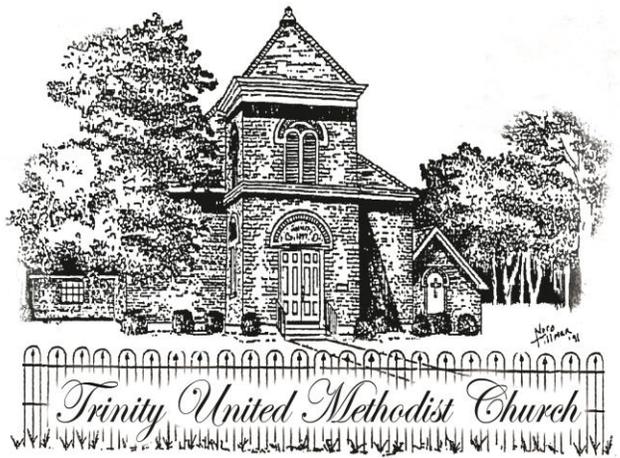




Trinity United Methodist Church Newsletter

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Are You One of the Seventy-Two?

After these things, the Lord commissioned seventy-two others and sent them on ahead in pairs to every city and place he was about to go. ² He said to them, “The harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest. ³ Go! Be warned, though, that I’m sending you out as lambs among wolves. ⁴ Carry no wallet, no bag, and no sandals. Don’t even greet anyone along the way. ⁵ Whenever you enter a house, first say, ‘May peace be on this house.’ ⁶ If anyone there shares God’s peace, then your peace will rest on that person. If not, your blessing will return to you. ⁷ Remain in this house, eating and drinking whatever they set before you, for workers deserve their pay. Don’t move from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a city and its people welcome you, eat what they set before you. ⁹ Heal the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘God’s kingdom has come upon you.’ Luke 10:1-9 CEB

Much of Annual Conference this year was focused on asking this question: “Are you one of the seventy-two?” According to the gospel of Luke, Jesus sent out seventy-two (some translations read ‘seventy’) Disciples to share the message that ‘God’s Kingdom has come upon you.’ Jesus warned the disciples that the ‘Harvest’ was larger than they could imagine. Many more people needed to hear that message than could ever be reached by the seventy-two. Yet, for each person who received the message, there was another worker for the field.

The Mission of the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences is:

To discover, equip, connect and send lay and clergy leaders who shape congregations that offer Jesus Christ to a hurting world, one neighborhood at a time.

Our primary responsibility as the Church is to offer Jesus Christ to a hurting world, beginning in the neighborhoods surrounding Trinity UMC.

We *discover* potential lay and clergy leaders by going into the neighborhoods around the Church and sharing the Gospel. Part of my challenge to the congregation this year is to offer some form of community outreach at least once each month. We are not trying to “recruit members.” We are seeking to share the Gospel. There are large numbers of people all around us who once were a part of a Church but have stopped attending anywhere. There are even more who have never been a part of the church. As Jesus said to his Disciples, the harvest is bigger than we can imagine. We want to discover as many of those people as we can. One way to do that is to offer many opportunities for us to find them and for them to find us.

We *equip* potential lay and clergy leaders through everything that happens at the church. We worship together and pray together. We study the scriptures together and we share our experiences with one another. We share in fellowship and we support one another in times of hardship. We minister to others. As we work together we equip ourselves for the work of ministry and sharing the Gospel.

We *connect* our potential lay and clergy leaders. The first connection is essential. We seek to connect each other to Jesus Christ. It is Christ, through the power of the Spirit, who enables all we do. We are connected to Christ around the Lord's Table. Our second connection is to the Body of Christ. Paul tells us, ²⁷ *You are the body of Christ and parts of each other. 1 Corinthians 12:27 CEB.* God has made us part of the Body of Christ but that has little meaning unless we acknowledge that connection. We must come to understand that we are part of each other in all that we do. Finally, we are connected to the larger Church and all its ministries through the Annual and General Conferences. United Methodism is a connectional tradition. We support one another in local, national and world ministry.

Finally, we *send* people back into the community to engage in ministry, share the Gospel and *discover* potential new leaders. Each new worker makes the harvest that much easier and fruitful. Keep in mind that the primary purpose of the church is not to minister to ourselves, but to share the Gospel with the world, one neighborhood at a time.

The teaching sessions at Annual conference were recorded and I am in the process of downloading and preparing a disk with those videos. They will be available for use in Sunday school and, if there is interest, in a series of special classes.

Vacation Bible School at Trinity

VBS will be held Aug 1st and 2nd (Friday and Saturday) with a celebration during the church service on Aug 3 (also first Sunday).

We'll meet Friday night 6pm - 8:30 pm, Saturday morning 9am - 11:30 am and then Sunday worship at 11am. If you have not yet volunteered, please make Jeanne, Julia or Rev. Meaker aware of your interest in participating.

As a part of our VBS plans, our congregation will be providing school supplies for Williamson County children. We will be filling backpacks with index cards, composition notebooks, 3x5 cards. We are collecting these items now.

We will also be collecting items for fuel bags through Grace Works. Those items include: 8oz milk boxes - non refrigerated, Easy Mac, Microwaveable meat meals, cereals, canned/packaged meat with crackers. These are all individual servings, please.

Thank you for participating in this important effort.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Jeanne and I would like you to join us this February on a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. We will leave on February 16 for nine days of Biblical discovery, returning on February 25th. We will be part of a larger group of primarily United Methodists from all over Middle and West Tennessee. This is a special tour organized by Bishop William McAlilly, the Bishop for the Tennessee and Memphis Conferences.

I first visited the Holy Land in 2000. Jeanne and I went back in 2005 and again in 2012. Before I went the first time I was somewhat cynical about the upcoming experience. I didn't think that it would have much of an effect on me. But, when you stand on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, or travel to the Synagogue at Capernaum, you suddenly realize that you are likely walking ground that Christ walked. When you pray among the Olive trees in Gethsemane, stand in the prison cell contained in the House of Caiaphas, or see the name of Pilate inscribed on a monument in Caesarea, the events surrounding the imprisonment, trial and passion of Christ take on new meaning; a new reality.

Brochures for the trip, including exact costs and travel itineraries, are available in my office. I'll also schedule a time this summer to share photographs taken on my previous trips to Israel and answer questions about the trip. I hope you will prayerfully consider participating in this faith building experience.

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.

²³ *Even when the land of the poor
produces good crops,
they get cheated
out of what they grow. Proverbs 13:23*

²⁰ *You have no friends
if you are poor,
but you have lots of friends
if you are rich. Proverbs 14:20*

Proverbs contains much advice for living, including admonitions that being lazy can lead to poverty. See e.g. Pr 10:4. But scattered through-out the Book of Proverbs are observations about the way the world works. Reading proverbs I find it fascinating that the way people interact has changed very little over the last 3000 years. It remains true today that the poor are at risk of being cheated out of what they have earned by those with greater wealth and power, and that they often find they have few friends who will support them against the interests of those with wealth and power. Scripture does not condemn wealth and power as evil, but it points out that wealth and power can cloud our thinking and attitudes.

¹⁸ *An important man asked Jesus, "Good Teacher, what must I do to have eternal life?"*

¹⁹ *Jesus said, "Why do you call me good? Only God is good. ²⁰ You know the commandments: 'Be faithful in marriage. Do not murder. Do not steal. Do not tell lies about others. Respect your father and mother.' "*

²¹ *He told Jesus, "I have obeyed all these commandments since I was a young man."*

²² *When Jesus heard this, he said, "There is one thing you still need to do. Go and sell everything you own! Give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come and be my follower." ²³ When the man heard this, he was sad, because he was very rich.*

²⁴ *Jesus saw how sad the man was. So he said, "It's terribly hard for rich people to get into God's kingdom!"*

²⁵ *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."*

²⁶ *When the crowd heard this, they asked, "How can anyone ever be saved?"*

²⁷ *Jesus replied, "There are some things that people cannot do, but God can do anything." Luke 118:18-27*

CEV

Jesus takes up the theme of the dangers associated with wealth in confronting the 'Rich Young Ruler.' The man had led a moral life all his life. Yet, he had also grown to depend upon his wealth. That which we depend upon and cherish can become what we worship. The man could not love God with all his heart, soul and mind because he also loved his wealth. Jesus' reference to a camel and the eye of the needle should be heard as a proverb and not as a reference to an actual camel trying to get through a small gate in a wall. Jesus is saying that, for humans, salvation is not possible. But for God, all things are possible, even saving one who had fallen under the spell of great wealth and power.

Bible Study

Our Thursday morning Bible study will take a break for the month of July and the first two weeks in August. We will continue with the study of 1 Samuel on August 21st at 10:30 AM.

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.

Still Seeking People Interested in Disciple Bible Study

Disciple Bible Study is a 32 week study of the bible from Genesis to Revelation. It has guided many people to a deeper understanding of scripture and their faith over the years. Many in the Church have completed this study.

I have been approached by two people who would be interested in a Disciple Bible Study to meet from 7:00 to 9:00 on Thursday evenings. If needed, we will seek to provide child care for this study. I would like to get at least five or more people to participate in this study. If you have considered undertaking a study of the bible before, this is a wonderful opportunity. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please contact me.

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

July 27th: Sermon: *The Kingdom of Heaven is Like a Weed, or Maybe Moldy Bread.* Some of the most fascinating, and confusing, passages in the New Testament involve Jesus' descriptions of the Kingdom of Heaven or Kingdom of God. Jesus is speaking about how our world should work if we are focused on living God centered lives. My texts are Hosea 11:1-9 and Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.

August 1st VBS Celebration and communion.

Worship Leaders Schedule

July 27

Rodger Klein, **Liturgist**

Linda Robinson & Pat Moran, **Greeters**

Marty Bauguess & Tommy Cotton, **Ushers**

August 3

Rachel Newman, **Liturgist**

Tommy & Jo Cotton, **Greeters**

Mike & Elaine Rohrig, **Ushers**

Announcements

Program Council Meeting July 30th at 5:30 PM. We will be discussing final preparations for the VBS as well as plans for this fall and the Advent season. Please make every effort to attend.

You are invited to participate in a work session this **Saturday morning (July 26) from 9:00 AM to noon** to make preparation for **VBS**. Please plan to come!

The “Companions in Christ” Sunday school class is beginning a new study Sunday, July 27. The study is, **“Dare to Dream”** which will help us discern God’s dream for us and how we live it out prayerfully and spiritually. We will be creating a “God-Sized” mission for ourselves. Please join us. You will be enriched spiritually and you will enjoy the fellowship and commitment of others.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for volunteers to sign up to assist in the nursery or Sunday school. Please sign up for one or more Sunday’s. Thank you for being a part of this vital ministry of our church.

There are sign-up lists on the Bulletin Board for volunteers who will prepare communion as well as hosting the First Sunday meal. Please sign up!

July Birthdays

Nanette Crowell, Mac McAfee, Leslie Eastwood, Linda Robinson, Renita Hartsock

Happy Birthday to each of you!