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*Trinotes*

July 25, 2018





## Children, Youth, and the Future of the Church

Whitney Houston sang that the children are our future. That was back when I was a child, before her great decline. It was inspiring. Of

course, without children, there is no future, but I think her implication was that how we raise them now affects what the world will be when they are no longer children. And, of course, that's always been the truth.

I have a special place in my heart for kids. I think that's obvious. And I should — we really all should. Even Jesus did. They were the most vulnerable of society — vulnerable (as they are now) to illness, exploitation, hurt, influence...and Jesus' ministry always singled out the most vulnerable of society and lifted them up so that the vulnerable might feel less vulnerable — might be empowered — might be given a sort of grace that they might not feel or embrace otherwise. Jesus' ministry was about empowering the otherwise powerless.

What happens when we empower young people? Well, they change the world.

I'm writing from camp this week. When it's not a 'moving year,' I spend a week at Lakeshore United Methodist Assembly (our conference's camp and retreat center) with 100+ Jr. High students, 25 late high school to early college-aged counselors, and my co-leadership team. We spend a week addressing morals and behavior, leading seven worship services, and teaching ten sessions. We go to high ropes and low ropes, the waterfront, and pool. We craft, game, eat, climb, and race. We answer deep theological questions unashamedly asked and address cases of chronic homesickness. We dance and sing and, well, discipline. We turn their lights out at 1:00 am (and sometimes again at 2:00 am), and pray them off to breakfast at 7:30 am. We get to spend a week as potters with very important work — molding and making the next generation of disciples.

Of course, this came on the tail of Trinity's Vacation Bible School where so much of the same happened, except YOU were there. We crafted and snacked. We hypothesized and played. We recited our scripture lesson and took a trip on a rolling river for a week with 30+ children from our neighborhood. A dozen youth were present and 20+ volunteers, not just from the church (though, remember, YOU were there), but also from our scouting families and from the neighborhood.

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## 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 new 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 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, celebrated her five-month birthday on July 20th. Doing well!

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

**Phil Phillips** continues to battle leukemia at home.

**Chris Glover's** nephew's baby, Kanyon: Praise for successful surgery!

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

**Dennis Vann**, returned to work following his on-the-job injury. Doing well!

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

**Soard**, in Tanzania with unexplained rare disease. Surgery at LeBonheur, but still watching his recovery. (Friends of Rev. Sara.)

**Kathryn "Gigi" Ellis**, injuries sustained from a fall on July 24th; undergoing tests to determine extent of injuries.

**Marico Mason**, may be facing lung transplant.

**Jay Allmon's** fiancée, **Elizabeth Loggins**, completed surgery with good outcome. Continue to pray for her healing.

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

# Upcoming

EVENTS

(See pages 4 & 5 of this issue for a complete list of upcoming events.)

## **Church Council**

The Church Council will meet in the Fellowship Hall Sunday, July 29th, following worship. Members of the congregation are welcome.

## **Choir Rehearsal**

The chancel choir will resume their regular rehearsal schedule on Wednesday, August 1st, at 6:30 p.m.

## **Holy Communion**

Service of Holy Communion will resume on Wednesday, August 1st at 10:00 a.m. 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.

## **Covenant Discipleship**

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

## **Trinotes**

The deadline for submissions for the next Trinotes is August 6th. 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](http://www.trinityumcmemphis.org)**

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We did what I believe is some of the most important Kingdom work there is to do. We were the face of Christ to children, and they were the face of Christ to us. We worked to shape and form them while they, unknowingly, offered us the same gift.

A year ago Trinity didn't have a youth group. We've spent the last year carefully working to lay the groundwork for a program that is sustainable for years to come — praying for leadership that is equipped to care for our teenagers as they figure out who they are and whose they are and here, with a foundation of faith, is a budding ministry. We have a long way to go, but we're being faithful to this work and God is showing us the way.

Friends, I think we might be onto something. But, I'd tweak the concept of young people as our future just a bit. The young people aren't the church of the future. Look around on a Sunday morning. Look at the calendar of events happening in our church, in our district, and in our conference. The children and youth make up nearly 20% of our worship attendance. They make up nearly 40% of active participants in greater church ministry. They are delegates to Annual and General Conferences. They are, at Trinity, active in missions and participating in worship. They are not the church of tomorrow. They are the church of today.

I sing your praises for showing up and out for Vacation Bible School. I sing your praises for being faithful to sending kids to camp. I sing your praises for being supportive of our youth. Keep doing it. Keep reminding them that they are loved. Keep volunteering with them. Keep encouraging them. Smile at them. Talk to them. Make relationships with them. Be a part of what God is doing in the Kingdom with them. This is part of our calling — to be a part of the lives of these little world-changers — to, in, and with every age, make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Blessings,  
*Rev. Sara*

## *What's Your Spiritual Type?*

Would you like to know more about yourself as a practicing Christian? Go to Trinity's website ([www.trinityumcmemphis.org](http://www.trinityumcmemphis.org)) and click on the "About" tab. Scroll down the page until you see a "Take a Quiz" button. From there, you will be linked to an Upper Room web page. Click on a "Spiritual Type Test" in red letters to take the quiz. You may be surprised at the outcome.



# Save the Dates!

(Important Information Follows...)

July 29<sup>th</sup>: A 'called' Church Council Meeting  
(immediately following worship)

This is not a regularly-scheduled church council meeting and will not involve reports from all members of church leadership. This is a meeting to discuss a few important 'church happenings' that are time-sensitive and cannot wait until the next church council meeting, which will take place in September. Please remember that these meetings are 'open' meetings, meaning that anyone in the church can attend and discuss the business. You are WELCOME and ENCOURAGED to attend.

August 4<sup>th</sup>: Back to School Bash (4:00 – 6:00)

Trinity is hosting their second annual back to school bash on the grounds. Our scouts are grilling hot dogs and we will have blow up games and water slides. You may not be able to attend, but you can help by inviting any young families you know in the Evergreen community.

August 5<sup>th</sup>: Blessing of the Backpacks (11:00)

Calling all students, administrators, and educators! We want to send you back to school with our support and prayer. Please bring your backpack, tote, or briefcase to 11:00 worship on the 5<sup>th</sup>, so that we can pray over it and you as you begin the school year.

August 5<sup>th</sup>: Town Hall Meeting (immediately following worship)

The entire congregation is invited to stay after worship for one last opportunity to discuss the vote for or against the sale of the sanctuary building. This will allow us an opportunity to bring up anything that hasn't already been discussed (if there is anything), to recall our calling and purpose in the proposal written by the sanctuary sale taskforce last Fall, look at numbers and budgets, and ask questions. If this is something that would be helpful to you or something you need, PLEASE make every attempt to be present.

August 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>: Guatemalan Mobil Consulate (all day)

Trinity is, again, hosting the consulate office out of Atlanta for our Guatemalan brothers and sisters. We are hosting a global ministry opportunity out of our education building! What an amazing way to be a part of the Kingdom of God. Our worship the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> will be in a location TBD. Do you want to help with the consulate? Ask Rev. Sara how you can.

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## Mid-Summer RITI Roundup

by Lois M. Young

Our first two dates of emergency shelter for women have gone well. We are seeing many women that we have never seen before. They are incredibly hot and tired, and so glad to be inside for a rest. It has been harder to fill our volunteer positions for these sessions, because many people go on vacations and have other family activities in the summer that do not happen during our regular season. If you have time, please consider volunteering. We will need more volunteers than usual for the August and September sessions, because the groups supplying those dinners will be small. Email [loislane.young@gmail.com](mailto:loislane.young@gmail.com) or call me at 901-599-2228 if you are interested in volunteering.

### Helpful donations

We had a big donation right before the June 26 session. Cile Brooks, who does laundry regularly for Room in the Inn, decided our guests could use some new sheets. She donated 13 sets of wonderfully soft sheets. Our guests will benefit from these for many years to come.

Our VBS kids and their parents are always very generous people. This year, they donated almost \$380 to Room in the Inn, as well as several clothing items that we had requested. I lucked out and was given the kindergarten/first grade group to lead. They were so much fun to be with. Many thanks to the VBS leaders for making this week possible and for supporting RITI.

### BENEVOLENCE GIVING UPDATE

A total of 107 grocery vouchers have been handed out since the beginning of 2018. Trinity is only able to provide these vouchers due to your generosity. **Thanks to you**, our less fortunate neighbors have food on their tables.

# Honorariums

## **Honorariums have been received:**

*In honor of **Rev. Mike Potter** from an anonymous donor  
on the occasion of his ecclesiastical ordination*

*In honor of **Rev. Sara K. Corum** from an anonymous donor  
on the occasion of her ecclesiastical ordination*

*In honor of **John Holtzman** from Sally Ramsey*

## NEWS OF OUR FORMER YOUTH

Hannah Windham graduated this spring from University of Tennessee Health Sciences in Memphis. She passed her boards and is now certified as a medical technology scientist. She has moved to Huntsville, Alabama and hopes to start working in the health field there.

Evelyn Windham Diorio is a graduate of Tennessee Tech and obtained her Master's from Mississippi State in environmental science. She currently works for the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Her work is completing environmental surveys to determine the impact of

new construction and/or remediation by TDOT. Her husband, Andrew Diorio, is a surveyor. They reside in Nashville.

[Editors Note: Hannah and Evelyn are the daughters of Donna and James Windham. We want to feature more of our former youth in *Trinotes* and would enjoy hearing from (or about) others no longer living in the area. Article submitted by Sue Taylor.]



August 4	Lee Johns
August 16	Cile Brooks
August 16	Rowan Booth
August 16	Sean Booth
August 17	Phyllis Hoffman
August 18	Chris Comes
August 26	Grant Hechinger

(continued from page 4—Save the Dates)

August 26<sup>th</sup>: Called Charge Conference (immediately following worship)  
For many, this is the day you've been waiting for. We will host the Metro District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Deborah Smith. Deborah will worship with us and then preside over a special called charge conference. This will be an opportunity for all members in good standing of Trinity United Methodist Church to vote on the sale of the church's sanctuary building. This meeting is for a vote. The Town Hall meeting on August 5<sup>th</sup> is for any last discussion. Absentee votes will not be accepted, per the United Methodist Book of Discipline, so please **make every effort to be present Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.**

## Coming up: more fun!

Vacation Bible School week, July 16-20, at Trinity Church was filled with loads of fun, fellowship, singing, and learning. The building was alive with the energy and enthusiasm of 30 children, 15 youth helpers, and 29 adult leaders and helpers, as together we experienced the excitement of **Rolling River Rampage VBS**. Many thanks go to all those leaders and helpers who worked so very hard to make this week such a wonderful success! (And don't forget to put next year's VBS on your calendars now: June 10-14, 2019.)

Now we move on to more fun – and more opportunities for service – as our children head into a new school year. First on the calendar is the Back to School Bash, which will be held on Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, from 4 to 6 p.m. on the Education Building grounds. We need several adults to help supervise children's activities, most especially the inflatable water slides. To offer your help, please contact Irene Dycus (652-1105; [irenebdycus@hotmail.com](mailto:irenebdycus@hotmail.com)) or Joan Smith (218-8978; [smith.joan@hotmail.com](mailto:smith.joan@hotmail.com)). Remember to bring your lawn chairs, too!



## Interested in Helping Kids?

If you want to make a difference in children's school experiences in northwest Tennessee, contribute school supplies chosen from the list posted on the bulletin board next to the kitchen (and published in the July 11 Trinotes). Bring them to Trinity UMC. A box next to the kitchen door is provided to collect supplies.



## CHOIR NEWS: A Music Note

by John Holtzman



We are entering the time of year when you see the "back to school" signs for all sorts of sales. A time to take advantage of all the special deals and bargains. I need a sign that says, "**Back to Choir!**" as our choir will start rehearsing and ministering in the services in August. Wednesday, August 1, at 6:30 we will have our first choir rehearsal since our summer break.

Have you ever thought about joining the choir? I didn't ask if you were a great singer. I asked if you have ever thought about joining the choir? There is no time like the present to give it a try. I assure you it is not boring, and we do have a lot of fun. Along with working on songs for the services each week, we will begin working on our Christmas – yes, I said Christmas – musical. More details about that will follow in the future.

I'm looking forward to the choir singing each Sunday and enjoy having rehearsal each week. The choir is a family, a family that welcomes all who wish to come and take part. You are invited.....



Election Day, Thursday, August 2, is only a week away! It will also be **BAKE SALE DAY** at Trinity Church! We need lots of baked goodies for our sale on that day. Many of Trinity's neighbors look forward to our bake sales on election days, and often they come very early, ready to purchase those delicious baked goods. Proceeds will go toward support of the ministries and missions of the church.

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. For summer appetites, you might consider "lighter" foods such as citrus flavors. Savory items such as trail mix would also be well-received. Please identify what each baked item is, such as "Banana Nut Bread," etc. If you want to leave a special note, such as "made from scratch," feel free to do so. However, do NOT put prices on your baked goods ahead of time; we will price everything at the food table.

All sale items need to be delivered to Trinity Church no later than 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon, August 1. Smaller baked items such as cookies and brownies should be packed in zip-lock bags, four to a package if large ones and six to a package if smaller.

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 offer your services as a baker or a salesperson, please e-mail Kay Jordan at [jordanck2@gmail.com](mailto:jordanck2@gmail.com) or call her at 901 299-2624.

## Virginia Blanton Bequest

Thanks to the generous gift left by Virginia Blanton, the children's department and nursery now have sinks in each room. Chris Comes, who is a master plumber and electrician, was responsible for the installation and did a wonderful job of installing a water heater and the two sinks. We are all grateful for the sweet gift from our dear friend Virginia and will be reminded of her generosity and her love for children every time the sinks are used.