



# Trinity *TRAWLER*



July 2018

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A few weeks ago, Teresa and I went for a walk on the Southport waterfront and paused for a few minutes on one of the swings. We took in the beauty of the river and enjoyed the smiles and conversation of the people passing by. After a few minutes of silence, as we finished our ice cream, I said, “I keep wondering when we have to pack up and go home!” She laughed, agreed and replied, “I know, sometimes I think we are going to wake up and realize it has all been a dream.” We spoke about the past year and the love we felt from everyone, the amazing ministry that is happening in the community through the church and the lifelong friends we have already made. Above all, we spoke about how thankful we are that God has brought us to this place. After a couple of tough years, it has been both renewing and inspiring to be part of the Trinity Faith Community.



Near the conclusion of the North Carolina Annual Conference, held a couple of weeks ago in Greenville, Bishop Hope Morgan Ward reappointed me to be your Lead Pastor. Teresa and I are thrilled and more than a little humbled, but couldn't be happier to be among you. It is our hope and desire to be here for a long time. It has truly been a great year for us and we want to say, “THANK YOU!”

I also want to express how excited I am about everything that is going on at Trinity. In response to the Holy Spirit leading us, we are having a great impact in our community and world! Lives are being transformed and God's love is being shared! God is active and I truly believe the best ministry is ahead of us! A number of recent events have got me excited!

The program staff and I spent a day dreaming, planning and discussing the coming year. We came away from that time refreshed and ready! We have great plans for worship services, new Bible Studies, activities for children and youth, and we spoke about how we must continue to stress our ministry beyond our building. We feel like we are ahead, which doesn't happen very often in ministry! Yet, much more than that, we left expressing how much we feel that we are family and a unified team. We truly enjoy each other and it feels as if we have been together for much more than a year!

The Trinity Church Council spent a day discussing our Mission, Vision, and Core Values. Led by our Assistant District Superintendent, Pat Litzinger, we defined our values and continued a process that began last year before I arrived. We noted that our United Methodist Church Mission Statement is, “To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” and that really can't be improved upon. We also began to define our values which include, “Worship, Faith Formation, Relationships, Generosity, and Missions.” A new Vision Statement, which needs to be polished, but will include the need to share “Christ's Love for all.” Near the conclusion of our time together, we discussed the need for a Spirit-led Team who will help us develop a plan that boldly takes us into the future. That team will be forming later this summer.

I am also very excited about welcoming Rev. Mark Hicks as our new Pastor of Discipleship. Mark has been in ministry for a long time and joins our pastoral staff part-time and continues to serve as Director of Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries. He has had an office at Trinity for a couple of years and has an excellent relationship with our current staff. You can read his bio in another section of this month's Trawler, but I believe his love for God, passion for ministry, and experience will be a great asset to our pastoral staff. He will be a great addition as he fills the “Intentional Faith Development” part of Sherry Gibbs ministry as she retires in December. (The Staff-Parish Relations Committee will work to fill The Director of Children's Ministry position later this summer and fall.)

I could continue to write about all the areas of Trinity Church life of which I am excited. However, I have run out of room and the Trawler Editor will make fun of me the next time the “Church Ladies” make an appearance in worship and I don't like it when people make fun of me! Seriously, I am indeed grateful for this great Church and am more than a little excited about the great things God is going to do in the coming year.

*Blessings! Pastor Stuart*



**Welcome to Rev. Mark Hicks**

As of July 2018, The Rev. Dr. Mark Hicks is a member of the Trinity staff as an Associate Pastor and Pastor of Discipleship. Mark is an ordained elder in the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. In addition to Mark's work at Trinity, he is the Founder and President of Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries National.

In this capacity, he has led the Church's efforts in Disciple Bible Study and prison ministry for 20 years. Mark previously served as a pastor in Asheboro, Charlotte and Greensboro NC.

Mark is a graduate of UNC Chapel Hill, Duke University, Duke Divinity School and United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

Mark was raised in Greensboro NC and has been married to Laura Powell Hicks for more than 30 years. Laura is a Function Family Therapist with AMI Kids of Wilmington. Together they have two grown daughters, Sarah and Emily and one granddaughter, Clara June. Mark and Laura also served as host parents to five international exchange sons.

Throughout the years Mark has served in a number of leadership roles in the church including The Committee on Discipleship, The Restorative Justice and Mercy Ministries Committee, The Board of Ordained Ministry and The Mission and Outreach Table.

Currently, Mark volunteers as a Guardian Ad Litem for Brunswick County Courts where he works with foster children. Mark loves music and enjoys all activities related to the beach including swimming, fishing and boating. He is delighted to be a part of the Trinity staff!



**Annual Pancake Breakfast**

On **Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>**, Trinity United Methodist Church will celebrate the holiday by serving delicious pancakes and sausage to our friends, neighbors and visitors who are celebrating the holiday in **the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Capital of North Carolina**.

And, what fun it is to meet and greet the folks who love our pancakes and return for more pancakes year after year. You don't want to miss this event.

**It takes all of us to help Rick Atkinson, Chair, make the pancake breakfast a success.**

It's not too late to sign up to help. Call **Rick** at 842-3980 with your questions.



**Exciting News from the Trustees**

During the next several months, you will see the following maintenance and upgraded projects taking place around Trinity.

- ✓ Murrow Hall will be closed June 25 – 30 to be completely painted and perform ceiling repairs.
- ✓ Three large, two story walls will be primed and painted in the Ricky Hill Memorial Garden.
- ✓ The doors and door frames of the ramp entrance/exit will be replaced.
- ✓ The side wall of the sanctuary (to the left as you enter) will be sanded and stained. The pews will be cleaned and touched-up.
- ✓ Stewart's Acoustical Consultants of Charlotte will do an acoustical study of the sanctuary in preparation of upgrading the audio and video capabilities.

We have placed a suggestion box in the annex on the wall next to the door leading to Murrow Hall and one on the wall at the entrance to the Ricky Hill Memorial Garden.

We appreciate any suggestions to help us improve the appearance of Trinity UMC.

**Walt Madsen, Chair of the Trustees**



**Welcome New Members**

- Steve and Sylvia Bertz
- Judy Griffin
- Gene Hornick
- Bill and Leslie Kirkwood
- Jeremy and Tami Richardson
- Brenda Quanstrom



## Church Photo Directory Update

Our new Church Photo Directory is in the works and we want you and your family to be a part of it, whether you are a member or a regular attendee.

We have had many changes over the past four years: some of us have aged, our kids have grown, and we have added many new members and attendees to our church family. We have welcomed two new pastors, Pastor Stuart last year and Pastor Mark as of July 1<sup>st</sup> this year.

To help all of us, and Pastors Stuart, Gary and Mark connect faces with names, we will have a Lifetouch photograph us on August 22<sup>nd</sup> – August 25<sup>th</sup>, September 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> and September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The pictures will be taken in the Welcome Center area at church. There is no cost unless you decide to purchase your photos.

For your time, you will receive a free 8x10 photo, a hard copy of the directory and access to the directory online.

You may schedule your appointment online with a link available on our church website, [www.SouthportTrinityUMC.com](http://www.SouthportTrinityUMC.com) and in blast emails sent from Trinity.

If you need help signing up online, we will be happy to help you at church on Sunday mornings, in July and August, from 9:00AM to noon in the Welcome Center. Please call Lydia Kelso 910 253-6135 or Christine Huntsman 910 617-4327 if you have any questions.



## Stephen Ministry

Summertime brings hot and steamy weather that we all anticipate. These climate changes are expected, but what are not expected are the unanticipated events in our lives. Unanticipated events that bring struggle, pain or uncertainty might benefit with a new resource.

Specially trained Stephen Ministers are available to provide one-on-one confidential pastoral care to individuals dealing with grief, terminal illnesses, divorce & separation, family issues, spiritual concerns, chronic illness, normal life challenges, role adjustments, lifestyle changes, birth, adoption, miscarriages or infertility, unemployment, loss of a job, etc.

For more information about Stephen Ministry or to request a Stephen Minister, contact Stephen Ministry Leaders **Pam Hicks** at 919-632-8037 cell, or **Jinny Connolly** at 910) 368-9590.

All conversations and work of Stephen Ministry are confidential.



## Loss of a Spouse

Loss of a Spouse is a new video seminar from the creators of **Griefshare**. This powerful program offers widowed people hope and encouragement.

Stephen Ministry will offer this seminar on Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM and 6:30PM. It will be held at Trinity in Room 207. The same program will be offered at both times.

The seminar is video and discussion based. Each participant will receive a booklet which includes practical strategies, encouraging words and grief recovery wisdom.

The death of a spouse brings a unique kind of pain. Stephen Ministry is here to support and care for you during this very difficult time. Please Contact **Cheryl Jones** at [CherylRJones@atmc.net](mailto:CherylRJones@atmc.net) or at 910-264-3336 for information and registration.



## See What We Have Done

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, 110 pairs of prescription and reading glasses were delivered to our Conference Missions Team at Annual Conference from Trinity.

In August, a container will be sent to the Ganta United Methodist Mission Station in Liberia with the eye glasses among other needed items.

This fall, optometrists from India will staff the Mission Station and issue glasses to hundreds of patients. Your donations are another way Trinity participates in mission work around the world.

The Hearts and Hands Circle truly appreciates your donations which will make such a difference to many people so far away.



*Calories are tiny creatures that live in your closet and sew your clothes a little tighter every night.*

**Extravagant Generosity –Giving**  
**Why would a member of Trinity want an online ACS account?**

1. To have the church directory app (address with map, phone with text or dialing, email) at your fingertips on your Smart Phone.

The App is called “Church Life” and is available in the Apple Store or in Google Play Store.



Tutorials are available at

<https://www.acstechnologies.com/church-life-app>

2. To set up a one time or recurring gifts from the privacy of your own PC.

You can also check on your pledge and giving history and look at a copy of the current church directory.

3. Use the handy QR code to give on your smart phone.

Using any free QR code reading app, click on the code to take you to



<https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=98294> which is the login page for online giving. You may give using your online ACS account, or as a “guest”. When giving as a “guest”, it will not register into the database system that tracks your giving for the quarterly and year end reports, but it will email you a receipt.

Those giving with online accounts have their gifts reported on the quarterly and year end reports.

Interested in getting online? Email Marty Loughlin at [marty28461@gmail.com](mailto:marty28461@gmail.com). She will help you get started with your ACS credentials of username and password.

*Marty Laughlin*

*Don Collins, Finance Chair*



**Prayer Focus for July**

**The United States of America**

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.  
(Psalm 33:12a)

Pray for:

- Churches in America to unify in Jesus Christ – one spiritual family
- God’s power to unify families, workplaces, communities and cities
- Forgiveness, reconciliation, healing
- Security of our nation
- The next Great Spiritual Awakening in America

In the mighty and majestic name of Jesus Christ we pray. *Amen.*

***Prayer is Powerful!***



**Rainbow Covenant**

**TUMC Mission Update**

**The Rainbow Covenant**

The “Rainbow Covenant” is a group of missions that we, as a church, support as part of our connection to the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

To qualify as a “Rainbow Covenant” Church, we must go the “first mile” by paying the full apportionments as set by the Annual Conference. These apportionments include contributions to World Service & NC Conference Connectional ministries, Episcopal Fund, Africa University Fund, Black College fund, Interdenominational Cooperation Fund and Past Service Liability Fund.

In addition, we then must contribute to at least one project in each of the five areas, called “lanes”, of the Rainbow Covenant. The lanes and the support we are providing during 2018 are listed below. We have supported many of these missions for several years.

**Lane 1. Persons in Mission:** Nara Melkonyan, Director of Project AGAPE in **Armenia**, Gary Locklear, **Native American** Cooperative Ministry in the NC Conference and Melba McCallum, Director of Partners in Ministry in **East Laurinburg, NC**.

**Lane 2 Conference Advances:** Methodist Home for Children, Food Bank of South Eastern NC (provides food for our local food bank, Methodist Camps Don Lee and Rockfish.

**Lane 3 National Missions:** Robeson County Church & Community Center in **Lumberton, NC**, Red Bird Missionary Conference in rural **Kentucky**, and Hinton Rural Life Center, **Hayesville, NC**

**Lane 4 World Missions:** Project Agape Armenia and Zoe, an international project that works with orphans and vulnerable children throughout **Africa, India and Guatemala**

**Lane 5: United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR):** Disaster Response, World Hunger, **Global Refugee and Immigration Response**

Your support of the 2018 General Fund of TUMC provides support for these and many other ministries and missions. More information about these missions can be found on the mission bulletin board in the hallway outside of Murrow Hall.

***Becky Felton, TUMC Mission Committee Chair***



## Compassionate Care Ministry

The Compassionate Care Ministry has long been the recipient of used medical equipment donated for the purpose of lending to church members when needed. Our lending closet now has a large assortment of items. We encourage members to call the CCM telephone number at 910-457-6633, ext. 107 and ask what is available before buying new equipment. Your call will be returned promptly.

If you have equipment to donate to the CCM, it is important that arrangements be made in advance. Certain types of equipment cannot be accepted and passed on to others. Please understand that the CCM team will not accept equipment that was intended to be used with a doctor's ongoing specification and /or supervision or is not considered sanitary if not newly prescribed equipment.

We cannot accept donations that are dropped off at church unless pre-arrangements are made in advance. To make arrangements for a drop-off and to assure your item is acceptable for lending to others, call the dedicated phone number (910-457-6633, ext. 107) and leave a message. You will receive a return call very quickly.

The email address for the Compassionate Care Team is [sptrinityccm@gmail.com](mailto:sptrinityccm@gmail.com).

Thank you for all the past donations. We will continue to keep our lending closet items appropriate and available with the guidance of best medical practices.



## Stewardship



Soon our area will be flooded with people, all coming to celebrate Independence Day. We reflect on our good fortune to be born in this country which offers a great deal of freedom. We can travel where we want, say what we want to say and worship the way we want to worship. But freedom is much different from dependence.

On July 4<sup>th</sup> morning, Trinity will open its doors to serve a pancake breakfast. This finely tuned UMM event has grown more successful each year, due in large part to those who "are dependent" on each other to make it happen. Greeters, servers, syrup fillers, cleaners, etc. work together in a seamless flow.

As we celebrate, let us also be thankful for our freedom and grateful for our dependence on each other to fulfill God's mission.

*Nancy Keziah*



## Noah's Ark: Everything I Need to Know, I Learned from Noah's Ark

**One:** Don't miss the boat.

**Two:** Remember that we are all in the same boat.

**Three:** Plan Ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

**Four:** Stay fit. When you are 60 or 70 or 80, someone may ask you to do something really big.

**Five:** Don't listen to critics: just get on with the job that needs to be done.

**Six:** Build your future on high ground.

**Seven:** For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

**Eight:** Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

**Nine:** When you're stressed, float awhile.

**Ten:** Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs: the Titanic by professionals.

**Eleven:** No matter the storm, there's always a rainbow waiting.

*(Author Unknown)*



## **July Birthdays**

1. Bowers, Carolyn
2. Peck, Joe
3. Meadows, Barbara  
Meadows, Jim
4. Madsen, Walt  
Doran, Charles
5. Green, Daphne
6. Wallace, Krisalyn  
Yarnell, Kathy
8. Gibbs, Sherry  
Hubbard, Carolyn  
Mullins, Linda  
Register, Vickie  
Rogerson, April
9. Pritchard, Laura  
Saathoff, Ron
10. Dinsdale, Bill  
Ellett, Marshall  
Oldham, Gina  
Phillips, Darlene
12. Bland, Charlotte  
Disbrow, Kristie
13. Cornelius, Jake
14. Brown, Laura  
Dove, Gordon  
Hayhurst, Margaret  
Simpson, Nancy
15. FitzHugh, Gill
16. Conroy, Vicki  
Losch, John  
Sherrod, Aubrey  
Quanstrom, Brenda
17. Rogerson, Ruby  
Tisinger, Christie
18. Galang, Michelle
19. Hubble, Stefanie  
Register, David  
Thomas, Nathan
20. Howard, Talmadge  
Kirby, Brandi
21. Graley, Kamrynn  
Hamilton, Jack
22. Long, Brittany
23. Cowgill, Marisa  
Koontz, Jane  
Starnes, Julie
24. Boehmer, Jakob  
Boehmer, Oliver  
Boehmer, Opal  
Harrison, Wilson  
Holleman, Margaret
25. Board, Jim  
Bolin, Hal  
Dellinger, Jerry  
Hicks, Don  
Morrow, June
26. Berry, Carol  
Lynch, Janet
27. Ertlschweiger, Bev  
Teachey, Teresa
28. Truett, Joseph
29. Lange, Linda  
McCall, Bill  
Tyndall, Sydnee
30. Goforth, George
31. Keziah, Katie  
Jacobsen, Jean