



# Trinity United Methodist Church Newsletter



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## Talk To Me Like I'm Gay

<sup>19</sup> *"You give your mouth free rein for evil,  
and your tongue frames deceit.*

<sup>20</sup> *You sit and speak against your kin;  
you slander your own mother's child. Psalm 50:19-20*

<sup>29</sup> *Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. Ephesians 4:29*

I was reading an article about a pastor the other day. This pastor had told his congregation that, when they spoke of things that angered them, or scared them, to think of him as the subject of their conversation. If they were railing against gay or transgender people, to assume that he was gay or transgender. If they were railing against illegal immigrants to assume that he was an illegal immigrant. If they were complaining about the Muslims to assume that he was Muslim. If they were unhappy with the liberals or the conservatives to assume that he held the relevant views. He urged them to shape all their speech as if they were talking to, or about, him. He said that he wanted them to try and shape what they said so that it expressed their feelings but also conveyed a sense of God's grace and a desire to understand.

Christians do not look at the world through rose colored glasses, seeing only the good and never the bad. One of my favorite scripture passages is Ephesians 4:26:

<sup>26</sup> *Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger...*

There is much to make us angry when we look at the world. Christians are not supposed to be indifferent to the troubles of the world. As the Body of Christ we pray that God helps us see the world as God sees it; to see people as God sees them. And that means that we see the good in the world, we see the evil, and we see the ways things can be made better. But our human side can't help also seeing things that we don't understand, things that make us feel uncomfortable or things that frighten us. When looking at the world we must be able to speak with one another frankly and honestly about our feelings. Unless we can be honest with one another we can never hope to address the problems facing us today.

However, being frank and honest doesn't mean being hateful. Being frank and honest doesn't mean being cruel for the sake of causing harm. Being frank and honest doesn't mean seeking to demean those we

don't understand or to drive them from our presence. As Paul notes, our words should be used to build-up not to strike out. And above all, what we say should reflect the knowledge that we are the recipients of God's Grace and that we are called to share that Grace with others.

Civil discourse about important issues has almost disappeared in this nation. Christian discourse is sadly lacking as well. Too often the discourse about important issues starts with demonizing those who believe differently than we believe. Too often the call is not to understand or change ways of thinking but to marginalize or eradicate those who do not believe as we believe. Much of this discourse is driven by fear. Some of that fear is being generated by those who wish to steer public opinion for their own ends, hoping that, in our fear, we will forget the grace of God.

How we discuss the important issues of our times is something we can control. If it helps keep that discourse civil and graced filled, aimed at building-up and not destroying, please assume that I, or someone you love, is at the center of the discussion. If you are discussing gay marriage assume that I am gay and wishing to marry my partner. If it is Black Lives Matter, assume that I am black and fearful of what will happen to my children the next time they are pulled over by police. If it is "Blue Lives Matter" assume that I am a police officer daily facing unknown situations that could become violent. If it is legal or illegal immigration assume that I am such an immigrant. In all things, pray for God's help to see the situation as God sees it. In all things, pray that God help you set aside your fear and allow you to discuss our very real problems with frankness and honesty, but without hate.

## **News from Nanette Crowell's Companions in Christ** *By Rodger Klein*

Our Sunday School Class has some things that we want to share with the congregation. First, we have changed the name of our class from Companions in Christ to *Nanette Crowell's Companions in Christ*. This name change was done so that we would always keep Nanette in the front of our minds and honor her memory as the founder and leader of our class. We will miss her leadership and contribution to our class and we believe that naming our class in her memory is an appropriate way for us to honor her. All adults are welcome to participate in our class. We meet at 9:45 am every Sunday morning.

Second, Pastor Meaker recently asked us to watch a video about poverty in our country and to consider how poverty affects our community. The video was very informative and after watching, we discussed ways for our class to help with this serious local and national problem. Because we are local, we were looking for ways that we can help in our local community. After some discussion, we agreed that we will help in two ways now, but continue to look for additional ways in which we can help. Our first commitment is to sponsor one of the four meals that Trinity does each year at the 61<sup>st</sup> Avenue United Methodist Church. We will sponsor that event financially, and we will be there to participate in the serving of the meal and the worship service with that congregation. Our second commitment is that we will lead the effort at Trinity to collect food for the Graceworks food pantry. We will be setting up a collection station in the church where all members can bring non-perishable food items that will be given to Graceworks for use within our local community to help those in need. Food items can be brought in every week, but we will concentrate this effort on First Sundays. Please help us collect these food items to help those in need within our own local community.

## Charge Conference

It's that time of the year again. For those of you new to the United Methodist Church, a 'Charge' is a Church or group of Churches under the leadership of an appointed pastor. All members of a Charge are responsible for its governance. To appreciate how deeply the concept touches Methodist polity and practice, turn to UMH 413, *A Charge to Keep I Have*. This hymn was written by Charles Wesley in 1762. The Charge Conference, made up of the pastor, lay leadership and members, is to meet at least once a year in a meeting chaired by the District Superintendent. It is at this meeting that the Pastor's compensation is set and the leadership for the coming year is approved.

In years past the District Superintendent has come to each Charge to hold this conference. This year the Columbia District will be meeting in clusters. Our cluster is made up of ten Charges. There will be separate sessions for each Church and a joint worship service for all the churches in the cluster. The cluster that includes Trinity will meet at Epworth UMC on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Our business meeting is scheduled from 5:15 to 5:30. There will be a joint worship service from 4:00 to 5:00. I encourage everyone who is available to attend the worship service and the separate business meeting.

## Thursday Morning Bible Study

**[Please note: There will not be a Thursday morning Bible Study on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Meaker will be attending a District Ministers' meeting Thursday morning. The Bible Study will resume on September 17<sup>th</sup>.]**

We have begun our Thursday morning Bible Study on Thursday mornings between 10:00 and 11:30. Anyone is welcome to attend. It has been my practice to allow the group to decide what parts of the bible they wish to study. Based upon the requests I have received we have begun a study of the Gospel of Mark.

## The Poverty and Justice Bible

*<sup>6</sup>You drink all the wine you want  
and wear expensive perfume,  
but you don't care about  
the ruin of your nation.  
Amos 6:6 CEV*

A theme that Amos returns to several times is the extravagant consumption of the rich in the midst of a troubled nation. Comparisons can be made to our nation. Those living at the top of the economy can enjoy any comfort they desire. But their comfort is a distraction from what is happening to many others in the nation. The Gospel does not demand equality in all things, but neither does it condone ignoring the needs of others. Amos predicts that, while the rich party, their nation will collapse around them.

*<sup>16</sup> So Jesus told them this story:  
A rich man's farm produced a big crop, <sup>17</sup> and he said to himself, "What can I do? I don't have a place  
large enough to store everything."*

<sup>18</sup> Later, he said, “Now I know what I’ll do. I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones, where I can store all my grain and other goods. <sup>19</sup> Then I’ll say to myself, ‘You have stored up enough good things to last for years to come. Live it up! Eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.’ ”

<sup>20</sup> But God said to him, “You fool! Tonight you will die. Then who will get what you have stored up?”

<sup>21</sup> “This is what happens to people who store up everything for themselves, but are poor in the sight of God.” Luke 12:16-21 CEV

Jesus conveys the same message in his story of the Rich Fool. The man tears down perfectly serviceable barns so he can have room to store even more goods, without considering what else might be done with his wealth. Jesus describes the man as “poor in the sight of God.” Other translations call us to be rich toward God by sharing our blessings with others.

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***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](http://www.Justicebible.org).

**Prayer Ministry**

The following persons are part of the prayer ministry at Trinity UMC:

- |                 |               |                  |                 |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Elva Beard      | Mac McAfee    | Kenneth Stevens  | Judy Richardson |
| Larry Eastwood  | Rachel Newman | Patricia Stevens | Charles Wilson  |
| Leslie Eastwood | Erin McKibben | 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

**September 13<sup>th</sup>: Sermon: Who Do You Say That I Am?** Jesus asks this question of his disciples and it remains an important question for us today. Who we say Jesus is affects how we live in this world, the Gospel we convey and how that Gospel is received. My Texts are James 3:1–12 and Mark 8:27–38.

**September 20<sup>th</sup>: Sermon: Greatest At Being Last.** What parent would want their child to confide that the child's ambition was to be the greatest at being last? Yet, that seems to be exactly what Christ is calling for from his Disciples. My texts are James 3:13–4:3, 4:7–8a and Mark 9:30–37.

## Worship Leader's Schedule

### September 13

Mike Fetting, **Liturgist**

Pat Moran & Maurice Edwards, **Greeters**

Herb Haynes & Linda Robinson, **Ushers**

### September 20

Nancy Conway, **Liturgist**

Mike & Elaine Rohrig, **Greeters**

Sam Richardson & Tommy Cotton, **Ushers**

## Announcements

Don't forget our work day at church this **Saturday, September 12**. We will be working both inside and outside. Mark this date on your calendar! We will meet at 8:30 AM. All are welcome to participate in this event. Many hands make light work! Thank you for your help!

The "**Nanette Crowell Companions in Christ**" Sunday School class is studying, "**Loving God.**" We have extra books and extra chairs if you would care to join our class. **The class begins promptly at 9:45.** All are welcome to this time of learning and fellowship.

As you read earlier, the **Nanette Crowell Companions in Christ Sunday School** class is collecting non-perishable food items for Grace Works. The following is a listing of the items that they are most in need of. This collection is a ministry of our church that each person can participate in and is a meaningful way to serve God as we serve others in our community. Thank you for your contributions.

### Pantry Items

Canned Ham or Chicken

Crackers, Spaghetti Sauce (in plastic jars or cans)

Canned Beef Stew

Jelly

Boxed Meals (like Hamburger Helper)

Boxed Mashed Potatoes

Rice

Canned Fruit  
Pasta

**Fuel Bags**

All individual sizes please.

Juice Boxes

Shelf stable liquid milk boxes

Canned/Package Meat with crackers

Cereal

Microwaveable Meat Meals

Easy Mack

Pudding Cups

Cheese or Peanut Butter Crackers

**September Birthdays**

**Elva Beard, Joann Harper, Jessica Bauguess, Wanda Folds, G.L. Jones, Bill LeCates**

**Happy Birthday to each of you!**