, and give out ten each time. When unable to fulfill a particular need, we refer folks to the Binghampton Food Pantry, where they can receive emergency help. Our partnership with Binghampton allows us to assist more families than we would be able to do otherwise.

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."