

# 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.

## ...And Another Thing.

*"...and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need." Acts 4:32b-35*

Yesterday, I mentioned in worship that the scripture I was preaching on conveyed two main points that I wanted to cover — that I would be preaching on one then and writing about the other in this week's newsletter. The scripture reading was Acts 4:32-35. Yesterday I preached on the first half of the first verse of the reading. I've never done that before. The first half of the first verse of the reading was, "Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul." The rest of the reading is above. The first point — a very important point — is that Easter Christians should follow the example of the earliest witnesses of the Gospel and embrace unity — that a unified body of believers can, essentially, do all things through Christ who gives them strength. I also shared that unity cannot happen without the work of the Holy Spirit in us, especially in these very divided times. If you'd like to hear it all and haven't already, head over to our Facebook page and it is the first video you will see.

With great joy, I really avoided the second point and majority of the text — the one that described communal living, the sharing of resources — essentially, the leveling of the playing field as a solution to poverty, or what George Bryant Wirth calls, "generosity in the midst of poverty." I'm going to share what Wirth expressed in the Feasting on the Word resource that I use to prepare to write my sermons. He reflects: "Jim Wallis, the founder of *Sojourners* and one of America's prophetic voices, describes the declining economic situation this way, 'One in every six American children still falls below the poverty line in America — and one in three children of color. . . Even worse is the one billion people globally (all God's children) who are forced to subsist on less than a dollar a day; and the three billion who live on less than two dollars per day. . . and thirty thousand children [who] die every day due to hunger and disease related to utterly preventable causes [like lack of clean drinking water]. Those poverty facts shouldn't be tolerable to anyone across the political spectrum. But. . . just to decry these facts has not solved the scandal of poverty.'"

In the wake of the Acts text — the one that reflects that early Christian living meant letting go of personal ownership so that *there was not a needy person among them*, and with the reality of what Wirth and Wallis have reminded us, and as exhorters of the Gospel News, what are we to do? What can we do?

It was interesting to me that this came right after Easter Sunday — as though we are to be reminded of our commission to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Would Jesus have simply decried the above facts as a solution to solving the scandal of poverty? No. He wouldn't have. So what are we to do?

*(continued on page 2)*

(continued from page 1)

As we begin to look ahead to what our next steps are as a congregation, it's my prayer that we can come together around a real table (in the near future), and discuss how we interpret texts like this in light of the realities of our world — and not so that we can understand them. Unless we are living in poverty, ourselves, I don't think we can fully grasp its story — but so that we can discern, together, what hands and feet God is calling us to put toward a solution.

With Resurrection Hope,

*Rev. Sara*

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## **[Editor's Notes...]**

by Debby Marston

Back when I worked for a Christian adoption agency, I could look back at all the things I had learned to do over the years and see how well they fit into my job. I was office manager for my first 12 years there and was responsible for all sorts of things. I had a Dictaphone, and was responsible for typing up the social workers' home studies and child studies. Fortunately, I had learned how to transcribe dictated documents when I worked (for four months) as a medical transcriptionist at a hospital's radiation oncology department. I was a "Kelly Girl," a temporary employee. I also learned to use Word Perfect, the software being used in that department for data processing. Fortunately, the same software was used at the adoption agency, so I didn't have to learn a new program. (I still miss macros, one of Word Perfect's great labor-savers.)

I was in high school journalism class and on the paper staff from ninth grade through my senior year, although I only got credit for one year's study. I learned how to compose an article at the typewriter. We were pretty high tech. We had electric typewriters by the time I was a junior. Part of my job description at the adoption agency was writing articles and editing our quarterly newsletter. The most helpful skill gleaned from composition at the keyboard, however, was the ability to edit on the fly. A lot of the time, a home study wound up sounding more like my writing style than the social worker's. (No one seemed to mind. By the time they read the hardcopy, they'd forgotten exactly what they'd dictated anyway.)

In 1992, I decided to go back to college and get a degree in social work, answering God's call to work with "the least of these." I started working in intercountry adoption as support staff in 1995. I learned very little in college that I didn't already know. I was learning more about social work on the job than in classrooms. The National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics was emphasized in every social work class I took. These were (and are) ethical principles we were taught to embrace. The values emphasized were service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, the importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence. I didn't find those principles to be particularly difficult to remember. While competence isn't specifically stressed in scripture, I grew up in the Christian faith, and I learned all those values pretty much by osmosis. If you compare social work values to Christian values, there's a lot of similarity. The difference, of course, is the Christian's personal relationship with Christ and focus on eternal verities rather than temporary, human solutions. Jesus taught service by serving, integrity and constancy by his example, and social justice by pointing out that healing on the Sabbath was comparable to getting one's ox out of the ditch. You do it because it's the right thing to do. Jesus reached out to people who were ostracized by the larger community, asking a Samaritan woman for a drink of water, teaching—by example—the dignity and worth of every individual.

I eventually got the diploma and moved from the agency's front desk to my own office, where I worked very hard to recruit families for children with special placement needs. I loved every minute of it and miss it most days. The opportunity to see children meet their forever families was a priceless gift. While the success rate wasn't 100% (I mean, what is?), and some kids were very challenging (so were some of the parents), giving those children and their new parents a chance to grow into a family was worth it. Being a parent is hard work. Being the kind of Christian Jesus calls us to be is hard, too, but oh, so worth it. To God be the glory! Amen.

# Plant Sale

Sat. April 24, 10am - 3pm

VEGGIE SEEDLINGS!  
HERBS!  
POLLINATOR ATTRACTORS!  
HOUSEPLANTS!  
PROPAGATION!

1783 YORK AVE.



HARD-TO-FIND-HEIRLOOMS

- SAN MARZANO
- CHEROKEE PURPLE
- GERMAN JOHNSON
- COSTOLUTO GENEVESE
- KELLOGG'S BREAKFAST & MORE!

## New Spark Performing Arts

The New Spark theater group is having a fund raiser that will appeal to the gardeners and plant lovers among us. The proceeds of the plant sale will fund upcoming productions.

The actors have been rehearsing at Trinity UMC since March in preparation for the Spring theater season.

The next performance by these talented young thespians is scheduled for May 20th at the Malco Summer Drive-In. See page 5 for details.



## Easter Lily Memorials & Honorariums

Easter lilies have been given by Chris Glover

in honor of **Jeri Ashley**

in honor of **Val Coates**

in honor of **Rev. Sara Corum**

in honor of **Irene Dycus**

in honor of **Alyson Foreman**

in honor of **Nelda Gray**

in honor of **Carol Miller**

in honor of **Nancy Rankin**

Easter lilies have been given by

Wendel & Linda Stoltz

in memory of **Colie & Rosemary Stoltz**



**April 10**

**Rita Almon**

**April 22**

**Mark Hudson**

**April 24**

**Karen Willard**

**April 25**

**Rachel Adkins**

**April 27**

**Jeff Potter**

[If anyone's birthday has been overlooked, please contact us at 901-274-6895 (leave a message) or send an email to [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org).]

**[Editor's Note:** If you wish to receive Trinity's ENews electronic newsletter, please send your request to [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org) so your e-mail address can be added to the list of ENews subscribers. ENews is published each Thursday, and a link to the *Trinotes* is included in the ENews the week the print newsletter is mailed out.]





## Offer God's Blessings to Others

On Easter Sunday our Children's Sunday School Class began a new unit of study. Our lesson for that day was about the resurrection, and what a wonderful way to begin a new study! On that beautiful day several of our children first attended our Sunday School Class and then came with their families to the Easter worship service on the lawn at Trinity Church. I was amazed at how much taller each child was! We see their beautiful faces on Zoom, including newly missing teeth and fresh haircuts, and we are amazed

at how well they read, but we cannot really see how much they have grown in so many other ways!

Our FAITH WORD for this month is SHARE, which means "to offer God's blessings to others." This past week, our study focused on Matthew 28:16-20, which is The Great Commission. In this climax to the book of Matthew, Jesus gave his disciples instructions to share the good news about him with all the world – to teach, to baptize, and to help others learn to love God and to love one another. Jesus' final words are ones that so often come to my mind when I most need them: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." A footnote in *The Wesley Study Bible* that I use at home reminded me that these closing words are "a fitting conclusion for a book that began with Jesus being called 'Emmanuel,' that is, 'God with us.'"

This scripture also was the featured verse of last Wednesday's devotion from *The Upper Room*.

Occasionally, during a morning's devotion time, I will encounter the same scripture in different devotional sources. I always take that as a sign – a "Holy Spirit nudge" (a term encountered in another devotion last week) - that I am to pay special attention to that scripture on that day. There are so often lessons waiting for me, something essential on which I need to focus my thoughts and prayers and actions that day. What an empowering and comforting promise those words hold for all of us who are believers: that our Lord is with us always, no matter how difficult or painful the circumstances of our lives might become!

As we continue in the Easter Season, I am thankful for our children and their families, indeed for our entire faith family at Trinity Church. I am thankful for those who shared their faith with me through the years, from my childhood on through my adult years.

Think of this: would any of us be part of this loving faith community if those disciples over two thousand years ago had not accepted that commission from our Lord? Thankfully, that commission was faithfully passed on through the centuries to millions of followers who took that call to heart and shared the good news with others. What an honor and what a challenge it is for Ms. Alyson and me to continue sharing that good news as we work with the children of our church! We are doing what has been done for us by so many good people in our own lives, and we are so greatly blessed as we do it. We thank you for your prayers for our children and their families and for us as their teachers.

Grace and peace,  
Irene Dycus



## Parting is such sweet sorrow...

Dear Friends,

As most of you know, Jeri Ashley is moving to Nashville to be closer to family, as her health requires. Her last day in Memphis is Sunday, May 2. We will have opportunity to say goodbye from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m., on the front porch of the church. Weather permitting, we will be worshiping in person, outdoors, that day. After church, there will be box lunches from Panera available for those who reserve one. Then we'll move Jeri to a "throne" on the front porch to receive well-wishers. If you want to leave her a written message, as well, or perhaps a photo, we will have a book for that. Please plan to join us!

Grace and peace,  
Kay Jordon

## Memorials & Honorariums

### Memorials have been received

*In memory of Richard Hackleman from an anonymous donor*

*In memory of Richard Hackleman from Barbara Bosse*

*In memory of Richard Hackleman from Shirley Flint*

*In memory of Richard Hackleman from William & Pamela Hackleman*

*In memory of Richard Hackleman from Sally Ramsey*

*In memory of Richard Hackleman From Beverly B Fisher*

*In memory of Frederick T. Carney from Doris P. Carney*

*In memory of Fred Alonza Carney & Bertha Holly Carney from Doris P. Carney*

**INTO THE WOODS JR.**

**DRIVE-IN SHOWING**

**May 20th @ Malco Summer Drive In**

Gate Opens: 7pm      Tickets:  
Show Starts: Sundown      \$20 per car

**NEW SPARK**  
PERFORMING ARTS

**SUMMER CAMP 2021**  
3rd - 8th Grade

Disney  
**HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 2 JR.**

NSPA PRESENTS...  
**MUSIC VIDEO CAMP**

July 12th - 16th      July 19th - 23rd

Monday - Friday / 9 am - 5 pm

[www.newspark901.org](http://www.newspark901.org)

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Our country and the world** - for all those in our country and around the world who are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; 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—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. Dr. Deborah Smith

**Trinity UMC** - for members of the congregation homebound due to chronic illness or age; for children and youth as they attend school, whether virtually or in person; 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

**Gary Owens**, Alyson Foreman's father, receiving strong antibiotics daily for sepsis

Alyson's aunt, **Judy Chapman**, injured when her car was hit head-on; broken wrist & breaks in her back with major bruising caused by her seatbelt

**Kanyon Glover**, now 2 years old and doing well: a happy, valiant fighter, according to Chris

**Donnie Glover**, Chris's brother, bone marrow test showed his cancer has returned

**Jacob Foreman**, son of **Caley & Alyson**, diagnosis is ENS; please pray for him.

**Gene and Irene Opel**, while still medically fragile, are now able to visit with Irene's daughter, **Anita Bunn**.

**Jeri Ashley**, multiple health concerns

**David Harrison**, Carol Miller's brother, is suffering from a broken hip, many other critical health issues.

**Don Culpepper**, Carol Miller's brother-in-law, has lung cancer.

Joan Smith's cousin/mom, **Gigi**, aka **Kathryn Ellis**, on home health care, then on hospice care.

**Peggy Kinney**, Charlotte Comes' 95 year old cousin in Georgia with broken hip, in rehab, struggling with depression

**Charles Abraham** moved to a skilled nursing facility on March 2nd, where he is receiving rehab.

The family of the **Rev. Richard Hackleman**, who died recently

**Val Coates**, who has significant physical problems

Family and friends mourn the passing of **David Martin**, camper, philosopher, and pontificator. (Submitted by David's long-time friend and college roommate, Tom Wilson)

**Jay Ha'o**, our custodian Raquel's brother-in-law, is now home, recovered from covid-19. Pray for Raquel and her family in the loss of her half-sister, her niece's baby, and her best friend.

**Linda Stoltz**, hospitalized following a slight stroke, stable at Germantown Methodist

For all members and friends of **Trinity UMC** as they shelter at home, as they work from home, and as they look forward to a time when they can see — in person — the faces of their church family

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