

Worship

Grow

Serve

Monthly Tidings

Trinity United Methodist Church

TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA

Volume 45, Number 7, August, 2018

Because of God's love for us through Jesus Christ, we exist to worship, grow, and serve.

Looking back and looking forward

Allison Corrigan

Director of Children's Ministries

Warren Willis Summer Camp

48 children, youth and adult volunteers attended camp in July. We had such



Rev. Jon went to camp with the children. Look at those smiles!

an amazing time together as we grew spiritually through worship, small groups, games, team building and more! Camp at Warren Willis is a life changing event that we want you to be a part of. Next summer, we plan to go to camp the week of **July 8-13, 2019**. If you are in 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade this year (2018-2019), you are eligible to attend and we'd love to have you join us! It's a meaningful week you'll never forget!



The NETkids choir perform at Westminster Oaks.

Promotion Sunday

Children will rise to the next grade level in Sunday School on **August 19**. This year, our curriculum will be **Deep Blue**. Your kids will hear and see how families care for children as they grow, build loving relationships, and explore how different families belong in God's big story. Please plan to join us! **3 & 4 year olds will meet on the first floor of the Preschool in Room 105, and elementary classes will meet in the 2nd floor children's hallway.** We can't wait to begin this adventure with you!

NETkids at Trinity

NETkids is an exciting fellowship program offered to children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. We meet on Wednesday afternoons from **September-May, 3:15-5:30**. During NETkids, children build their relationships with God and others through Bible stories, games, crafts, music, missions, woodworking, and more. The program kicks off on **Wednesday, August 29th with a parents meeting at 6:00** in Room 205. NETkids activities will begin the following **Wednesday, September 5**. Registration forms are available online <https://tumct.tpsdb.com/OnlineReg/2352> in the Welcome Center, the Narthex, and the 2nd floor Children's hallway. There is a registration fee of \$25 for the year, which helps cover the costs of materials and special events. If you have any questions

about the program, or concerns about transportation to NETkids, please contact Allison Corrigan acorrigan@tumct.org. We work hard to solve all transportation issues, so please let us know! We look forward to having you join us this year!

Kindergarten & 3rd Grade Bible Presentation

Trinity presents its Kindergarteners and 3rd graders with their very own Bibles each fall. If your child is entering Kindergarten or 3rd grade, please be on the lookout for paperwork for your child's Bible. Forms will be mailed to your homes, and will also be available on the table in the children's hallway throughout the month of August. The children will receive their Bibles on **Sunday, September 9 at the 11:00 service**, followed by a reception in the Parlor.

Acolytes

Calling all rising 4th and 5th graders! Over the past couple of years, one of Trinity's greatest initiatives has been to have children and youth actively involved in worship. One way we have accomplished this goal is with the use of acolytes during the 11:00 worship service. We are looking for children and youth who are interested in serving Trinity in this capacity. We will have a training and ice cream social on **Sunday, September 16 at 6 p.m.** in the Sanctuary/Moor Hall. Please contact Allison Corrigan acorrigan@tumct.org.

ZOE in Rwanda

Dr. Wayne D. Wiatt
Senior Pastor

Ten years ago, I had the privilege of visiting Rwanda to observe one of the most successful ministries to vulnerable children I have ever witnessed. In short, it helps orphaned children move out of poverty and become self-sustaining within three years!

I encouraged Jayne Mittan to lead an exploratory team last month to Africa to see how Trinity might become a partner in this amazing ministry!

Below is her story ...

“By now most of you know that Julie Dodson, Jennifer Griffiths, and I had the pleasure of visiting Rwanda with ZOE in June. It really was the experience of a lifetime! We were able to meet with the in-country staff people and the amazing young people who are being empowered to move beyond charity.

Building on a foundation of indigenous staff, community leaders, and local resources, ZOE empowers orphans and vulnerable children to become socially, economically, and spiritually strong. ZOE’s distinctive, holistic model provides the vital relationships, training, and resources to empower young participants to overcome the isolation and stigmatization associated with extreme poverty. In only three years, they become empowered, self-sustaining young people who are not only meeting their own needs but reaching beyond themselves and their siblings to empower others—transforming entire communities in the process. ZOE currently has programs running in Liberia, Kenya, Rwanda, Malawi, Zimbabwe, India, and Guatemala.

What exactly does it mean when ZOE claims to “empower” orphans and vulnerable children to move beyond charity? ZOE’s goal is for each ZOE graduate to have:

- A consistently dependable source of food
- Safe housing
- High standards of hygiene and access to healthcare
- An understanding of their rights and how to enforce them
- Access to formal education or vocational training
- Multiple, thriving businesses with plans for expansion
- An understanding that they are loved by God



Let me relay to you a few stories we heard during our trip:

Jean Paul was 14 years old when he joined ZOE and is 15 years old now. He has a younger brother but does not know where he is. Jean Paul never knew his father. His birth was never registered, so he has no identification card. Rwandans have an identity card given at birth, where people are given a rating of 1 to 4 based upon economic status. His mother disappeared when he was 4. He survived by begging and doing hard labor for food scraps. He was frequently beaten by his employer for not being able to keep up with his demands. Village leaders told him he had been discarded and they could not help him get an id card. Without it, he cannot get the health insurance he is

front of Jean Paul. Despite this dismissal by authorities, Epiphanie continues her quest to get this child an ID card. In the meantime, Jean Paul showed initiative in trying to sell wild pineapples, but was not successful as they have thorns and are not very tasty. Jean Paul refused to give up on his dream to rent a room and sell banana juice. (Without an ID card, he cannot own anything.) Since joining ZOE, Jean Paul is living his dream. He rents a shop space in his village, where he also sleeps, and has a thriving banana juice business. His shop was full of customers on the day we visited. He makes enough from his sales to continue to purchase 4 containers of banana juice each day from a wholesaler (who is probably another ZOE kid), pay his rent, and has enough containers to sell the juice to his customers. He makes 8,000 Rwandan Francs per day (\$9.29). He has 42,000 Rwandan Francs (\$48.78) in savings. He has 2 best friends and doesn’t feel alone anymore. The chart hanging in his bedroom (every ZOE kid has one) shows his dream of owning a house and a cow. He will need 150,000 Rwandan Francs (\$174.22) to buy a calf. As dismal as this sounds to us, he was smiling from ear to ear telling us about his dream and success in ZOE. He still has another year and a half in the program before he graduates.



Part of the Ineza group with their mentor and our translator, Chantal.

entitled to from the government. When Epiphanie (the founder of ZOE in Rwanda) took him to the government office that issues ID cards, the interviewer asked her “Why are you wasting your time on this one? He is already dead.” This was said in

Let’s talk about Judy (not her real name). Judy was orphaned at age 15 with 4 siblings to care for. She is now 20. She reports that it has not been easy trying to care for her family. Prior to ZOE, the only way to get food was to do hard labor.

(ZOE continues on page 8)

Music news for August

Mark Repasky
Music Director

Music Makers

Here at Trinity, we have a great variety of music makers. On Sunday mornings, the entire congregation makes music through the singing of hymns and choruses. Our church has a rich history of music making through our many other music groups as well. Some of you are in one or more of these groups....bravo!

If you aren't in one of the many groups, you may be interested in joining one of them.

We try to provide an opportunity for everyone with music skills, no matter how varied. If you play guitar you might audition for one of our two praise bands. Bells/Handchimes ...we have three of these groups. Instrumentalist....get



All three of the Bells and Chimes groups play together. involved in our new orchestra. Singer....we have a graded choral program from 2 years old on up, crowned by our 45-member Chancel Choir. Then there are our steel pan groups....

With all choral groups, you can join simply by coming to a rehearsal. Did you know our Chancel Choir resumes rehearsals on **Wednesday, August 22 at 7:30 p.m.**? If you are interested in the adult praise band, contact director Ed Prasse prasse@aol.com. That group runs year-round! If interested in steel pans, contact me mrepasky@tumct.org. If you are interested in bells or handchimes, contact Viktor billaviktor@gmail.com or Yuliia Billa, or me. Orchestra or band instrumentalists, contact Carol Marchant sesquialt@embarqmail.com. If you have questions about any of our music groups, I am happy to help. Watch for additional information in our church bulletins and in

the September Tidings. The main thing: We want you to COME JOIN US!

Welcome Yuliia Billa to Music staff!

Now that the federal government has issued a work permit to Yuliia (in the photo at right performing in traditional Ukrainian attire), we can formally announce she is part of the music staff at Trinity. She leads the younger NETkids Choir, and the Youth Choir. Yuliia and Viktor Billa jointly lead Jubilation Handbells.

Our church is truly blessed to have them in our music ministry. Thanks for all that you do for Trinity, Viktor and Yullia!



Yuliia Billa

Thanks from Raa Middle School



William Sahely with Trinity's donated steel pans at Raa.

Recently, we received donations enabling us to replace our six bass steel pans. The new ones are a considerable improvement! The old ones are still useable, so we looked for a group that might want them. Good news, Trinity UMC was able to assist the Raa Middle School Steel Band program by donating the six bass pans to them. Their teacher William Sahely wrote this gracious note of appreciation.

Dear Mark Repasky (Director of Music) and Lead Pastors:

I am writing to express my sincere thanks for your donation of the 6 bass. With Trinity United Methodist Church's donation, another student will be able to join this exciting class and enjoy the wonders of playing Steel Drums. Words cannot express how we are so appreciative of this generous gift.

Thank you again for your donation and your community support.

Sincerely,
William Sahely
Steel Drums Teacher

Local Missions supports: Homeless Outreach

Sabrina Denmark
Local Missions Co-Chair

Homelessness is still happening. I don't believe it will ever go away, but there are many places that are committed to making homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring. **The Kearney Center** is one of those places. They are committed to providing a safe environment that promotes dignity and respect.

A heart for the homeless

It takes a lot of individuals, money and resources to help the homeless. Some of the funds that the Kearney Center had been receiving has been shifted to our public schools due to the recent shootings in South Florida. They are also receiving less dollars from the United Way than they were getting in the past. Their grant money is down, as well as their fund-raising efforts. Our church is still able to donate money to be used to purchase food, thanks to each of you who give so generously to Trinity.

How members help

Trinity is still committed to serving meals to the individuals that seek shelter at the Kearney Center. The numbers that we feed are overwhelming. We just fed 340 individuals on the 4th Monday of July. We are always in need of volunteers

to help with this endeavor. If you would like to help serve a meal on the 1st, 4th or 5th Mondays of any month, please contact me sab.den@comcast.net.

Snack pack assistance

We also have a **snack pack program**. Members of Trinity assemble small bags of food to be distributed each week to those in need. People line up at the church every Thursday to get these



small bags of food. We would like to be able to do this twice a week, but are needing volunteers to help. We need a coordinator to keep it organized and going. Anyone interested in serving with the snack pack program or taking on the responsibility of coordinator, please contact Erin Platt, HEO Coordinator. eplatt@tumct.org.

Trinity's Local Missions Team — Trinity Cares Spotlight



Trinity is also involved in **Hope Community**, which is a shelter for families with children. Once a month a group of individuals from Trinity



gather at Hope Community to prepare and serve a meal to the families that are staying there. If this sounds like a good fit for you, please click here to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a49aba829a1fe3-hope>

Ways you can help too

As you can see Trinity has a big heart. If you cannot physically volunteer, please consider donating to one of these organizations financially.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact me, Sabrina Denmark sab.den@comcast.net or 850-566-5253).

Trinity's community-partner School Supply Drive

Jane Olson
Kate Sullivan liaison

The start of the - 2019 school year is almost upon us, so it's time to start shopping for our annual **Kate Sullivan School Supply Drive**. Kate Sullivan is our community partner school and Trinity has donated both school supplies and volunteers to their reading mentoring program since 2002. This outreach is received and enthusiastically acknowledged and appreciated by the

faculty, staff, and students alike. We begin each year with the supply drive and initiate the year-long mentoring program in mid-September. We will begin our collection to kick off the new school year on **Sunday, July 29** and continue collecting through **Sunday, August 12**. Collection boxes will be found in the Narthex and at the Welcome Center outside Moor Hall. The donated supplies will be itemized and

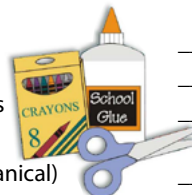
delivered before the school year starts on August 13, and will be distributed to students who would



otherwise have difficulty acquiring the necessary school items. This year's school supplies are listed below:

School supplies shopping checklist

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> black and white composition books (wide-ruled) | <input type="checkbox"/> pocket folders with 3 prongs (solid color) | <input type="checkbox"/> fiskar scissors (pointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> quart or gallon-sized ziplock bags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> spiral notebooks (single subject, wide-ruled) | <input type="checkbox"/> pencil boxes/pouches | <input type="checkbox"/> rulers | <input type="checkbox"/> hand sanitizer (alcohol free or foam) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> glue sticks | <input type="checkbox"/> colored pencils | <input type="checkbox"/> markers (fine-point, washable) | <input type="checkbox"/> back packs (no wheels) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> #2 pencils (not mechanical) | <input type="checkbox"/> clorox wipes | |



We will be here ALL summer long – will YOU?

Health Wellness Team

Did you know the BFC (Becoming Fit at Church) Series Exercise program **will run ALL summer long** on Tuesday and Thursday mornings? Come join us for Staying Strong or Variety Mix!

Becoming Fit at Church (BFC) **Staying Strong* (9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays & Thursdays)**

Jaqui Griffith Jaqui_Griffith@comcast.net
Ruth Ann High rahigh@tumct.org

Gentle, easy exercise which includes a total body work out with balance and memory exercises too. Great for those new to exercise or beginners. Standing and seated format.

Variety Mix* (11 a.m. - 12 noon Tuesdays & Thursdays)

Amy Leach AmyCLEach@hotmail.com
Please let Amy know in advance if you need childcare. This is a fast paced, full body work out with a variety of equipment used in a variety of class formats. Intermediate to advanced with floor work too. Nursery available by reservation ONLY.

Drop in to any class – ANYTIME! Suggested donation \$3 per class. 100% goes to community service.

Note: Beth Curry - BFCSeries@yahoo.com
- will alternate teaching Staying Strong & Variety Mix on Tuesdays & Thursdays with Ruth Ann, Jaqui & Amy.

Show Love for Others

Hats for Friends (formerly Hats for the Homeless) – **Judy Levy** judithtlevy@embargmail.com This group creates hats and scarves for those in need. We will be meeting in September, so please work at home. Notify Ann Jenkins if you would like to learn to make hats and scarves or learn more about the group.

Mats for the Homeless – **Rose Glenn** BudsThorn@comcast.net These mats provide comfortable, moisture-resistant sleeping mats for those in need. We will continue to work at home during the summer, so please save your bags. See you in September.

Snackpacking ministry gets top level support

Erin Elizabeth Platt
HEO Coordinator

HEO hands out an average of 66 snack packs each time we open the Welcome Center door to our neighbors in need. Snack packs handed out this year so far! I am excited to tell you about some of the contributors who lend a hand and help keep snack packing viable.

HEO gets help with snack packs from the general congregation, children (NETkids and Children's Time), the BFC Fitness Class and a few special individuals like Marquita

Burgess, Patti Oakley and RuthAnn High. Adding to the list of dedicated volunteers now are many Cherry Laurel residents who recently completed hundreds of snack packs in a flash.

Many thanks to Rev. Wayne Curry for the great photos!



Trinity @ Westminster Oaks

Erin Elizabeth Platt
HEO Coordinator

HEO hosted a brunch at Westminster Oaks on Friday, June 15 with fifty or so Trinity member-residents attending, along with our three ministers and invited guests. Dr. Wayne and Dr. Nick facilitated a lively open discussion to determine what program, activity and/or service our Trinity members would like to have on their campus. One of the ideas was the "Trinity at Westminster" speaker series that would give members a way to connect with one another, and to get their Trinity news up close and personal! Another idea was for a monthly mid-morning worship service with a dining-hall lunch and fellowship after the service. There are around sixty Trinity members at Westminster Oaks and we will let them know more as these plans unfold.

Don't miss the bus

It's always a privilege to see our Westminster – Trinity members in our sanctuary for our traditional service, too! We are reminded that John Olson makes it possible for our Westminster-Trinity members to ride to church in style each Sunday! He has arranged for a private shuttle which leaves Westminster promptly at 10 a.m.

Heart to Heart at Westminster

The monthly worship service at Westminster will be supplemental to HEO Heart To Heart visitations. Our Heart To



Heart visitation ministry takes place at Westminster, other local active retirement communities, and in-home settings also. If you would like to learn more about this incredibly fulfilling way to serve, please reach out to me without delay.



Todd Willis to speak on NJFON August 24

Dr. Nick Quinton
Director of Discipleship and Adult Ministries

This summer is full of great guests here at Trinity, each affirming our connection in the United Methodist Church and the work we do to share God's grace with the world. To continue our powerful lineup of guest speakers we are excited to host Todd Willis, the son of Reverend John and Pat Willis, at Trinity on **Sunday, August 24**, in all three services. Todd will join us to speak about his work with National Justice for Our Neighbors ("NJFON") <http://njfon.org/>.

NJFON is a United Methodist ministry that welcomes our neighbors by providing free or low-cost expert immigration legal services to low-income immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Their work helps unite families, ensures that eligible immigrants can remain in the U.S. safely and lawfully, and enables immigrants to receive authorization to work. NJFON was founded by the United Methodist Committee on Relief ("UMCOR") in 1999. Presently, NJFON has 18 sites in 13 states

and the District of Columbia where volunteers and staff provide high-quality immigration legal services to more than 5,000 low-income immigrants annually. Together, these sites operate over 50 clinics, most of which have found a home in United Methodist Churches. In the clinics, volunteers set appointments, welcome clients, conduct intake interviews with new clients, and much more. Staff attorneys meet with clients in confidential sessions to provide advice and counsel. Many clients are then taken on for full representation by a JFON staff attorney.

Todd is an attorney in Orlando and



"Freedom from Fear" by Edal Rodriguez

practices at Carlton Fields. He was recently elected as president of the NJFON board where he serves as a volunteer. He also volunteers with the JFON site in Florida and is eager to share with Trinity about the ministry and work of NJFON. Please join us on August 24 to hear about this inspiring and important work.



Volunteers from the Aldersgate Sunday School class gathered to serve dinner at the Kearney Center on Memorial Day!

They meet at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday in Room 302.

All are welcome! They are currently studying **Divinity & Diversity: "The Reign of God."**

A note from our friends at Kate Sullivan Elementary

Dear friends:

It's hard to believe, but it's time to begin gearing up for another year of mentoring at Kate Sullivan Elementary School!

The first step for all new and returning mentors is to register. Just follow these quick steps:

- Go to the Leon County Schools website <https://www.leonschools.net/Page/1> "Forms & Documents" and click the Volunteer Application Form (VAF) <https://volunteers.leonschools.net/Volunteers/>

- Complete the VAF and the Mentor Agreement that will pop up when you indicate you wish to be a mentor and click submit

Note: On the first line of the VAF, you

will see a box reading "Special program or group you are representing". If you've become a mentor through an organization such as a church, civic group, or your employer, please enter that name of that organization in this box.

You will receive an email from the district's Volunteer Programs Office informing you you've been approved as a mentor. However, no mentors will begin working with students until sometime after Labor Day. Teachers need time to determine which students need mentors, and we must have parent permission forms on file before any mentor-student matches can be made. This always takes longer than any of us would like. I ask for your patience and understanding.

If you would like to work with the same student as last year, let me know and I will try to make that happen.

I am using a new email address for KSES Mentor Program correspondence - KSESmentors@comcast.net. You may contact me at any time by using that email address or calling me at 385.0275 or 443.4175.

We always need more mentors! If you have friends who would like to join you, they can do so by registering as directed above, then signing up for a training session.

Enjoy the rest of your summer! I look forward to working with you again soon.

Meg Guyton, Mentor Coordinator, Kate Sullivan Elementary School

Youth Happenings in August

Lisa Prasse Ty Revell
Youth Director Youth Ministry Intern



A Note from Lisa ...

What a whirlwind of a summer this has been!! We kicked off our summer fun with **Youth Week**, and then rolled right into an awesome week of "Shipwrecked" **VBS!** After a brief respite and some UMYF fun with Good Samaritan, we headed out for an awesome week of church camp at **Warren Willis** down in Fruitland Park. A week after camp our **MidHigh Mission trip** took us to Orlando where we worked on various different missions projects with a ministry called Led2Serve. Our youth are phenomenal. Throughout **Youth Week**, they were committed with their attendance which made the silly things we did that much more fun. Our special speaker for the week was my friend Kayla McQueen. She brought a wonderful word

Our youth were phenomenal stepping up and helping out throughout **VBS**. We had crew leaders, musicians, set up and break down help...and again, our students were wholly committed! That commitment made the entire week more fun and I was astounded at their patience and perseverance.

The top of July brought another week at our beloved **Warren Willis summer camp**.

Last year we all decided Warren Willis is a bit like Christmas and we shall carry camp in our hearts all the year through! This was such a terrific time of dedication to the Lord and one another. I'm so grateful to be able to walk alongside these kids on their journey...they're phenomenal now and only getting better. This fact has never been more evident than this summer when we had 5 Trinity alumni on staff at Warren Willis! Our very own Austin Boyd, Tyler Dickson, Hannah Duclos, Shelby Merlau, Whittnie Merlau, and Hannah Prasse! We are so pleased to see the continuing efforts of our youth striving to be God's hands and feet even after they've left Trinity!

Finally, Dr. Wiatt and I teamed up with the youth from Good Samaritan and we took our



The Trinity Mid-High Mission team worked in Orlando with some youth from Good Samaritan UMC. Yes, that's Dr. Wayne on the second row at the far left of the photo!



The beach trip to Laguna Beach is a great way to finish Youth Week.

regarding the "Fruit of the Spirit" every night. We ended that week with our Beach Retreat and came away feeling more connected to God and one another.

mid highs off to Orlando for their **mission trip**. There our youth worked tirelessly throughout the community helping those in need and building relationships with complete strangers. Their servant hearts shined so brightly. Again, I was so proud of them.

It's hard to believe how quickly summer is flying by! As summer break is winding down, we have a few more fun events on the youth calendar. Take a look and please come visit us on facebook- <https://www.facebook.com/tumctyouth/>; Instagram (@tumctyouth); or our church website <https://www.tumct.org/>.

Upcoming Events

August 5 Youth Council Meeting- 4:00pm

August 12...Back-to-School Pool Party

August 19... Youth Sunday

August 26... Confirmation Parent Meeting- 9:45am

August 26... Mission Trip Slideshow & Potluck- 6pm

Sept. 6-9..... Rock the Universe!!



The prayer circle with parents and campers before leaving for Warren Willis is a great tradition!

(ZOE continued from page 1)

There is discrimination against these laborers and employers typically give them food waste instead of good food. She did not realize all the things that could happen. At one time, a man told her to come to work for him and she went to work on his farm. At noon, he invited her inside his house to be paid. Instead, she was raped. She ran away crying and without taking any food. She reported this to the village leaders. The man was captured and is still in prison. Unfortunately, she got pregnant. Because she was weak from hunger and the pregnancy, she could not work for food. Things became even harder for her and her siblings. She could not breastfeed due to her own malnutrition and hunger. Her siblings began to beg for food and money. She took to visiting neighbors when she saw that they had visitors, to see if they would share some of their food with her family. She and her siblings were only eating 2-3 times a week at this point.

Judy went to her first ZOE meeting thinking she would get food. She was disappointed when that did not happen, but they talked of training. She thought they were crazy and she said she would not come back. Some of the other group members convinced her to come back, so she went to a second meeting. It was there that she heard ZOE would give them training, but she thought she would just use the money to buy food. Her friends convinced her to try the training. She remembered being in school and learning, and she decided to try. She decided to run a small business selling things in the market to make money while she was training. With the help of her ZOE empowerment group fund, she took a loan from the group and got that business started. Her friends helped her pay for supplies used in her sewing training. She graduated from the sewing training after 6 months. There was a 2-month wait time for the ZOE-supplied



Jean Paul outside his shop with one of his sponsors.

sewing machines (manual Singer, treadle machines), so she rented a machine. She found that she could make money to buy food and pay for the rental machine. If ZOE had given her the machine too early in the program, she would have sold it for food. She needed to develop ownership in the ZOE model before she and the other kids were ready for this bigger business. They formed a COOP and opened their shop. They each make 6,000 Rwandan Francs in a week (\$7). This money helps Judy buy food and some materials. She rented a small plot to grow potatoes and hired people to help. She and her siblings can now eat 2 meals a day and her baby has formula. She was able to build a home with the profits from her potatoes.

These are just two of the many stories we heard during our week. Our hearts broke as we listened, and many tissues were passed around. But the smiles on these kids' faces and their pride in the quality of their work and their profits was very uplifting. Their ambition, hard work, and willingness to keep striving to improve their lives and the lives of their siblings, make them wise far beyond their years.

So, what does it take to fund a ZOE Empowerment Group? Each group consists of 60-100 children, including the heads of household (usually the oldest) and all his or her siblings. The program for each group lasts for 3 years. There are multiple groups in all different stages happening at the same time. Each group is funded through churches and private donors. The total cost for funding a group is \$8,000 per year for three years (\$24,000).

The last group we visited did not have a sponsor. They just started the program in January of this year. The name of the group is Ineza. Sometime after their singing, dancing, and sharing stories I found my hand in the air offering for Trinity



The sewing COOP.



Rev. Dr. Wayne D. Whatt, Senior Pastor
Jonathan Brewster, Associate Pastor
Dr. Nick Quinton, Director of Adult Discipleship and Education
Rex Adams, Director of Communications

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to support this group. Their stories are just like the ones I have shared above, and I heard God's call for us to step in and join with them. This is not the job of a single donor, although I would never turn one away. This is a calling for our entire congregation to partner with these kids to see that their dreams of having food, shelter, work, health, and hope come true. Through us, they will know that they are loved by God.

I am looking for a committee of people to work together to raise the funds to make their dream a reality. There is a role for each of us to play, whether it be on the committee, a donor, a supporter, a prayer partner, or through various volunteer opportunities. Please contact me if you are interested in joining this ministry (jaynemittan@gmail.com). It is part of our Global Missions Ministry here at Trinity, and it is part of Global Missions for the United Methodist Church. "They will know we are Christians by our love."

Resources: "Zoe at a Glance"

ZOE

700 Waterfield Place
Garner, NC 27529

<https://www.wearezoe.org/>