



THE RIDER

Trinity United Methodist Church

PASTOR'S CORNER:

July 2018

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July Calendar

So, this is how it goes!

So David and I have been working through the results of the spiritual gifts inventories. We are tallying the top three scores from everyone. And Trinity's top scoring gift is **servanthood**. Servanthood is described as "the gift of doing for others, sometimes to the exclusion of meeting personal needs. Servants look for ways to do for others both within and beyond the congregation and community. Servants do not choose to serve, but serve from a sense of identity and call. Gifted servants never feel put upon or taken advantage of, but see each opportunities to do for others as a way to be true to self."

One reflection question is: how do you live the servant's gift at home, at work, in relationships with friends? It is not surprising to us that Trinity scores so high in servanthood. Some of you have been grumbling about how this matrix can help us at Trinity. It does not ask questions about specific jobs. No, it does not. But it does show us that our congregation has a big sense of the call to help people. And don't you agree that this is true? Our big push is not to convert or make Biblical Scholars. Our driving factor is the serve each other and others in all kinds of ways. Who are we? We are a servant people looking to live out our call.

(Continued on page 2)

What makes someone ours?

JULY

27

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have all news, pictures and articles to the office no later than Friday, July 27th for inclusion in the August newsletter. You can send items by email to trinity@trinity-umc.com or drop off in the "Church Secretary" hallway mailbox.

(Continued from 1st page)

Another one of the reflection questions is: What other gifts best complement servanthood, and enable you to increase the value and impact of your service? It will not surprise you to know that one of the other areas in which we score high is in healing, helping, and compassion. From the food bags, to the mission trips, to the 'remember you cards', we are a people with a big heart and a need to care.

Note of Thanks

Thank you for all the visits, calls and cards received during my recent hospitalization for knee surgery. All your prayers and concerns were deeply appreciated. Please continue to keep me in your prayers for my knee revision to be scheduled later this summer.

Flo Gray

Does coming on Sunday morning regularly but not a member make someone ours?

Healing: not the transferring of spiritual power to eliminate suffering and disease, but the **ability to channel God's grace and healing love to those who suffer physical, emotional, or spiritual pain. Healers pray, visit and extend the hand of comfort and touch.** Yep! This is us. Compassion is: **not simply caring but a need to make sacrifices to help others.**

So we will be getting back to you about your individual scores. The definitions are around the sanctuary. But as we are working on our mission statement we can state that Trinity is a gathering of people who feel called and compelled to serve others. We are a people who reach out, not in judgement or guilt, but in love and caring to heal and to help.

Thank you for responding to God's call on your life as we extend the sacrificial love and grace of Christ.

Teresa

Does coming on Wednesday night, but not Sunday make someone ours?



Trinity Softball Team

Games in July

6th - NO GAME

13th - 7:30 & 9 pm on field 5

20th - 7 & 8:30 pm on field 5

27th at 7 pm on field 5

All games are played at Harry G. Daniel Park.

HOMELESS MAT WORKSHOP WITH ANGELA

Tuesday, July 10th at 10:00 am.

VACATION

Pastor Teresa will be away through July 7th.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

As I have been visiting the shut-ins, I keep hearing the same witness: please, I do not know how to thank everyone for the cards that people are sending me! How do I thank them? I don't even know who some of these people are.

So I thank you. I pass on the thanksgiving of these who cannot come and thank you themselves. Paul writes over and over expressing his joy to be able to be in partnership with caring, faithful people. I give thanks to God for how you are making these people feel and the joy and connection that you are building up in them. They are not alone. God and you are with them.

Thank you.

(Compassion, healing, servanthood)

“This gifts of God for the people of God;
Thanks be to God!”



VBS will start July 8th 5:45- 8:30!!!

MUSIC Ministry

MUSIC NEWS – JULY 2018

Thanks to the Angels, Cherubs, and Chimers for their participation in the service on June 3rd. We are so proud of your accomplishments this year. We appreciate the extra effort to learn the notes, words to all the songs, the choreography, and the lines. Have a great summer and we look forward to your return as the program begins again in September!

The Trinity Chancel Choir will be participating in a special service with 3 other church choirs on August 5th at 5:00 p.m. at Bethany Place Baptist Church located at 1501 Providence Road. Each choir learns the music at their own church, rehearse on August 4th together, and then have the service on August 5th. This is a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon, so please join us at Bethany Place on the 5th.

The summer is a great time to join the choir, so come join the Men's Chorus at 7:00 p.m. and the Chancel Choir at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

VBS starts on the 8th! The music team is looking forward to some fun with a lot of great songs. Be sure to pick up your CD of the music on the registration table and start listening!! You won't be able to stand still, so get your music and come sing with us!

Blessings,

Pat

Does coming on Sunday night but not Sunday morning make someone ours?



Route 1 corridor missions

- It's Back to School Time! (Already)

Bellwood Elementary students will begin a year round school calendar this year. Their first day of school will be July 23rd!

This year we would like to try to focus on four specific supplies to help the children and teachers. So as you are out shopping, look for the following items:

Composition notebooks (wide ruled), expo (dry erase) markers, packages of glue sticks and zipper pencil pouches. There is a tub in the back of the church for you to place these items on Sunday, July 1st, 8th and 15th. Thanks for supporting Bellwood Elementary!

- July Food Focus

FOOD FOCUS for July will be spaghetti sauce (PLEASE NO GLASS JARS), spaghetti noodles, and applesauce (PLEASE NO GLASS JARS). Again this food will be distributed to the residents along the Route 1 Jefferson Davis corridor during the last Friday of the month food distribution at the Miracle Cafe. The people in this area of Chesterfield are the poorest in the county including the top two highest percentage free & reduced lunch schools, Bensley and Bellwood. The children are out for the summer; therefore, any extra food available to them is greatly needed and appreciated. Trinity continues to provide fresh fruit on every Friday and the residents love having this available to them. God is working through the congregation at Trinity to help feed his sheep. Thank you for your support for this area.

- A Place of Miracles Café

A Place of Miracles Cafe has moved to the Bellwood Baptist Church, 9138 Quinnford Boulevard (at the corner of Quinnford Boulevard and Willis Road). They are serving hot meals on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 5 - 7 PM. Grocery items are distributed on Friday evenings. We could still use crock pots for distribution to families that visit the Cafe. If you are interested in helping to prepare meals, please see Bill Poole.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE A PLACE OF MIRACLES CAFÉ

| DATE | CHURCH |
|----------|-------------|
| 7/6/18 | Trinity UMC |
| 7/20/18 | Trinity UMC |
| 8/3/18 | Trinity UMC |
| 8/17/18 | Trinity UMC |
| 8/31/18 | Trinity UMC |
| 9/14/18 | Trinity UMC |
| 9/28/18 | Trinity UMC |
| 10/12/18 | Trinity UMC |
| 10/26/18 | Trinity UMC |
| 11/9/18 | Trinity UMC |
| 11/23/18 | Trinity UMC |
| 12/7/18 | Trinity UMC |
| 12/21/18 | Trinity UMC |

Does being on the membership roll, but not showing up for several years make someone ours?

Trinity UMC People Page

BIRTHDAYS

Help us update our information; if your birthday is this month and you are not listed, please notify the office so we won't miss you again!

July 1 Stephanie Griffith
July 2 Karen Poole
July 3 Heather Madison
July 5 Christopher Fallin
July 9 Craig Stariha
 Logan Mills
July 10 Ann Wright
July 13 Wayne Walker
July 15 Aaron Poythress
 Annabelle Rasmussen
July 17 Heidi Foutz
 Nicholas Ruxton
 Beth Wilkes
July 18 Turner Wilkes
July 20 Emily Moody
July 22 Bill Poole
 Joshua Prentice
July 23 Amy Babcock
 Wendy Linkous
July 24 Janet Collins
July 25 Joe Love
 Jeff Short
July 26 Amber McGuffin
July 28 Tim Ruxton
 Alex Arnold
July 31 Cindy Shelton
 Ed Boroch

JULY SERVANTS OF WORSHIP

MONEY COUNTERS:

July 9 & 16

Dana Potter & Angela Bailey

July 23 & 30

Dana Potter & Margaret Cox

SOUNDBOARD:

8:30 Service

Lucas C & Lucas G

11:00 Service

Carroll S & Dewey C

USHERS:

July 8

Jane C, Faye C, Jeff R

Open, Charlotte Sawyer

July 15

Ann, Brenda, Tom

July 15

Henry Sawyer

July 22

Kim P, Linda C, Mary P

July 22

Katie Griffith, Open

July 29

Kim P, Carol P, Kelly

July 29

Open, Open

ACOLYTES:

July 8

Open, Charlotte Sawyer

July 15

Henry Sawyer

July 22

Katie Griffith, Open

July 29

Communion Stewards:

July – Sarah Bishop

August – Boopie & Pat Murdock

September – Sunday school class

October – Sarah Bishop

November – Boopie & Pat Murdock

December – Sunday school class

Summer Sunday Schedule

8:30 am Contemporary Service • 9:45 am Sunday School
11 am Traditional Service

July 2018

If you have items to add to the calendar,
please let the office know

by email to trinity@trinity-umc.com or phone at 748-2439.

Summer Wednesday Schedule

7 pm Men's Chorus • 7:30 pm Choir

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|----------|
| 1 <i>Summer Sunday Schedule</i> | 2 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm Boy Scouts (1, 2, 4) | 3 7 pm Praise Team | 4 Office hours 8 am – 11 am No Choir or men's chorus practice tonight. | 5 7 pm TNL 7 pm AA (4) | 6 4:30 pm TUMC @ Miracles Café No Softball Game | 7 |
| 8 <i>Summer Sunday Schedule (communion)</i> VBS 5:45 pm to 8:30 pm | 9 VBS 5:45 pm to 8:30 pm | 10 10 am Homeless mat workshop with Angela VBS 5:45 pm to 8:30 pm | 11 VBS 5:45 pm to 8:30 pm No Choir or men's chorus practice tonight. | 12 7 pm AA (4) VBS 5:45 pm to 8:30 pm | 13 Softball games at 7:30 pm and 9 pm on Field 5 | 14 |
| 15 <i>VBS Sunday 10 am Joint Worship Service with lunch after</i> | 16 7 pm Boy scouts (1,2,4) | 17 6:30 pm Finance meeting (Classroom 2) 7 pm Praise Team 7 pm Scouts (classroom 4) | 18 <i>Summer Wed. Schedule</i> | 19 7 pm Council 7 pm AA (4) | 20 4:30 pm TUMC @ Miracles Cafe 7:00 & 8:30 pm softball games on field 5 | 21 |
| 22 <i>Summer Sunday Schedule</i> | 23 7 pm Boy scouts (1,2,4) | 24 7 pm Praise Team | 25 <i>Summer Wed. Schedule</i> Scouts 6-9 pm in classrooms 1, 2, 4 | 26 7 pm AA (4) | 27 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Softball game at 7 pm on Field 5 | 28 |
| 29 <i>Summer Sunday Schedule</i> | 30 7 pm Boy scouts (1,2,4) | 31 7 pm Praise Team | | | | |



July

- 1st – 7th – Pastor Teresa on vacation
- 4th – Office hours 8:00 am to 11:00 am
- 6th – TUMC @ Miracles Café 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm
- 8th – 12th - VBS 5:45 pm to 8:30 pm
- 13th – Office Closed
- 15th – VBS Sunday (Joint Worship Service at 10 am)
- 17th – Finance meeting at 6:30 pm in classroom 2.
Eagle Scout interviews in classroom 4. (7-9 pm)
- 19th – Council at 7 pm
- 20th - TUMC @ Miracles Café 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm
- 27th – August Newsletter Deadline for articles

August

- 3rd, 17th, 31st - TUMC @ Miracles Café 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm
- 6th – 10th – Music Camp
- 20th – 24th – Church Secretary on vacation all week
- 26th – September newsletter deadline for articles

Finally Brothers and Sisters...

Saying good-bye is never easy, even in a system like ours where we enter into a new appointment knowing we are all just passing through on temporary assignments. I have always struggled ending things. A parishioner once commented on one of my sermons saying, "It was a wonderful message, and you had at least three great opportunities to end it." It is hard to end because we can always see something more that needs to be done.

However, a due date will come, and that will be the end, unfinished business and all. Of course, the good news that Jesus always offers us is an opportunity for a new beginning. It is the promise of a sure and certain hope that breaks into the sadness of good-bye to surprise us with something new. One thing I have appreciated in our United Methodist itinerancy system is the reminder that we are all just passing through this life. Our system is an *in your face* reminder that we are created for another world and enables us to hold all events in this temporary world in a healthy perspective.

Still, one wants to say (or a least try to say) something provocative before they go, so I'll give it a shot. These past five years have included:

- **About 60 pastoral appointments**
- **Close to 300 Charge Conferences**
- **Approximately 150,000 miles in two Nissan Altimas**
- **ONLY two speeding tickets**
- **Three Administrative Assistants to get the right one...thanks, Tish Borden!**
- **Three moves in five years (Prince George, Waverly, and Newsoms)**

As Mary Alice and I prepare to "hit the road," here are a few things I have learned as the District Superintendent of the James River District. I appropriately call them, "Rules for the Road."

Rule #1 - You need to slow down

Ok, so I had several of the James River District's finest officers help me when I was in too much of a hurry. It's also one of the top ten commandments of God. Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy (Ex. 20:8). Sometimes we attempt to face the unknown future by racing ahead at breakneck speed. What's that old saying, "You can't repair your car while it's in motion"? Movement is not an end in itself. We all need to stop, look, and listen to discern what God is up to. The Psalmist reminds us to, *Be still and know that I am God.* (46:10).



Rule #2 - You need to never underestimate the power of forgiveness

I've heard it said that forgiveness is God's greatest gift and our greatest need. You need to know that forgiveness frees us from the power of sin that leads to head-on collisions and prevents us from going where God wants us to go. Someone said that forgiveness sets the prisoner free, and you discover that the prisoner is you! Jesus makes it clear that to get to where we are going we need to forgive others as we have been forgiven.

Rule #3 - You need to know you are deeply loved

Don't take my word for it, God says so in John 3:16, Psalm 139:14, 1 Peter 4:9...There are dark nights when you might not believe it to be true, but sometimes that's all you need to know to keep moving forward. The greatest calling we all have is to love as we are loved.

Rule #4 - You need to never give up



There will be detours, road blocks, and breakdowns along the way, but you need to keep focus on the destination. The writer of Hebrews reminds us to, *run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith* (12:1-1). The writer goes on to consider Jesus' road so we, *will not grow weary and lose heart.* (12:3). Remember, *"The main thing is to keep the main thing, the main thing!"*

Rule #5 - You need to surrender your agenda to God

Peter says people, "stumble because we disobey the message, which is what they are destined for (1 Peter 2:8). My GPS and I often disagree on the route and sometimes I am right – really! However, I generally lose my way when I insist on my way. We know the old adage, "If you want to make God laugh, tell God your plans." Remember that Jesus is the way to the future, but Jesus is also the way in the present. Although I still have trouble asking for directions (I am a male of the species), God always has a much better way. As Methodists we believe that as long as we stay on the road of the scriptures, tradition, reason and experience, and we do not get seduced to take short cuts and side roads, we can remain confident.

Rule #6 - You need to catch on fire - AGAIN!

In the Book of Revelation, the angel laments over the church at Ephesus that they have lost their first love. He tells the church at Laodicea that they were neither hot nor cold, just lukewarm. Once we've stopped and listened to God, we need to get moving! You can't steer a parked car and there comes a time to move with a sense of urgency. Sometimes we get stagnated by attempting to be in control and play it safe. Only by risking in opening ourselves up to the outside world and trusting God can we begin to move ahead and participate in God's dynamic future.

Rule #7 - You need to enjoy the ride!

Remember, we are just passing through. What have we to fear leaning on the everlasting arms? What can separate us from the love of God? (Romans 8:35-39). Nehemiah says the *joy of the Lord is your strength* (8:10). In John 15, Jesus says that his joy will make our joy complete (15:11). He tells us to be of good cheer because he has already overcome the world (16:33). Even good old John Wesley wrote that he did not believe that God placed us in this world to be perpetually miserable in it!



My friends, I believe that if every church on the James River District truly believed the hope for the world lies in your local church, we would all get more excited, be more courageous, be bolder in our witness, be less anxious and afraid about the future, and be more joyful souls. God still needs us to be the church to awaken these possibilities in others.

As I leave this wonderful district, I pray I left it a little better than I found it. I pray you will forgive me for mistakes I have made and the times I may have let you down. I leave with a sense of gratitude and appreciation for all the ways I have seen Christ in you and the many glory sightings I have witnessed because of your faith.

Paul has a good ending for one leg of a journey when he writes to the Philippians:

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about these things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put into practice. And the God of peace will be with you (4: 8-9).

Yeah, let's end with that... Rob

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.



Pictures from the Youth Mission Trip to Tennessee





