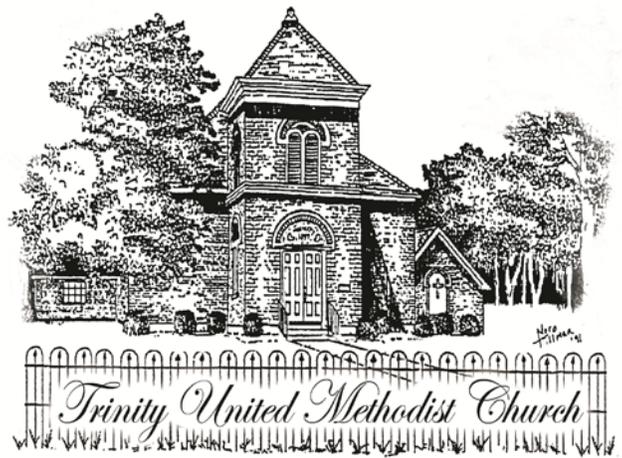




Trinity United Methodist Church Newsletter



2084 Wilson Pike · Franklin, TN 37067 · 615.794.2665
Pastor Dennis Meaker: 615.794.2665 · djmeaker@gmail.com

May 10, 2017

Dreams and Visions Committee

*I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions. Joel 2:28*

Trinity UMC is entering into a time of transition with the appointment of Rev. Will Wells as its new pastor. It makes sense when change occurs to look back and look ahead; to ask where we've been and where we are going.

At the Administrative Council meeting on April 29th, the Council voted to authorize a Committee to help with that process. Such a committee might be called a long range planning committee, but I prefer to think of it as the Dreams and Visions Committee. Marty Bauguess has agreed to facilitate the work of this committee which will be open to everyone in the church. The purpose of this committee is to take a hard look at where we have come over the last ten years or so, and where we are going. The committee will consider the changes that might have to take place to meet the needs of sharing the Gospel in this rapidly changing community. Mostly, I hope, it will dare to dream of what could be happening at Trinity UMC and dare to share its visions with the rest of the Church. I am proud of the things we have accomplished over the last seven years and I look forward to seeing the new things that Trinity undertakes.

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

Bishop Robert Schnase has written a book titled *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. Regardless of the shape that ministry takes at Trinity UMC, there are practices that are followed by healthy growing churches. Healthy growing churches practice:

1. Radical Hospitality
2. Passionate Worship
3. Intentional Faith Development
4. Risk-taking Mission and Service and
5. Extravagant Generosity.

Copies of this book are available in my office for those members who wish to read it.

Please be in prayer for our church as we begin a new season with new leadership. Please come and participate in the prayer, study and discussion of these issues by the Dreams and Visions Committee over the coming months. We are the Body of Christ, called to live in this world as the presence of Christ. Join with your fellow members as we seek to discern where God is calling us into ministry in this community.

Passionate Worship

Worship is a verb. Worship is something we do. Passionate worship means worship that expresses our belief that we are a people who belong to God and a people thankful for the blessings of God. Passionate worship is not dependent upon style. Passionate worship can take place during a very high, liturgical service, a camp meeting service or a service punctuated by beating drums and electric guitars. It is the gathered community that makes worship “passionate worship.”

Passionate worship begins with each of us making the commitment to gather each and every Sunday as an expression of who we are and what we believe. Passionate worship is expressed in our reading of the scripture, the singing of hymns, and our prayers. Passionate worship is expressed in our celebration of the sacraments and, ultimately, in our lives. Passionate worship does not only take place in the gathered community on Sunday morning, but in all our contacts each and every day. As the Psalmist says, “*Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*” Psalm 150:6.

Intentional Faith Development

Discipleship is a journey, not a destination. Methodists in particular emphasize the importance of daily growing in our faith through worship, ministry, the sacraments and the study of the bible as a community. By coming together with other Christians and studying the bible, we each help the others in the group to be faithful in their discipleship. Bishop Schnase compares group devotional study with groups dedicated to running. It is hard for one person to discipline themselves to get up and run each day. However, if they know that others are waiting for them to arrive, and others will share in the experience, it becomes easier to discipline themselves to the practice. The same is true of devotional study. The presence of other persons not only provides a measure of accountability and discipline, but also valuable insight and sharing.

Intentional Faith Development can take many forms. Sunday school is one, as is choir and men’s and women’s groups. Faith development groups can meet in the Church, at a restaurant, in the homes of parishioners and can even take place online. Moreover, faith development groups offer an opportunity to invite others into fellowship. They are an instrument of the prevenient grace of God that is always seeking to reach out. New Disciples are formed in such groups.

Consider ways that you could participate in such a group. Are you struggling with issues that others share? Would a spiritually focused support group help you deal with those issues? Do you simply want to explore your faith and know others of like mind? The group does not have to large. It does not have to have a specific make-up. All that is required is a group of disciples seeking to share the journey.

Pick up the book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* from Rev. Meaker. There are still some copies available in the pastor’s office and more are readily obtainable. A copy of the book will be given to any member who wishes to read it. This book will provide a foundation for all we seek to accomplish in our effort over the coming years to discern where God is calling this church to minister in this community.

Rev. Will Wells Is the Newly Appointed Pastor for Trinity UMC

Stacy Bell, the Chairperson of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, announced on Sunday April 10th that Rev. Will Wells has been appointed as the next pastor of Trinity UMC. Rev. Wells is currently serving Fayetteville First United Methodist. His wife, Pamela, is also a United Methodist pastor and will take over as pastor to College Grove UMC in June. They will live in the parsonage at College Grove. Moving day for Tennessee Conference pastors is June 20th and Rev. Well's first Sunday will be July 2nd.

Volunteer Opportunities

- VBS director. It's not too soon to start planning. The director will get to choose the VBS theme and date.
- Nursery level (pre-K) lesson plans coordinator. We have approximately 100 lessons and related crafts ready to use currently. Coordinator will need to refresh these periodically and be able to show others the set up.
- Wardrobe supervisor for the Christmas pageant. We have 70-80 costumes currently and have fabrics, patterns, etc. for several more. This role is about getting the costumes ready for the pageant as well as helping participants get "suited up".

Thursday Morning Bible Study

The Thursday Morning Bible Study Group meets weekly on Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. We have room for you! We are currently studying 1 Samuel.

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

May 14, 2017: Sermon: The Example of Love. Rev. Meaker will be away on May 14th. Rev. Peter Ferguson will be leading worship on May 14. His texts are 1 Peter 2:2-10 and Matthew 1:18-15.

May 21, 2017: Sermon: Essentials of Christianity: God Will Not Leave You Behind. From the early days of Christianity false belief systems have taken hold in parts of the Church. One of the most pernicious in the last 100 years or so has been what is called Dispensationalism. You have probably encountered it as "Left behind" theology. The idea that the world is evil, that the faithful will be 'raptured away' and everyone else will be punished. It is a belief system that denies most everything Christ preached and taught us when he walked among us. My texts are John 3:16-17 and Genesis 1:26-31.

Worship Leaders Schedule

May 14

Stacy Bell, **Liturgist**
Maurice and Joyce Edwards, **Greeters**
Mike and Elaine Rohrig, **Ushers**

May 21

Hal Newman, **Liturgist**
Gina and Brandon Stewart, **Greeters**
Maurice and Joyce Edwards, **Ushers**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Newsletter the Week of May 15th

Larry and Leslie Eastwood are celebrating 50 years of marriage in June. On Sunday, May 21st, their son Larry Jr. invites you - Larry's and Leslie's Church family - to join them for a luncheon honoring this wonderful milestone. The luncheon will immediately follow the service in the fellowship hall. Please let your presence at the party be your only gift.

We will be serving food to the congregants at **61st UMC**. The remaining dates for providing and serving food are: **May 20 and June 17**. Sixty-First Ave. UMC will be closing in late June. This is a wonderful opportunity for serving others. Please make **Charles Wilson** aware if you are able to serve.

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.

The Nanette Crowell Companions in Christ Sunday School Class: 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 May

Tommy Cotton, Laura Rinne, Sam Richardson, Jim Winton

Happy Birthday to each of you!