

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.



Growth, Change, and God



I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me... —Philippians 1:3-7a

I was having a conversation the other day with a friend about how there is a progression — an evolution, if you will — of humanity from Genesis to Revelation. In one document the understanding of our relationship with God moves from totally dependent and subservient to a partnership — a friendship, even — where God hopes for our praise and hears us when we pray. In all reality, the timeline of the Bible is many years; in the grand scheme, it's not that long. But in that period, so much changes. Civilization is formed, wars take place, God is established as "I am," and Jesus comes, ushering in a new era. In one document, everything is created, humanity becomes God's people, we get it wrong (terribly wrong), Jesus comes to straighten things out, and we start all over in a different way — a sanctifying sort of way.

It's important to remember that. It's important to pick up the Bible and see where people aren't the same at the end as they were at the beginning and, likewise, God does not respond to humanity in the same way at the end as God did at the beginning. The relationship changed as God figured out just how we were going to act. God adapted as we grew. Does that take away God's all-knowingness? I don't think so. Just as God's all-knowingness doesn't take away our free will, God's adapting to our growth — our evolution — is simply another part of God's willingness to allow us to change. In fact, that might be one of the more beautiful and encouraging traits of our relationship with the Almighty. We are made to adapt, to grow, and to change. Since that is who we are, and (if we hold tight to any significant part of Genesis, perhaps it's this), we are made in God's image, that means that God grows, and adapts, and changes as well.

That pushes back against one of those commonly used mistruths about God. God is the same today, yesterday, and always. Yes, Hebrews 13:8 bends in that direction, but this was written for the earliest of believers who weren't quite getting it right yet, who needed to hear that the nature of Jesus is that he will always be on the side of those who love him. Further, doesn't it push back against God's all-powerfulness to say that God cannot do something that we can (and, in fact), do?

I know what you're thinking. Sara, this is way too much for the newsletter. But here's what **I'm** thinking. Trinity, we are five months in to the biggest changes of life and church that many of us have ever seen. It was our nature to oppose that vehemently at first and yet, here we are — evolved — suited for a time such as this. We've adapted our way of worshipping — embracing that part of our design that makes it so that we grow, and bend, and become who we need to be for the time we're in. And we cannot deny that God has been with us, watching out for us, showing us the way, cheering us on, and hoping that we'll continue, again and again, to give our Designer the praise.

And we do. We praise God for seeing us to this place — different than we were in early March — ready for what the Fall brings — poised to be faithful and thankful that we were created to grow.

Growing with you,

Rev. Sara

Financial Report as of July 31, 2020

Given the continued pandemic resurgence, the church office has continued to be closed with no in-person worship taking place yet. In spite of all these adversities, Trinity has fared well financially through the end of July. There are two major factors. First, the parsonage loan from Terminix at 11.75% was paid off by the Trustees in April. In addition to paying off the loan balance of \$7,633.30, Trustees also reimbursed the operating budget \$12,049.24 for the past payments. The second reason for our current cash position is that funds in the total amount of \$17,255 have drawn on the SBA Payroll Protection Program grant to cover payroll from 5/15/20 through 7/15/20. Both of these inflows of cash have had a significant positive impact on the church's financial condition.

As of July 31, 2020, our year to date revenues exceeded our expenses. Hallelujah! Pledged giving YTD was over budget by \$5,145. Non-pledged giving was over budget YTD by \$382. Memorials & Bequests were down by (\$1,540) YTD. Facility use was under budget by (\$2,470). We have not rented out the Fellowship Hall as we normally would due to the pandemic.

Expenditures YTD were \$ (38,078) under budget. Almost all the major categories were under budget and that helped the bottom line. As mentioned in the first paragraph, the SBA loan/grant funds and the Trustees reimbursement funds are a good portion of that under budget number. Not having the building open has also saved on utilities. Overall, at the end of July, we actually have YTD net income of \$16,909. Projected budget deficit was (\$21,242). Absolutely amazing!

Thanks to everyone for your continued giving over these trying times. Your faithfulness has been extremely important to the well being of Trinity. God has been with us through this pandemic and He will continue to be with us as we move forward in our mission and ministries.

Rosemary Potter, Finance Chair

Coming up: Drive-in Movie Night at Trinity UMC

We had 40 of our Evergreen neighbors and friends, socially distanced and masked, for a drive-in movie in our back parking lot August 1st. It was a wonderful time! We'll have another drive-in during September, date and time to be determined.



THE LORD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO

During the month of August our Trinity Children's Wednesday Zoom meetings are focusing on the subject of "Communities Worship." As we go through this final series of lessons for the summer, most, if not all, of our children will begin their new school year at several different schools, and some will begin home schooling. All are facing new and different experiences, no matter where and how they will be learning. We hope that all of our Trinity Church family will be praying for our children and their families as they meet tremendous challenges that none of us as children or parents have ever had to face before.

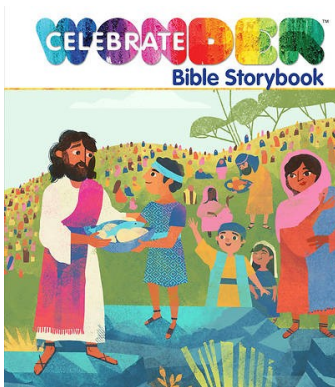


Ms. Alyson and I, as Wednesday/Sunday school teachers, have enjoyed Zooming with our Trinity children this summer. We have learned much - and have so much more to learn - about how to navigate the internet and how to adapt our style of teaching to proclaim the Good News to our children. We are thankful for the supportive parents who have taken the time and made the effort to help their children connect with us each week on their computers and iPhones. We are also so very thankful for our children's patience with us as we have stumbled and bumbled along at times. We hope to continue meeting on Zoom until such time as we can resume our regular Sunday school class meetings. We will meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. through the end of August. At that point we will take a short break from our Zoom meetings until the children have established a rhythm in their virtual learning in their weekday classes.

We hope to have a **Zoom meeting with all parents on Sunday, September 20, at 3:00 p.m.** to determine the best day and time to resume our weekly Trinity Kids' Zoom Meetings. We will send an invitation with the Zoom link to all parents during the middle of the week prior to the meeting. We hope all parents will do their best to join us for this meeting.

During the past several weeks we sent "Thinking of You" cards to our homebound members. These cards featured thoughtful messages and artwork designed by our children. Our children have also designed birthday messages to be sent on behalf of the Trinity Church family to members who have birthdays each month. We hope to continue both of these ministries during this time when we cannot gather together as a church family.

In September we will begin using a brand-new Cokesbury curriculum, **Celebrate Wonder**, another big change for us. As teachers, we ask for your prayers as we adapt once again to a very different curriculum and a new teaching environment.



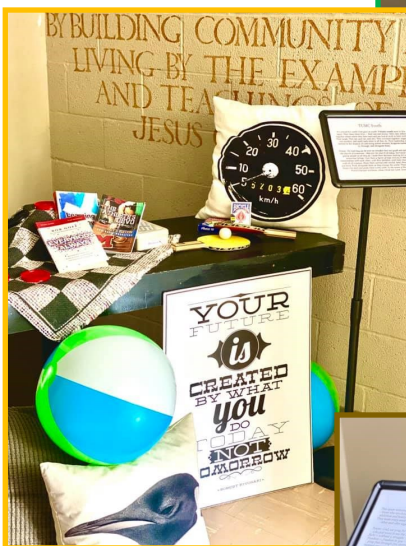
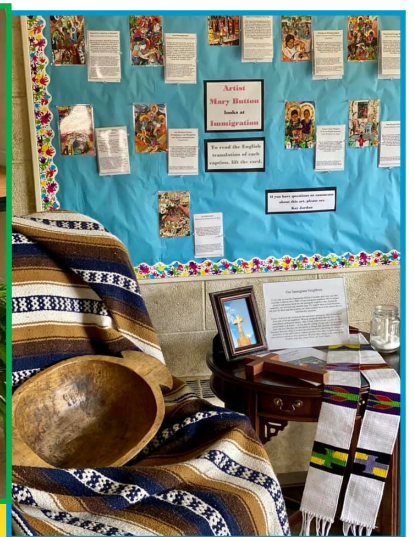
As we go through all of these transitions, we remember once again our children's July memory verse from Joshua 1:9: "The Lord is with you wherever you go." What a powerful promise that is! We claim this promise for all of us as children of God, no matter what age we might be.

Peace in Christ,

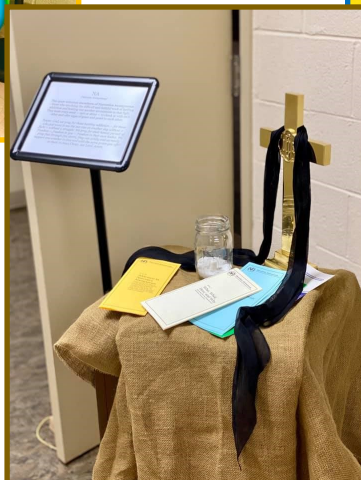
Irene & Alyson

The Prayer Pilgrimage

Sunday, August 9th, Trinity hosted a prayer pilgrimage through the Trinity building as an alternative way of engaging in worship while remaining apart and also being in the building. We've spent so much time apart that it might be easy to forget all the ways that Trinity engages with the community and is in ministry in midtown Memphis. There were nine different prayer stations throughout the church, highlighting the ministries that happen in those specific areas and offering those who came a chance to pray over and for those ministries as they continue in different ways during the pandemic.



Trinity Youth

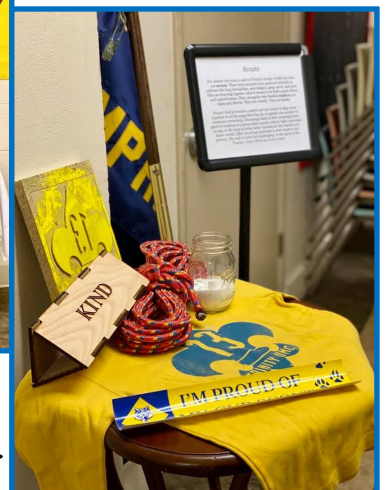


Narcotics Anonymous



Children

Scouts —>



Immigrant Neighbors

TRUSTEES REPORT

10 August 2020

It's certainly the dog days of summer, and the Trustees have been taking care of a few things over the past month.

just a
..... note

We had two trees removed from the church property – one on the east edge just north of the garage and one on the west end of the building. Our neighbor, Allen Hamblin, graciously offered to pay for half of the removal cost for the east tree, as it was a threat to his house. The west tree had an active beehive about 70 feet up inside the trunk. The owner of the tree service was the unlucky one to cut into the hive – resulting in more than 50 stings and a trip to the hospital. He was okay though, and back on the job the next day with a bee removal and relocation team. They were able to move the hive, and he said the honey was very good!

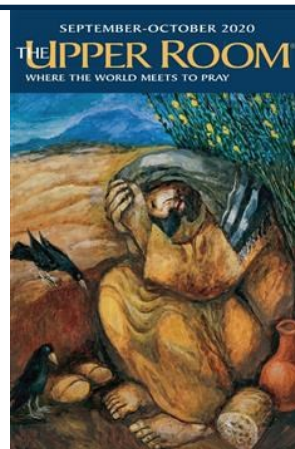
A new HVAC system was installed at the parsonage. This included a new high efficiency furnace, AC compressor, ductwork, and improved air filter system. Some minor work also has been done on the HVAC systems at the Worship Center.

We also are still waiting for the city to get back to us regarding curb repair on Galloway. We also hope to get the new stage curtain ordered and installed in the next couple of months.

If you have any questions/comments/concerns about any Trustee-related items, please contact Jinx Winn at jinxwinn@gmail.com or 901.825.8585.

Peace –

Jinx Winn
Head Trustee



The latest issue of *The Upper Room* is now available. Copies will be mailed to our home-bound members this week. If

you want to pick up a copy at Trinity, you will find a display on the front porch later this week. We can also mail your copy. Leave a message on the church office voicemail (901-274-6895) or send an email to: office@trinityumcmemphis.org. Other resources are available on *The Upper Room* website. Go to <https://www.upperroom.org/covid-19> in order to access daily devotionals, a digital version, pandemic prayer practices, a prayer wall, meditations on living with COVID-19, and more.



August 4	Lee Johns
August 16	Rowan Booth
August 16	Sean Booth
August 18	Chris Comes
August 19	Fred Martin
August 28	Reid McClurkan

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; prayers for our country, that truth and justice will prevail; 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.

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 in the congregation homebound due to chronic illness or age; for children and youth and for their peace of mind during the current crisis; 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

Paige Warmath, **Alyson Foreman's** cousin, continuing treatment for brain tumor

Kanyon Glover, heart transplant survivor; in and out of hospital

Donnie Glover, Chris's brother, still battling leukemia

Katie, young mother of an infant & toddler, now out of abusive relationship and doing well
(concern shared by **Chris Glover**)

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

Gene Opel, in good spirits despite being confined to their home; **Irene Opel**, physically frail with ongoing health concerns, but strong in her faith; **Anita Bunn** as she cares for them

Nancy Rankin's biopsy showed benign lymph nodes, praise God! To see surgeon about mass in her lung

Maggi Comes, experiencing back pain

Elwood Oliver, husband of one of Maggi Comes' co-workers, recovering from his strokes

Valerie Coats, shoulder replacement surgery on July 2nd, in pain, but recovering at home and undergoing physical therapy; for **Chris Glover**, as she cares for her

The family of **Laura Fellin** (niece of Mary McConnell), who passed away on August 1

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

Sally Ramsey recovering from a back injury and now in a back brace. Pray for relief from her pain.

Albert Seals (father of our custodian, Lisa Seals) passed away July 31st after an extended illness.

Jeri Ashley has been in the hospital for a short stay, receiving IV antibiotics for infection in legs.

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.)*