



MONTHLY

Findings

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Volume 42, Number 3, March, 2015

Trinity's Mission: We are a community of Christian disciples building pathways through which God's love is realized.

New hope for homeless families

Sam Rogers, Sr.

In mid-January, Hope Community opened the doors of its newly renovated dormitory to provide emergency temporary shelter to homeless families with small children. Almost immediately, 12 families including 19 adults and 28 children (14 under age five) moved in to almost fill its maximum 58 bed capacity. Here are three real life examples of how Hope Community's facility on West Pensacola Street is responding to this ongoing need:

- *Mother and father with a child age two and an infant...evicted by Sheriff's Department due to inability to pay rent resulting from increased medical expenses. After about a week in residence, Hope staff assisted them with a move to more permanent stable housing.*
- *Single mom with children aged one and six...unable to pay rent and no place to turn to due to loss of work hours. Hope case*

manager arranged transportation for the six-year-old to remain in the school she is currently attending. Mom's income has improved and she is saving money for more stable housing. They should be able to move out in a month.

- *Single mom and child age 10...had been living with family and friends but were forced to move to Hope as a last resort. She received a housing voucher and will move as soon as suitable housing is found.*

The new dormitory was made possible by a grant from the City of Tallahassee for

the construction, and the major role played by Trinity UMC and its 40+ member team of volunteers who gave of their time and money. Interior painting was performed entirely by Trinity volunteers. The paint, equipment, and amenities such as window blinds, new bathroom floor tile, new living room furniture and new commercial-grade washers and dryers for laundry were funded through Trinity's support.

The opening of Hope's new family dormitory, and the soon to be completed men's shelter located nearby, ushers in a new era of community concern and involvement in improving living conditions for our homeless neighbors. Trinity has made a long term commitment of support for the Hope Community, whose mission is as follows: "To end homelessness in the Big Bend through leadership, education, advocacy, and the provision of quality services."



Trinity members, led by Sam Rogers (in the upper center photo), have been working with Hope Community for the last few years. At far left, Kelley Phillips applies some trim paint to one of the dormitories. At left, Bill Kappes and Barbara Allen work on one of the dorms. In the photo above, Bill Gunter and Mary Margaret Rogers paint the walls of the men's dormitory on the 2014 Great Day of Service.

Gifts to Trinity

Trinity received the following gifts from
January 17 – February 25, 2015:



In memory of **Leona Hunt** from John and Mary Leslie Olson and Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Snowden

In memory of **Sarah Louise Dickson Flow** from Carol and Ed Moore, Sam and Mary Margaret Rogers and the Women in Ministry Alpha Action Team.

Trinity United Methodist Church 20 **VISIONING** 15 for TOMORROW'S HARVEST

Diane Kroeger
Visioning Committee

Trinity's exciting process to create a Vision for our future is underway. Consultant Christina Drouin, will join us for step one, the Core Values Discernment Session.

Sunday, March 8 (Daylight Savings Day)

Time: **12 noon until 2:00 p.m.**

Location: **Moor Hall**

Sonny's BBQ & Childcare Provided
(For Childcare, Call 222-1120 or Email trinity@tumct.org)

Why is this session important to you and our Trinity Community? Determining our congregation's Core Values is an essential foundation of the Visioning process. Our Core Values identify who we are, what we stand for, and what makes Trinity United Methodist Church unique. As the farmer carefully selects planting times, soil composition, and seed varieties that lead to a bountiful outcome, we likewise want to carefully discern our core values, which will guarantee our crop (Vision) is harvestable in the future.

So, set your clock ahead one hour and join us on March 8. Your input is important for Tomorrow's Harvest!

WAYNE'S WORDS

By E. Wayne Curry
Senior Pastor

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago Beth and I were in Savannah for a wedding. We stayed in the area a couple of extra days to explore this beautiful city so rich in southern history. We spent some of our time walking around the Bonaventure Cemetery.

When you wander around a cemetery like that you can't help but ponder the brevity of life. Remember what life was like when you were a child? It stretched out before us, like a long, seemingly infinite road, and felt as if it would go on forever. When we are young we can't imagine an end to life, nor should we. The young do not yet fully realize life ... at least not its finitude, its fleetingness.

But life comes to an end for all human beings. We are mortal, fragile. That's the sobering truth we learn as we move into middle age and later life. Now into my 65th year, when I read about the death of someone my age, it raises for me that most human of imaginings: "That could be me."

This is what death does for humans, the ones left behind. Yes: death shocks, it steals, it saddens, it cruelly rearranges life. Yet death can also jolt us into a moment of spiritual clarity. It can wake us up to the truth that we all have an expiration date, a day and a moment sometime "then," when we will cease to be, at least on this side of existence.

The gift of death, if such an idea can be fathomed, is that it sharply reminds us of the gift of life. The miracle of our hearts beating on for another day ... the sun warming our skin for another day ... loved ones loving us for another day ... our Creator calling us to live and love this precious life for another day.

Death finally challenges us as mortals to live this God-given life well, very well.

So, my good friends, how's that going for you this one day? In light of death, how is your one life? What is your life's quality, its depth, its meaning, its purpose? When you leave this world, what will be your legacy? What positive difference are you making this day in the life of others?

In Thornton Wilder's play, "Our Town," the main character is Emily, a young woman, recently married, who dies suddenly. Act II opens with Emily in the town graveyard and she begs the stage manager/narrator to allow her to go back down to earth for just one



day. She goes and witnesses the day of her twelfth birthday and then returns, asking one poignant question. "O earth you're too wonderful for anybody to realize you. Do any human beings ever realize life while they live it? Every, every minute?"

To "realize life," "every, every minute." This is the lesson my faith tries to remind me of each and every day. Sure, most days I get all caught up in the silly dramas of day-to-day life. I get stuck in "poor me." I find myself in the weeds of life, self-focused, anxious, whiney. Sound familiar?

But some sweet and precious days, (and there are many of those), I actually listen to God and wake up to life again. This then is the lesson of death:

... to try and live so fully that when we die, we will have no regrets;

... to try and love so deeply that when we die, we will have given all of our love away;

... to try and give of ourselves to others so fully that when we die, we can depart in the knowledge that our one life made a positive difference;

... to try and live for something bigger and more important than ourselves, that when we exit the stage called life, folks will have been changed for the better merely by having known us.

Death reminds us all of just how amazing and wonderful life can be if only we will live it to the fullest. Just one life, that's all God gives us. The question is: do we realize this gift?

Just some things to ponder in this holy Lenten season.

You are loved,

Wayne

Music News for March

Mark Repasky
Director of Music

It Is Well with My Soul

Do you remember the Rutter music that the Chancel Choir presented last March with the professional orchestra? Such a wonderful service! Something similar will happen on March 22 of this year. The Chancel Choir

about 30 minutes of glorious music for our congregation. Come, and bring a friend or two!

It has been a long, rewarding journey for the Chancel Choir. How rare it is that a church choir has the opportunity to sing with a professional orchestra, and we are looking forward to that day. We all want to be a blessing to our congregation that morning in all that we do.

Reverend Curry will use hymn #377, "It Is Well with My Soul" as the source material for his sermon that morning, and all of the music for the 11 o'clock service will be built around the themes from that hymn. The congregation will sing the hymn, accompanied by the orchestra. A newly composed piece, using the text from "It Is Well with My Soul" will be presented by the choir and orchestra.

Mack Wilberg is the conductor of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Perhaps you have seen their Christmas specials on TV recently; often, he is the conductor. He is also a well-respected composer and arranger. Those Christmas specials usually include some of his composition/arrangements. On March 22, the Chancel Choir will present three of

Mack Wilberg's arrangements with orchestra. "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" is quite familiar to us and is #400 in our hymnal. It is included in his collection of "Four American Folk Hymns." Another hymn the choir will sing is, "Death Shall not Destroy My Comfort." In spite of the somber title, the text actually encourages those who are suffering or mourning, and the music is BEAUTIFUL! A third piece by Wilberg is an arrangement of "Brother James' Air." Most will recognize the text: "The Lord is my shepherd, I'll not want" It is the beloved Psalm 23!

The fifth selection is an arrangement of hymn #431, "Let There Be Peace on Earth." Many will recall singing this at the 11 a.m. service during the most recent Music Ministry Sunday in February. This time, we will sing it with an orchestra. Our plan is to record this piece at the 11 a.m. service and include it in the Christmas CD to be released in November of this year.

Oh, did I mention the orchestra will also accompany the congregation singing hymn #89, Beethoven's "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee?"



The Chancel Choir with the professional orchestra performing music by John Rutter last year.

started this journey in October of last year and they have spent some time on it at almost every weekly rehearsals since then. Now the event is just weeks away and the excitement is building! It will all come to fruition on Sunday, March 22 at the 11 o'clock service. That is when the choir will be joined by a 26-piece professional orchestra in providing

Music Ministry Sunday



Rob Werner



The Trinity Ensemble



Karalee Poschman



The Trinity Ringers



The Cherub Choir

Fellowship Luncheon Mar. 3 11:45 a.m. - Moor Hall

Lynette Halter
UMW in Ministry President

Lynette has planned an exciting special “The Rest of the Story” program on the movies, “Unbroken” & “American Sniper”, covering information from special sources that most UMW members probably haven’t seen. Everyone is welcome to attend, even if you aren’t a member of UMW in Ministry. Call Nancy Kerce at 877-6546 for lunch reservations.

Second Harvest Backpacking Project

Helpers are needed for the backpacking project. Meet in the church parking lot at 9:30 a.m. on the first Wednesday (Mar. 4) to carpool to Second Harvest. The actual backpacking starts at 10 a.m. at Second Harvest and will last for about an hour and a half.

Interested in forming a new Action Team?

If you are interested in forming a new

evening Action Team with a focus on serving, missions and forming lasting friendships, please contact Reneé White, crenewwhite11@yahoo.com or call 850-878-9702 after 6:00 p.m. A suggested first

meeting might demonstrate how to make mats and hat/scarf sets for Tallahassee’s homeless men and women. Organizational meeting will be announced soon. Check your bulletin or call Reneé.

Action Team Meetings

Alpha Action Team (Circle 1): Mon, Mar. 9 at 10:00 a.m. Contact Kathi Pope, chair (mlpopejr@aol.com) for location.

Dorcas Action Team: Tue, Mar. 3 at 1:00 pm in the Church library. Nancy Waugh, chair.

Mary Martha Action Team: Mon, Mar. 9 at 6:00 p.m. 2104 W Randolph Cir, Julie Pararo, hostess & chair.

Morning Coffee Action Team: Tue, Mar. 10 at 8:30 a.m. Ruth Ann High, chair. Contact rahigh@tumct.org for location.

Sojourners Action Team: Wed, Mar. 4 at noon, Café at St. Johns. Marti Chumbler, chair.

Susanna Wesley Action Team (SWAT): Tue, Mar. 17 at 10:00 a.m. 4423 Sierra Ct., Linda Phillips, hostess, Liz Smith, chair, 576-1533.

Voice Action Team: Thu, Mar. 19 at 7:00 p.m. 2027 Shady Oaks Dr., Sandra Genetin, hostess; Patti Oakley, chair.

What’s happening at the Preschool?

Our two-year-olds classes enjoyed bringing their teddy bears to school for a picnic in the prayer garden. Songs, story time and special snack all helped to make the event special!



The VPK class had a great time on their field trip to the fire station. It was extra special because one of the firefighters (at right) is also a parent of one of our students!



At left, learning the letter “P” is practically perfect when you’re wearing pajamas and eating pancakes!

This month, Ms. Veronica Stewart (right) marks her 10th anniversary working at the preschool. Congratulations, Veronica—we are looking forward to many more years together!



Health Wellness news for March

Health Wellness Team

Exercise Classes

Staying Strong and Variety Mix classes are held Tue-Wed-Thu (see calendar schedule). This is



a wonderful way to get/stay in shape in a party-like atmosphere among friendly faces. It's mostly women, but men are always welcome!

Medical Missions

Jayne Mittan will be returning to Guatemala, tentatively March 21-28. Multivitamins for adults and children are always needed in large quantities (no gummies please). There will be another trip in October, so please start stockpiling them now.

Trinity Runners & Walkers

Please register early for three great spring races... Shamrock Scurry (Mar. 14), Color Me Rad Run (Mar. 21), and Springtime Tallahassee (Mar. 29). It's important to: register as part of the Trinity Runners Group; and, email Marie Bradley at MBradley1716@comcast.net. She can then complete the paperwork needed for Trinity to be eligible for prizes. Trinity has won the church category twice (at the Shamrock Scurry) with a prize of \$500 that we donated to help the homeless. Contact Marie Bradley for more info. You can register at www.shamrockscurry.com/, www.mudrunfun.com/race/color-me-rad-5k/13406, www.springtime10k.com/. Join the team of runners and walkers for lots of outdoor fun and exercise – we need a big turnout!

CPR class

Thu, Mar. 5, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. – Conference room. Southeastern School of Health Sciences will present an American Heart Association course on CPR and relief of foreign-body airway obstruction in the adult, infant, and child, and use of the automated external defibrillator (AED). This class is intended for caregivers, parents, teachers, and anyone wanting to learn CPR.

Cost: \$25 per person, make checks payable to **Southeastern**.

Community Garden

On Sat, Mar. 21, 9:00 a.m.–noon we will have a spring Community Garden day. We will be preparing the garden area as well as planting some spring crops. We encourage all gardeners to join us that morning. This garden is free for everyone in the community and provides fresh vegetables for those who may not otherwise have access to them.

For more information about any of the Health Wellness activities, contact Beth Curry bcseries@yahoo.com or call the church office or visit the church website for the latest information about the Health Wellness Ministry (<http://www.tumct.org/serve/health-wellness-ministry/>).



Health Wellness Calendar

Drop in any time! Classes are in the Parlor.

BFC Series Exercise Classes

— Tuesdays and Thursdays —

- 9:15 - Staying Strong
- 11:00 - Variety Mix**

** Nursery by reservation only. Suggested donation \$3/ class for community service or Health Wellness fund. Register through Lay Academy for Wednesday classes.

— Wednesdays —

- 4:15 p.m. - Staying Strong PM
- 6:30 p.m. - Power Hour

Upcoming Events

— CPR class —

Thursday, Mar. 7 - Conference room

— Mats for the Homeless —

Mar. 12, 10:30 a.m. - Conference room

— Trinity Runners & Walkers —

- Shamrock Scurry - Sat, Mar. 14 - Killalee UMC
- Color Me Rad - Sat, Mar. 21 - Tom Brown Park
- Springtime Tallahassee 10k/5k and 1 mile races Mar. 29 - Downtown Tallahassee

Race Contact: Marie Bradley at mbradley1716@comcast.net or call 728-5383.

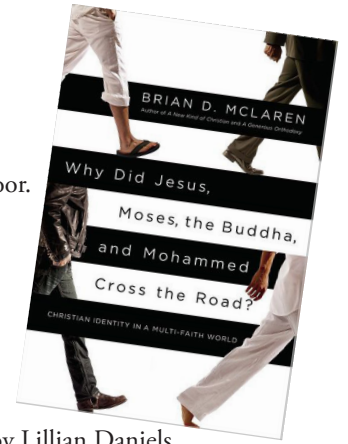
For more information about the Health Wellness ministry visit tumct.org/community/adults/health-wellness-ministry/ or contact: Beth Curry - BCFSeries@yahoo.com

New Books in the Trinity Church Library

Gloria Colvin
Trinity Church Librarian

Check out some of these and other new books in the McKenzie Library or in the library cart on the third floor.

- **How Jesus Became God: The Exaltation of a Jewish preacher from Galilee** by Bart Ehrman
- **Small Victories: Spotting Improbable Moments of Grace** by Anne Lamott
- **The Zimzum of Love: A New Way of Understanding Marriage** by Rob Bell and Kristen Bell
- **Emergence Christianity: What it is, Where it's Going, and Why it Matters** by Phyllis Tickle
- **Fields of Blood: Religion and the History of Violence** by Karen Armstrong
- **Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?: Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith World** by Brian McLaren
- **When "Spiritual But Not Religious" is Not Enough: Seeing God in Surprising Places, Even the Church** by Lillian Daniels



Habitat for Humanity

Gloria Colvin
Trinity Church Librarian

Saturday, February 21 was the kick-off of the 2015 Big Bend Habitat for Humanity

Faith Build. Trinity, along with volunteers from other churches and faith organizations,



This photo, taken from a previous build, shows how a few determined volunteers paired with the necessary supplies, really can build a beautiful home. If you have the time, Habitat will provide the place to volunteer! (photo by Marti Chumbler)

are partnering with the FSU Student Habitat Chapter to build a home at 1602 Elberta Drive over the course of the fourteen Saturdays (with a break for Easter). Trinity provided half the work team (14-15 volunteers), as well as both breakfast and lunch for that first build day.

All that's needed to volunteer is enthusiasm and a willingness to work hard. We will laugh, bend a few nails (or maybe a lot of nails) but drive more straight, get to know the future homeowner (who will

be working alongside us), frame the exterior and interior walls, and – at the end of the work day – marvel that the concrete slab we started with is now the skeleton of a home that will shelter a family for many years. Those of you who have volunteered for Habitat before, know what a great experience it is. If you have not, come out and give it a try. Once you do, you'll be hooked.

For those who wanted to be involved but were unavailable on February 21st – or whose forté is painting or landscaping, rather than hammering – we will be planning other Saturdays during the build when Trinity volunteers can participate.

If you're interested in helping, call Marti Chumbler at 284-5355 or 513-3612 or email her at mchumbler@cfjblaw.com.

Notes from HEO

Ruthann High
HEO Coordinator

Trinity Chefs has made some delicious meals. The HEO freezer is full of casseroles, soups, and cookies that are available to be shared with individuals who may need an easy meal. Trinity members are welcome to take a dish to someone they feel could benefit from this ministry. There is a sign out sheet with a marker left inside the freezer. Help yourselves and share God's love with the gift of food.



This is the All-Star line-up of chefs who get together periodically and produce delicious and nutritious meals. The meals are then given to those in need of a ready-to-heat-up meal. From left they are: Earline Atkinson, Patti Oakley, Oberley Brown, Judy Levy, Sandy Kappes, Mary Margaret Rogers, Nancy Waugh, Barbara Allen, and HEO Coordinator, Ruthann High.

Youth Happenings in March

Blake Swanson John Freeze
Youth Director Youth Intern

A Note from Blake ...

We would like to thank everyone who came out to support the youth with the salad and potato bar lunch that we served in order to raise money for this summer's trips! We would not be able to make these trips possible for those students if it was not for your help. You will have one more big opportunity to help coming up in just a few weeks!

On Saturday, March 28, we will be having our annual Spaghetti Fundraiser in conjunction with Springtime Tallahassee. We will have tickets available in the coming weeks for \$5 that will be good for a plate of spaghetti and parking spot in the Trinity lot (on a space available basis). Our students work hard to put these events on and we hope you will come and join us.

Although these major events help fundraise for our students, we also accept donations. Sometimes additional scholarships are needed despite our student's best efforts with these events. If you are interested in helping sponsor a student on a trip this summer, please contact me at bswanson@tumct.org, or call me at 222-1120 and I would love to talk with you.



Sign Up NOW for Camp!

I know, it seems early, right? But if you want to be part of the great fun at **Warren Willis Summer Camp** in Leesburg, you better sign up - **NOW!** Just go to the front page of Trinity's website (tumct.org), click on the link and follow the directions that are listed there. Our camp will be Jul. 13-18.

In the photo to the left, Trinity Youth issue tickets for the baked potato and salad lunch from Dan and Anna Drake. Lots of people took advantage of the nutritious culinary offerings and the youth were able to raise money for their mission trips in 2015.

In the photo below, the youth are shown making the salads and baked potatoes that would be served during the TLC Sunday lunch. Sarah Christovich (center with black t-shirt) and Youth Intern, John Freeze (striped t-shirt) help with the planning and preparation.



photo by Colleen McConnell

Updates from the Youth Ranch

Gloria Colvin
Florida UMC Children's Home Representative

There are now a number of children living in the two cottages at the Madison Youth Ranch and there is capacity for more. All of the children attend local public schools in Madison County and worship at First UMC in Madison. A dedicated, caring staff ministers to their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Construction has begun on the stable, which will house the horses used in the new equine therapy program.

At the Enterprise campus, in addition to the programs for school-age children, there are a number of programs in place to assist residents in their transition to independent living. The Transitional Living Home helps

residents who have turned 18, but haven't finished high school. Scholarships are available for former residents who are working to continue their education. Emergency assistance is available to young alumni who need help meeting their basic needs.

Our gifts on Fifth Sundays offer support to these important ministries. Each United Methodist church in Florida has a goal of at least \$1 per member per month or \$12 per member annually. These gifts provide the majority of the income for all of the Children's Home programs. In 2014, Trinity surpassed our goal of nearly \$30,000!



(l-r) Youth Ranch's, Mark Nelson, Rev. Curry, Gloria Colvin, and Frank Mercer after Mark had spoken at Trinity recently.



Above, lots of cuddly bears (dogs, hedgehogs and other assorted animals) await the soft, loving squeeze of a child in need. To the right, the Bloodmobile is busy and full, while new donors patiently wait for their turn inside the bus.




In the photo above, Bob High bravely has his finger poked for a chlorestrol blood sample - ouch! In the photo at right, a soft drink bottle is used to illustrate the amount of sugar found in 12 ounces of product - no way (way)!



TLC SUNDAY
Trinity Loving Care Sunday

MONTHLY



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