



Trinity Trawler

November 2020

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Keeping Promises

A church leader tells this story of a long car trip he had taken with his wife and four-year-old son. Being trapped in a car on a long trip with a fidgety child is not a pleasant experience. The couple tried everything they could think of to get their son to sleep. But it was all to no avail. He was wide awake and fidgeting in the back seat. Finally, the man pulled the car off the road and came up with a brilliant plan. Since the child loved to play hide-and-seek, they would play hide-and-seek in the car. They told their son to close his eyes so they could hide. Then the parents crouched down in the front seat. The few moments the child had his eyes closed and his mouth shut were beautiful, the parents thought. After a minute, they said, "OK!" The child opened his eyes, rose up in his seat and with a shout of glee said, "Got Ya!" Then they did it again, but this time when they told their son to close his eyes, they waited, not one, but two minutes, before giving the signal for him to look. When they gave the signal, the child again jumped to the front seat and laughingly said, "Got Ya!" Finally, they played a third time. But this time the parents told their son they were going to need a long time to find a really good place to hide. "After we find a really good place," they said, "we promise we will give the signal." So their son closed his eyes and waited for the signal. Two minutes passed. The parents thought how wonderful the peace and tranquility was...no talking, just quiet. Three minutes passed. Four minutes. Not a sound from the back seat. The parents thought their plan had worked. Their son was asleep, at last. Finally, after seven minutes, the son rose up in the back seat with tears streaming down his face. "You said you would call me and you didn't. You said you were hiding. You promised you would give me the signal and you didn't." The boy was heartbroken. The father with deep emotion in his voice said, "We never played that game again."

We too have made a promise. When we were baptized, we made a promise to God or our parents made a promise on our behalf to carry the name of Christ and live as His children. When we joined the church and publicly confessed our faith in Christ, we promised to serve it with our prayers, presence, gifts and service. Is the Lord also heartbroken if we don't keep that promise?

What does it mean to keep our promise to God? In 1 Corinthians, Paul says we keep it by finding our place of service within the Body of Christ--the living presence of Christ in the world. Keeping the promise means becoming a disciple and living a life of service for the one whose name we take. Baptism has been called the "Rite of Responsibility." It has been so called because without responsibility, baptism lacks power. In infant baptism, our parents assume the responsibility of discipleship for us, but when we reach the age of accountability and say "Yes" by openly professing our faith, we assume the responsibility for ourselves. We are baptized in the name of Christ so that we might become a part of the living Body of Christ in the world. So that we might become His voice of comfort to a person in need and His hands of mercy to the hungry or the forgotten.

"Christ has no hands, but our hands to do his work today;

He has no feet but our feet
To lead men in His way;
He has no voice but our voice
To tell men how He died;
He has no help but our help
To lead them to His side."

(Continued on next page)

Keeping the promise is recognizing that you are part of the Body of Christ and, as a part, have a responsibility to it. But too many are unwilling to serve because they feel they have little to offer. They can't sing and they certainly would never get up in front of a crowd! Because they feel inadequate, they hesitate to serve.

The story is told of a freshman in college who seemed destined to be one of the great fullbacks in college football. Because of his size, speed and agility, this fellow had broken all sorts of records in high school and had been highly recruited by major universities. Then on a summer job in a lumber camp that he took to get in better shape, he lost a part of his big toe in a freak accident. But he not only lost his big toe--he lost his athletic career when he discovered that without that toe, he was a step slower and not nearly as agile.

The church is similar. In too many cases the "big toes" are taking a back seat. Someone has said that the modern church's dilemma is that "the priesthood of all believers has become the popehood of the pastor." I certainly don't want to minimize the gift of preaching or the role of ministerial leadership. But in the big picture, what is done behind this pulpit is no more important than what our church cooks do behind the stove or the prayer warrior does in the privacy of her home or the Christian mother behind the baby stroller.

Hundreds of thousands of people today, including senior adults, feel useless to the Kingdom of God. In the Body of Christ, they feel not like the eye or the hand, but like the big toe, and a stubbed one at that. But take away the big toes, and you've got a crippled church! Yes, the pastor is important. The committee chairpersons are important. Still, they are no more important than anyone else on the church roll because we have all been called through our baptisms to keep the promise. We have all been called to find our place of meaningful service in the body of Christ. Every one of us, and every one of our gifts, is desperately needed. We are all promise keepers!

How do you know what your gifts are? With some people it's easy to tell. Some have lovely voices and praise God through the gift of music. Others are natural born teachers. But what if your gifts are not that obvious? So, ask yourself this question: "What is it that gets my blood running? What activity do I really enjoy?" Maybe you're good with your hands and you can help a widow with home repair. There's a ministry at Trinity called "Handy Man." Do you have the gift of hospitality? Our church needs that right now. Maybe you're a good cook? Becky would love some help in the kitchen when "Wonderful Wednesdays" return. Perhaps you have the love and acceptance needed for prison ministry? Our Kairos team can use you. Can you knit? Join the prayer shawl team. The list goes on and on. All of these are ways we keep the promise and find our place of service within the body of Christ. And once you have found it, dedicate it to the Lord.

Look around. We're the Body of Christ. We have been baptized in His name. We have pledged to serve Christ with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. One day in the near future Covid will end. The ice of the pandemic will melt and we will resume our normal lives. Like the flowers of spring, a new season will bud and we will burst forth with new life and new energy. I pray that you will see this time of stillness as a time of preparation helping you prepare yourself for a new awaking of faith. Are you ready?

During our stewardship emphasis, we have the opportunity to renew the promise we made when we first said "yes" to our Lord. Let us all remember our baptisms and be thankful. Let's keep our promises by finding meaningful places of service within the Body of Christ. A new day is coming! Are you ready?

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *Amen*

Pastor Mark Hicks



AUDIO & Video Support During Sunday Worship Services

During this pandemic, Trinity has been producing the weekly Sunday Services through Facebook Live, so all our members can attend the Services virtually. We have small audio/video production systems that are used in both the main Sanctuary and Murrow Hall.

We are looking for some volunteer(s) who may have some basic knowledge of audio/video systems and production abilities to help out and support the Sunday services. If you have an understanding of configuration, setup, and operation of this type of audio & video equipment (or if you know of someone who does, and would volunteer), we would love to have your support.

Please call **Amy Edwards** at 910-363-4409 with your offer to help.



Church Center

We now have an app to make connecting with Trinity easier. Register for worship and other events, give online, discover groups you can get involved in, view our church calendar and more. You can download this app on any Android or Apple device and quickly get connected with Southport Trinity with the zip code.

A word about the codes...

On a computer, when you log in to give or to register, you will always be prompted to give your phone number or email so they can send you a code and then allow you in to the site. This feature, called two-factor authentication, is for the protection of your information. I recently emailed them to see if this was a feature we could turn off and this was their response:

“We use logging in as a form of account verification. We want to protect our customers and their identity and personal info. We always ask that you log in to verify that you are who you say you are. Bottom line, we're looking out for you. By default, all registrants will now be prompted to log in when registering. The exception to this default is Simple Signups, since there isn't a way to require personal information. Your attendees can use their mobile number to log in, however, so they'll have easier access to the log-in codes.”

If you find yourself stuck in a login loop, which can happen with some email applications, I found this to be most helpful. I delete any old login emails from Planning Center regardless of the app they are sent from. Then try to login again.

When researching church management software, the safety of your information was one of our greatest concerns. Planning Center and their Church Center app and web page are serious about your safety, whether it be just your email address, answering the Covid 19 questions, or as sensitive as your giving information. So go with the code. Yes, it is an extra step, but it is well worth it to protect our congregation to the absolute best of our ability.

Amy Edwards



*If nothing ever changed,
there would be no butterflies!*



Special Needs Welcome

Night to Shine

The congregation of Trinity UMC is excited to be an official host church for *Night to Shine*, on **February 12, 2021**, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God’s love, for people with special needs, ages 14 and older.

On one night, hundreds of churches of different denominations from all over the world will come together to celebrate people with special needs! This year’s celebration will be virtual and will honor and crown our special guests throughout Brunswick County. Trinity will be part of that celebration.

Our vision statement, *“Bursting Forth with Christ's Love for All People”*, fits with the purpose for Night to Shine. Our special needs friends often don't feel Christ's love. We want Christ's love to shine on them during this event and continue to be felt throughout the year.

If not familiar with Night to Shine, this video shows what is ahead for Trinity, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_0zJ5_CEis&feature=youtu.be .

Interested? Want to learn more or volunteer to make this a truly fantastic experience for our special needs community? Contact **Ken Huber** at members3825@gmail.com or call 910 253-9765.



Trinity Podcasts

Miss a sermon or want to hear it again? Catch up on the go with the Southport Trinity UMC Podcast. You can find the podcast on these popular sites:





Christmas Tree of Hope

Trinity members have supported the *Christmas Tree of Hope*, sponsored by Brunswick Family Assistance, for many years. We want to continue supporting this program for the children and adults who are approved by Brunswick Family Assistance. However, because of COVID-19, Trinity's method of support will be different this year.

We are asking you, who want to be a part of a Christmas celebration for children and adults who may not have a Christmas otherwise, to contribute money for as many children and adults as you choose. The staff and volunteers at Brunswick Family Assistance will then do the shopping. This change has been approved by Brunswick Family Assistance.

Please make out your check to Trinity United Methodist Church for \$90.00 per child or adult and add Christmas Tree of Hope on the MEMO or FOR line on the check. Each child or adult is allowed three wishes for no more than \$30.00 each. If you cannot contribute \$90.00, please contribute what you can or \$30.00 for one wish.

If you have questions, please contact *Earlene Campbell* at 910-409-4444 or at purplebear1@icloud.com.



Stewardship Moment

As you read this month's Trawler, we will be in the middle of our 2021 Stewardship Campaign. By now, each of you should have received your pledge informational package. Some have already made their pledge. Please make your pledge by **November 18th** either by mail or an online pledge at www.southporttrinityumc.com.

Our Campaign theme this year is "**Still Together – Sharing God's Abundance**". During the Campaign month, we have scheduled four stewardship video testimonials from members of our congregation that will provide unique perspectives on the meaning of stewardship. These video testimonies will also be available on Trinity's website and Facebook page.

As you prayerfully consider your pledge for 2021, please say a prayer of thanksgiving for the blessing of our church family still being together despite a difficult and challenging year. Please consider sharing a part of God's abundance in the form of a financial commitment to our church.

Kent Wood, 2021 Stewardship Chairperson



Christmas is Coming

It started back in July! Yep! Christmas decorations began popping up in our retail stores and many of us moaned and rolled our eyes at the sight. But, did you know that your Trinity staff started working just as early to begin getting ready for Christmas at Trinity? We knew that this year would need to look a little different so we started brain storming! With that in mind, here are a few things to look forward to this Christmas season.

On **Sunday, December 13th**, we will have a Christmas Cantata. Because most of it will be pre-recorded, like the choir's anthems are each Sunday, Bob and Amy are having some fun with combining our contemporary, traditional, and children's groups to share the story of the birth of Jesus. Five characters will walk us through the story with great music.

We will still have a limited congregation at that time, with some folks registering to view the cantata in-house, while others will watch at home via our Facebook page at 9:00AM and 11:00AM as it is live-streamed.

Christmas Eve has also been on our minds. There is something magical about singing the carols, hearing the story and lighting a candle with our church family. So, even though we cannot pack our sanctuary to the brim this year, we have found a way to make all of that possible!

We are calling it the *Stations of Christmas*. Exact times have not been determined yet, but it will be a "come when you are able" anytime during the scheduled hours event. On the evening of Christmas Eve, you will be able to experience all that our Christmas Eve services have to offer by traveling through the church to stations in groups of 15 at a time and enjoying Christmas Carols, a time of Prayer, a message by our pastors and closing with lighting candles and singing "Silent Night" under the large oak tree.

The experience will take just under an hour. More details will be coming as Christmas gets closer, but we want you to mark your calendars.

We will have Christmas Eve at Trinity and we are very excited about it.

Amy Edwards



What's Happening with Trinity United Methodist Men?

This has certainly been a year of uniqueness and Methodist Men have adjusted well. Though we have missed our monthly meetings since February, we have been staying busy with hurricane relief work, moving furniture for Operation Brotherhood and providing a takeout dinner every three weeks on Wednesday night.

Because we were unable to hold the July 4th Pancake Breakfast, we lost our primary source of fund raising for the year. This has meant that our 9-10 mission projects would be difficult to support. But due to creative thinking and teamwork, we came up with the Wonderful Wednesday Takeout. On average, 120 people have supported us and our mission work by buying \$10.00 meals that are normally \$5.00 at our usual Wonderful Wednesdays. All profits go toward supporting our missions and saving some for the next budget year. These meals will continue through the beginning of December and begin again in January 2021.

A group of 8-9 dedicated men have been ringing the steeple bell, Monday - Friday at 4:30PM since June 2020. This was an idea that originated from John Kelso to honor our essential and healthcare workers and our first responders. There will be an article on this in the State Port Pilot.

Any man interested in joining the Methodist Men may do so by contacting **Larry Burnett** at 336-577-5269 or **Chap Haddon** at 919-656-8328.

Thank you to the members of Trinity for their great support of the United Methodist Men.



With Grateful Hearts...

The Compassionate Care Ministry says, "Thanks to the wonderful Trinity volunteers! We appreciate all you do to help others with your caring, generous hearts."

So many Trinity groups, ministries and individuals have faithfully stepped up to support their fellow church members in need and, for that reason, this ministry is making a difference. Thank you to Pastor Stuart, the Pastoral Team and the staff as well.



Prayer Warriors

Our Trinity United Methodist Church family has an amazing ministry called the Prayer Warriors. Prayer is powerful! "Where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them." (Matthew 18:20)

Prayer Warriors pray for Trinity's prayer requests and praise God for celebrations and answers to prayer. The prayers take place in the privacy of the Prayer Warriors homes or wherever they are when a prayer request is requested.

If you have a prayer request or concern or want to share a celebration with this prayer chain group, email me at cat1108@aol.com or text or call at 910-880-2669. I will then email the Prayer Warriors and prayer will begin in earnest. If you know someone that needs prayer you are welcome to send me their information as well. Just ask their permission first and the Prayer Warriors will pray.

Right now there are 71 Prayer Warriors on our group email. If you would like to pray for others through this important ministry all you need to do is send me your name and email. We would love to add you to the Prayer Warriors. What a wonderful way to serve our Lord and Trinity UMC.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

Cathy Danford

Church Picnic



A church held a picnic and invited the entire community. The pastor placed a basket full of apples on one end of the table with a sign saying, "Take only one apple, please. Remember God is watching."

On the other end of the table was a plate of cookies where one of the children had placed a sign saying, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."



Creation Care News

“Let the heaven and earth praise Him, the seas and everything that moveth therein”. Psalm 69:34

Our Creation Care Team has had a busy month even though we are still in the midst of COVID-19.

Becky, with Faith’s idea, acquired 250 paper bags that are being used for the United Methodist Men’s “Wonderful Wednesday To Go Meal” at least once a month. We are reducing plastic carry bags as well as using biodegradable containers. These paper carry bags help keep our Trinity patrons Covid safe and support our Ocean Friendly Establishment Guidelines to decrease plastic in the environment and our waters. You can reuse the bag as well for the grocery store or other items. Plastic bags take 5-10 years to decompose, while paper takes about a month to decompose. Please remember to use cloth bags when grocery shopping or doing any shopping as this reduces plastic use.

On ***Sunday, November 22nd***, Creation Care will be the theme for the worship services. This connects with “Harvest” and Thanksgiving that week. Please come in person or view on Facebook to learn more about God’s creation and how we can be stewards of His creation in today’s world!

Environment NC (Action for Greener Healthier NC) is working on banning Styrofoam and single use plastic in North Carolina, as well as finding cost efficient alternatives as we have done at TUMC.

The low-pressure reverse osmosis system (RO) is underway to remove regulated and unregulated PFAs including GenX that are present in the Cape Fear River. The project will be finished June 2023. Efforts have been made by Grassroots organizations such as Cape Fear River Watch and NC Environmental Law Center to hold Chemours accountable and help pay for a PFAs Community Relief Fund to impacted Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender county residents where PFAs are high. Our CCT will follow-up on the water quality from Cape Fear River and our area.

Creation Justice Tip: Less meat in our diets has proven to be healthier for the planet and for people especially given the Covid restrictions and the conditions for workers in meat processing facilities. Try a “Meatless Monday” by cutting beef one day a week, and reducing emissions by 15%!

Enjoy your fall, be safe and pray about our earth daily.

Peggy Lacey, Creation Care Chair

Team: Becky Felton, Carol Grosbier, Carolyn Vey,

Faith Sexton, Erna Bower, Bonnie Carver,

Ann Meccarielli

More Close Encounters through Missions

Leading up to Easter, our worship theme was “*Close Encounters with Jesus*” and I wrote an article for the June *Trawler* telling about the ministry of our church to a person whose life was changed by Hurricane Florence.

Now, four months later, I want to share a story with you about a family that Trinity has ministered to during the COVID crisis. The Hayes family lost their mobile home to an electrical fire on March 2nd. At the time of the fire, the father, Chris Hayes, was in the hospital. Fortunately, none of the family members were injured in the fire, but they had nowhere to live. For several weeks, the family lived in a motel room, but this arrangement ended when the motel was able to rent rooms to out-of-town folks coming for vacations.

Trinity, and other churches and groups, stepped in to provide funds to help purchase a small camper, demolish the mobile home, clear the lot and begin preparations for building a small home on the lot. A Go Fund Me page has been set up and these funds will be used for the building process. An architect who works with the Southport Oak Island Interchurch Fellowship has provided plans for a small house which will fit on the lot that the Hayes family purchased a year ago. During this process, the mother, Lori, has continued working at a local grocery store, but Chris has been unable to return to his construction job due to a diagnosis of liver cancer. Lori and Chris are very appreciative of the support they have been provided during this difficult time.

The Hayes family is a perfect example of the type of families that will be served by the Transitional Housing project that is moving forward with the strong support of TUMC. Through the newly founded Brunswick Partnership for Housing, now officially a 501(c) 3, the steps required to purchase a building on East 11th Street in Southport are progressing. As this project becomes a reality, there will be many opportunities for TUMC to participate in this new ministry to families in our community, ***so stay tuned!***

During the months that we have been socially distancing, our Mission Committee has remained active in many other ways. The Handyman Ministries and Operation Brotherhood are providing home repairs and furnishings to families and we are providing appliances to those impacted by Florence through a grant from the NC Community Foundation.

Using mission line item funds, we continue to minister to homeless individuals, to students in our area schools and to families who need food and medical care and are served by numerous local agencies that we support financially.

During our upcoming stewardship campaign, we will share more about the work of Trinity’s Missions which is funded by your contributions to our General Fund. Thanks to each of you for your prayers and financial support. ***Becky Felton, Mission Committee Chairperson***



Birthday Card Shower

Birthday Card Shower

The Trinity Church family is invited to help brighten the birthdays of their fellow church members who are confined to nursing homes and or residential healthcare facilities. In that these members are completely isolated from family and friends during the Coronavirus pandemic, there is no doubt the joy of a birthday “card shower” would be welcomed and appreciated.

The plan is to continue this new tradition as long as healthcare facilities do not permit face-to-face visitations. The names of these church members and their addresses are now available starting with this issue of the Trawler. There are currently volunteer card writers at work sending cards on a routine basis, but this will be in addition to that.

If we inadvertently omit any Trinity member from the Trawler list of residents in nursing home/residential healthcare facilities, please let us know. We will make every effort to keep this list current, with your help! Keep in touch with the Compassionate Care Ministry at trinitycareministry107@gmail.com.

We are aware of the following Trinity family members living in healthcare residences. We invite everyone to participate in a “card shower” on the following birthdays of Trinity family members.

Birthday	Recipient	Residence	Address
November 30	Ericson, Betty	SPT Health & Rehab Center	4407 Willow Moss Way SPT
December 24	Berry, Bill	Elmcroft of SPT	1125 E.Leonard St. SPT
February 8	Clary,Jim	Elmcroft of SPT	1125 E.Leonard St. SPT
April 23	Davis, Bobbie (Barbara)	Universal Health Care	1070 Old Ocean Hwy., Bolivia, NC 28422
June 6	Lee, David	SPT Health & Rehab Center	630 Fodale St. SPT
September 15	Keefe, Jennifer	Clapps Nursing Center	5229 Appomattox Rd. Pleasant Garden, NC 27313
October 18	Pritchard, Herb	Elmcroft of SPT	1125 E. Leonard St. St. SPT

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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| 1. Corrie, Jane
Murray, John | 12. Wood, Kent | 22. Geddings, Ed
Loughlin, Joe
Wadsworth, Bertie |
| 2. Eagle, Anne
Honoré, Jack | 13. Gilbert, Jim
Westhausen, Kathleen | 23. Losch, Mary Beth
Scalzo, Leslie |
| 3. Frye, Sherry
Mote, Joshua
Walker, David | 14. Ewan, Buzz
Weaver, Jen | 24. Huntsman, Christine
Jess, Elva |
| 4. Collins, Don
Hrabica, Ginny
McFarland, Sherri
Nichols, Sue | 15. Porter, Trisha
Shaw, Terry | 25. Farmer, LaCinda
Terry, Elli |
| 6. Matteotti, Miriam
Nichols, Mike | 16. Holleman, John
Onofrietti, Jean | 26. Bisogno, Joan
Jones, Harold |
| 7. Marks, Bob
Pierce, Jonah | 17. Crotts, Earl
Devon, Cheryl
Dunn, David
Eagle, Gene
Glosser, Tina | 27. Gardiner, Alice
Griffith, Linda
McClure, Teesie
Wilson, Don |
| 8. Buchanan, Danielle
Edwards, Guy | 18. Schultz, Vi
Stancil, Jonathan | 28. Clewis, Barbara |
| 9. Lacey, Peggy
Lewis, Gary
Wells, Gene | 19. Edwards, David | 29. Nay, David |
| 10. Huber, Carol | 20. Ertlschweiger, John
Smutko, Catherine | 30. Ericson, Betty
Kohr, Patti |
| 11. Cauchi, Jennifer
Spiliotis, Peter | 21. Bertz, Steve
Corrie, Bruce
Guyton, Tonya | |