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Trinotes

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See ALL the People

Two months ago I was invited by the Bishop and our District Superintendent to attend an event at the National Civil Rights Museum in downtown Memphis as a part of the 50 year remembrance of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The event involved about 100 clergy and

laypeople from the Memphis Annual Conference, varying in age and background. I was pleased to see the diversity in the room from relatively 'mature' members of the conference to a conglomerate of United Methodist Youth. At the event we were served a nice dinner and encouraged to sit with people we didn't already know, which meant, of course, everyone flocked quickly to their familiar groups of people and sat in comfort.

After the dinner we were invited to engage in a conversation with a panel raised from those present and led by Dr. Gregory Ellison, a young, dogmatic professor of mine from Candler School of Theology at Emory. The conversation was centered around a book Dr. Ellison has written – *Fearless Dialogues* – and encouraged the concept of addressing all the elephants in the room. In light of the season, what he meant was race and race-relations.

When we left, I was pretty stunned by some of the things we were able to say – some of the elephants we were able to address – some of the questions we were able to raise. And, Dr. Ellison challenged us to, as we left, see someone everyday we wouldn't normally see.

What he means is this: We walk by hundreds of people everyday from different walks of life and neglect to acknowledge them, let alone *know* them, which, when we think about it, is a debilitating habit when it comes to making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (the mission statement of the United Methodist Church) – debilitating because how can we tell the story of Jesus until we've heard the stories of our neighbors? How can we invite people into relationship with the Creator and refuse, ourselves, to be in relationship with *them*? Thus, I began, again, to see all the people.

Interestingly, that was the theme of this year's annual gathering of the Memphis Annual Conference. There will be more writing on conference to come, for sure, so hang tight. In my 14 years attending as a delegate, this,

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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 Corum, her new husband Josh McClurkan, and their 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 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

Carrie, Joan Smith's cousin, to be safely reunited with a loving family.

Molly Rosson, baby born with serious health problems and not expected to survive, will celebrate her four-month birthday on June 20th.

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**, thankfulness for healing!

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

Chris Glover's nephew's unborn child who needs heart surgery.

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

Vickie, Edna Hoffman's daughter-in-law, recovering after second eye surgery.

Chuck Wood, Rosemary Potter's brother, undergoing treatment for MRSA.

Dennis Vann, recovering from a serious on-the-job injury.

The **Abraham** and **Gansman** families, as they grieve the loss of **Tristan**.

Micah Soard, 2 year old son of United Methodist missionaries, **Eric & Liz**

Soard, in Tanzania with unexplained rare disease. Headed to the U.S. for treatment at LeBonheur. (Friends of Rev. Sara.)

(Please contact the church office with any changes or additions to prayer list, or if a concern needs to be deleted.)

Upcoming

EVENTS

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 through September 25th, Trinity will provide overnight housing, a meal, and clothes closet access on an emergency basis. Housing will be limited to women without shelter.

UMW Meetings

A UMW Unit Meeting is scheduled for June 25th in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. The Day Circle will provide dinner and dessert. The UMW Evening Circle will conduct the program. Rev. Dennis Neenan will speak on pastoral care.

Covenant Discipleship

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

Scouts

Cub Scouts will not meet regularly until school starts back in August. Boy Scouts are out until July.

Trinotes

The deadline for submissions for the next Trinotes is June 25th. Please email or deliver any articles to Debby Marston, our administrator, 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.

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in my opinion, was the most prevalent theme: See ALL the People. From the fearless dialogue event to Annual Conference I have been challenged to open my eyes again – to not only see but come to know the people who make up the kingdom of God and that is an incredible thing to do in Memphis, Tennessee.

I see students at Cooper's school (Snowden) who have a tough time reading and wonder, how can the people of God get involved? I see the effects of mental illness in many of the panhandlers, particularly downtown, and wonder, how can the people of God get involved? I see my generation (the millennials) disengaged from organized religion because, often, the Church has *hurt* them and wonder, still, how can the people of God get involved? From those who come to the church for Room in the Inn and food vouchers, to those who live in our immediate neighborhood whom we, as a church, have never met, seeing all the people raises the question, how can the people of God get involved?

The weight of Christianity may be a bit heavier if we see all the People, but we who know Jesus share the weight with him – the one who goes with us into our seeing all the people as Spirit, who opens our eyes that we might see, and calls us again and again to this sort of fearless discipleship.

More to come.

Blessings,
Rev. Sara



Rev. Sara Corum and Rev. Mike Potter celebrated their ordination at the Annual Conference earlier this month.

Science at VBS

Kay Jordan, "The Science Lady"

Each year, our Cokesbury VBS curriculum has a section for the Science Center. I have been the Science Leader for several years. Why do we include science in VBS? The folks who create the curriculum might have a different answer, but here is mine: I want kids to see that science and the church belong together. God created a wonderful world! The more we understand that world, the more we are in awe of the power and wisdom of God. Many of the experiments we do inspire excitement, wonder, and even a "wow!" from the kids (and sometimes the leaders, too).

You can help inspire that excitement and wonder and wow by contributing some of the things we need for the experiments. Here's this year's list:

- 9" x 12" pieces of corrugated cardboard (or a size close to that)
- 50 craft sticks ("popsicle sticks")
- 2 liter soft drink bottles, empty, with their caps
- Plastic or metal lemon juicer (I will return this after VBS)
- Food coloring
- Large aluminum foil baking pans (like the ones for roasting a turkey)
- Plain kitchen sponges

Trinity is known in the neighborhood for our VBS. Many of the children who come are not regular Trinity attendees. Thank you, Trinity, for providing this Christian education event for any who wish to come! *(see more on pg. 5)*

MANNA ON MONDAY

Once a month, a group of Trinity UMC members prepare, transport, and serve lunch at Highland Heights UMC for the underserved of that community. The free lunch, consisting of pasta, salad, green beans, bread, and a dessert, is served at noon on the third Monday. If there is any left after lunch, the remainder is taken to a group of homeless men in the neighborhood.

This involves coordination from, not only Trinity members, but serving help from members of Christ Methodist, Highland Heights, and various others who help from time to time. The bread is donated by local sub shops. Many times fruit and vegetables are given by Costco to be distributed or used as we see fit by the guests and/or workers. These are items with a short life span.

This ministry has no down time for holidays, and we serve lunch each month throughout the year. Anyone interested in working with this group may leave a name and phone number in the church office and either Rosemary Potter or Myra Finch will get in touch with you.



Holy hospitality during
the hot summer months

By Lois M. Young

Wonderful night

Our first-ever summer session was a big success. We served 13 women who would have otherwise been without shelter that night. We met many new ladies and enjoyed some friendly dinner conversation. The United Methodist Women Evening Circle provided a perfect summer meal of barbeque pork with all the fixings. Many commented, including me, that it was some of the best pork barbeque they have ever eaten. We also enjoyed some fun piano music from Diana Kabakoff Stein. Most of the ladies went to bed by 8:30 p.m. They were worn out after a long day in the heat.

Volunteer power

About 32 volunteers were involved in this first session. I know that sounds like a lot, but they are not all there at the same time. Some come to set up beds, others come in the morning to clean, still others wash linens. We need all the help we can get, especially during these summer sessions when some of our regular volunteers are gone on vacations or have other commitments. If you are interesting in helping, please email loislane.young@gmail.com or call me at 870-559-2228 or just show up at our next session on Tuesday, July 24. We would love to show you how easy it is to do this rewarding work.

Needs for next RITI season

I proclaim July Antiperspirant/Deodorant Month! If you are out shopping, please throw in a few small, travel-sized antiperspirant/deodorants. Then, bring them to the Room in the Inn donation bin outside the church kitchen. It is so hot outside, and our homeless ladies need this important item.

BENEVOLENCE GIVING UPDATE

As of June 6, we have distributed 78 grocery vouchers in 2018 to individuals needing assistance. Another 10 people are registered for vouchers to be handed out on June 20th. **Thanks to you** and your generosity, we are able to provide this vital service to the underserved in our community.

Memorials & Honorariums

Honorariums have been received:

*In honor of **Rev. Sara Corum** from the Nowlin Class
upon her ecclesiastical ordination*

*In honor of **Rev. Mike Potter** from the Nowlin Class
upon his ecclesiastical ordination*

*In honor of **Rusty Ramsey** from the UMW Evening Circle
for his donation to Room in the Inn*

*In honor of **Rev. Sara Corum** from Eddie & Sally Ramsey*

*In honor of **Rev. Mike Potter** from Eddie & Sally Ramsey*

*In memory of **Tristan Gansman** from Charlotte Comes*

*In memory of **Tristan Gansman** from Sally & Eddie Ramsey*

*In memory of **Tristan Gansman** from
Rosemary & Mike Potter*

*In memory of **Tristan Gansman** from Shirley Flint*

*In memory of **Tristan Gansman** from Snookie Mason*

*In memory of **Tristan Gansman** from Elaine Amis*

*In memory of **Horace Phelan** from Linda & Wendel Stoltz*

Thank You, Trinity Family

I want to thank our Trinity family for the support and love Melba and I received during this most painful time in our lives. Not only were we showered with phone calls, prayers, and food, but also a large number of members attended Tristan's memorial service. Pastor Sara and Pastor Mike led over a hundred people in a spiritually uplifting service.

I want to especially thank Pastor Sara for the inspirational, healing message she delivered at Tristan's memorial service. Although she and Tristan never met, Sara listened to our memories and wishes for the service and wove those bits into a coherent message of love, power, and grace, imparting that, no matter who you are or what you have done, God is with you—just like he was for Tristan in his fateful hour.

~Charles and Melba Abraham



It's just a month away now! **Vacation Bible School** will take place at Trinity Church July 16-20, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon daily. Adult leaders, youth helpers, and kids are encouraged to get ready to jump on board for **Rolling River Rampage**, an exciting week-long adventure for preschoolers through 5th graders.

Each day of this fun and Spirit-filled week, our children will become Rafters who explore how to serve God and how to discover God's mission for their lives. After a high-energy Opening Assembly that introduces each day's Bible story, the Rafters will make their way to different stations: Science, Art, Recreation, and Snack. Each activity will further their understanding of that day's Bible story and help them discover its implications for their lives.

We still need a few extra volunteers to be decoration helpers and registration personnel, as well as daily volunteers who will serve wherever needed! Helping hands are needed right now to cut out decorations and prepare learning activities. Can't help in any of these ways? Then perhaps you will consider making a donation toward the general costs of VBS or to benefit one or both of this year's mission projects for VBS: Room in the Inn and Binghampton Food Pantry. Feel free to be generous in any way the Spirit moves you! To offer your time, talents, or services of any kind, contact either of our VBS Co-Directors, Irene Dycus (phone 652-1105 or email at irenebdycus@hotmail.com) or Joan Smith (phone 218-8978 or email at smith.joan@hotmail.com). Financial contributions may be placed in the offering plate on Sunday or sent to the church office; please designate whether your donation is for "VBS missions" or "VBS general."

Please pray for us as we prepare to share the Good News of God's love through Jesus Christ with the children of our church and community. And don't forget that other very important job that each of us can do: reach out to all the children you know who are family, friends, and neighbors, and invite them to join us for this wonderful week of faith, fun, and fellowship!



June 8	Nancy Maddox
June 9	Finnegan Potter
June 12	Chuck Comes
June 12	Marc Taylor
June 13	Mason Brown
June 17	Pat Lovington
June 18	Rick Hechinger
June 18	Barbara Johnson
June 18	Audrey Webster
June 18	James Webster
June 19	Sam Comes
June 21	Sandy Guntharp
June 23	Katie McNeely
June 30	Eddie Ramsey

Upcoming UMW Meeting

The United Methodist Women's Unit Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 25th at 6:00 p.m. The Day Circle will provide dinner and dessert, and the Evening Circle will have the program. Rev. Dennis Neenan will speak about pastoral care. As usual, the UMW will meet in the Fellowship Hall.



CHOIR NEWS: A Music Note



Why Do We Love the Old Songs?

What I've come to learn over the years is that people love the old songs. Maybe it's those familiar melodies that they grew up hearing in church that bring back memories from their youth. Maybe they remember the lyrics of these songs and like to sing along. Maybe it's the message of comfort or words of hope found within the lines of the song.

I know this much, I love playing them, and people enjoy listening to them. The songs I play are often attached to a memory. Many times I can tell you when I heard the song for the first time, who sang it, and where it was sung. These things seemed to be burned upon my memory. These were not always performances by top artists; they were often sung by less than perfect singers, who may or may not have been on pitch, but sang from the heart.

In the first church I played for when I was 12 years old, there was a gentleman who attended who did a special song every Sunday. Pop Phillips is what we affectionately called him. He would come to the platform with 6 red-back hymnals (someday I'll write about that particular hymnal and its impact on me). As he made his way forward, he would point to three or four of the ladies (some of them would shake their heads "no," but they came up anyway), and he would hand hymnals to me at the organ, the lady who played the piano, and to each of the members of his "called-up" choir. There was no rehearsal and, at first, I was not sure what he was going to sing. Later, I learned he had three songs he sang, so it was always going to be one of the three. One that I remember well was the song, "I Want to Know More About My Lord." I still love that song today. If I play it or hear it being sung, I can't help but think about Pop Phillips and his called-up choir that sang along with him.

So, I think in writing this I have answered the question that I asked at the beginning, "Why do we love the old songs?" I think it's because they remind us of the past and hopefully help us get a glimpse into the future when we will be surrounded by God's grace in our heavenly home.

~John Holtzman



WEDDING SHOWER PLANNED

On Sunday, June 24th, following the worship service, from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm, Trinity will have a wedding shower for Pastor Sara and her new husband, Josh. A love offering will be taken for the happy couple so, as you feel led, please send your donations to Trinity and mark your check "Sara and Josh Shower." Additionally, please bring a card with your expressions of congratulations for them as well as your best advice for a happy marriage, happy family as they will become a family of seven, or your best advice for encouraging happy and healthy relationships. Light refreshments will be provided with thanks to Connie Johns and Beryl Willard for making these arrangements. If you have any questions, please call Jeri Ashley at 901-483-1860. What a great event for the life of our church!