July 9, 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.

Adaptation

Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

It's lovely to be back from a *brief vacation* with my family this week. By *brief vacation* I mean, a whirlwind of a trip to Orlando and back, that's left me needing a **real** vacation. I do enjoy fun with my family. It is good for my soul. It is also absolutely exhausting.

We got back very late Saturday night (nearly Sunday morning), and Josh and I had the foresight to make sure we had pulpit subs for Sunday morning. Thank you very much to the Rev. Allen Stanton for filling in for me.

One of the blessings of having yesterday to rest (and do trip laundry), is that I had some moments to reflect. Yesterday was the first Sunday of my 16th year in ministry. It was the first Sunday of my 9th year in ministry with you. Normally I wouldn't dare spend that at home, but it was lovely. It was lovely to have the cognitive bandwidth to think back on 15 years of ministry — all the places I've been and the moments I've shared. More importantly, it was a delight to look back and see how I've changed.

Change is a hard thing. Evolution doesn't happen over night. Adaptation is a part of the make-up of the universe, though. It is almost always inevitable and necessary for survival, but also so that we thrive.

Last night I ran across a fun little 16 second video as I was scrolling in hope that I'd begin to get sleepy enough to doze off. The video was of a tiny, adorable creature, and rather than getting sleepy enough to fade away to my subconscious, I became very interested in the little creature, so I found out what it's called (a something I'd heard of before), and took a deep dive down the rabbit hole to learn about it. The creature is called a mudskipper.

A mudskipper is an amphibious fish (so, basically a fish with frog legs), that can even climb trees. See? Fascinating! It is a fish that, over time, adapted to it's majority-mud environment where, because it is often on top of the water instead of in it and more susceptible to predators, it has learned to escape death by occasionally climbing trees. It is such an interesting little animal!

Then I got to thinking about the ingenuity of the mudskipper and my years in ministry — how with each pastoral move I've had to adapt, and adapt quickly, and at the same time, how, after being here for 9 years, I've been gifted the chance to make slow changes as well. I learned to pivot into grace (often laced with apologies for failures) during covid. I learned how to adjust expectations based on a number of things that no longer include hopes and dreams, but, instead, prayers and your gifts for ministry. **We** have adapted together to a world and a church that changed during and after the pandemic. We have adapted to **our** world changing when we right-sized buildings. We have also adapted to a shift in the denomination, even though it's one we were ready for and welcomed with open arms. And I think we have grown so beautifully in faith, especially in the last year, because we have learned to live into how we were created — not stagnate, perfect creatures who have it all figured out, but as imperfect persons of faith, surviving in an ever-changing cultural climate and world. We were made to change. We were made to pivot. We were made to be ready for the unexpected, to shift our seats, to abandon hitting the "repeat" button over and over, and to ask, "What else can we try?" and then try it.

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Your fruitfulness as a church has been measured by how willing you have been to adapt — to try new things (from my very first week here), to not hold so tightly to sacred cows of your past that you've not been able to move yourself into the future, and to encourage courage in one-another as you have pivoted, grown, changed, and adapted. I tell people, often, that, that is one of your greatest strengths and it has been an immeasurable gift to me. It is okay if you are no longer who you once were, because you continue to be who God created you to be in your physiological and spiritual makeup — a people of faith who adapt for the sake of what you understand the Kingdom of God to be.

Thanks be to God!

On the "Change Train" with you,

Rev. Sara

Trinity Mid-Year Financial Update

30 June 2025

The overall message is that we have Net Revenue of approximately $15,400 over the budgeted mount. While our total income is about $300 over budget, our positive net revenue is rooted in our having approximately $15,000 under budget for expenses. We have been blessed in having a limited amount of maintenance expenses thus far, and we have been careful in managing other expenses. With the age of our facilities and its systems (think HVAC and Elevator), that blessing can shift quickly.

There have been significant expenses in the Trustees' Holmquist Fund over the past months. The roof over the Worship Center was replaced and major renovations are underway in the basement to install a shower, washer, and dryer for a future reopening of Room in the Inn at Trinity. The net balance in the Holmquist Fund is now $54,951.

The Trustees are negotiating a new contract with the Lab School owner, the Rev. Anthony Anderson. That contract will include granting the school additional space on the 2nd floor. Hopefully the new contract will increase Facility Use income sufficiently to compensate for much of the loss of the Living Word income following their closure.

Craig Jordan, Treasurer

United Women in Faith

Upcoming UWF Luncheon

At our June meeting ladies expressed the desire to have Jason's Deli catered in and were requested to explore the menu. Once again we have hit a snag. Jason's menu is too complicated to order for catering, and no one has sent me preferences. The Poplar Plaza location no longer has a meeting room, so dining in is not an option.

Paulette's has a lovely facility and can accommodate our group to eat in in the River View Room. They will send a menu with 3 options from which we can preorder. If everything looks good, watch for an email from me to which you can respond with your RSVP and menu selection. "Books" is this month's auction item.

See you there. Joan S.

Something Wonderful ….

Something wonderful happened last Tuesday that has never happened in my many years of working in Vacation Bible School at Trinity Church. **One hundred percent** of the kids who were enrolled for our VBS were present at the last session!

We had 17 kids, from preschoolers to middle school youth, who participated in activities, plus three high school youth helpers. We had our "regulars" (the Trinity kids we see at Sunday School and church) as well as some of their friends and neighbors and even two kids whose grandmother enrolled her granddaughters after seeing our yard banner. (We also had one cat who followed his family to church. Although he was not enrolled, Ciabatta Dycus stayed outside for quite a while, gazing at the front door as if he wished he could participate, too.)

It was a lovely way to end our four consecutive Tuesday evenings of Vacation Bible School. Our "month of Tuesdays" VBS this year was an "experiment" which turned out to be a great experience, with a week for the adult leaders to recover from each session and to prepare for the next one. We got a late start planning and recruiting, but then things fell into place nicely. The Rev. Rebekah Jordan did a wonderful job of constructing our curriculum AND serving as our Bible storyteller, as we explored how we are "Called by God" at VBS 2025.

Our volunteer leaders and helpers were young and old and in-between in age. Some were fairly new to Trinity; some were back in service after a break of a few years, and others were "oldies but goodies." There were parents and grandparents and folks who just like working with kids. We had leaders who worked VBS after already spending the day at a full-time job. We had retirees who were used to going to bed around the time that VBS was just getting into full swing for the evening. There were 21 adults who either led or helped in storytelling, art, or science sessions; who served as leaders with the Pre-K/Kindergarten, Elementary, or Youth age groups; who took care of dinner preparation and clean-up, or who purchased and delivered pizzas for each night's meal. There was a huge amount of physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual energy expended each Tuesday night on the part of kids and adults. Every night, there were smiles all around as folks went out the door and headed home.

It was my joy and privilege to be a floater/substitute for those four weeks. As such, I was able to witness the learning and fun that took place. You, too, can share some of that as you view the pictures of VBS in action in this newsletter (see page 5). On the last night, when I was visiting the Art Center during the time the Elementary School kids were working there, one end of the table burst out singing "Wade in the Water," one of the songs Rev. Rebekah had sung with the group. In just a few minutes the other end of the table spontaneously sang the same words. It made my heart sing to hear those joyful sounds coming from our children; it was a sure indication that the message we were sharing with them was being internalized. What a great blessing that was!

Peace and love,
Irene

It is important to have current information on our members and guests. Even if you have not moved and even if you have been attending Trinity for many years, please **legibly print** your name and completely fill in **all** information on the attendance register. Place your completed form in the **offering plate**. Leave the attendance registry folder on **top of your seat** as you leave. Thank you for your assistance!

Manna House Needs

Manna House needs jeans and khakis for men, especially waist sizes 30, 32, 36, & 38 and lengths 32 & 34. Donations can be left on the front porch at 410 Garland St., Memphis, TN 38104 any day, any time.

Thanks much!
Pete Gathje

July Birthdays

Lois Young	July 1
Paige Stanton	July 4
Sara Goff	July 6
Julie McMahan	July 7
Helena Landrigan	July 8
Joey Hopper	July 9
Elizabeth Hopper	July 12
Aiden Tate	July 15
Kyle Dearen	July 18
Krissi Moore	July 21
Mike Potter	July 27

UMBRELLAS NEEDED!

If you have a spare umbrella or two, please bring them to church, to reside in the lobby umbrella stand.

Children's Sunday School Schedule

The children WILL NOT meet for Sunday school on July 13th. They will resume meeting on July 20th.

TUMC 2025 VBS

Experimentation is at the heart of science.

Artists at work

EXPLOSIVE science!

Storytelling 101

Called by God

Fun science experiment

More artists at work

Fun with Kaleidoscopes!

Prayer Concerns

Our country and the world - for resolution of the conflict between our country and Iran; 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, especially for those who lost loved ones in flash flooding in Texas; 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 President Donald Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance—pray for their wisdom and that 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, especially as he grieves for death of his mother, Billie Schumpert 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:

Sue Taylor, scheduled for brain surgery July 14th; in hospital overnight
Katy Spake's cousin, **Deb Roark** passed away recently after entering hospice care on June 11th. Deb's husband **Keith** has stage 4 pancreatic cancer, spots on liver & bile ducts. Please pray for Katy and Deb's family.
Lilly Nemenoff, 6 y.o. Idlewild kindergartener, recovering from June 3rd open heart surgery
Stella Cannon, born 7 weeks early with extra chromosome; developmental problems expected
Sharman Murley & Frank Cantrell's son, **Frank, Jr.**, heart issues
Rev. Sara's son **Cooper** dislocated his knee June 2nd: knee brace & on crutches
Pam Stafford battling liver disease, surgery planned for June 13th; husband **Jim Stafford**, dementia
Joan Smith's friend **Donna Brewer**, out of hospital and doing better, but still in need of prayers
Elizabeth Hopper, for healing following surgery for thyroid cancer
Continue to pray for **Marshall Selvidge** and family as they grieve his mother's passing.
Continued prayers for **Sally Ramsey**, daughter **Sandi**, and the Ramsey family
Bobby Glover, Chris's brother, in care for early Alzheimer's
David Chenault: undergoing skin grafts; leg will be saved; out of hospital & in rehab; pray for **Doug Robbins**, aggressive kidney cancer, treatment progressing well; wife **Ash Robbins** doing well after back surgery
Kate and **Neil Ostenrude**, as she continues to recover; strength to persevere in life's trials
For Sharman Murley's grandsons **Asa** (improved behavior!) and **Eli** (high performing autism diagnosis)
Chris Glover's sister, **Sherry Carruthers**
The family of **Mac Gardner** and his spouse, **Marty Acree** (friends of Elizabeth Hopper)
Seth Norton, Raquel's son, ongoing medical concerns
Gwen Dodson, bladder cancer, COPD, osteoporosis; cancer treatment
Kanyon Glover, good medical report; no sign of heart rejection; only one small area not healed at incision site
Jacob Foreman, for new part time job to go well; nerve damage & back pain continues
Gene Archer, stomach cancer, scan last week doesn't look good: awaiting final report. His wife **Julia** has MS.
David Harrison, Carol Miller's brother, moving back to nursing home from rehab; travel mercies for **Carol & Carey**: 50th anniversary cruise; Carey's brother, **Lee Miller**, possible heart attack and stroke
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.