

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.

Beautiful Feet

Did you know that right after I moved to Memphis and began my time with you at Trinity in 2017, dear, sweet Phil Isbell was the chair of the Trustees then, I asked the Trustees if we could purchase some “Visitor Parking” signs? We bought the signs and put them in front of some prime parking spots in our back parking lot on the Forest side of the church — spots that get a lot of shade — so that folks on the outside of our building who might be visitors would see and know that we appreciate their presence and even celebrate it. We wanted them to know that, at Trinity, they belong.

Did you know that we’re doing a pretty big playground renovation now in partnership with the Evergreen Historic District and the Lab School? It was my hope that we could renovate the playground so that it was accessible for differently-abled children — children with disabilities — so that they, and their families, would know that we value them, love them as they are, and believe that all children deserve to have the opportunity to find joy on our playground.

Did you know that soon we are doing some much-needed work on our parking lot? When we do the repairs and make the lot easier to drive through, our Scouts are going to re-strip the lot and the very first spots they’ll mark will be those nearest to the doors. Those spots will be designated handicapped spots. We want those outside the building to understand that Trinity is a place where they belong, and we want to make it easier for them to be there with us.

Did you know that recently we replaced Trinity’s front sign? We loved our sign so much that we made sure to keep the neatest part about it — the cross and flame. But the door opening to adjust the letters on the sign was broken and the glass was so foggy we could no longer easily read what was there. We designed a new one that honored the past and made it easier to make a statement — a message — to the community that we are active, alive and well and we have something to tell them.

Did you know that recently we replaced the sidewalk all the way around the church? Our sidewalk was falling apart and it was time. What was, was becoming a safety hazard for our neighbors and we wanted the neighborhood to know that we care about them. We want folks to walk our sidewalks to get to our playground and come and leave food in our Tiny Pantry — to engage in ministry with us. The neighborhood sings for joy that we invested in cleaning up the space where they walk.

We do things outside our building to say that we care, to say that people are welcome, and to say that we include all sorts of folks. We do that because not everyone will come inside the building out of curiosity or for worship to find out. Maybe there was a time that would happen, but that isn’t the culture today.

Recently small groups at Trinity began conversations about becoming a Reconciling congregation — **a congregation that is intentional about outwardly welcoming people in our community who, historically, have been treated poorly by the Church Universal.** The question that has been asked more than any other is, “why?” And not, “why,” because it is generally thought that this isn’t the path we should take. That’s not the case. The “why” question is because it would seem, to those on the inside (us), that this is something we are already doing. That’s a wonderful truth. But the problem with that question is that us becoming Reconciling (or not) isn’t about we who are on the inside and what we already know. Becoming Reconciling is about those on

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the outside who have no reason to know that, were they to come in the doors of our church, they would be loved, honored, welcomed, accepted, and given both a seat and a voice at our proverbial table. Remember, these are people who've been hurt by the Church Universal. Why on earth would they darken our doors?

How can they know unless they are told?

Being Reconciling is about Trinity making a proclamation that we are who we already say we are. It's about no longer asking people to come to us so that they will experience that reality. It's about committing to going to them and hasn't that always been our call?

"But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Romans 10:14-15

Are you ready to have beautiful feet?

Grabbing My Shoes,
Rev. Sara

trinity needs:

VOLUNTEERS!

Please contact the church office, Sam Goff, or Rev. Sara if you are available to volunteer.



Trinity Members and Friends of Trinity,

It's SPRING and a new season filled with resurrection hope is upon us! I want to ask for your help. As covid numbers remain steady and very low in Shelby County, we feel as though we can begin to be a little more physically present and active at and around the church. With that, we need some volunteers to get some rusty gears turning again.

Some of you may have noticed that we have a few desk volunteers at the church again. We are thankful that Sam Goff worked to make sure that space was a little safer by adding desk plexi-glass front and center. Right now we are hoping to have someone at the desk Monday through Thursday from 9:00 to 12:00. Those folks will be asked to help with "this-and-that" and "ins-and-outs" that are fairly simple just to help us "do-and-be." We have three of those mornings filled already (Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday). If you are available for those three hours (on a weekly basis) on Tuesdays, please let Debby know and she'll get you started.

Also, you may notice lots of changes to our physical plant. There are lots more changes to come. Some of this will involve some manual labor on our part. If you can help the Trustees with any of the projects they've begun, please reach out to Sam Goff ASAP. We need YOU. We really, really do.

Very urgently we need some hands to help us remove unneeded materials from behind our shed and to weed and prune the chaos that's grown behind it. Can you spend some time and energy helping with this? The Scouts have gotten us started (thanks be to God), but we need more hands to help with the rest. If you can give, even an hour, please let a Trustee know.

There are lots of ways you can help make things on the corner of Evergreen and Galloway run smoothly and be a presence that offers hope to our community. I pray you'll remember the energy you had when you said, "Yes!" to offering your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness to the church. It takes all of us – every part of the body of Christ – to be all that we are called to be. Where can you lend a hand?

With Resurrection Hope,
Rev. Sara



The Praying Tree

I have just recently taken to calling a tree nearby my apartment “the praying tree.” It’s located on the northwest corner at the intersection of North Parkway and University Street. I have walked past this sycamore tree hundreds of times since moving to the Parkway House almost three years ago and have driven it past thousands of times over the years. Yet I have never paid particular attention to the tree until the last few weeks. When I am at this intersection on my walks on North Parkway, I am usually intent on watching the red light and looking out for turning cars. The rest of the time, I am looking down and trying to pay attention to where I’m placing my feet, so I don’t take an unexpected spill.

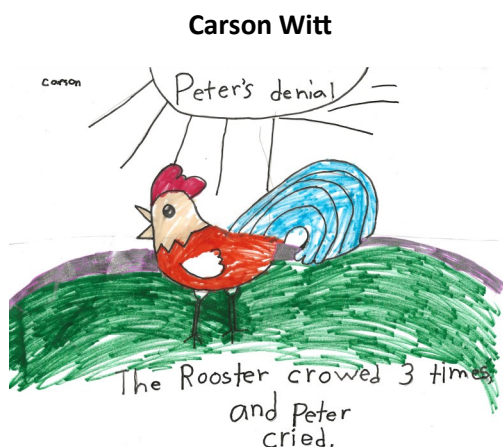
I take “prayer walks,” thirty minutes or so during which I sing and pray silently. I walk by myself. Others have offered to walk with me, but I can’t hear well enough to carry on a conversation because of nearby traffic sounds, and I have come to treasure spending this time alone with the Lord. Just a few weeks ago, I was walking home, headed west on North Parkway towards my apartment. I looked closely at this tree because I had arrived at the intersection just when the light turned red for me, and I was standing still. The tree had been important to me previously only as a marker that reminded me that if I hadn’t already engaged in the confession/pray-for-forgiveness part of my walk, it was time to do so. Suddenly, I felt myself having a “God moment” during which I saw the bare upper limbs of this tree stretching heavenward as if in silent petition to God. The white limbs stood in dramatic contrast to the azure sky behind them. I saw them as a visual reminder of my prayer life. It was an unexpected, deeply spiritual experience, and I thought, “How could I have missed this beautiful sight all these years?”

I am writing these reflections on Sunday morning, April 3rd. The scripture for the devotion from **The Upper Room** today was Genesis 28:10-16, the account of Jacob’s dream at Bethel, in which the Lord reassures Jacob that he is heir to the covenant promises made to Abraham and Isaac. The Lord also promises, “I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.” When Jacob awakens from the dream, he says, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.”

This scripture reminded me of my experience with “the praying tree” and how God speaks to me in so many ways. As I looked at the bare, angular branches on a day earlier in that week, I thought of the barrenness and self-centered nature of my prayer life at times, of the “busyness” that tends to replace the “being present” in my moments with God. I thought of my lists that I present to God, of my complaints and criticisms, of the rote nature of the thanks that I offer up. Later I noticed, on the day that I finally stopped to take pictures of it, that this tree, although it looked barren, was beginning to show signs of new life. Small green dots were appearing along those skeleton-like white branches where buds were forming. In a short time, this tree will be decked in greenery again, as its leaves grow to full maturity from those buds. Life, new life, is there for this tree – and for me.

Like Jacob, I can say, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” He speaks over and over to me Through nature, through scripture, through other believers, through so many good people who have influenced and enriched my life through their encouragement, kindness and compassion. I am so greatly blessed, and I praise God for all these gifts, most especially for new life in Christ!

Peace and love,
Irene



Upcoming Trinity T-Shirts

A group of Trinity members & friends have started walking on Friday mornings. We'd like to encourage others to join us. We decided that T-shirts with a Trinity design/logo would help promote our effort and could be used for other things as well. After we get pricing, you'll have the chance to get one too!

Please feel welcome to join us this Friday morning! Just meet us in front of the worship center in time for us to leave by 9 a.m. If you have any questions please contact me by phone or text.

*Blessings,
Sara Barker Goff
901-356-4444 mobile*

Change of Address

Elaine Amis
c/o Diane Lawson
912 Damascus Church Rd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27516-8318

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

April 22	Mark Hudson
April 24	Karen Willard
April 25	Rachel Adkins
May 10	Bill (Mac) McConnell
May 27	Mike Dodson
May 27	Jenna McClurkan
May 27	Josh McClurkan
May 28	Chris Glover

Worship in Overton Park

Please mark your calendars to attend a Trinity UMC worship service in Overton Park on Sunday, May 15th at 11:00 a.m.

We plan to worship in the area known as the "formal gardens." It is marked by the letter "K" on this <https://overtonpark.org/map/>. Street parking is nearby. You might consider carpooling from the church parking lot. When you get a call from the Park Worship planning team, just let us know what questions you have and if you need help with transportation.

Feel free to bring camp chairs or a blanket. The Park Worship planning team will be providing extra chairs for any who need them.

We'd also love for you to bring something from nature that reminds you of God, our Creator. It can be a flower from your garden or a pine cone from the park. Choose something small to use as part of the table decorations. In the event of rain, we will move the service into Trinity's worship center.

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

MEMORIALS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED

IN MEMORY OF **JEAN MOSS** FROM
CAROL JAN CULBREATH

IN MEMORY OF **JEAN MOSS** FROM JUDI BLAUNER

IN MEMORY OF **JEAN MOSS** FROM
CHARLES & MELBA ABRAHAM

IN MEMORY OF **JEAN MOSS** FROM BINDY W. SNYDER

IN MEMORY OF **JEAN MOSS** FROM SHIRLEY FLINT

IN MEMORY OF **JEAN MOSS** FROM
ROBERT & MARY CARROLL

IN MEMORY OF **JEAN MOSS** FROM
NANCY & RICK CARROLL

IN HONOR OF "THE KITCHEN CROWD" AT
JEAN MOSS'S MEMORIAL SERVICE
FROM MIKE & CAROLYN MOSS



TRINITY VOLUNTEERS:

LOCK THE DOORS

If you have keys to the church and are in the building during the week, please make sure to lock the church doors.

Love is Love

by Kay Jordan

As Trinity UMC considers whether or not to become a Reconciling Church, my heart has been open to hearing the experiences of LGBTQ+ people and their families with regards to church and faith. While I was visiting my sister in North Carolina recently, she showed me this post on Facebook from one of her church friends. It was especially striking to me because it involved Bishop Ellis Finger, the bishop who ordained Craig as an Elder in the United Methodist Church back in the mid '70's. Here is her friend's story:

"I don't usually post about religion but I want to tell a personal story about one person's faith and how it informed their understanding of our trans son. Around 2003, a few years after our son, Nyk, came out as trans to us, he still hadn't come out to his paternal grandparents, both in their 80's. His grandfather, Bishop Homer Ellis Finger, was a distinguished retired minister of the United Methodist Church and former president of the Council of Methodist Bishops. His grandmother, Mamie Lee Finger, was a lovely, loving, talented woman in her own right with a very deep Southern accent. Nyk, as many trans youth do, feared a negative reaction from these family members whom he loved so deeply. He asked us to share the information with them for him. When told that his grandson was trans, Ellis paused briefly, folded his hands together and said in his kind, thoughtful way, "Nyk is a child of God and I will always love him very much." Period. Mamie Lee, Nyk's grandmother, came forward with a big smile and in her deep delta Mississippi drawl said, "Well, isn't that interesting!" Period. No condemnation, no criticism, no effort to try to change him or us as parents, simply acceptance and affirmation. I tell this story only to show that Love is Love, whether rooted in Christianity (or other faith), in familial bonds, in acceptance of all human beings, or in simple celebration of the beauty of our amazing universe of creation. On this 2022 Transgender Day of Visibility [March 31], I honor and remember our many family and friends who for over twenty years, (long before there was any broader public understanding of the transgender experience), saw, affirmed and loved our son, Nykolas Danger, and his husband, Mateo Parra. You know who you are and we will always love you for this."



Trustees' Report

- Much needed repairs are being made to the parsonage. These include the front porch, bathroom, vents, electrical, roof, and more.
- The Worship Center improvements continue. Painting will begin soon, as will wood paneling below the chair rail. We will all be able to worship in a space that looks much less like a cafeteria very soon.
- The lobby is also receiving much needed attention, as well. After that, we will begin work on the new Food Pantry and Clothes Closet.
- We will be meeting with the staff of The Lab School. TUMC has found yet another way to meet the needs of the community and to put our space to good use.
- Renovation of the playground is deep in the planning stages. There is a great committee comprised of
- community members, The Lab School, and TUMC working on this mission for the youngest in our neighborhood.
- This summer, after the Midtown Montessori moves, we plan to repair and re-seal the parking lot. Re-stripping will happen immediately after that.
- Also in the future, new lighting and new chairs will be added to the Worship Center.
- Obviously, we have a lot of improvements in process, planned, and on the drawing board for our facilities.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our country and the world - 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 families, churches, and communities impacted by the bad weather, including tornados in West Tennessee and Kentucky, especially for those who lost loved ones in those violent storms; 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—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 in person and 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, pray for his speech therapy and use of his left arm (due to a stroke)

Donnie Glover, Chris's brother, passed away recently. Please pray for his wife, **Sandra**, and all the rest of the Glover family as they grieve.

Chris Glover's sister, **Carol**, in physical therapy following a fall in her yard

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

Gene & Irene Opel, for their continued enjoyment of their life together and for their general health

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

Val Coates, serious heart condition; still in constant pain and undergoing testing to discover the cause; grieving the loss of her mother, sister, and father this year

George Marston, still undergoing dialysis; congestive heart failure, but heart function improved

For the family of **Jean Moss**, who died peacefully on March 14th at age 91

For **Living Word Christian Church** and their pastor, **Kyle Dearen**, as they began worshiping in our Worship Center on March 27th

For **Elaine Amis**, who has relocated to Chapel Hill, NC to be near her daughter Diane; pray for her adjustment to her move.

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