



Trinity Trawler

April 2021

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GOOD NEWS!



For most of the last year, the focus has been getting through the pandemic safely, adapting to things as they occurred, and above all, discerning God's best next steps. I am amazed and grateful that God has continued to do amazing things in, and through, Southport Trinity UMC!

The good news is that the numbers of COVID cases continue to decline and there is an increase in the numbers of people receiving vaccinations. Here are a few things happening at Trinity that will help us begin to slowly discover our "next normal"...

BACK TO THREE WORSHIP SERVICES!! I am very excited about in-person worship and our return to holding three services each Sunday morning. Beginning on Palm/Passion Sunday, which is March 28th, we will hold an **8:00AM traditional/casual service in the Sanctuary**, a **9:30AM contemporary service in Murrow Hall** and an **11:00AM traditional service in the Sanctuary**. While I make a lot of mistakes, that was not a misprint. **The early service will begin at 8:00AM.** We moved the service back 15 minutes in order to make it easier to sanitize and give the volunteers and staff a greater window to get ready for the next service. We understand that not everyone is ready to come back and many of you will begin to travel again, so we are thrilled to share that **our 9:30AM and 11:00AM services will be streamed live on Facebook and be available afterwards on our Facebook page.** You do not need to have a Facebook account to watch.

For in-person worship, we will still require masks, have social distancing, and need everyone to register at www.southporttrinityumc.com or on our Church Center app. At the time of this writing, we are abiding by the state's 30% of capacity rule which allows us to have 75 in our Sanctuary and 100 in Murrow Hall. As more restrictions are relaxed and the numbers and science dictate, we will increase capacity. **The return to 3 services is a welcome move in the right direction!**

CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL: Last March, we shut down our every week Sunday School and young people activities. Of course, we still had activities for our young people, but they were less consistent and at times difficult to accomplish. We are so very excited to once again be able to hear the laughter and joyful noise of young disciples. Our youth will begin to have Sunday School, as well as gather on Wednesdays. Our Children's Ministry will have Sunday School and are also making big plans for the fall. Exciting things are being planned!!

SPECIAL SERVICES: While we are excited about in-person worship, our **Maundy Thursday (April 1) and Good Friday (April 2)** services will be online only. Details are still being worked out, but on Maundy Thursday we will visit the Upper Room and experience anew the events of that special night. Our Good Friday worship will be a special interactive stations of the cross. We anticipate recording the services from around the area to help us experience the road which Jesus took to the cross and how His suffering brings us salvation.

EASTER CHANGES EVERYTHING! The Coronavirus pandemic has caused significant grief and major changes in the ways we have done things this past year. It has been hard on each one of us in different ways. However, we come to Easter this year knowing that the virus has not gotten the best of us. Jesus is risen and that changes everything. We may be down, but Jesus is risen so we are not out. We may be struggling, but Jesus is risen and therefore, we know there is hope. Life may have changed, but Jesus is risen and holds our future. Throughout the year, we have held tightly to the good news of Jesus and we move forward and we move out with the **Good News that He is risen!** Yes, we are "moving out" with the good news of Jesus! Oh, and we are moving out from Easter to a world that desperately needs good news. We are "Moving Out" to the world, and you will hear much more about what that means because that will also be the title of the upcoming after Easter sermon series. **God is calling us to move out...**

Stuart



Children's Ministry

We have been very busy in our Children's Ministry since March 2020. There has been a lot going on behind the scenes since we have not been able to be together.

We did an individual Easter egg hunt for the kids at their homes, delivering and hiding over 5,000 eggs! During the summer, we held a virtual Vacation Bible School with 25 kids attending. During Advent, we delivered Advent boxes that families could work on together. Some of our kids were able to get together and act out the Christmas Story at Ellen Dorsett's Pole Barn and we were also able to sing for The City of Southport's virtual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

The rugs in our six classrooms were replaced with Pergo Extreme "wood look" flooring. The funding for this came from Trinity's Memorial/Honor Fund, from the sale of chicken pot pies made by some of Trinity's best cooks and from several generous direct donations for the floors. We were able to deliver Bibles to our kindergarten and new Sunday school students with a total of 11 bibles given out. This year we will have two Easter egg hunts, one for individual children at their homes and a group gathering for those that are able to join us.

We are looking forward to being together again soon. Our children will begin meeting on Sundays at 9:30AM for Sunday School and Nursery beginning March 28, 2021.

We are hoping to have some remodeling done in our children's area during the summer. We would like to create a new welcome and worship area in the front lobby, add some paint to the hallway and fix some flooring in the bathrooms.

We are going to be introducing our new name and mission statement which is **Trinity Sparks-Kindling Christ's Love for All**. We are working on a new logo as well. Keep an eye out for more information.

We are expecting to continue to pick up kids from school on Wednesday nights for our Kidz N Praise Program in the fall. More details will follow later this summer.

Our Vacation Bible School this year is going to be so exciting and a little bit different as well! We will have VBS Thursday, June 24th through Saturday June 26th. It will be held outside, at Ellen Dorsett's Pole Barn, where many of our church activities have been held. Our theme this year is **Moses in the Wilderness, God Guides and Provides**. What better place than the Pole Barn with tents outside, learning how God guides and provides for us! Keep an eye out for more information on volunteering opportunities and registration.

We are SO Thankful for your continued support and prayers for our children and their families.

Sonia Reeves, Children's Ministry Director



2021 Methodist Men at Work

The Methodist Men are hard at work under our old theme of "Together We Can" serving our Lord through a commitment to helping where we can and are able.

We are continuing our Wonderful Wednesday Takeout Meals until we are able to safely enjoy our regular Wonderful Wednesday program again. Below is our schedule of meals through June. All proceeds go toward missions.

April 7, 2021 - Easter theme with ham and fixings

May 5, 2021 - Cinco de Mayo theme with Mexican food

June 9, 2021 - End of year with Country Style steak and fixings

On **April 28th**, Methodist Men will be providing food in recognition of our health care workers and first responders. This will be done during the lunch hour from 11:00AM to 2:00PM. We will be located near Doshier Hospital and the Southport Fire Department. This will be open to any Trinity member who wishes to help.

During the last week of February, several hardy souls spent three days helping remove debris from the yards of several homes that sustained damage from the tornado. We worked with a college team from Wrightsville Beach Baptist and had lunch with a Mennonite group from Idaho. It was good seeing how God brought us all together, from different walks of life, to help others.

Our July 4th Pancake Breakfast is still a possibility, but will certainly have to be done differently than in the past.

Larry Burnett



God Gave Only 10

A state representative returned home from a recent session of the legislature and began to strut and brag about their successes. While caught up in this spirit of accomplishment, he met Grandpa, the preacher, on the street and stated, "We've just passed 79 laws in three months; how many have you passed at the church?"

In his forceful, subdued manner, the preacher responded, "Well, lawyer, you're doing better than God. He gave us only 10!"

(The NEWSLETTER Newsletter)



Space Age Technology **for a Historic Church**

While 76 years newer than the original Trinity United Methodist Church, the current sanctuary is still over 130 years old! Its interior walls and ceilings are made from Carolina heartpine boards, which also frame the twenty-four stained glass lancet styled windows. According to the U. S. Forest Service, heartpine is hardwood from the inside of the tree that is likely over 200 years old. So now we're talking about wood that began growing in the 17th century!

The wood is certainly a signature feature of the Church, but due to its age, it can smell musty. Wood is porous and can soak up that beautiful, humid Southport moist sea air, as well as other smells of its surroundings. It acts as a sponge sopping up microorganisms and contaminants which not only lead to unpleasant smells, but could produce molds, mildew, fungi and other microbes leading to compromised air quality.

To alleviate these issues, the Trustees have recently installed a relatively new proprietary technology which uses light waves and a catalytic process to produce scrubber ions that travel through the ductwork into every corner of the sanctuary, effectively treating and purifying the entire space! This technology continuously protects and purifies the air. It attacks, removes and destroys up to 99% of all airborne and surface contaminants!

Other benefits include removal of volatile organic compounds (VOC's), protection from allergy and asthma triggering contaminants and has been proven effective against Staph, MRSA, E. coli, Strep and many other harmful pathogens. In fact, this technology is presently seeking emergency FDA approval to fight Covid 19.

It will create a cleaner, safer environment for you our church family. Next time you're in the sanctuary take a deep breath and smell the freshness!

For more information go to:
<https://www.airscrubberbyaerus.com>.

George Arndt
Member, Trustees Committee



"Bursting Forth with Christ's Love" **Trinity's Mission Committee**

As we move from winter into the spring of 2021, Trinity continues to be involved in many mission activities that are supported by your contributions to the General Fund including:

- Disaster relief: Thanks to the Handyman Ministry, teams from TUMC who provided labor and equipment on three days to help with the clean up from the tornado that hit our neighbors in southern Brunswick County.
- Winter Shelter: BC Streetreach received more than 900 calls for assistance this season and provided shelter at motels across the county as well as in a campsite. Food cards were distributed and more than 80% of the individuals served were moved into temporary or permanent housing. Funding from TUMC and other churches made this possible.
- Through the Creation Care team, TUMC received a grant to provide environmentally friendly supplies for use in the Wonderful Wednesday meals during the pandemic. TUMC is the only church in the Cape Fear area to be designated as an Ocean Friendly establishment. Work is underway to encourage other churches and businesses to join this effort.
- Transitional Housing efforts continue through the Brunswick Partnership for Housing (see the separate article for details) and our work with the Hayes family.
- Operation Brotherhood continues to provide furnishings for families in need including those whose homes were damaged by Florence.
- Coming up? Look for information next month about new outreach efforts including ministry to folks in our community and across the world.
- **Please continue to circle all of Trinity's ministries in prayer.**

Becky Felton
Chair, TrinityMission Committee



Trinity is Preparing
to
Train Small Group Leaders

***“God doesn’t call the qualified,
He qualifies the called.”***

(Mark Batterson, author of The Circle Maker)

“Small groups help us live together as God's family and engage in God's mission. It's where a crowd becomes a community and how we grow in relationship with God and those around us.”

(Rick Hove, author of The Ultimate Roadtrip: A Guide to Leading Small Groups.)

We currently have three organized types of small groups at Trinity and some loosely defined groups that are centered on a special interest, a common need or a mission.

The last major training event for leaders of small groups was held in 2010-2011. That event was monumental in effort and its focus on ChristCare group leaders. At that time, we had no media library and no source for electronic material. Our library is currently quite adequate and the church has a subscription to Amplify which provides an extensive DVD library online.

The E-Teams were formed out of a UMM retreat experience about that same time. We have some leaders of stand-alone Bible Studies, but that number is very small. There is a need for additional trained leaders.

Pastor Mark, Debby Surniak and a small committee are planning a training event for new, small group leaders. Please pray about how God can use your gifts and talents to help Trinity increase our Small Group offerings.

Watch for future announcements about this event to occur in April and/or May. Registration will be done through Church Center online.

Please contact **Debby Surniak** at disurniak@gmail.com or call her at 910-253-4987.



Bringing Transitional
Housing to Our Community

The work that TUMC has done over the past five years with Winter Shelter Ministry has come to fruition with the establishment of the Brunswick Partnership for Housing (BPH). BPH was established in 2019 and received official nonprofit status as a 501(c)3 organization in 2020. The goals of BPH are to provide transitional housing for individuals and families in need in Brunswick County and to advocate for affordable housing. After searching for years for a building to house families, BPH purchased a building from Doshier Hospital on East 11th street that will be refitted to house four apartments.

In January 2021, BPH officially announced its Capital Campaign with a goal of raising \$600,000 over the next two years. Funds will be used to renovate the building, make improvements to the building site, retire the mortgage and cover program operating expenses. Thanks to the funds that have already been provided by the generosity of the Southport Oak Island Interchurch Fellowship and individual churches that have contributed \$110,000 to date, improvements to the site have begun and work on the building is planned for the spring.

Sally Learned, an ordained Deacon of St. Phillip’s Episcopal Church, has been named the first executive director of BPH. She brings many years of experience with nonprofit agencies in NC. Under her direction, grant applications are being submitted and we have already received two grants: A Seed Grant from the United Methodist Church to support personnel to recruit and train volunteers who will work with the families, and a grant from the Southport Rotary Club will provide paint and supplies for the building as well as volunteer labor. As work progresses, there will be a need for volunteer labor, but all construction work will be done under the supervision of professional contractors to ensure safety and quality of the work.

At this time, our primary need is for funds to complete the work on the building and to retire the loan. Contributions are tax-deductible and the simplest way to contribute is through the BPH website at brunswickpartnership.org. Checks can also be mailed to BPH, 4891 Long Beach Road SE, Suite 3, #311, Southport, NC 28461.

Brochures are available that describe the ministry. Thanks to many of you, Trinity has been instrumental in this effort and we look forward to helping this ministry to grow.

Becky Felton,
TUMC Mission Chair and BPH Board Member



Spring Cleaning the Green Way

The Creation Care Committee believes that everyone should care about the environment. We believe that everyone should do as much as they can to protect Mother Earth. So, before you begin annual spring cleaning ask yourself, "Why should I use products that are harmful to me and the environment?" Instead, use a few common household items to get the job done. Here are some ways to go green:

- ✓ Spring cleaning doesn't have to result in a trash can full of used paper towels. Instead, try reusable scrub brushes, wood fiber cellulose, or homemade cloth cleaning rags. Greener options include natural sponges made of wood-pulp cellulose. Your best bet? Cultivate luffa (a.k.a. "loofah") in your garden and grow your own "sponge gourds."
- ✓ A clean house is often associated with a "fresh" smell, so it's ironic that synthetic air fresheners could be contaminating homes with phthalates or formaldehyde. To really freshen up a room, try opening the windows first. Next, invest in pollution-reducing houseplants.
- ✓ Before washing clothes, remember that some fancy-smelling products are full of nasty chemicals that can end up in the river and the ocean. Consider using plant-based, biodegradable laundry soap. Worried about your whites? Instead of chlorine bleach, scan the store's shelves for a nontoxic alternative. And skip the fabric softener altogether.
- ✓ Now that the weather's warmer, instead of tossing your damp clothes into the dryer, hang them outside. Line-drying uses zero energy (except your own). If the weather doesn't permit (or for more delicate items), invest in an inexpensive drying rack that you can set up inside.
- ✓ Dry cleaning results in your clothes being doused in a chemical that's linked to cancer and air pollution. Try to find a local eco-friendly dry cleaner. Or, in your dryer use dryel cleaning bags with a special cloth inside which are great for wool or "dry clean only clothes." Hand washing in cool water or in your washing machine on the delicate cycle is often another suitable alternative. (Remember that dry cleaning isn't always necessary even if the care instructions say it is.) Better yet, avoid buying clothes labeled "dry clean only."

- ✓ To shine your wood furniture, make a simple dusting mixture of lemon juice and olive oil. Try using a wool dusting cloth because static electricity draws dust to wool. The next best thing is a cotton rag made from an old t-shirt.
- ✓ When washing windows, fill a spray bottle with a vinegar and water mixture. Scrub with newspapers to avoid streaking.

Other facts to remember:

**Sonoco, the recycling plant in Wilmington, accepts ONLY #1 and #2 plastics.

**Please use cloth bags at the grocery store. If you have to use plastic bags, please reuse them and/or return them to the recycle bins at the stores. If you place them in your curbside recycling bins, they will tangle the machines at SONOCO.

*If you have any questions for the Creation Care Team, please contact **Peggy Lacey** at peg4bells@yahoo.com.*

Submitted by Erna Bower



Stewardship Moment

Thanks to the generosity of our Trinity membership, our year-to-date pledged donations are ahead of budgeted amounts. This combined with other giving puts the Church in a positive financial position for the first quarter of 2021.

Everyone should receive their personal quarterly giving statement along with Trinity's quarterly financial statement around the middle of April. You can also go to Trinity's Church Center web page and see your pledge and giving amounts under your Profile.

"Luke 21: 1-4 shows the way that Jesus defined generosity – not by the size of the gift, but by the condition of the heart from which it is given."

*(A Disciples Path by James A. Harnish)
Kent Wood, Stewardship Chair*



April Birthdays

1. Bonnie Carver
David Rhodes
2. Annika Cox
Ava Cox
Connie Enis
Skylar Fairweather
Boston Williams
3. George, Arndt
Woody Johnson
Jace Kiger
4. Lucas Bonney
Keren Callari
Renee Dooley
Sherri Fox
Lauralynn Williams
5. Mary Ellen Sandage
6. Barb Dougherty
David Lee
Linnea Stanley
7. Joyce Bennett
8. Warren Bailey
Madeline Brazeal
Jackie Hawley
Pat Styers
9. Carl Bennett
Rowan Hughes
10. Rick Loehr
Fisher Rogerson
11. Chloe Slease-Caison
Anne Williams
12. Megan Pierce
13. Marilyn Stelzer
14. Carlyle, Kee
Stephanie Rudloff
16. Marcy Merkle
17. Hannah Greer
18. Ben Edwards
Cheyenne Green
Brenda Holt
Bobbie Johnson
Jane O'Neal
19. Nicole Simpson
Catherine Webster
20. Matthew Smutko
21. Mark Gillen
Jennifer Strayer
Deborah Suiter
22. Stuart Callari
Cindy Humphrey
George Kassler
Richard McIntosh
Anne Simmons
Jessica Slease-Truette
Carol Thranhardt
23. Maryann Darzano
25. Jane Kee
Ann Todd
26. George Carter
Becky Cleary
Leigh Pope
28. Earl Clewis
John Mitchell
29. Dawson Price
Ed Wallace
30. Diane Juda
Wes Juda
Grady Pope