

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.



Peace for Tomorrow

And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. — 1 John 5:11

Sunday afternoon I set up camp like I usually do outside the church on the Galloway side, right at the end of the sidewalk. I brought my camping table from home, because it's easier to carry outside by myself than one of the church tables. I went back in and grabbed a chair and carried it out. I carried out the wooden cross and set it on the table. I went back inside, washed my hands, took the plate and placed the bread on it, pinch-by-pinch (so that I was the only one touching it). I wrapped it tightly in a cloth so that it wouldn't dry out or be exposed to anything. I set it down on the plate beside an open bottle of Welch's. I closed my eyes, bowed my head, and prayed the words, "...Pour out your Holy Spirit on those who will gather here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ — that we might be, for the world, the body of Christ redeemed by his blood until he comes again in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet."

Amen.

I walked the elements outside and sat down ready to see who might come.

Communion is meant to be a family meal. We take it together. Sometimes we serve it to one-another. It's communal. That's what it's meant to be. When we each come to the table, it has meaning that is significant.

I will admit that it's been difficult to set the table this way for some time. We started "Drive-By Communion" (not my best naming, I know) in May of 2020. A number of people come faithfully. Neighbors watch, curiously. Sometimes complete strangers driving by stop, turn around, and come back to ask questions and partake. It's always an adventure, sure, but it hasn't been the same and no matter how much I fight it, my desire for "sameness" is still prevalent. I'm sure I'm not alone in that.

Yesterday was a different day. I had a few minutes to sit and think before things began.

I had a few minutes because Fred Martin, who ALWAYS came five minutes early, didn't come. Fred would pull up faithfully, every single month, and look very surprised if I wasn't ready for him yet. He'd take communion quickly. He'd ask me when I thought we might gather again and then he'd leave.

When Fred lost his battle with cancer a couple of months ago, I grieved in surprising ways. Fred and I had an interesting relationship akin to a brother and sister who'd bicker with one-another over things like the Worship Center thermostat. But, when Fred was diagnosed with cancer he came to me to tell me, and the guard I'd normally raise with him dissipated. I began to visit Fred every other week for the months after his diagnosis until the last time I visited him in hospice care (when I brought him communion one last time). My time with him changed me in profound ways.

Sitting in my lonely chair at the end of our sidewalk on All Saints day, I thought of Fred and then one-by-one I thought of our other saints. I thought of what I knew of, and had experienced of, each. I gave thanks to God for them.

In the moments between the cars pulling up, serving the elements, and a blessing, I thought of our All Saints traditions — of lighting a candle for each name and ringing a bell. I thought of the different ways we commemorate someone's life and the ways that we both struggle with and celebrate death. We are people of

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

resurrection hope. That means we are in a perpetual state of knowing the good that lies ahead.

Then I thought of Fred again — Fred who lived that — Fred who knew where he was going and was completely at peace. I missed his presence again for a moment and then smiled because I knew Fred, too, and I knew everything about what he thought was ahead for him was true.

We may not know what's next for us today. Covid has thrown us all for a loop. But we do know what's ahead for eternity, and I pray that, even in the uncertainty of today, we can find, know, and wholly embrace peace in tomorrow. That is my prayer for you, beloved.

Rev. Sara



“Peace for
Tomorrow”

That is my prayer for you,
beloved.

MEMORIALS & HONORARIAMS

MEMORIALS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED
IN MEMORY OF **NANCY RANKIN** FROM
SHIRLEY FLINT
IN MEMORY OF **JOHN STUART** FROM
SHIRLEY FLINT

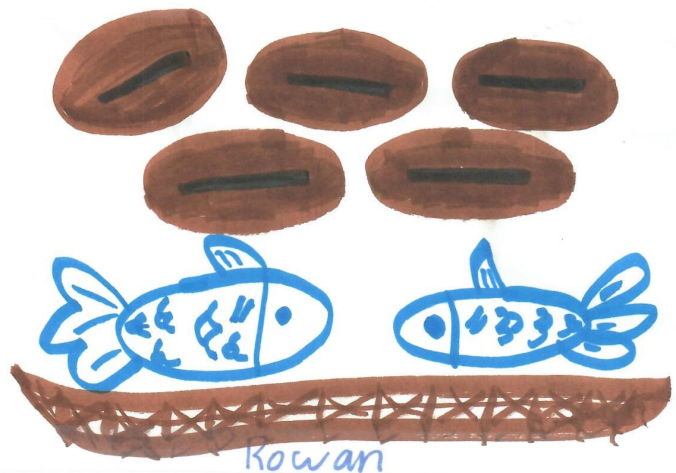


November 7	Joan Smith
November 12	Katy Spake
November 14	Cooper Tate
November 17	Mary McConnell
November 20	Julian Cullen
November 25	Carson Witt
November 26	Vanoma Newhart
November 27	Shirley Flint
November 27	Donna Windham
November 29	John Allmon
November 29	Jonathan Goff

If any birthdays have been omitted, please send the name and date of birth to office@trinityumcmemphis.org or call the church office at 901-274-6895 and leave a message so we can make that correction.

The Children of Trinity Church invite you to **Give to the Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry!**

Help us bless the lives of hungry neighbors.
Collect a bag of canned/boxed foods. Then call
Irene at 901-652-1105 or Alyson at 901-734-2796.
We'll pick up your donations.





TRUST: believing God is with you

This past week we began a new unit of study in our Children's Sunday School Class. We continued our journey with the Israelites, who were free of their Egyptian oppressors, thanks to God's awesome deeds. Alas, they found that they were a long way from the land God had promised. In fact, they were wandering in the wilderness, where the soil was sandy, vegetation scarce, and water even scarcer. So, what do you think the people did? They sang songs of praise, right? No,

they started complaining, and they began to doubt Moses and God.

Although God's people were murmurers and complainers, we learned that God Himself was faithful. He was with them, providing quail in the evening and manna in the morning.

The spiritual practice for this unit is exploring trust through waiting. Our FAITH WORD is **TRUST**, which means "believing God is always with you." Our Bible verse is a familiar one, Joshua 1:9b: "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

The Israelites didn't know it, but they had many years and obstacles to overcome before they would arrive at the Promised Land. They would have plenty of time to practice their waiting skills and to learn to trust. Along the way, they discovered that even when they doubted and complained, God was with them.

What about us? Do we approach life like the Israelites? Do we tend to believe in scarcity, instead of God's provision? Do we keep more than we need, rather than ensuring that everyone has what they need? Or do we believe in abundance and the generosity that gratefully flows from that realization? Do we remember that God has blessed us so that we can be a blessing to others who are less fortunate than we are?

The children of Trinity Church have invited you to join them in giving to the **Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry** operated by our partners in ministry, Binghampton United Methodist Mission. There are many hungry neighbors in the Memphis area, and we are called to do something about it. The food pantry needs proteins, such as canned chicken, tuna, Vienna sausages, and peanut butter. Other needed items are boxed macaroni and cheese, evaporated milk, soups, canned fruits and vegetables, and dried and canned beans. Buy canned foods with pull-off tops whenever you can, and please avoid glass containers because of the risk of breakage. Once you have filled a sack with food items, give one of the children's teachers a call, and we'll arrange a convenient time to pick up your donation. Call Irene at 901-652-1105 or Alyson at 901-734-2796. We look forward to hearing from you. If you would prefer, you can make a financial contribution toward this good cause. (Write "Food Pantry" on your check's memo line.)

Trusting in God and in His people's generous hearts,
Irene and Alyson





Troop 13: a brief (and very personal) history

by Tom Wilson

Boy Scout Troop 13, sponsored by Trinity United Methodist Church, taught me the skills that were instrumental in setting the tone of my life. In my early youth, as an only child, I was undefined. Taking piano instruction from the church organist, Paul Hicks, gave me some satisfaction but no real purpose. I tried Cub Scouts but did not really get inspired to pay attention and move up the ranks. I was simply moved to become inactive.

In 1965, Wilma Bickers joined Trinity with her four children. The two oldest, Matt and Mike, were my age and identical twins. We immediately bonded and our parents, knowing we were sure to be a handful, quickly signed us up to the venerable, church sponsored, Troop 13. It was through this fellowship of youth, teenagers, and men that I acquired skill sets that have continued to sustain me throughout my life.

Our Scoutmaster was the great Bob Shultz, a man blessed with the wisdom of the world and one of the most magnificent baritone bass voices to ever flow from the Trinity choir loft. Our adult leaders each had their own forte. Harold Lloyd was a millwright for Otis Elevator from whom I learned wood working and the beauty of common sense. Charlie Capon still reeked of the military: flat top haircut, rigid posture, and trained in first aid and camping skills. He was more than willing to impart instruction during meetings and on camping trips. Harrold Robinson was well versed, with a vast knowledge of plants and critters that inhabited the outdoors. Bill Brown, Pat Patterson, Fred Carney, Ben Vanderford, and my father, Cal Wilson, were just a few of the men of Trinity that were leaders of the more than 50 lads who would show up for meeting every Monday night.

We were a proud group and the largest troop in the Northwest district of the Chickasaw Council. We camped at least once a month, honing our skills with an eye toward a yearly competition called the Camporee. Our leaders literally beat the scout oath, laws, and scouting skills into our tiny, formative brains. I do not remember Troop 13 ever losing the competition.

Whereas I probably attained the rank of Eagle to please my father (and future wife who still introduces me, “this is my husband, he is an Eagle Scout with his own hair and teeth”), I went on to garner other accolades strictly for myself. One of highest religious honors given in scouting is the God and Country Award, which I was privileged to receive under the instruction of former Trinity senior pastor Dr. William Evans. The skills taught to me by Troop 13 leaders helped me to win the Harvey S. Firestone award for Outstanding Scout of the Year. Boy Scouts of America hired me as staff at Camp Kia Kima, my first actual paying job at thirteen years of age. That summer and the two that followed were the best summers of my life, because it not only allowed me to escape my parents, but taught me the life skills to work well and respectfully with others.

Scouting set the course of my life. It amplified my love of nature, so I went on to receive a B.S. of Agriculture from the University of Tennessee, majoring in Horticulture, and spent two decades improving landscapes. Scouting set in motion a willingness—almost an unquenchable urge—to hike or canoe hundreds of miles, simply to see what is around the bend. To this day, I continue to outdoor camp two to four weeks a year.

Along with the Golden Rule, the Scout Laws serve as lynchpins for the traits I believe an individual should exhibit as the proper way to live their life. Those laws are, “A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.”

In closing, I want to thank Trinity for the 100 years of multilevel sponsorship. A safe, clean, dry, cool in the summer, warm in the winter, place to meet. Enthusiastic, knowledgeable adult leaders from the congregation, who, not only gave of their time weekly, but truly cared for youths who may well have had few others who cared about the quality of their lives. Many have benefited from your kindness and generosity. Count me among them.

Tom Wilson, Proud to be an Eagle Scout of Trinity Methodist’s Troop 13



Reelfoot Rural Ministries

It's time to offer support to the RRM Toy Story, which has been available to families in northwest Tennessee and southwest Kentucky for almost 40 years. In 2020, the RRM Toy Store served over 350 families and 1,000 children.

The simplest and safest donations are monetary. You may send financial donations to Reelfoot Rural Ministries, 6923 Minnick Elbridge Rd., Obion, TN 38240.

If you prefer to donate toys, please call ahead to schedule a day for drop-off. Face masks and COVID screening are required to enter the building. The number is (731) 538-9970.



Scouts and leaders from Pack & Troop 13 spent last Sunday afternoon at Fire Station No. 23. Let's celebrate 100 years of Scouting at Trinity!



Really, Really Free Market

The Village (formerly known as Caritas Village) is going to host a Really, Really Free Market on the lawn in front of the building (weather permitting) on Saturday, December 11th from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Caesar, the director of The Village, will be able to take donations for the market, so email him at clomo@thevillagememphis.org to arrange for drop-off of your donated items. The Village is located at 2509 Harvard Ave, Memphis, TN 38112.

The organizers hope to gather winter clothing and Christmas/holiday gifts, not summer items or things that need to be stored long-term, as there is no extra storage space available.

The idea is to donate items you no longer need or use that one of your neighbors may be able to put to good use.

Please spread the word among your friends and neighbors in order to make this event a success. Remember: one person's trash is another person's treasure!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our country and the world - for all those in our country and around the world still impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Delta variant; for Haiti in the aftermath of an earthquake and hurricane; 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 are struggling 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 violence; for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris in their first year in office—pray for their wisdom.

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. Autura Eason-Williams

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

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

Bryce Sellers, fighting Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Kanyon Glover, now 3 years old, is beginning to walk. He still can't talk or use his left arm, so he's in therapy for those issues.

Donnie Glover, now on oral medication, as well as chemotherapy; needs blood & platelets weekly, but back to driving a truck. (You can't keep a good man down!)

Bobby Glover, Chris' brother, who had moved to assisted living, is now back home in his tiny house!

Jacob Foreman, son of **Caley & Alyson**, hip/leg/back and nerve damage issues, doing PT & showing some slow improvement

Irene Opel is back home with **Gene** at The Glenmary! She celebrated her 91st birthday on October 7th.

David Harrison, Carol Miller's brother, recovered from broken hip; dialysis going well

Don Culpepper, Carol Miller's brother-in-law, has lung cancer, but doing better.

Joan Smith's cousin/mom, **Gigi**, aka **Kathryn Ellis**, receiving in-home care

Peggy Kinney, Charlotte Comes' 95 year old cousin, now residing permanently in rehab center; had to sell home and store her possessions.

Charles Abraham, now at home and using his new ramp for physical therapy.

Val Coates, serious heart condition; still in constant pain and undergoing testing to discover the cause

George Marston, still undergoing dialysis; congestive heart failure; COPD; improved mobility

The family and friends of **Nancy Rankin**, who passed away on October 27th. Pray for **Nelda Gray** and Nancy's extended family as they grieve.

The family of **John Stuart**, who passed away peacefully on Thursday, September 16th

Jean Moss, now at Alan Morgan Health Center in Trezevant View Place on Highland, Room 339

Margaret Rucker, Irene Dycus' sister, moved to assisted living

Phil Isbell, fighting Parkinson's Disease, and for **Kathy** as she supports him; Phil had a pacemaker implanted September 22nd, which has regulated his heartbeat.

Jim Schaeffer, now at home and having rehab following repair of a broken femur and hip

Rosemary Potter, recovering at home from her broken femur

Pray for the family of **Lee Hutchinson**, who passed away October 26th [friend of Carol & Carey Miller]

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