Trinotes

October 23, 2024

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.

From the desk of... The Rev.

Spectators of Faith

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers… James 1:22a

A few nights ago, I sat in my living room, both kids and Josh on the couches, while the annual show-down took place on TV. I cannot stand the 3rd Saturday in October. It's the WORST. Every year I am hopeful the Tennessee Volunteers will beat Alabama, and, for the vast majority of the last 16-or-so years, I've had my hopes thwarted by the Crimson Tide.

This year, as an act of self-preservation, but to be present with my family who wanted to watch the game in full, I sat in the recliner in the living room with my noise-canceling headphones on so that I couldn't hear what was happening, and my laptop in my lap with the hope that I wouldn't notice what was going on, on the TV. I elected to be a diehard UT fan, without giving my eyes, ears, or emotions to what was happening other than the updates my sweet children insisted I know. After awhile, as I noticed in my peripheral vision the emotions of my family, I began to feel al little left out, so I shut down all of my noise-canceling and visually distracting technology to tune into what I hoped wouldn't be the bloodbath I expected.

And I'm glad I did because if I hadn't, I would've missed the feeling I felt when, for only the 2nd time in 16-or-so years, the Tennessee Volunteers beat Bama. It is a very good feeling for this jaded lover of all things orange and college football in the south.

Our current culture calls it FOMO — Fear of Missing Out. It's just like it sounds. We participate because we do not want to be the ones on the edge of life missing out on the 'good' that everyone else is experiencing.

It's been awhile since we talked about it, or even thought about it. I think Covid really slowed us down and put to rest many of the things we did as a congregation that called us to attention and called us to action. And still, 4 years from the beginning of the Covid 19 pandemic, we're still trying to reignite our flames for different ministries. Maybe we've gotten a little too comfortable in the recliner, with those noise-canceling headphones on and blinders up. But ministry isn't a spectator sport. It calls us each to attention and then to action. It calls us to serve. It calls us to give thanks, to lift our voices in praise, and then to take what we've experienced on Sunday morning and turn it into something that changes the world in the name of Jesus.

Trunk-or-Treat does that for our community. It reminds the community we are here and it opens the door for opportunities to know our neighbors and make relationships with them. Room in the Inn (stay tuned for more about **this**) does that for our community. It not only offers overnight housing for our housing-challenged friends, it draws the neighborhood to be active participants in ministry with us, again, opening the door for us to make relationships with them. The inner-workings of church life create a foundation for mission-related ministry to happen. Things like considering our personal stewardship and serving on in-house committees help us to examine how we, as a church, can meet the needs of a hurting world.

There are opportunities on our horizon to be more than spectators — to use our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness to serve. There are also ways that **everyone** can be a part of what that means — to be the Church. There's no need to have FOMO. Give the church your 'yes' and we'll plug you right in.

Saying 'Yes' Again,
Rev. Sara

Big Bake Sale Coming Up!

It's almost time for the big **ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE** on **Tuesday, November 5th**! All of Trinity's seasoned bakers know that Election Day is a special day to which our neighbors always look forward with anticipation, mainly because of the delicious home-baked treats, both sweet and savory, that await them in our Trinity Church lobby. We are anticipating a record turnout for this important election, and we need a generous amount of baked goods to offer to our friends in the Evergreen Historic District.

As always, we will need volunteers to provide sweet treats or savory food items for the sale. We are asking each family in the church to bake one or more items to sell. An "item" is a cake, a batch of cookies, a pie, a loaf of bread, a batch of muffins or cupcakes, etc. Please identify what each baked item is (examples: "chocolate chip cookies" or "banana nut bread"). If you want to leave a special note, such as "made from scratch," please do so. However, do NOT put prices on your baked goods ahead of time. We will price all items after you bring them to the church.

All sale items need to be delivered to Trinity Church no later than 3 p.m. on Monday, November 4th. Smaller 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.

In addition to bakers, helpers will be needed at the sales tables between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. We will need two volunteers on duty at all times throughout the day.

Church Council Meeting

Church Council Notes

Trinity's Church Council met on October 13. Here are some of the highlights of that meeting:

Pastor Sara Corum shared her excitement for the new persons who have become involved over the past few months and looks forward to further involving those persons in Trinity's life and ministries.

Craig Jordan noted that financially we had a much better month in September receiving a major pledge contribution. Our expenses through September are less than budgeted. Our income is greater than budgeted in pledged giving, facility use, and memorials/seasonal offerings. At the same time our non- pledged giving languishes being some $19,000 less than budgeted. Our overall expenses are greater than our income. We have bridged that difference with $15,000 from our Endowment.

Kay Jordan reporting for the Staff Pastor/Parrish Committee expressed appreciation for the work of each of our staff members and recommended 4% salary increases for all staff in 2025. The Council unanimously supported this recommendation which will be finalized at our November Charge Conference.

Irene Dycus expressed appreciation for Raquel Norton's and our volunteers' support for our children in Sunday morning church school and worship. Trunk or Treat is fast approaching with support from the congregation needed in our outreach effort with the larger community.

Mike Potter reported on the Food Pantry ministry as an expression of spiritual formation. For the latest quarter we distributed 47 boxes of food for 112 people. Our Food Pantry has ample amounts of donated food on hand. We are focusing now on the food boxes from Catholic Charities which provide 20 pounds of food at a cost to Trinity of $5 per box. Among our current food ministries, the greatest need now is funds for Food Vouchers (Kroger Cards).

Joan Smith reviewed the report of United Women of Faith which appeared in our previous newsletter. UWF plans to contribute $300 to Trinity's food ministries.

"Train Children in the Way They Should Go"

I came across two items this week in my readings that reminded me of the importance of the work we do with children at Trinity Church. The first was ***The Upper Room*** devotional for Tuesday, October 15th. The scripture passage was from 2 Timothy 3:14-17. It began with these words: "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it." The apostle Paul was writing to Timothy, who was a very young minister. Earlier in the same letter, Paul referred to Timothy's "sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also." The featured scripture from that devotion was Proverbs 22:6: "Train children in the way they should go; when they grow old, they won't depart from it."

My mother was, of course, my first teacher. She was a stay-at-home mom until I was in junior high school, when she began teaching high school English. She was always there for me and all the rest of our family, as well as for friends and neighbors. She was also there for the children whose lives were touched by her over the years - as a room mother for both my sister's and my classes at school, as a Brownie Scout leader, as a Sunday School teacher, and as a Youth leader. She could do almost everything well – except sing on key.

When I took dance lessons, she made not only my costumes, but also the costumes for many of the other girls in my dance group. She was the most consistent, self-disciplined, unpretentious person I have ever known. She was raised a Baptist and was active in the church from childhood through her adult years. When she married my daddy, she said she also married the Methodist Church. Although she was an excellent Sunday School teacher, she didn't "talk Jesus" all the time. Instead, she quietly and humbly "walked the walk." She was my primary role model for living a faithful life.

The second thing that spoke to me this week was a quote from Frederick Buechner: "You can't be too careful what you tell a child because you never know what he'll take hold of and spend the rest of his life remembering you by." It's not just the intentional things that we teach children in instructional situations such as Sunday School that make great impressions on them. It's in the everyday living of our lives and the points at which our lives intersect with theirs that perhaps have the greatest and longest-lasting effects on their lives.

We are ALL teachers of our children. I may spend more time with them as their Sunday School teacher and leader of various ministry events, but <u>you</u> also have a great influence on them. Your friendly smiles and words of encouragement go a long way towards letting them know they are loved by this church. If they drift away from the church at some point, the sure knowledge that they have been dearly loved here may very well be the thing that draws them back "home." That was certainly true for me in my own life. I felt the love, the "sweet, sweet Spirit," of this church on the first Sunday I attended, and I have continued to be nourished by it through my forty-five years of being a part of this wonderful church family. I'm praying that our children (and adults) who are with us now, as well as others in the future, will be similarly blessed for years to come.

Peace and love to all,
Irene

November Birthdays

Joan Smith	November 7
Katy Spake	November 12
Cooper Tate	November 14
Mary McConnell	November 17
Martha Ostenrude	November 18
Lucas Smith	November 22
Carson Witt	November 25
Venoma Newhart	November 26
Shirley Flint	November 27
Raquel Norton	November 27
John Allmon	November 29

October Birthdays

Clara Farabee	October 2
Nora Dycus	October 8
Sonnet Booth	October 26
Natalie Stanton	October 27

Memorials & Honorariums

A donation has been received

in honor of

Carol & Carey Miller

from Doris Porter

A Different Kind of "Kroger Card"

Kroger will donate to Trinity when you use your Kroger Rewards Card!

If you have a Kroger card and scan it when you shop (to take advantage of special prices), the company will make a contribution to our church. All you have to do is indicate that Trinity is your chosen organization. Here's how: Go to kroger.com and click on your name. You will see a drop-down menu. Click on My Account. At the bottom of the menu that then appears, you will see Community Rewards. Click there and you will be taken through the steps to choose Trinity United Methodist Church as the organization to receive money when you shop. That's it! (The directions above are what I use on my laptop. On my phone, when I go to My Account, I don't click, I just look down at the next item below My Account, which is Rewards. When I click, Community Rewards is there.)

I'm not advertising, or suggesting that you change your preferred grocery chain. But if you shop at Kroger, keep this in mind. The donations don't cost you anything extra, and they are very small, but if all of us do this, it will help our church budget. And that helps us be in ministry.

Kay Jordan

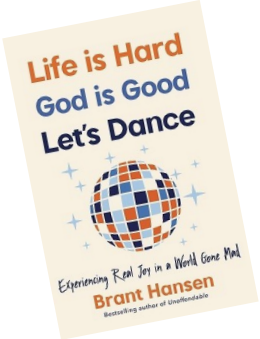
Thank you EHDA!

Evergreen Historic District Association donated A LOT of candy for Sunday's Trunk or Treat. Many thanks to EHDA for their generous support of Trinity's ministries!

[Editor's note…]

Okay, I admit it. This is filler. Just about everyone I asked for articles responded with submissions. That's just heaven for an editor. Right now, however, due to the temporary loss of a jump drive with all my Trinotes stuff on it, I am running behind. I've plugged in the articles and information offered by Rev. Sara, Craig Jordan, Kay Jordan, Irene Dycus, and Sue Taylor. (Yes, Sue, you get credit for sending me the November birthday list.) I found a cool graphic for "falling back" as we go off Daylight Saving Time (see above). And now I'm trying to fill space by doing what I do: stream of consciousness writing.

While searching through my emails in the desperate hope that I would find just one more article that I had overlooked, I got distracted by a Cokesbury ad. The title of a book by Brant Hansen jumped out at me: *Life is Hard, God is Good, Let's Dance,* subtitled "Experiencing joy in a world gone mad." I admit I've been pretty down recently. The presidential campaign has worn me out with all the posturing and anger and just plain ugliness. So when I saw the title of Mr. Hansen's book and read a description of the content, I decided that it's a book I need to read right now. I also ordered *Unoffendable* by the same author. Do any of you remember my description of myself when I first started working for you? Ms. Rhinoceros Hide. "You cannot hurt my feelings." For most of my life, I've been a person who was never offended by rudeness or the casting of aspersions against me. How many of you have noticed that my "fuse" is a lot shorter than it used to be? I've noticed. And I don't like myself as much as I used to. So, I'm really glad that I needed some "filler." It allowed me to find new reading material (always a plus for someone addicted to the printed word) and made me reflect on how I can become more of a person in search of real joy. I'm working on it.



Wishing you enough,

Debby

P.S. Maybe I'll write a book review next time.

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 Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris—pray for their wisdom and that of all political leaders; pray for civility during the Presidential campaigns & election.

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:

The family of **Karen Willard**, who died last week after a long illness.
Sharman's brother, **Chuck Murley**, on radiation/chemo for throat cancer
Carol Miller, fell on bleachers & fractured femur; recovering at home
Myra Finch's sisters-in-law **Margaret Beasley & Jo Ann Sumpter**
Kate Ostenrude asks for prayers for **Marshall**'s health concerns.
Katy Spake's son **Sean Berry**: medical tests for digestive issues
Seth Norton, Raquel's son, waiting for results of biopsy performed last week; further testing pending
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, **Douglas Robbins**, aggressive cancer, and his wife **Ash**
Kaelyn Wright, wife and mother of two young children, has aggressive thyroid cancer. (Friend of Joan Smith)
Olivia Dunn, 29 year old receiving treatment for uterine cancer (Katy Spake's request)
Gene Archer, diagnosed with stomach cancer; his wife **Julia** has MS; **Lauren Crews**, diagnosed with ALS
Maggi Comes' niece, **Katie Pendleton**, diagnosed with Tumefactive MS
Kanyon Glover has had issues with his heart & continues physical therapy.
Jacob Foreman, ongoing health problems & job search
David Harrison, Carol Miller's brother, on dialysis; paralyzed on one side after stroke; asthma; COPD; now has pneumonia. Carol's step-mother, **Barbara Womack**, in rehab for hip replacement; fell & broke femur.
Don Culpepper, Carol Miller's brother-in-law, liver cancer returned, receiving radiation and chemotherapy
Val Coates, lots of physical pain
Eddie Ramsey, in hospice care at home; **Sally**, macular degeneration; son **Rusty Ramsey**, torn kneecap tendon
Jonathan Goff, lost half of right index finger due to injury and resulting infection
Lyle Klein, family member of Amelia Strickland, diagnosed with Parkinson's, cancer, and heart disease
For **Living Word Christian Church;** for **The Lab School**; for all our Scouts and leaders of **Pack 13**, **Troop 13G**, and **Troop 13B**; and for those in the **NA** groups who meet at Trinity

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