



Re-Investigating Faith

Jesus said, “Go into all the world and make disciples.”

We’ve all heard that and sometimes we don’t know how to fulfill that command. Certainly there are many ways to fulfill it, but one of the easiest is to simply invite someone you know to join you for worship, Sunday School, Wonderful Wednesday or another special group.

In recent sermons, I challenged you to ask yourself, "What has Jesus done for me?" I then reminded you that "what Jesus has done for you, Jesus will do for others."

Later this month, beginning September 18th, I will begin a series of messages entitled, “***Re-Investigating Faith.***” I will invite all of us to look anew at some of the basics of faith and why they are true.

This will be a great opportunity for you to invite people for whom you have been praying. This will be a great opportunity for you to invite **F**riends, **R**elatives, **A**cquaintances, and **N**eighbors to join you, and Trinity, on this journey of faith.

Don’t stop with an invitation, but follow-up and sit with them during worship and go out to breakfast or lunch afterwards.

Who will you invite to walk with you?

Pastor Stuart



North Carolina Annual Methodist Conference Report

June 14 – 17, 2022

Greenville, NC

Earlene Campbell, Lay Leader

This was my first time attending a NC Annual Conference, which I thoroughly enjoyed, and I want to share the following highlights with you;

- ✓ 1,002 registered
- ✓ 35 retiring pastors (including our former pastor Bryan Faggart).
- ✓ Special offering for Ukraine Relief
- ✓ Methodist Homes for Children housing 1,600 children
- ✓ UMW changed to UWF, United Women of Faith, to be more inclusive.

OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE - Bishop Leonard Fairley, NC Conference
“See How They Loved Each Other”

Bishop Fairley reminded us that love is not merely a suggestion for us. Jesus showed us how to love when He laid down His life for His friends. Fairley said that the best witness we can give is to live into the words of Jesus: “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” Following the sermon, there was Holy Communion. The choir sang “Many Gifts, One Spirit” by Allen Pote.

EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE - Rev. Dr. Janet Wolf, Elder from TN Conference, United Methodist pastor, and former Director of Children’s Defense Fund

Rev. Wolf challenged the audience to be the church and live out the radically, inclusive love of Jesus. She urged the church to come to the water of life, a water that seeks to quench the fires of injustice and a water that baptizes people in the knowledge that they are worthy, that they are beloved and a precious child of God. She challenged the church “into creative, courageous, militant, death-defying, non-violent “Kin-dom” living here and now. The church is not an escape, a safe haven. It’s not where we go to avoid the problems of the world. It’s the community that empowers us to wade into struggles for justice in Jesus’ name.” Using scripture from Revelation, she acknowledged that change is hard. She has seen this first-hand as a poverty rights organizer, a community mediator, a pastor of prison ministry and an expert in the study of non-violent movements.

GAME CHANGERS

This group of youth and children from All God’s Children UMC (Beacon District) led the congregation in a delightful rendition of “This Little Light of Mine” during Wednesday evening worship.

COVID GRANTS

Conference Lay Leader John Hall shared some of the good things that happened in our conference as we continued in active ministry in the midst of a global pandemic. The Annual Conference dispersed \$2.7M in COVID grants to 635 churches.

DIVERSITY CELEBRATION

Bishop Leonard Fairley issued a heartfelt challenge to those gathered. “We are no longer going to run away from this sin of Racism.” Racism is an evil thing. It makes us miss the face and voice of God in our brothers and sisters. Bishop Fairley hears from people, “Bishop, we talk about racism all the time. And in the pain of their voice, they say, “When are we going to do something?” He emphasized that now is the time, and we are the people that can and will and must do it. Let’s do it. Let’s be the Church. This is what Heaven looks like. Don’t let it end here. We are no longer going to run away from this sin of racism. We are going to confess it; and, maybe if we begin to confess it, God is faithful and God is just and will forgive us.

MARK HICKS

Pastor Mark invited churches to actively participate in Cross and Key Ministries and the sharing of Disciple Bible Study in prisons. The ministry focuses on both mercy and justice and “responds to Christ’s call to visit those in prison.” Churches who do not have a prison ministry can reach out to Pastor Hicks and his team for assistance. Churches can support this ministry through a special offering on August 28.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Locklear remembered those clergy (26) and clergy spouses (18) who have died. “We pause to remember our colleagues in ministry and their helpmates as they journeyed in the faith to preach, to teach, and to pastor churches. We remember fondly many stories and the magnitude of wisdom that they had.”

INNOVATIONS IN WORSHIP, DISCIPLESHIP, MISSION - TIM CATLETT, Office of New Faith Communities

Tim Catlett began the discussions with these questions:

1. Are our churches ready for innovative or creative change?
2. What are the top two factors in your congregations which are causing disruption and are helping to create an environment ready for change? **A. Systemic Shocks** - Pandemic, Racial Justice, Political Polarization, National and local economies, etc. **B. Dissatisfaction** - With lack of growth, lack of engagement, people not returning for worship, congregation’s response to systemic issues, etc. **C. Internal/External Pressure for Change** - Community dynamics/demographic are changing, economic changes in your local congregation, aging church, etc.
3. How can we leverage the resources of our mature institutional congregations to develop creative solutions to BOTH engage our current congregants and disciple new generations of Jesus followers?

4. Worship - In-person - What can we do uniquely in-person that we can't do online? Online - Why does online worship exist? Is it a bridge or a destination? Zoom, Face book, YouTube, other?
5. Discipleship - What could make discipleship practices more accessible and available to a larger or different group of people?
6. Holistic Mission - Who are your neighbors? Are you creating opportunities to engage which are more accessible, affordable, and available to a larger number of people? Are you always the host, or are you willing to be a guest?
7. **ENCOURAGEMENT:** Try something!!! Innovate and fail quickly. Take time to evaluate. Revise, and try again!
Start small. Try something!!!

*The representatives attending from our church were:

Pastor Stuart Milton
 Pastor Mark Hicks
 Trinity Lay Leader Earlene Campbell
 Harbor Lay Leader John Kelso
 Delegate Lydia Kelso
 Delegate Brianna Reaves
 Trinity Members: Darrell and Hope Vickers and Vito and Joan Bisgogno



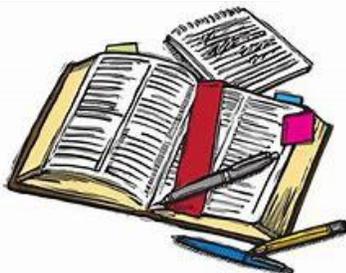
Columbarium Expansion

The Columbarium expansion and the Memorial Remembrance Garden projects are underway after months of planning. We anticipate the projects will be completed by early October.

The conceptual artist's rendition was done by Allie Lull.

More information about purchasing space in the new niche units will be available in September. If you have any questions on the Columbarium expansion, please feel free to contact either **Kent or Debbie Wood**.

An Invitation for You...



You are invited to join Donna Follensbee and Cathy Danford to study *Lectio Divina*.

Lectio Divina is a spiritual reading of scripture that includes prayer, meditation, and listening for God's message to us. Noted professor, Henri Nouwen, describes Lectio Divina like this in his book **Spiritual Direction**, "To take the scriptures and read them contemplatively is called Lectio Divina, or spiritual

reading. It means to read the Bible "on your knees", that is reverently, attentively, and with the deep conviction that God has a unique word for you in your own situation.

It is the discipline by which we let the written word of God become a personal word for us, anchored in the center of our being.

This small group will meet at 9:00AM on Wednesday mornings for about an hour in the Prayer Room starting **September 14, 2022**.

This will be an open group. You are welcome to join us anytime and decide if this experience is "a fit for you". Just bring yourself and your favorite Bible.

For more information, contact **Cathy Danford** at danfordcatherine1@gmail.com or call her at 910-880-2669 or **Donna Follensbee** at drdjf@comcast.net or call her at 303- 667-2507.



To Our Dear Trinity Family

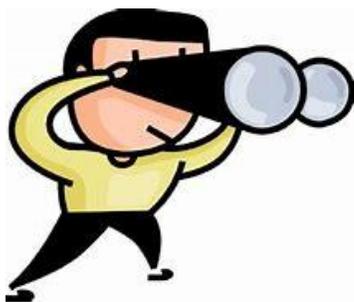
We are beyond blessed; not only by our Lord, but also by all of you and your prayers!

Every time we encountered an obstacle during Jim's hospital stay, the Lord paved the way straight. Angels appeared every day in so many forms! And, all of your prayers were a conduit for us to get Jim on the road to recovery and finally home.

There are not enough words to convey our love, appreciation and gratitude to all of you for your unceasing prayers and words of comfort.

May God Bless You All!

With Love, Jim and Cheryl Devon



Bursting Forth with Christ's Love: Looking Forward to Trinity Missions

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as the Missions Committee Chair for the past several years and I am delighted to be able to turn the position over to **Tom Miller** and a great group of committee members. Tom has served on the committee as Chair of the Rise Against Hunger ministry and the committee includes many others who have served for years as well as several new folks.

The following ministries are represented on the Mission Committee: Brunswick County Schools; Southport Oak Island Interchurch Fellowship; Kairos; Creation Care; Cross & Key Prison Ministry; Operation Christmas Child; Brunswick County Homeless; Rise Against Hunger; AGAPE; Tree of Hope; Special Needs Populations; Trinity's Free Pantry; Social Justice; Community Missions/Operation Brotherhood.

In the coming year, funds given to the general fund of Trinity will be used by the Mission Committee to support mission efforts at home and abroad through the Rainbow Covenant and our mission budget line items. Many of our ministries will remain the same (RAH, Kairos, Prayer Shawl, Tree of Hope, Samaritan shoeboxes), but others are new or expanding.

Our ministry to the homeless has changed from providing short term emergency shelter to support for the Brunswick Partnership for Housing (an independent 501c3) that will provide transitional housing in Southport as well as advocate for more affordable housing opportunities.

Other changes include: a stronger relationship with the Cross & Key Prison Ministry; new ways to support students and teachers in Brunswick County Schools; and new AGAPE ministries for the people of Armenia.

Our Creation Care ministry continues to grow and serve not only our church, but the surrounding communities by providing information about and advocating for environmental issues.

The Social Justice Committee is an outgrowth of the Social Justice forums and is focusing on the critical issues of prison reform and gun violence in our society.

The Trinity Free Pantry continues to provide food and personal hygiene items to our neighbors and the services for special needs populations will be expanded beyond the "Night to Shine" event.

Changes are being considered for the Handyman Ministry which is now functioning, along with Operation Brotherhood, as the Community Missions group.

The SOIICF is going through a visioning process that should provide guidance for the focus of the member churches in the coming years. The goal is to look carefully at our current missions (Food Pantry, Human Needs and the Homeless) and determine if changes or revisions need to be made.

*Thanks to you all for your support of missions,
Becky Felton, Outgoing Mission Chair*



From the Finance Committee...

I am pleased to report that our independent, external financial review for the fiscal and calendar year 2021 was completed with no adverse comments. The reviewer noted that "there is still a very high degree of compliance by TUMC and Finance Committee with the recommended procedures of the parent United Methodist Church for church financial operations".

Some of the items included in the review were:
Reconciling our balance sheets from 2020 and 2021, along with the annual statement of activity.
Reviewing all bank cash balance accounts and the reconciliation thereof.
Reviewing investment accounts.
Reviewing our listing of church property and insurance coverage.
Reviewing credit card statements and the timely payment thereof.
Verifying that tithes and offerings received were accurately counted and reflected in the general ledger.
Verifying church expenses and cash disbursements.

The Finance Committee is pleased with the results of this review. We have sound financial procedures in place which are strictly followed. We take seriously our fiduciary responsibilities and our commitment to be good stewards of the assets of Trinity.

We will soon be commencing the 2023 budget process. We ask for your prayers and continued generosity as we plan how to financially support the work of Trinity in our mission to "**Burst Forth with Christ's Love.**"

*In His service,
Kathie Stucy, Finance Committee Chair*



Save the Date

On **Sunday, October 9th**, following the 11:00AM worship service, Trinity UMC will celebrate 26 years of dedication and commitment to church music as **Carolyn Williams**, our church organist, officially retires.

We will gather in Murrow Hall to thank Carolyn for filling the sanctuary with beautiful preludes, hymns and postludes every Sunday morning.

Mark your calendar and plan to be there!

John Kelso, Chair of SPRC



Stewardship Moment

It is the beginning of fall and the beginning of many exciting things at Trinity.

It is also that time of the year that Trinity begins planning for the next calendar year which includes our Church Missions and Budget for 2023. Our final budget and missions' program will depend on the generosity of our congregation which will be evidenced through the 2023 Stewardship Campaign.

You will receive your 2023 Stewardship pledge cards and information in mid-October. Please prayerfully begin considering your 2023 pledge.

Thanks to all those who have maintained their 2022 pledge. It has certainly helped support Trinity's missions during this difficult year.

"We don't have less; we have more because we can't out give God. God always gives far more to us than we give back to God." (*The Gratitude Path* by Kent Millard)

Kent Wood, Stewardship Chair



Interchurch Fellowship Walk

Please join us, along with members of other Oak Island/Southport churches, as we walk to support the community outreach programs of SOIIF. These include the Food Pantry, Human Needs and the Homeless, as well as needs throughout the world via Church World Service.

The walk will be held on **Sunday, October 23rd** beginning at 1:30PM in Franklin Square Park. You will be able to register for the walk and/or financially contribute to it after the worship services on Sunday, October 9th, October 16th and October 23rd, the day of the walk.

Please make your check payable to "ICF Walk" or to TUMC with SOIICF on the "memo" line of the check.

If you have questions, please call **Kate Westhausen** at 910 547 5991.



Scene: Mom Talking to Daughter

MOM: *I think I keep getting messages or missed calls or something.*

DAUGHTER: *From whom?*

MOM: *Someone called Betty Low.*

DAUGHTER: *Um,...battery low?*

MOM: *That's it!*



September Birthdays

2. Bob Badertscher
Craig Caster
Leslie Taylor
5. Isabella Raygoza
6. Marcia Beronet
7. Jim Devon
Tom Green
Cliff Johnson
8. Hugh Fosbury
Carolyn Pryor
Julie Sloup
Janet Wrenn
9. Nancy Leoncavallo
John Sherrill
Barbara Walker
11. Eli Caban
Caroline Heilmann
Anna Lynne Sherrod
Pat Walker
12. Matthew Long
Jim Perry
13. Wayne Briggs
Monica Goforth
Tom Miller
14. Cynthia Hamrick
Kathy Morris
Roger Sucece
15. David Doe
Diann Hrebin
Jennifer Keefe
Ryan Lupton
Joan Madsen
Debbie Wood
16. Randy Caban
Eleanor Rankin
17. Betsy McConnell
Glenn Petzinger
18. Kate Krupinski
19. Kent Bower
Gene Clem
20. Skylar Sullivan
Tom Woods
21. Stephanie Kirk
22. Pattie Hooks
Beth Loy
Jeremy Richardson
23. John Edwards
Sharon Wallace
24. Hunter French
Robbie Jones
Cathy Teague
25. Jason Disbrow
Ann Meccarielli
Lilly Smutko
Musette Steck
26. Loren Stolp
27. Melissa Thomas
Bob Schultz
28. Mark Cauchi
Fran McGaughey
29. Jane Barnes
Bella Grace Doak
Lucas Johnson
Rowan Johnson
30. Ainsley Hubble