



Trinity United Methodist Church Newsletter



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Understanding the Old Testament The Kings: Saul, David and Solomon

⁴ Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, ⁵ and said to him, “You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.” 1 Sam 8:4-5 NRSV

Samuel was the last Judge, i.e. leader, of the confederated tribes of Israel. He was well respected but his sons were not. The people were certain that, after his death, they would once again fall into a time of chaos as “each person did what was right in their own sight.” And so, the people asked that Samuel appoint a King over them like the other nations. Samuel did not want to do this. The King of Israel was God and God should have been all the “king” the people needed. Samuel also warned the people that a King would impose taxes and conscript the people into armies. Nevertheless, they still insisted on having a King. So God brought Saul to Samuel and told Samuel to anoint Saul as King of Israel. This appointment was later affirmed in front of all the people by a casting of lots.

Saul was a member of the tribe of Benjamin and was tall and handsome. Based upon the text, he was also a fairly adept military leader. Yet, according to scripture, Saul failed to follow the commands of God and so God determined that another should be anointed. God sent Samuel to anoint David, son of Jesse, as King over Israel while David was yet a boy. However, this anointing was done in secret and neither Saul, nor the people were told that God had already replaced Saul. For some years David served in the Court of Saul, never telling him that Samuel had anointed him King over Israel.

The story of David’s rise as the recognized and acknowledged King of Israel is too long to detail here. Suffice it to say that David ultimately drew an army to him and led a successful revolt against the rule of Saul. David, in a very astute political move, conquered the Jebusite city of Jerusalem and made it the new capital of Israel. Not only was Jerusalem a city that was easily defended but it had no ties to any of the other tribes and was thus neutral ground to all the tribes.

David is extolled in scripture as the most faithful of all the Kings of Israel. He loved God and sought to serve God, despite such horrible lapses as his affair with Bathsheba. He wished to build a Temple for God in Jerusalem but God told him that he had too much blood on his hands. Instead God told him that his son Solomon, who would succeed him as King, would build the Temple.

David's reign was troubled by strife within his family. One of his sons killed another because of the first son's rape of a sister. His son Absalom led a rebellion against David that came very close to succeeding. On top of that, when David's troops successfully defended his rule, David openly mourned the killing of Absalom, thus angering his troops who had fought and died to defeat Absalom. Finally, David left another potential revolt in the making when he died after naming Solomon, the youngest of his sons, to succeed him.

Solomon was David's son by Bathsheba. Solomon is best known for his wisdom, obtained from God. God offered Solomon anything he wished and Solomon asked for wisdom to rule the people. Solomon, however, fulfills the worst predictions that Samuel made when the people asked for a King. He undertakes huge building projects throughout the land, including building his own palace and the Temple in Jerusalem (Solomon's house was larger than God's house.) These projects were very expensive and he taxed the people to the breaking point. These projects also took many laborers so Solomon conscripted both soldiers and laborers. Finally, Solomon was a very astute politician and sealed treaties with many other nations by marrying into many royal families. Despite his wisdom which should have told him better, and the law which prohibited intermarriage, David had seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines. These wives and concubines all worshiped different Gods and Solomon both allowed that worship and participated in that worship, thus angering God.

Solomon's successor was his son Rehoboam. After Solomon's death the people asked Rehoboam if he would temper his rule instead of taxing them and enslaving them as Solomon had done. Although counseled by older and wiser heads to agree to a more moderate approach to government, Rehoboam proclaimed that he would outdo Solomon when it came to harsh rule of the people. In the face of a ruler worse than Solomon, ten of the tribes of Israel broke away forming the Northern Kingdom of Israel under the rule of a King named Jeroboam (who, incidentally, had been anointed king over this kingdom by a prophet of God before the kingdom even existed.) The capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel was Samaria. The Southern Kingdom was called Judah and also included the tribe and territory of Benjamin. Its capital remained Jerusalem.

For the next two hundred years Israel was a divided nation. The Northern and Southern Kingdoms occasionally joined together against a common enemy and occasionally warred between themselves. The Divided Kingdoms came to an end when the Assyrians conquered the Kingdom of Israel in 722 B.C.E.

Children's Church/Nursery

Sunday School and Nursery care is available every Sunday during the Sunday school hour. Children from birth through the 6th grade are welcome. Children's Church and Nursery care are available for Children from birth through pre-k after the Children's Time in worship. We encourage parents to keep their children of Kindergarten age and up in the sanctuary during worship. It's important that our children experience the worship of the Church community from an early age.

Lesson plans are currently available that volunteers can use to lead Children's Church during worship. These lesson plans (almost 100 separate plans) do not require any preparation or pre-planning. Each lesson includes a short Bible Story to be read to the children as well as a corresponding craft project. All supplies for the crafts are on hand in the Nursery.

We need two volunteers each Sunday to provide Children's Church during worship. With enough volunteers it shouldn't be necessary for any adult to miss worship more than one Sunday every two months. If you would be willing to volunteer to help with the Children's Church ministry please see Jeanne Rybolt, Julia Moore, Dawn Stevens or Dana Bauguess to learn more.

Proposed Halloween Trunk or Treat Event at Trinity

From Jeanne Rybolt

For the uninitiated, think of Trunk or Treat as tailgating for Halloween. We'd have cars placed in the parking lot with their trunks decorated and the kids go from car trunk to car trunk to trick or treat. Beyond that, it could be as elaborate an event as we choose to have, possibly depending on which night of the week we choose to have it. Some options: contests (best costume, best decorated trunk, most original, etc.), hot dog supper inside, movie night, the ever-popular bounce house, games, entertainment, crafts, photo booth, etc.—whatever we feel we'd like to include in our event. You can find loads of ideas for trunk decorations on-line. I encourage the adults to come in costumes as well as the kids (a certain preacher and I would be dressing up as a couple of dwarves). Selfishly, I think it important to have family friendly decorations and costumes only – I get “spooked” very easily and will want to be able to sleep at night..... I'm proposing having the event on Saturday, October 29 beginning at 4 or 4:30 PM (the cars with decorated trunks would need to be in place earlier). This part needs to be decided as quickly as possible so we can get as many trunk decorators lined up as we can (it is not advisable to try this event without a **minimum** of 7 decorated trunks). Please e-mail me to let me know if you would be willing to participate and would be able to help with games and food.

Jeanne.Rybolt@gmail.com

Preacher, What Does the Bible Say about ...?

From the time I came to Trinity I have stated on numerous occasions that I am willing to consider a sermon, or sermon series, on any subject that is of concern. If there is a subject upon which you would like me to preach I will consider it. If I do not think it appropriate for a sermon I will explain why. It might also be appropriate to address some issues as part of a Newsletter article or series or as part of the Sunday School curriculum. But, if at all possible, I will seek to speak to these issues that are of interest on Sunday morning. One purpose of worship is to contemplate our relationship with God and if something is bothering you it is likely bothering others as well.

New Disciple Bible Study

Disciple Bible Study is a powerful experience that can open the bible up for the participants. I would be willing to begin a new class this September if at least seven people desired to undertake the 34 week study. I could do this study on Monday or Tuesday nights between 7 and 9. If participants would prefer to meet on a week day that could also be arranged. In years past I have also taught Disciple Bible Study between 7 and 9 AM Sunday mornings. If you are interested please contact me at the Church. If you desire additional information for yourself or to give to a friend I have some explanatory booklets available. ***I have not yet heard from anyone interested in this program. From experience it is best to start this program by no later than early October in order to be done before the vacation season in June. If you are interested in Disciple Bible Study please let me know.***

Thursday Morning Bible Study

The Thursday Morning Bible Study Group meets weekly on Thursdays at 10:00 AM. This week we will begin with Paul's Letter to Philemon and then proceed to Paul's Letter to the Romans. Because of a District Ministers' Meeting, we will not meet for Bible Study on Thursday September 15th.

Prayer Ministry

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

Elva Beard	Rachel Newman	Sam Richardson
Larry Eastwood	Kenneth Stevens	Judy Richardson
Leslie Eastwood	Patricia Stevens	Charles Wilson

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 11: Sermon: Choosing to Reject Fear. It's the fifteenth anniversary of September 11, 2001. There is no doubt that this event shaped who we are today as a nation and, to some extent, will continue to shape us. But, we are a people who are also to be shaped by the Word of God. My texts are: John 14:18–27 and Luke 13:31-35.

September 18: Sermon: No One Would Have Done That! We are at an inherent disadvantage when interpreting the parables of Jesus. These parables manipulated stock situations within First Century culture. We lack the cultural background to identify many of the incongruities within the parable. Imagine someone saying, "During the 7th inning of the baseball game, the coach decided to punt." Someone familiar with our culture could make a guess at what the "coach" was deciding to do. It would be meaningless for people not familiar with the sports of Baseball and Football. My texts are 1 Timothy 1:12–17 and Luke 15:1–10.

Worship Leaders

September 11
Ken Strait, Liturgist

Dorise and Bill LeCates, **Greeters**
Hal and Rachel Newman, **Ushers**

September 18

Linda Robinson, **Liturgist**
Mike and Renee Fetting, **Greeters**
Stacy and Jan Bell, **Ushers**

GraceWorks has a shortage on many items in our food pantry, and we need your help restocking it! Here is a list of some very critical items needed in our food pantry: **Critical Needs:** Canned green vegetables (not green beans), Canned beans, Canned meat (not tuna), Cereal, Hamburger Helper type boxed meals, Soup. Please support this important ministry with your regular donations. The box is located beside the side door.

Parents Night Out: Parents Night Out will be this Friday from 5:30 to 8:30PM. If you can help, or simply wish to become familiar with this new ministry, please come out. Going forward, Parents Night Out will take place the first Friday of every month from 5:30 to 8:30 PM. Please make your friends and neighbors aware of this opportunity.

Hosts and Hostesses for First Sunday Lunch: Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please add your name to host this occasion for the coming months.

The Nanette Crowell Companions in Christ Sunday School Class is both learning and enjoying a series of videos, narrated by Ray Vanderlann. The videos as well as the narration take place in ancient lands described in the Old Testament. We enjoy discussion about what we are learning and the application of the lessons to our lives. We enjoy fellowship beginning at 9:45 with our study beginning at 10:00. All are welcome to join us as we pursue Biblical truths and the application for our lives.

Birthdays in September

Elva Beard, Ava Aldred, JoAnn Harper, Jessica Bauguess, Wanda Folds, GL Jones, Gina Locke, Bill LeCates

Happy Birthday to each of you!