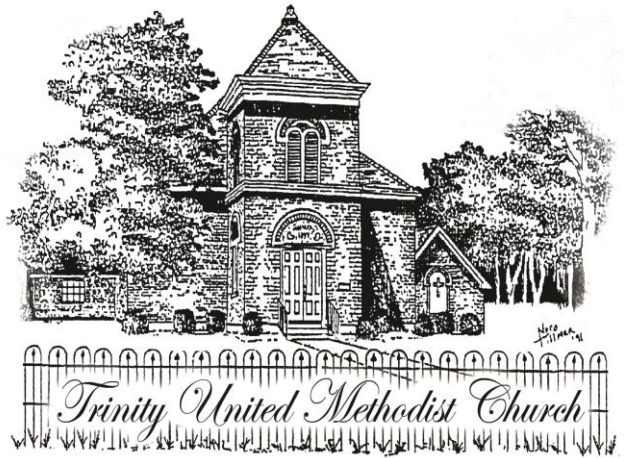




Trinity United Methodist Church Newsletter

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The Journey to Easter

[A]ll have sinned— ...¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

Romans 5:12; 7:15

I remember reading once that Billy Graham always made it a point to preach on Romans 5:12 whenever he held one of his crusades. At some point he would look at the crowd and pronounce, “All have sinned.” He believed, quite correctly, that no one could realize the need for God in their life unless they acknowledged that they too were sinners; that they needed God. It’s not the “unsaved” who need God. It’s all of us.

In our society, Romans 5 is not a very popular passage. People don’t like to think of themselves as sinners. Sin separates us from God and no one likes to think that they might be doing something that separates them from God. People prefer verses like John 3:16 (For God so loved the world...) or some other passage that isn’t quite as honest and personal as Romans 5. But Romans 5 and the follow on in Romans 7 points up both the depth of God’s love and the reason we need God in our lives. God loves the world, us and everyone else **in spite of our sin**. God wants something better for us and is prepared to help us. Christianity is not about our independence or self-sufficiency. Christianity is based on the belief that we are dependent upon the sustaining power of God to live our lives. Christianity assumes that we need God and one another to live full and productive lives. And our belief is that God reached out to us through Christ because of the sin that harms us and those around us. We profess that Christ provides the connection with God that bridges the separation caused by our sin. We don’t need Christ as a good friend; we need Christ like we need the air we breathe.

We are about to begin the season of Lent. Lent is a season of preparation for Easter, a time to reflect on our lives and our relationship with God. I have prepared a Lenten series of sermons, based upon the Revised Common Lectionary readings, titled *The Journey to Easter*. Our lives as Christians, our lives as disciples, are a journey not a destination. We spend our lives learning to love God and God’s world. We walk the road of Discipleship with each other and with God. Sometimes we lose our way. I hope each of you can be with us every Sunday in Lent as we contemplate that journey.

The season of Lent begins on March 5, Ash Wednesday. The Ash Wednesday service is a liturgy that Protestants have reclaimed in recent decades, recognizing that we need the symbol of the ashes to remind ourselves of our sin and our need for God. Ideally, an Ash Wednesday service should take place first thing in the morning so that the mark of the ashes is worn all day. I’ve never been very successful in getting people out for a service early on a Wednesday morning. **Nevertheless, I’ll be here at the Church on Wednesday**

morning for any who wish to receive the mark of the ashes early in the day. If you come by anytime on Wednesday morning I'll administer the ashes. We will also have a service at 7:00 PM on Ash Wednesday for all who wish to come.

Prayerfully consider beginning the Lenten Season by receiving the mark of ashes. Accepting the mark of the ashes is a way of reminding ourselves that we need God in our lives. You see, even if we decline to receive the ashes, our foreheads are dirty.

Message from the Lay leader

Greetings!

As your Lay Leader, I would like to take this opportunity to communicate to all of the congregation Trinity's Ministry Goals for 2014. At the Program Council meeting held in January, Pastor Dennis Meaker presented his vision and ministry goals for Trinity and challenged the Program Council to meet these goals. In turn, the Program Council adopted these goals and pledged support for completing them over the next 12 months. I have felt led to communicate to the congregation as a whole the goals we have set forth and pledged to accomplish, and ask for everyone's prayers and support for meeting these goals.

- Bring in a total of ten new members this year. Have five confessions of faith.
- Increase average worship attendance by 20%
- Develop enough interest within the congregation to be able to start one new bible study this year.
- Have at least one "non-worship" event at the Church each month whose purpose is to invite the broader community to come to the Church and become acquainted with its members and ministries.
- Offer a VBS program this year (need volunteers within the church to organize)

Achieving the goal of having at least one "non-worship" event each month has already challenged the Men's Club to host a pancake breakfast this coming Saturday, March 1st at 8:00 a.m. I hope you can attend and support this event. Please contact me if you have any ideas that would invite the community in to Trinity to learn about the ministries of our Church.

As Methodists we are a "connected" church. We continue to support missions in our community as well as mission work throughout the world. But our "mission field" is also our neighbor, and focusing on the ministries that serve the needs of our congregation and community. I am asking that you please communicate with me or Dennis any needs or concerns that you may have. I want to encourage an environment of two-way communication so that we are "connected" to each other as we seek ways to serve as a congregation.

In the weeks ahead I'll be highlighting upcoming special events that will be opportunities for each of us to share the love of Christ with our neighbor. See you this Saturday at the pancake breakfast and Sunday at worship!

Brooks Crowell
Lay Leader,
Trinity UMC

The Poverty and Justice Bible

The Poverty & Justice Bible is a bible that highlights each passage of scripture that deals with the issues of poverty and justice. There are more than 2000 references in scripture to poverty and justice, as opposed to four or five on such controversial subjects as homosexual acts or marriage. Yet many Christians seem to think that helping the poor is a pointless and even harmful act. As an on-going part of this newsletter, I will be providing citations to passages from the Old and New Testaments each week that deal with what scripture tells us about poverty and justice. If you are interested in learning more about *The Poverty & Justice Bible* you can check on Amazon.com or go to www.Justicebible.org.

³ *Our God approaches,
but not silently;
a flaming fire comes first,
and a storm surrounds him.*
⁴ **God comes to judge his people.**
*He shouts to the heavens
and to the earth,*
⁵ *“Call my followers together!
They offered me a sacrifice,
and we made an agreement.”*
⁶ **The heavens announce,**
“God is the judge,
and he is always honest.” Ps 50 3-6

Some Christians are of the belief that Christ's sacrifice for our sins means that they will never be judged by God. Yet, throughout scripture, the consistent message is that God will judge. Judging includes the finding of guilt or innocence, not merely the rendering of a sentence. We will understand the depth of our sin, even if the price to be paid for that sin is covered by the sacrifice of Christ. I, for one, am not looking forward to the judgment. To know how far short I have fallen from what God expects of me will, I think, be a terrible thing.

²³ *Jesus said to his disciples, “It’s terribly hard for rich people to get into the kingdom of heaven! ²⁴ In fact, it’s easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to get into God’s kingdom.”*

²⁵ *When the disciples heard this, they were greatly surprised and asked, “How can anyone ever be saved?”*

²⁶ *Jesus looked straight at them and said, “There are some things that people cannot do, but God can do anything.” Matt 19:23-26 CEV*

The Disciples are panicking. The standard Jesus describes makes it seem that no one, including them, could hope to enter the Kingdom of heaven. Jesus reminds them that, for God, all things are possible. Jesus is reminding the Disciples that their salvation rests on God's Grace, not on the good they can do.

Bible Study

For the last two years I have led a bible study on Thursday mornings. We are currently studying the Book of Psalms. There is room for as many as would like to participate. Please call me if you have questions or simply come and be a part of our study. We meet from 10:00 to 11:30 on Thursday mornings.

I believe that the study of scriptures with other Christians is an essential part of our journey as Disciples. If you would like to be a part of a bible study at another time, during the day or evening, please contact me. If we can interest four or five people in gathering at a particular time I would be glad to lead another study.

Prayer Ministry

The following persons have agreed to be part of the prayer ministry at Trinity UMC:

Elva Beard	Sarah Jordan	Kenneth Stevens	Judy Richardson
Larry Eastwood	Mac McAfee	Patricia Stevens	Charles Wilson
Leslie Eastwood	Rachel Newman	Sam Richardson	

The members of the prayer ministry of Trinity United Methodist church covenant with one another to pray daily for:

- Those concerns on the prayer list of the Church and for healing of body and spirit for all persons listed;
- For each ministry of the church that each ministry would work to bring the Gospel to those within our community and most especially to bring the Gospel to those who have not yet accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior;
- For all the members of the Trinity UMC community that they be led and enabled to live as the Body of Christ;
- For our local community and all its needs, especially for those who are struggling with the burden of poverty;
- For our nation and our world that God help lead the people of the world to live in peace with God's Kingdom.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry (or if you have already spoken to me about it and were inadvertently left off the list) please let me know and I will see that you are added.

Up-Coming Sermons

March 2th: Start at the Foot of the Cross. This is Transfiguration Sunday when we remember the event described in the Gospels when some of Jesus' Disciples were given a vision of Christ in all his Glory. Immediately after they saw that vision, Jesus commanded them not to speak of what they saw until after his death and resurrection. You see, we cannot really see and understand Christ in his glory unless we begin with Christ's suffering on the cross. My texts are Exodus 24:12-18 and Matthew 17:1-9.

March 9th: The Journey to Easter: *Starting the Journey.* "But I've been a disciple for years, decades. How can I just be starting this journey?" My texts are Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 and Matthew 4:1-11.

Worship Leaders Schedule

March 2

Donnie Hartsock, **Liturgist**

Sam Richardson & Marty Bauguess, **Greeters**

Mike & Elaine Rohrig, **Ushers**

March 9

Elaine Rohrig, **Liturgist**

Betty & Herb Haynes, **Greeters**

Sam Richardson & Linda Robinson, **Ushers**

Announcements

The Men's Club is hosting a **Pancake Breakfast this Saturday, March 1** in Fellowship Hall. Please plan to support this event from **8:00 to 10:00 AM**. Donations will be accepted to support the Mission and Ministries of our church.

Please join us for a reception honoring **Colette Keyser** for her wonderful service to Trinity as our accompanist on **March 16th** following the service. Please see Dana Bauguess or Julia Moore for more details.

Ash Wednesday Service on March 5th at 7:00 PM. For those who desire to wear the mark of the ashes all day, Rev. Meaker will be at the Church on Wednesday morning from 7:00 AM on.

Our **nursery** will have a paid staff member and will also need a volunteer each week. Please let Judy know if you would be willing to serve in the nursery during church hours on a rotating basis so that a schedule can be drafted.

For those of you who have a computer and have not made Judy Richardson aware of your picture selection, please do so at your earliest convenience.

For those of you who do not have a computer, John (our photographer) and Judy will make a selection of your most attractive pose for the directory.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING YOUR DIRECTORY PICTURE

1. Open Browser. Ex: Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, etc.
2. At top of page, type in web address: www.bluelightphoto.org/tumc2014
3. Page will open and you will see a space requesting a password. The password is: Judy (Capital J, other letters are lower case).
4. A gallery of pictures will come up. Find your picture and click on the picture itself. This will take you to your personal gallery of pictures. The number of photos ranges from 2-10.
5. When you click on a picture in your gallery, the photo will enlarge and you will be able to see the photo in detail.
6. To navigate from picture to picture (in your gallery), use the arrows on the side of the computer screen or use the left/right arrows at the bottom of the keyboard to scroll through them.
7. You will then select the specific picture that you want to have published in the directory by identifying a unique number under each picture.

8. You will then provide that number to Judy Richardson by email at: Richardson824@msn.com.
9. Please check your name under the picture for correct spelling. This is the name that will appear in the directory with your picture.

Next week, instructions will be given to download your picture so that you can print (or have printed) your photo.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DOWNLOADING YOUR PICTURE(S)

Feel free to download one or more of your pictures for your own personal use! Here's how to do it:

1. You will need to open Internet Explorer in order to download your picture.
2. After you have selected the picture that you want, click on the picture. At the top of the picture, you will see a button, "download." Put your cursor on "download." A drop down box will appear with two options, "original" and "all available originals." Click on "original."
3. A box will appear near bottom of the screen with three options: "Open", "Save", and "Cancel".
4. Click on the arrow beside the word, "save." and click on "Save as."
5. A window will open to see where you want to save your picture.
6. On the left of that window you will see several options, including LIBRARIES and underneath it PICTURES. We suggest you save in "pictures." You could also create a folder within the "pictures" folder, after you double click "pictures", and near top of screen will be an option for "new folder". Clicking it creates a new folder, which you can rename and download your picture(s) into it by double clicking it.
7. You may want to rename your picture to something useful (in File name: near bottom of window) such as your name, date, and a sequence number (1, 2, 3, etc) if you download more than one. You can also just keep the default camera name for your picture.
8. Click "save" at bottom right of window. It is now saved! Do this for each picture you want to keep.

February Birthdays

Donnie Hartsock, Joyce Edwards, Bert Winton, Maurice Edwards, Jeanne Rybolt, Patricia Stevens,

Rodger Klein, Eric Crowell