



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

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Trinotes

August 22, 2018





On Puzzles and Servanthood

I know it's that time of year again. Please don't think I don't know. I, too, shudder at the thought of the phone ringing and the person on the other end asking me for ONE MORE COMMITMENT. After all, church is supposed to be the 'easy' part of our

lives. It's the time of year where the Lay Leadership Team meets (again and again) to discuss the gifts and graces of the church, pray over the work that's been accomplished and what's to come, and be sent to make the phone calls. The answers on the other end of the line will determine where the servants of the church will serve in the next year. It's not easy work, the work of Lay Leadership. It's like doing a puzzle with pieces that we know are supposed to fit, but they refuse to do so, and the frustrating part is that all the right pieces are there.

When I think about the misconception that church is supposed to be the easy part of our lives, I'm reminded of one of my favorite texts from Paul's letter to the Romans.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.—Romans 12:1-8

My second appointment was to a series of churches — a charge — in Brazil, Tennessee. The churches were in a small area outside of Trenton. In the largest of the three churches about 50 worshipped on a Sunday morning — half of which were children and youth. The mature members of the congregation poured their support and encouragement into the young people and the church was wonderfully blessed because of it.

However, the church, like many churches, had a problem. About 20%

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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 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. For our Guatemalan neighbors seeking the proper documentation from the Mobile Consulate.

Also, specific prayer requests by and for:

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

Molly Rosson, 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.

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

Dennis Vann, pins removed from hand, 9 more therapy sessions, back at work!

Kathryn "Gigi" Ellis, now in rehab and doing well.

Marico Mason, may be facing lung transplant.

Jay Allmon's fiancée, **Elizabeth Loggins**, completed surgery with good

outcome. Continue to pray for her healing.

Derek Winn, please pray for help for him and his future path in life.

Randy Keith, a friend of **Fred Martin**, is having surgery.

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

Upcoming

EVENTS

Church Conference

Following worship on August 26th, there will be a called church conference. **Members: please plan to attend!**

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Sunday, September 30th, at St. John's UMC, 1207 Peabody Ave. at 2:00 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal

The chancel choir's regular rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. (Please note: this is a time change.) If interested in making a joyful noise, just show up!

Holy Communion

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

Binghamton 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. The next night we will be hosting is August 28th.

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 September 10th. Please email or deliver any articles to office@trinityumcmemphis.org to Debby Marston's attention. 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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of the people did 80% of the serving. One of the youth noticed the problem and, on Youth Sunday that year, preached to the congregation that to be given spiritual gifts from God and refuse to use them is a sin.

This is probably not how I'd phrase this, or even a theology I embrace, but I understand what she was trying to accomplish. She, like most emboldened and impassioned young people, wanted to make clear to the rest of the congregation something she didn't think they understood. I was very proud of her for it.

It is a challenge to allow the work of the Holy Spirit to not only teach us what our gifts are but also move us to use them. It can mean sacrificing time we'd rather spend doing something else. But there are many members of one body — many gifts, and talents, and spirits that are necessary puzzle pieces to the picture that God is trying to paint. There's nothing more frustrating than getting finished with a puzzle and finding there's a piece missing.

Know that the Lay Leadership Team isn't drawing puzzle pieces from a hat hoping they'll fit. They have prayerfully considered whose gifts and graces best fit the needs of Trinity for 2019. When they call, consider taking the time you may need to see if saying, "yes," or "no," is your answer or God's. And if you are feeling called to service, please answer that call with a joyful heart and watch and see how the church and you are renewed and transformed.

With Love and Encouragement

Rev. Sara

Save the Dates!

August 26th: 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 5th was 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 26th**.

September 30th: Charge Conference at St. John's UMC, 1207 Peabody Ave., at 2:00 p.m. Please make plans to attend. Trinity had the biggest turn-out last year! Also consider agreeing to serve on a 2019 committee. Ministry cannot happen unless we all agree to serve.

Guatemala Mobile Consulate Visit



Consulate aides offered assistance to Guatemalan nationals who arrived from Tennessee and surrounding states on August 18 and 19.

There were representatives from Comunidades Unidas 1 Voz (One Voice) offering advice and help to immigrants and refugees.



BE THE CHANGE

From the Room In The Inn-Memphis website:

"During our 2017-2018 winter shelter season, we served 447 individuals experiencing homelessness. With nearly 50 congregations spanning 13 denominations, Room in the Inn - Memphis volunteers experienced 6,801 opportunities to share in holy hospitality with our guests. That's 6,801 warm meals shared around a table with listening ears and open hearts. 6,801 warm beds in a safe environment. This work is impossible without the church and community volunteers who share their time with our guests."

If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? - James 2:16

The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me. - Matthew 25:40

The rich and poor have this in common, the Lord is maker of them all. - Proverbs 22:2

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." - Hebrews 13:2

Trinity United Methodist Church is an integral part of this mission to offer holy hospitality to our less fortunate neighbors. Thanks to our local coordinator, Lois Young, Trinity is probably the best organized group Room In The Inn host site in the city. Lois is ably seconded by Rosemary Potter on those rare occasions when Lois is unavailable. (The list of all the volunteers is too long to publish!) As one who is relatively new to Trinity, but who was present at the founding of Room In The Inn-Memphis, I have seen that TUMC models the very best in hospitality. You ensure that every aspect of "hosting" is addressed: from sweeping the floors, putting fresh linens on the mattresses, serving hot, nutritious meals (both dinner and breakfast the next morning), and offering friendly conversation. There are two more summer sessions coming up: August 28 and September 25. New volunteers are always welcome!

~Debby Marston

Honorariums

Honorariums have been received:

*In honor of **Bertha Ching** from Elaine Amis*

*In honor of **Bertha Ching** from Sally Ramsey*

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basement, 4) new mop sink, 5) A/C blower in the sanctuary, and 6) stripping and waxing 2nd floor in Education Building. The Trustees have done an admirable job in managing this fund.

A review of the building costs by building from 2013 to 2017 shows that the cost of maintaining the Sanctuary building over the past five years has averaged \$35,732 per year and represents 45% of our total building costs, exclusive of any major capital expenditures. That \$35,700 is basically our projected deficit for 2017 (\$30,000).

Bottom line: As a church, we can no longer afford to maintain both buildings and continue to be a meaningful presence in this community.

Change of Address

Bertha Ching's new address will be:
1305 Haku Place
Honolulu, HI
96819-1633



We'll miss you,
Bertha!



September 6	Jamie Windham
September 10	Timothy Taylor
September 11	Doris Webster
September 13	David Potter
September 14	Kathy Isbell
September 16	Kate Taylor
September 17	Harper Keller
September 17	Jan Bailey Young
September 20	Charlotte Comes
September 22	Bennett Brown
September 22	Craig Jordan
September 22	Virginia Walters
September 23	John Stuart
September 26	Nancy Rankin
September 27	Evelyn Hendren
September 30	Joe Hatter

Methodist Healthcare sent healthcare professionals to check blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar, etc.



They also send a mobile mammogram unit, including interpreters to overcome any language barrier.

Adrian Cullen, Julian Cullen, and Joey Hopper were among the volunteers who showed up to help in a variety of ways. These guys had the unenviable responsibility for policing the grounds for litter.

Thank you to everyone who offered their assistance to our Guatemalan neighbors!



Summary Analysis of Ten-Year Financial History

Trinity United Methodist Church

In analyzing the financial data gathered from 2007 through 2017, there are several key points worthy of note.

Total income has decreased from \$359,842 to \$276,536. In 2007, 90% of our income came from pledged and non-pledged giving. By 2017, it was 87%. However, the facility use income (rents and fees) became a better source of revenue for us beginning in 2015 with the Midtown Montessori school opening that fall. These rents and fees have helped close the gap caused by reduced pledged and non-pledged giving.

Total operating expenses decreased from \$405,312 in 2007 to \$293,263 in 2017. We have managed our expenses well and have made significant staff reductions where possible. Program expenses have also decreased but not because we have reduced ministries. Several programs, such as Room in the Inn and Manna on Monday at Highland Heights, are now being funded by donations from church members and people in our community. Additionally, in 2017, Trinity received a \$5,000 bequest for Children's Ministries which has offset some capital expenses in the nursery.

Although church membership dropped from 423 in 2007 to 334 in 2017, the deficit between income and expenses has narrowed considerably, from **(\$45,470)** in 2007 to **(\$16,727)** in 2017. The receipt of a \$10,000 unrestricted bequest and the transfer of funds originally given for the sanctuary HVAC of \$16,985 in 2017 helped a great deal in lowering our 2017 year-end deficit. Overall, we continue to be in the red, primarily because of the maintenance cost of having two buildings.

In 2013, we received a \$204,000 unrestricted bequest from the estate of Marie Mitchell. Without these funds, Trinity would have had to use our restricted cash assets (Endowment, Insurance Reserve Fund, Merritt Fund, Mission Endowment Fund and Holmquist Fund) to fund the deficits. These assets would have run out in 2015. Marie Mitchell's bequest was truly God's hand at work here at Trinity, keeping our church open and alive while we discern our mission and ministry as God's people in this Community, going into the future.

We also received the generous bequest from the Holmquist estate in 2013 to be used for maintenance and upkeep of the church's facilities. Again, what a blessing and God's hand at work! The monies allowed us to keep our aging facilities running.

Details on capital expenditures are difficult to determine from 2007-2012 due to the way our reports were set up then. In 2013, with the receipt of the Holmquist funds, we began to report all capital expenditures through Trustees separately on the P & L but not included in the operating income/loss. Looking at the years 2013—2017, the capital expenditures were heaviest in 2015 (\$56,407) and 2016 (\$83,428). In 2015, we renovated the parsonage and did improvements to the Education Building to get the facility up to code for the Midtown Montessori School to open as well as other general expenditures. In 2016, the largest expenses were 1) replacement of HVAC on 1st floor of Education Building, 2) asbestos removal in the basement, 3) HVAC handler in the

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Making an Impact on our World

By John Holtzman

I have worked in the nonprofit sector for the majority of my life. It was not a plan or a goal, it was something that just happened, or perhaps it is also part of God's plan for my life. When you work in the for-profit world it is all about the bottom line and how to improve the bottom line. Yes, a business may choose to be charitable to its employees or donate to causes, but that is not the goal of the majority of the for-profit world. However, working in the nonprofit world, I feel I have had opportunities to make an impact on people's lives. It is the bonus of working in that environment.

The question then comes, "How big of an impact have you made in the world?" I can't say I have found the cure for some dreaded disease that plagues mankind or that I have brought about world peace. What I have done is sometimes being no more than a listening ear and someone who shows empathy to people who are dealing with tough issues. In my current employment, I work as the Intake Manager for the largest autism center in Tennessee. I am often the one who speaks to the families when they are in the midst of the trauma of discovering their child has autism, or they are having great difficulties with the school system where their child is not getting the help desperately needed. Often, I am the listening ear, the one who understands where these parents are, and I am there to offer help. Though I do not have a child on the autism spectrum, I have two adopted children with medical special needs, so I have been there. I have experienced the hopelessness of not being able to find the answer. I share my experience and that parent, who may have felt very alone, no longer feels quite so alone in this world. My words of encouragement may not have cured a disease or brought about world peace, but I hope they made an impact, even if it's only an impact on one person.

How does this relate to the music ministry of Trinity UMC? Each Sunday, music is an integral part of our worship service. Whether singing hymns, listening to the Choral Act of Praise, or hearing the offertory music, these all make an impact. When you are impacted in a positive way, it equips you to go out into the world and positively impact someone else. So, one by one, each impact that is made changes the world in some way. It may not change the world as a whole, but it changes our world. So I leave you with this question, "What are you doing to impact our world today?"