November 5, 2025

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.

From the desk of... The Rev.

The Day the Mouse Had to Die

"*God created every living creature of the sea, birds, and animals, and after each creation, He saw that it was "good." When He finished all creation, He saw that it was "very good".* — Genesis 1:21, 25, 31

I grew up at a nature park. I tell people that a lot. My father was an elementary school teacher in Jackson, but began his days, before the sun came up, opening the gates to Cypress Grove Nature Park. After school, we'd head to the park until 5:30 or 7:30 (depending on the time of year), so that he could feed the injured or imprinted birds of prey that lived there. I would wander the boardwalks aimlessly, sometime. Other times I would wander them looking for inch-worms or caterpillars. At the lake (the end of the boardwalk) we'd often see a great blue heron named 'Hank.' I have no idea if it was always the same heron, but it was always Hank. Sometimes Dad would let me put on my roller blades and skate the boardwalk, but only if the parking lot was empty so as only to disturb nature and not others who were there to enjoy nature.

Before the park built its raptor center, the park office housed an eastern screech owl named Otis. I loved Otis. He'd been handled since he was a baby, so I could reach up and he'd step out onto my finger or sit on my shoulder. He usually perched on a "taxidermied" deer head behind the office desk. When he was a baby, I caught him grasshoppers to eat. Bet you didn't know that I am an expert grasshopper wrangler. When he was a bit bigger, he'd eat small mice — a fact that I learned in a pretty hard way.

In the office here was a small fish tank that housed a handful of mice. I'd made the mistake of growing awfully attached to the little mice when, one day, my dad's boss came in and took one of the mice by the tail and, since Otis had never hunted before, he couldn't eat live mice, well…..I'll spare you the details of what she had to do to the mouse for Otis to be able to eat it, but I won't spare you the details about how horrified I was — scarred for life.

It's a little like that scene from Charlotte's Web where Fern learns of Wilbur's impending fate, and her dad has to have a circle of life talk with her. My poor dad tried, but I was relatively inconsolable, which lead to a brief stint where I had a pet mouse that I was allowed to take home from the park.

One of the most beautiful things that Buddhism gets, that Christianity often ignores, is the value of every living thing. We sing of it from time to time. God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God of the swirling stars…but the value we give to all living creatures is often a last tick on our discipleship to-do list. The unfortunate thing about that reality is that it often bleeds over into how we care for the vulnerable humans of our world.

I have to question it. Shouldn't we be as horrified over the treatment of human beings by our own government as poor, 7-year-old Sara was at the brutal demise of her furry buddy in the park office at Cypress Grove (circa 1993)? In the end, every person is only human — in need of the same basic needs all humans have (food, shelter, and clothing). In the end, every person is a spark of the Divine in our midst, deserving of every honor we give to God. In the end, we are a country who's foundation was built of immigrants, by

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immigrants, and (in theory) for immigrants. In the end, as it was in the beginning, we, collectively, are a people in search of life and liberty — of the pursuit of happiness — and no one person is more deserving of that than another. Every life has value, and not value in the sense that we gain one thing or another from each other, but value in that the God who created us each, did just that — created us each, and thus each one of us (ALL of us) are Divinely inspired, perfectly holy and valuable creatures in the eyes of God. Shouldn't emulating the life of Christ, the one who loved the tax collectors as he did the Pharisees, and the woman by the well as he did the lepers — shouldn't living after his example, being a disciple, mean that we treat every life as though it is a sacred part of the circle of life, that it is a necessary factor in the balance of human existence?

I remember thinking that about smaller living creatures the day the mouse had to die, and have wondered, since then, and even hoped for the same sense that life is beautiful and sacred — every life.

It's a good season to consider the sacred worth of humanity. If we could embrace the sacredness of the other, if the whole of humanity could, what a wonderful world it might be.

Sacred Alongside You,
Rev. Sara

How Spooky Was THAT?!

A little rain has never stopped us! In fact, rain might've made this year's Trunk-or-Treat even better than it would've been. There were moments that were overwhelming, as folks from the neighborhood packed into the Center last week. Tables were covered in what would've been in the trunks of our cars out back. Folks sat for an entire movie on the blow up screen at the altar end of the Center. It's a miracle Raquel managed to find every stray kernel of popcorn before Sunday morning. Hundreds of new friends, alongside old ones, gathered "just for fun" and fellowship to celebrate the up-and-coming holiday. Whether you call it Halloween, or you celebrate Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), or even if you only recognize All Saints (or you theological nerds like me, make sure to pay homage to Reformation Day), you cannot deny that our weekend event was wildly fruitful, incredibly joyful, and filled with hope. Thank you for your devotion to making this time absolutely wonderful. Let's do it again next year!

"Trunkless" Trunk or Treat in The Center

The busiest time of the year

This past month has been a busy one for Children's Ministries, and we're heading into another busy two months that will include Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. On Sunday, October 26th, a throng of Trinity kids, scouts from Pack 13 and Troops 13-B/13-G, and neighborhood kids – along with their parents - enjoyed a noisy, exciting Trunk or Treat in the Center at Trinity. The heavy rainfall that was happening outside failed to put a damper on the spirits of those involved in the celebration inside, where lots of games, adults and youth in costumes, and brightly decorated tables offered fun activities, smiles and laughter, and generous amounts of yummy candy treats. Popcorn and a Halloween movie delivered even more entertainment for those who were in attendance. Many thanks to Pastor Sara for coordinating this wonderful event and to all who were "trunkless," but who treated none-the-less, most especially the Trinity Church family and the scouts, parents, and leaders of Cub Scout Pack 13 and Scout Troops 13-G and 13-B. It was amazing how beautifully adaptable everyone proved to be in the face of the untimely, miserable weather.

For the past several weeks, our children have been working in our worship-time Card Factory to produce over 40 cheerful, brightly colored placemats for the Kairos Prison Ministry. Last weekend, generous parents and other Trinity families also baked dozens of cookies for this ministry. On Sunday, the placemats and cookies were all ready for Jamey Ramsey to pick up and take for a prison visit in the latter part of this week. These men, though they are nameless and faceless to me, were very much on my mind on Friday of last week, as I helped pass out Halloween candy at my children's home. As I watched the parents and children that evening, I thought several times about these men, many of whom are probably fathers, and of their loneliness and possible estrangement, most certainly separation, from their own families. I thought of how participating in this ministry was a wonderful opportunity for our children to help shed the light of Christ in the lives of men who are living in darkness in so many ways.

We now find ourselves in the month of November. During our Card Factory time this month, our children will be putting their artistic abilities into making Thanksgiving greetings for our homebound and ill members. In addition, our Children's Ministry leaders and parents will be looking ahead and planning the next BIG EVENT that is scheduled to take place at Trinity Church. That's the **Santa Stop/Advent Workshop** on the afternoon of **Sunday, December 7th**. We will need lots of cookies – again! We will also need lots of adult volunteers to help children make Christmas decorations at the workshop. This will be our first time since Covid slammed into our lives to offer this special event. This is another wonderful opportunity to offer hospitality to the children of our church and neighborhood. Start praying now and consider where YOU can help!

Peace in Christ,

Irene

Confirmation Class Fall Schedule

November 16: Matthew/Mark

December 14: Luke/John

Help Our Immigrant Neighbors

Do you remember when our church hosted the Guatemalan Mobile Consulate? The sight of hundreds of Guatemalan immigrants lined up in our parking lot, needing to get important documents without traveling to Atlanta, was memorable. Nowadays, El Redentor United Methodist Church husts the Consulate. But in the current situation of federal forces occupying our city, members of El Redentor are afraid to turn out to perform many of the tasks needed to assist consulate officials. We can sign up to help. Call or text Amy Moritz at 901-463-0983 for information on signing up.

The second link is to the newsletter of the Immigrant Relief Task Force, which sponsors this effort and several others in our area. The newsletter contains the details about the Guatemalan Consulate as well as several other ways we can all help. Copy and paste this link into your browser: **https://mailchi.mp/cfec555140aa/supporting-our-immigrant-neighbors-10337423**

Because of Trinity's past involvement, I feel confident that many of you will answer the call to help at the Consulate or in the other ways listed in the newsletter link. You do not need to speak Spanish to help. You only need an open heart.

Kay Jordan
Member of the Immigrant Relief Task Force

United Women in Faith

Still United in Faith

United Women of Faith met for potluck October 24, 2025 at 11:30 in the Center. Officers and Committees were announced. Joan S. is president. Sandy G. is treasurer. Mary M. is librarian. Kathy I. is missions. Her committee consists of Sara G., Carol M., Sharman M.,and Irene D. Annual mission options will be voted on at the next meeting and annual pledges submitted.

Once again our ladies showed up and showed out to bring cookies for Jamey Ramsey's KAIROS prison ministry. Indoor Trunk or Treat was an unqualified success. We will furnish treats for Evergreen Historic District Association's annual Christmas celebration. Irene or Jessica will be contacting you to help neighborhood children create decorations in the Advent Workshop during Santa Stop on November 7th from 12:45 until 4:30 p.m. Save the date!

In order to avoid conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday (and allow us to use our friends as guinea pigs for potential new family holiday dishes) November's **NEW meeting date** will be potluck in the Center at 11:30 on **November 21st**. The program will be from the UPPER ROOM Wednesday 26 November, "God's Surprises." The thought is "Today I will rejoice in God's surprises.."

Come rejoice with us and bring a friend.

Peace,
Joan S.

Joan Smith	November 7
Katy Spake	November 12
Cooper Tate	November 14
Mary McConnell	November 17
Martha Ostenrude	November 18
Abby Stanton	November 24
Raquel Norton	November 27
John Allmon	November 29
Venus Hamric	November 30

Food Ministry Amidst SNAP Crisis

Trinity members have supported a strong food ministry for years with our Food Pantry, Food Vouchers, (i.e. Kroger Cards) and Tiny Pantry. Your generous contributions have helped hundreds of people have basic food resources.

There is confusion about SNAP, the U.S.'s largest food program for low income persons. Initially those benefits ended October 31 as part of the federal government shut-down. Two federal judges ruled that the administration had to use emergency funds to assist SNAP beneficiaries. Following this ruling the administration agreed to partial funding (about 1/2) of November SNAP benefits. Given the complexities of states adjusting the amount of benefits it will likely be two weeks or more before SNAP participants receive any food funds. Over half of SNAP participants are children and senior citizens. Given the high level of poverty in Memphis and the Mid-South the days ahead will be difficult ones for our neighbors.

During this crisis food banks will be asked to fill the gap for thousands of persons. At Trinity we expect a significant increase in requests for assistance. Neighbors within the Evergreen Historic District are offering to assist us.

As of 4 November Trinity has on hand about $2,000 for the Food Pantry, $270 for Food Vouchers (Kroger Cards), and no funds for the Tiny Pantry. We purchase food boxes from Catholic Charities at the low price of $5 per box. Those boxes are available for people who meet basic income guidelines. In addition, we give bags of food to supplement the food boxes and provide bags of food for persons who come on days other than the Food Pantry distribution day (4th Monday).

In the uncertainty and chaos of the SNAP crisis will you consider an extra gift to Trinity for food ministry? Our immediate need is for additional funds for Food Vouchers. Please reach out, as together we seek to be beacons of Christ with our neighbors.

Craig Jordan,
Treasurer

Prayer Concerns

Our country and the world - for the continued process of resolution of the conflict between Israel and Hamas; for victims of natural disasters, especially for those who have lost loved ones; 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 struggle due to lost jobs, threatened deportation, 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 the resolution of division among people of the United States and the wisdom and courage of all political leaders.

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:

Kay Jordan, home recovering from pneumonia and a 9-day hospital stay
Laura Comes Hubbard, incurable multiple myeloma
Carol Miller, using a walker to get around after knee replacement surgery
Carey Miller's ablation went well, pain much reduced
Jimmy Rast, Melba Abraham's brother, diagnosed with genetic Alzheimer's
Millie, 8 month old infant with tumor on her liver (request from Myra Finch)
Betsy Black's friend **Ken Savage**, diagnosed with metastatic cancer
Baby Stella, born 7 weeks early with extra chromosome; developmental problems expected
Sharman Murley & Frank Cantrell's son, **Frank, Jr.**, heart issues
Pam Stafford in hospice care; husband **Jim Stafford**, dementia; from Sandy Guntharp)
Martha Ostenrude's close friend **Ashley**, diagnosed with leukemia
Continued prayers for **Sally Ramsey** and daughter **Sandi**
Bobby Glover, Chris's brother, in care for early Alzheimer's
For Sharman Murley's grandchild **El**, for well-being, making friends, and a better school year
Chris Glover's sister, **Sherry Carruthers**
Seth Norton, Raquel's son, serious ongoing medical concerns
Gwen Dodson, bladder cancer, COPD, osteoporosis; cancer treatment
Kanyon Glover, good medical report; no sign of heart rejection
Jacob Foreman, for healing and pain relief
Gene Archer passed away after a long struggle with cancer; his wife **Julia** has MS. (Friends of the Millers)
Carol Miller's brothers: **David Harrison** moved to new nursing home with in-house dialysis; **Jerry Harrison**, now in rehab.
Carey Miller's brother, **Lee Miller**, is in long-term rehab.
Val Coates, for relief of constant pain & healing of serious multiple issues, including depression
Karen Barker, Sara Goff's sister, lung issues; **Jonathan Goff**
Laura Major Conner, for her physical health and living situation
Bonnie Stubblefield, early Alzheimer's (Debby's cousin's wife)
For Trinity's new **Youth Group** and **Confirmation Class**
For Trinity's **Children's SS Class**

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