

# 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.**



## On Lent



*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. 1 Peter:5:6*

Beloved,

The season is changing again. Can you see it? Smell it? We wake up in the morning and the sun is already shining through the blinds. At 6:00 p.m. it's still light outside. Where has winter gone? Where did Epiphany go? Can you feel what is coming? The Lenten season is almost here.

I love Lent. I find that with most people it's one way or the other. You LOVE Lent or you do NOT love Lent. I LOVE Lent. I love the responsibility over ourselves that Lent requires — the discipline. I love the quiet introspection. I even love making the lengthy list of where I am failing, faltering, and floundering in my faith (pardon the inadvertent alliteration). I love the dirty work of addressing our being. I know, right? What kind of strange person loves that kind of work? I do. I love it very much. I need it very much. You do too.

On the other side of the desert place, we know that there is relief....if we make it so. We know that there is respite....if we seek it. But, most importantly, we know that on the other side of the desert place, on the other side of temptation, on the other side of the dirty work that is introspection and confession, is where we find that in all of it and through all of it, God has helped us to become people more worthy than we care to admit, of the gift that is found in John 3:16-17. On the other side of whatever it is that we see when we look in the mirror at the beginning of the 40 day journey, is what we might find when we are at the end of it. Maybe we change and grow, and begin to produce the kinds of fruits we have been, and are still being, called to produce. Maybe it is that we've taken time to be holy in such a way that we can better hear the voice of the Holy Spirit when we make the choices we do. Maybe we find that we are worthy of the love of God and the transforming grace of the Son in all that happens at Calvary.

Maybe we find none of those things and are left frustrated, BUT longing for whatever that something may be, and thus Lent becomes the beginning of an even longer journey to discovering who we are in the shadow of the cross.

No matter who we are at Easter, Lent does something to us. It awakens us out of these winter months and reminds us that in death — death to ourselves, death to our stubbornness, death to our self-centeredness — we can see, and find, and claim the resurrection. It reminds us that Easter people aren't the people stuck in the desert, wandering and hopeless, but that Easter people are folks who've taken time to get ready, taken time to be holy, and taken time to prepare for an empty tomb that through us becomes the hope of all Creation and Creation needs hope.

Can you tell that I'm a little excited? You can be — you SHOULD be — too. It is going to be a powerful season. I can see it. I can feel it. If you couldn't before, I hope you can now.

Packing for the Journey,  
*Rev. Sara*

# Scouting Update

By Rob Landrigan

Scouts have hit 2025 running - starting with Troop elections for our Girl's Troop, forming the Foxglove Teaparty and Radioactive Roses patrols as they take on new responsibilities. Both troops hosted a Forward to Eagle Day, where over 70 Scouts came to Trinity to earn Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in Society, Personal Fitness, and Environmental Science. Our own leaders plus a guest appearance by Judge Pool had the kids engaged and learning.

Pinewood Derby was a big hit, as always, with Scouts racing their creations and some getting into character - we had Pirate Ships, drag racers, carmobiles and kitty cars!

We also celebrated Scouting America's 115th birthday, as we move from Boy Scouts of America to our new name, reflecting ALL of our members. As part of that celebration, three of our Arrow of Light Scouts moved from Cub Scouts to their Troops.

The crossover always get me. Folks think of Scouting as a way to learn how to camp, how to tie knots - but that's not what we actually do. We're really helping these kids become the best version of themselves they can be. We're really training them to save the world. So we teach, play, and hope, crafting these Arrows of Light and sending them into the dark world, and they light the way forward for so many more. It's not a coincidence that three of our Eagle Scouts being honored as having the most impactful Eagle projects of 2024 in the council (out of 128 projects last year) - Alex, Jesse, and River - were all Arrows of Light with us. Learning to serve, and finding it's the only life worth pursuing, starts early. And they get a home here at Trinity to start that journey.



Rhythm



Crossover Ceremony into Troop 13G



Crossover Ceremony into Troop 13B



Last race for Arrow of Light scouts



Judge Pool leads Citizenship & Community Class



Scouts enjoying food and fellowship.



## Jesus is our friend

*"You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "that I am God." (Isaiah 43:12)*

The Lord has such perfect timing. This past Sunday morning, I was exceptionally tired when I got out of bed. A short while later I read that morning's devotion from **The Upper Room**. The featured scripture was the words from Isaiah 43:12. The devotion was written by a woman from India, who was recalling how she and neighborhood friends were raised in the Christian faith as children and the difference it made in all their lives. She said, "May we never

underestimate the lasting impact of childhood experiences of joyful play, community celebrations, and shared Bible stories." Realizing that this was a good description of Children's Ministries at Trinity Church over many years, I felt suddenly energized and eager to go to our Children's Class.

During the month of March in our **Children's Sunday School Class**, our **FAITH FOCUS** is "**Jesus is our friend.**" In this unit, our children will be learning about Jesus' character through five Bible stories that teach them about the many different people that Jesus cared for and ministered to. They will discover how Jesus is our role model for friendship and caring relationships, and they will find out that when we follow Jesus, we learn to invite, include, notice, listen to, and share with others. These five descriptors of the nature of Jesus' relationships with others will be the focuses for our lessons during the month.

In this coming Sunday's Bible story, Jesus greets two sets of brothers - Peter and Andrew, James and John - who are engaged in their work as fishermen. When Jesus calls out, "Come, follow me," the brothers drop everything and follow. Jesus does not give a lengthy explanation about why they should follow him. He simply says he will show them how to "fish for people." The brothers trust Jesus and immediately go with him. Jesus' call to action - his invitation - prepares his future disciples for his mission to bring all people into God's kingdom. These brothers and others will become friends and followers of Jesus. To be a friend means we trust, listen, and sometimes even explore new things together. Our children will learn this month that we are all called to "fish for people." This means we can look for friends wherever we go because each of us is called to be a part of God's kingdom.

When it comes to Children's Ministries in general, we are so excited that our **Children's Council** will be meeting on Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> - for the first time in over four years. This meeting will coincide with a **Craft Day** led by the Rev. Rebekah Gienapp. Adults and children who will be involved in one or both events will meet for a pizza lunch before moving into action.

One of the items on the agenda for the Children's Council will be the upcoming **Easter Egg Hunt**, which will take place on Palm Sunday afternoon, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. This long-time tradition involves families of Trinity Church and the neighborhood and is always one of the most popular events of the year. As always, the Easter Bunny will be hopping around to join in the fun. The scouts and leaders from Troop 13-B and Troop 13-G will be lending a hand, and Pack 13 will be joining in the hunt, too. Before all this happens, there are over 2,000 empty plastic Easter eggs in our basement storage that are waiting to be filled with candy. Lots of helping hands will be needed to fill those eggs. In addition, the United Women in Faith will be providing candy-filled eggs and Easter baskets for the children at the Salvation Army's Purdue Center to have their own on-site Easter Egg Hunt.

We will be blessed by "joyful play, community celebrations, and shared Bible stories" for children and adults in the coming months. We appreciate your prayers and your helping hands.

Peace in Christ,

*Irene*





# Church Council Meeting

## 09 February Council Meeting Bullet Points

- New Council Chairman, Allen Stanton, presided
- Prior minutes approved
- Sara Corum: "Private Property" notice to be displayed on all exterior doors.
- Sara Corum: report on "small church" meeting in Austin
- "Trinity Walks the Walk"—quote from Betsy Black
- Mike Potter: Spiritual Formation Centering Prayer now includes two participants from neighborhood.
- Mike Potter: \$2,500.00 in food pantry account to be used to purchase 500 food boxes for distribution
- Kay Jordan: SPPRC has completed the Consultation Form required by the District Superintendent and the Bishop's Cabinet. Trinity should get word of next year's pastor appointment in late spring or early summer.
- Irene Dycus: Rev. Rebekah Gienapp will teach the Children's Sunday Class two Sundays each month.
- Irene Dycus: Trinity will re-institute a Children's Council soon.
- Craig Jordan: Trinity's budget has a "manageable deficit." (See Feb. 12 *Trinotes*.)
- Joan Smith: UWF continues to grow and do great things. (See full report in last *Trinotes*.)
- Sam Goff: Trustees expect to have to replace pitched roof and HVAC.
- Sam Goff: Lab School parent will mow and weed-eat the grounds. Scouts will clean leaves under grates outside the children's Sunday school classroom.
- Allen Stanton: will write grant to apply for Renfro Trust to replace lighting in The Center.
- Rob Landrigan: The first "Citizenship in Society" badge class in Chickasaw Council was at Trinity. This new badge is "standing up for people who can't stand up for themselves." At the recent ceremony, of the 72 badges earned, 30 were in citizenship. Three of the 6 Eagle Scouts honored were from Trinity. Our Tiny Pantry has inspired Scouts to install three more. Scout Sunday will be the Sunday after Easter.
- Sam Goff: Lay Leader suggested to engage newer members into leadership.
- Irene Dycus: "The Holy Spirit is working in us".
- Kay Jordan: reports that Marshall and Martha Ostenrude have experience with and are interested in resuming Room in the Inn. The Council unanimously approved creating a viable plan in order to be ready in fall.

This church and its grounds are

# PRIVATE PROPERTY

No one from the Federal Government is allowed on the premises without a warrant.

Trinity considers its space a welcome, inclusive, safe haven for our immigrant siblings. We are studying our best path forward in maintaining and practicing our faith by welcoming the sojourner among us. Please be reminded that the building and grounds of the church is private property, and we have the right to deny access to our spaces, unless deemed necessary by a court of law.

## MEMORIALS

A DONATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED  
IN MEMORY OF  
GEORGE MARSTON FROM  
SUE & MARC TAYLOR

## March Birthdays

- Heather Jacoby-Keller March 3
- Quinn Bauer March 3
- Joe Spake March 6
- Charles Abraham March 19
- Alyson Foreman March 19
- Hadley Keller March 31

## Stories from the Food Pantry

On February 24, 30 families came to Trinity for help from our Food Pantry. Many of them had come to us in other months, but some were new. They said, "My friend told me I could get help here." Some of them said very little, just filled out their paperwork, received their box and bag, thanked us, and left. But others had a story. One had lost two family members recently. One had received a small payment for ringing the bell for the Salvation Army during the Christmas season and then lost her Food Stamp benefits. One hesitated on the form's line, "Is this food needed due to an emergency?", then wrote, "Ran out of food." Yes, that's an emergency.

Our volunteers come from Trinity and from Community Coffee friends. We order food boxes and pack bags. Our wonderful front desk volunteers keep the list. We don't pry, but if people want to talk, we listen. We phone them to remind them of their appointment. (Since we are only open one day a month, it's easy to lose track of the correct day and time to come.) We also help clients with the paperwork, and load their boxes and bags onto carts to wheel them to clients' cars. If you have donated food or cash to buy food boxes, you are a part of this ministry too. And you are making life a little brighter for families in Memphis. Thank you!

Kay Jordan

## Cookies For Kairos



bring your cookies  
sunday, march 2nd.

Sunday, Jamey Ramsey introduced us to some ways that we could be supportive of Kairos Prison Ministry, including sending baked cookies to their upcoming event. If you can bake cookies to support this ministry, please do so this week and bring them Sunday morning, March 2nd. Cookies do need to be baked, not bought. They can be packaged any way. Please make sure there are no nut products used in the cookies you bake.

## DOUBLE THE FUN!

Crafting Circle +  
Children's Ministry  
Planning Session  
March 16th, following  
worship in the Center

@TUMCMemphis

Save the Date: Following Worship March 16th is an opportunity to fellowship as we engage in our creativeness. Bring whatever project you are working on or a willingness to learn a new one from others. As this is taking place, the Children's Ministry team will engage in a planning session for the year. Please let us know if you anticipate participating in this dual fellowship and ministry opportunity.



## Ash Wednesday Worship

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5TH  
6:30 IN THE TUMC CENTER  
REFLECT. KNOW. WORSHIP.

Wednesday, March 5th, is Ash Wednesday. We will worship at 6:30 p.m. in the Center.

## 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:

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

**Joan Smith**, battling chronic pain, especially in her back

**Susan Todd's** husband **Allen** passed away recently. Pray for Susan as she grieves.

**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

**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;

**Laura Carruthers**, Sam's friend, has cancer.

Pray for **JoAnn James** and **Lisa Martin**

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