

# Trinotes

**The Mission of Trinity United Methodist Church is to proclaim God's love by building community and living by the example and teachings of Jesus Christ.**



## The GIFT of Small

From  
*the desk*  
of...  
The Rev.

*The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, and they shall still bring forth fruit in old age. Psalm 19: 12-15 paraphrased.*

Last week I was *privileged* to attend the Flourishing Small Church cohort gathering with the Texas Methodist Foundation in Austin TX. We were tasked with involving a lay person from our congregation as well, so Kay Jordan and I took off to take over Austin. Well, maybe not take over, but we went.

Back in the Fall I'd been given a heads up that we might be nominated to participate in this cohort — a year-long journey with 8 other United Methodist Churches from all over the country, their pastors and chosen lay people — a group that would meet once a month on Zoom, in Austin at the beginning of the adventure, and in Nashville at the end. When we were nominated, it was a nomination to *apply*, so, admittedly, I wasn't sure if we were participating to receive or participating to give. To my delight, after a few days in Austin, reflection, thought, an art project, and two field trips, I discovered it's both-and, not either-or.



The Texas Methodist Foundation (TMF) asked us to participate so that they could learn from small church leadership in settings that are *flourishing* so as to define and redefine what it means to be a fruitful congregation that is small. The purpose was not to teach small church leaders how to grow small churches so that they are no longer small. There was no discussion about institutional preservation. We discovered and considered how unhealthy that perspective is for 2/3 of the world's churches. Their hope is to watch us experience, discover, and reflect so as to gather enough information that they may develop learning opportunities for the Bishops of our denomination that may lead to a new way of the United Methodist Church functioning, from appointment making, to what value small membership churches are given. We are, in fact, a case study and I find that to be a delight.

During my time I found myself amazed and in awe more than once. I was amazed how quickly the church clergy melded. We discovered that we were equally passionate and excited about our churches. I've actually never gathered with a group of others who were equally excited about our ministry settings. We had very little to say that bent toward the negative. We were excited to tell our stories and share the work our churches were doing (never really mentioning size and I believe that to be a special reality). When our lay people arrived, we noticed the same sense of melding. The cohort has quickly become a cohesive group of folks from very different communities who are flourishing in pursuit of the same goal. We are connectionalism at its best.

It was a gift to be able to unpack what it might mean to flourish as a clergy-person. I'd never considered that my personal flourishing, being able to pursue my passions in life and in ministry, might affect my church's (and really, visa versa). I'd never considered how important it is for us to be in line with one-another, in hope, in mission, and in all that creates in us passion and belonging, and how none of that has anything at all to do with numbers, statistics, or growth. I've never come back from anything

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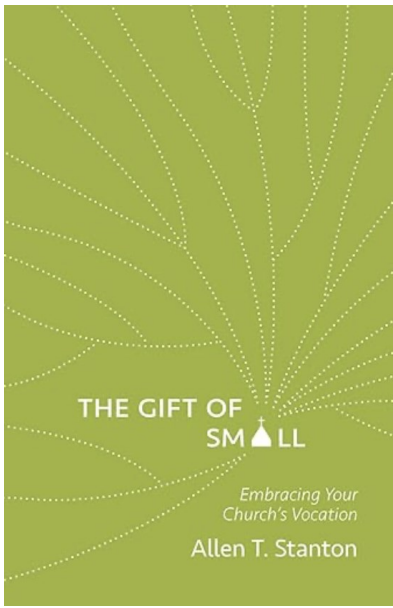
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so entirely ignited to “do good things” and so unconcerned with seats in chairs (and so physically and emotionally exhausted, but in the best of ways). When God is free to do Kingdom work in us, when we stop setting limitations and celebrating what doesn’t really matter, we are freed for JOYFUL obedience and, Trinity, I truly think that’s who we are.

In many ways I hope that you will join Kay and me on this journey for the next year, as we continue to study our own Allen Stanton’s book, *The Gift of Small*. I hope you will reflect on our congregation as one that would be missed if we were gone, and celebrate the fullness of our story, but especially where we are right now — in this moment. I hope you will think about what it means to flourish — what makes you filled with joy abundant and hope eternal, and what ways our church is flourishing as well. How might we celebrate that flourishing? What other paths might we invite ourselves to travel that will lead to that kind of goodness in our future?


Trinity, I love you. As always, I am your BIGGEST (loudest, most passionate) cheerleader. I believe you are good incarnate and God is only beginning this chapter of our story in me and in you.


Eternally Grateful,  
*Rev. Sara*



**“The Gift of Small”**

Our own Allen Stanton has recently published a book about small membership churches that embrace their vocation. That's TRINITY. This is a worthwhile read for our congregation and we encourage you to grab a copy, get the author to sign it, and read and think about who we are as a church that is flourishing in midtown Memphis. The book can be purchased at [fortresspress.com](http://fortresspress.com) or on Amazon. If you need help ordering a copy, let the church office know and we'll place an order for you.





**United Women in Faith**

**12 Ordinary Men**

Trinity UWF's January meeting's lively discussion on *Philip: The Dense Disciple that Jesus Loved* was led by Sue. That Jesus could love a man who was dense (Philip), gives me hope. Philip was just one of the 12 ordinary men chosen to be His disciples.

In February we will discuss *Nathanael: Purely Prejudice*. March we will explore *Matthew and Thomas: The Publican and The Pessimist*. In April we will discuss James (The Less), Simon (The Zealot), and Judas (Son of James), the not-so-well-known trio. May brings *Judas: The Devil's Disciple* to conclude our study of 12 Ordinary Men just in time for summer vacation. If you would like to lead any of these discussions, please text or email Joan S.

The next potluck meeting will be held at noon, 28 February, in the Worship Center. It is an important meeting during which we will pay annual or semi-annual dues and authorize annual expenditures. See you there!



# Trinity Kids



## Children's Sunday School Class and Card Factory

## Medical Equipment Available to Lend

Here's a reminder about the availability of used, but still functional, medical equipment at hand, thanks to those who want to share.

Shower stool, two bedside commodes, shower chair, three standard walkers, two Rollator walkers, portable oxygen machine, portable nebulizer, bathtub grab bar that affixes securely to the side of the tub, two hand grab bars that affix to a wall by suction (must be very careful with these), and an unopened box of nasal cannula tubing.

Two transport chairs, a wheelchair, a grabber, knee-to-hip immobilizer, three orthopedic boots, (one ankle-high and one knee-high); three pairs of crutches, one tall and two medium; an adjustable cane; two flexible knee braces.

If you are in need of any medical equipment from that listed above, or if you have your own accumulation of medical "stuff" to share, you can contact the church office.



# Church Council Meeting

The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 9th, immediately following worship. A meal will be provided, so please contact Allen Stanton at [atstanton89@gmail.com](mailto:atstanton89@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. Members of the congregation are welcome. Let Allen know if you want to contribute fruit, salad, or bread to the meal.

## MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

DONATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED

IN MEMORY OF

EDDIE RAMSEY

FROM DORIS PORTER

EDDIE RAMSEY

FROM SUE & MARK TAYLOR

## February Birthdays

Alex Landrigan	February 6
Sally Ramsey	February 7
Myra Finch	February 12
Eli Witt	February 22
Jacobi Hemingway	February 23
Sara Corum	February 27
Amy Moritz	February 27
David Hopper	February 27

# TAKE ATTENDANCE

JPG - PNG - SVG - EPS - DXF

February has been designated "Update Trinity Membership Rolls" month. It is important to have current information on our members and guests. Even if you have not moved and even if you have been attending Trinity for many years, please **legibly print** your name and completely fill in **all** information on the attendance register. Place your completed form in the **offering plate**. Leave the attendance registry folder on **top of your seat** at you leave. Thank you for your assistance!

## January Birthdays

John Curry	January 2
Kay Jordan	January 4
Tom Wilson	January 10
Jan Young	January 14
Jay Keller	January 16
Joan Foley	January 18
Doris Porter	January 23
Irene Dycus	January 25
Lila Dycus	January 25
Jeff Corbett	January 27
Caley Foreman	January 29
Carol Miller	January 30
Sharman Murley	January 30





Volunteers are the backbone of any non-profit organization, especially churches. Trinity UMC is blessed with MANY volunteers who do just about everything that needs doing around the church proper and beyond.



On the front desk, Mondays through Thursdays, we currently have three volunteers. Joan Smith is present on Mondays and Tuesdays now, complete with Djynn, the official church mascot and Church Dog par excellence. Aside from typical front desk responsibilities, Joan is in charge of data entry into our Servant Keeper system. She puts the attendance pads out in The Center so worshipers can register their attendance and make necessary changes in addresses, both physical and email, as well as phone numbers and other pertinent information.

Wednesdays find Sue Taylor on duty up front. Sue handles birthday/greeting cards to homebound members and friends, mailing *Trinotes* twice a month, and sending out the *Upper Room* devotional guides to the homebound every other month. In addition, she manages the Tiny Pantry, having foodstuffs delivered to her home via Amazon and keeping that little pantry stocked.



Every Thursday, Melba Abraham can be found at the front desk dispensing Kroger cards (when we have them). She is our official proofreader for each Sunday's Order of Worship and makes sure the prayer concerns list is up to date each week, as well. (Her picture to the left is a holdover from the Room in the Inn days when she spent a lot of time making up beds.)

All three of these volunteers perform other tasks, including maintaining a list of individuals and families who want to register for the monthly Food Pantry. When folks call to ask about Kroger cards, they have a current list they can check to ensure that cards are given to those who are eligible in order to give everyone a fair chance to buy some groceries. Additionally, when calls come in requesting assistance with rent or utilities, the volunteer can gather the information needed in order to process the request and determine who is eligible.

It's a LOT.

Of course, there are other volunteers: Sunday school teachers, nursery workers, Food Pantry workers, worship leaders, trustees, committee members and chairs, and on and on. Stay tuned for a future *Trinotes* article when we can recognize the many other volunteers who keep the church fires burning.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Our country and the world** - for all those endangered by the war between Israel and Hamas and for families on both sides who have lost loved ones; for victims of natural disasters; for those families and communities who have fallen victim to the horror of gun violence in our country; for the people of Ukraine who are imperiled by the invasion of Russian troops, shelling of residential areas, and the terror being experienced by the civilian population; for all those in our country and around the world still impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and variants; 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; for people around the world experiencing terrorist attacks; for the poor, homeless, and disenfranchised in our city; for immigrants who still struggle due to lost jobs and lack of resources; for persons of color who are speaking out against racial profiling and injustice and for families who have lost loved ones due to race related violence; for President Donald Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance—pray for their wisdom and that of all political leaders; pray for civility during the transition to the new administration.

**The United Methodist Church** - for our Pastor, Rev. Sara Corum, her husband, Rev. Josh McClurkan, and their five children; for our Bishop, the Rev. David Graves; for our interim District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Deborah Smith

**Trinity UMC** - for members of the congregation homebound due to chronic illness or age; for new visitors joining us as we worship in person and online; for all families who are grieving; for our congregation as we deal with transitions; and wisdom for our Trustees and Church Council. Also, specific prayer requests by and for:

**Don Norton**, our custodian Raquel's husband, is hospitalized for gastrointestinal problems. Pray for his recovery.

**Joan Foley** sustained a fall on Sunday, January 26th. Pray for her recovery.

**Sally Ramsey**, as she is supported by her family and friends following **Eddie's** passing

**Don Culpepper**, Carol Miller's brother-in-law, passed away peacefully Tuesday, January 14th.

**Susan & Allen Todd**, facing difficult decision about his care for severe Parkinson's

**Venoma Newhart**, age 102, is now in hospice care.

**Kate Ostenrude**, in rehab at Kings Daughters and Sons

**Pam Stafford**, battling liver disease, and husband **Jim Stafford**, dementia (request from Sandy Guntharp)

**Bo Poppelreiter**, step-grandson of Debby Marston, waiting on second kidney transplant; on dialysis for now  
Katy Spake's friends **Janet Dennison** (breast cancer) and husband **Brent**

**Seth Norton**, Raquel's son, biopsy revealed gastroparesis; benign liver mass requires meds; nausea treatment

**Nicole Salisbury Nelson**, Joan Smith's cousin, in late 30s, stroke, no oxygen 15 minutes: blind, partial paralysis

**Adam Hill**, serious vein ruptures in legs, much pain (friend of Joan Smith)

From Heather Jacoby-Keller: friend's husband **Eddie** diagnosed with cancer. Heather's sister **Faith** also fighting cancer (for the past year). Please pray for healing!

Joan Foley's daughter-in-law, **Marilynn Hawkins**

**Gwen Dodson**, bladder cancer, COPD, osteoporosis; cancer treatment

Joan Smith's cousin, **Doug Robbins**, aggressive kidney cancer, facing 5th surgery; high medical bills

**Kaelyn Wright**, wife and mother of two young children, has aggressive thyroid cancer. (Friend of Joan Smith)

**Maggi Comes'** niece, **Katie Pendleton**, diagnosed with Tumefactive MS

**Kanyon Glover**, heart received as baby checks out okay; plays ball; receives PT for arm damaged by stroke

**Jacob Foreman**, for new part time job to go well; nerve damage & back pain continues

**Gene Archer**, diagnosed with stomach cancer; his wife **Julia** has MS (friends of Millers)

**Lauren Crews**, diagnosed with ALS (friend of Millers)

**David Harrison**, Carol Miller's brother, on dialysis; paralyzed on one side after stroke; asthma; COPD

**Val Coates**, medical concerns

**Jonathan Goff**, back injury; **James Goff**, Sam's brother, abdominal issues; **Karen Barker**, Sara's sister, lung issues

**Living Word Christian Church; The Lab School** guides & students; Scouts in **Pack 13 & Troops 13B & 13G;**  
and the **NA** groups meeting at Trinity as they work towards their goals of wholeness and recovery

*(Please contact the church office if you have additional prayer concerns, need a concern removed, or need to make a change or correction.)*