



# Trinity Trawler

## February 2020

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## Seasons



As I sit down to write this article, I am amazed with the weather; specifically how warm it has been this winter. While there have been a few cool days, and the weather channels I follow say there is a cold front moving in, overall it has not really seemed much like winter. I have been able to exercise outside and my sweaters have not been getting much wear these past few weeks. I have even had the A/C on a few days! Of course I love it and hope this season of warmth continues, but I also am aware that cooler weather will come soon and I will have my fill and be ready for spring to really arrive.

The seasons of life are not limited to weather, of course. Individuals and communities experience different seasons of life. The writer of Ecclesiastes says, **“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”** I am probably showing my age, but I can’t think about that verse without adding the words, “To everything, Turn, Turn, Turn,” as the Byrds famously sang in the 60s.

I have been reflecting a little bit about the season that Trinity has been living through this past year. It has been a season of transition and grief. Over the past year, we have said good-bye to many Saints and friends. We have lost 12 members by death as well as others who were part of our extended family. Many of these were well known, not only in our church, but also because they were very active in the community. Several families have moved from the area to be closer to family or for health reasons. Yes, in some ways, it has been a tough season.

Through all the seasons of life, we are reminded that God walks with us. We don’t control when the seasons of life begin or end. In the midst of calm and warm seasons, there are still days of difficulty and in the middle of difficult seasons, there are spells of joy. During all our seasons of life, the highs and lows, the cold and the heat, we are reminded that God remains and is always at work even if we don’t see it.

Through the winds and storms of life, we remember the One who calms the storms. Through the days and weeks when the anxiety of transition seems to rule, we have one on whom we can cast all our cares. During the times when grief seems overwhelming and we don’t know what will happen next, we can be certain that God holds us tight.

There is a great song in our Hymnal that reminds us that through all the seasons, God is at work.

*“In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.” –  
Hymn of Promise, UMH, 707, Natalie Sleeth*

I remain grateful for you and the ways you continue to show each other and the world that God is doing great things. We may not always see, but we can trust that God is at work. **Blessings, Pastor Stuart**



## Creation Care News

We are busy! Creation Care Ministry is hosting the “**Earthkeeper’s Training**” for the NCUMC Conference on February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> here at Trinity.

Dr. Dan Joranko, Professor at Vanderbilt Divinity University and Assistant Leader of Creation Care Minister for the UMC, along with Shamiso Mupara from Zimbabwe will be sharing information about **Creation Care** at all worship services on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

Shamiso will spend time with the youth during Sunday school to share that Zimbabwe is an **Environmental Buddie**. We are excited to have them share with us.

In other news, recent newspaper articles have stated that overseas countries are not buying many recyclable plastics anymore because recycling plastics is becoming very expensive. SO, the new word for 2020 is **REFUSE!** The only solution is to reduce the amount of plastic we dispose of. Using reusable shopping bags and water bottles are a great starting place.

### God’s Creation by Erna Bower

Mother Earth is blue and green,  
A majestic sphere surrounded by black space.  
The birds preen.  
Tree branches lean.  
The rivers team.  
In all this we see God’s face.

REUSE, REDUCE, RECYCLE used to be the motto.  
Now the newest “R” is REFUSE.  
Tell every fellow.  
Support the correct lingo.  
To do otherwise would be a no-no.  
Preserve the creation or else we all lose.

Stewards of this creation everyone must be.  
God relies on each one of us to do our part.  
Much to do and see.  
It’s not me;  
It’s the collective “WE”.  
Ask yourself, do you have the heart?  
(My thanks to Erna Bower, a member of Trinity’s  
Creation Care Ministry, for sharing this poem.)

Do you have questions about Creation Care? Contact **Nancy Keziah** at [nrkeziah@gmail.com](mailto:nrkeziah@gmail.com) or at 910-520-7292 to become a part of this ministry.



## Hospice Meals of Love

Trinity United Methodist Church has been participating in this ministry since 2012 by sharing the love of Christ with family and friends of Hospice patients.

Every 2nd Thursday of the month, we provide a lunchtime meal for 10-12 people at the SECU Hospice House of Brunswick located at 955 Mercy Lane SE in Bolivia. It is about 1 mile south of Brunswick Community College.

We need volunteers to provide a meal in the months January thru December 2020. Please contact **Kathy Yarnell** if you are able to help. Call her at 910-622-0680 or email her at [kyarnell19@icloud.com](mailto:kyarnell19@icloud.com).



## Who is Behind the Scenes of the Trawler?

### The Trawler Team keeps the presses rolling!

Special thanks to the following who help prepare Trinity's monthly newsletter:

- Those who submit articles
- Coordination - Earlene Campbell.
- Organizing and typing articles - Joan Madsen (Editor)
- Proof readers -Linda Jenkins, Brenda Quanstrom
- Copying - Steve Lange
- Folding and address labeling:  
Joy Burton, Earlene Campbell, Carolyn and Ray Hubbard, Jane and Carlyle Kee, Linda Lange, Pat Riccie, Eleanor Sullivan and Bertie Wadsworth
- Preparing the folded copies for the post office - Pat Riccie, Earlene Campbell
- Writing the checks for postage -- Rick Stelzer, Sue Crippen
- Preparing the volunteer schedule - Earlene Campbell, Joan Madsen
- Preparing the address labels and ordering supplies - Pam Jaschke

*Submitted by Earlene Campbell*



## Southport Oak Island Interchurch Fellowship

Since 1994, churches in our area have banded together to “offer a united witness of Christ” in our community. Trinity UMC has been an active member of this organization for many years.

The SOIICF is responsible for the Food Pantry located in Boiling Spring Lakes which is the largest food pantry in Brunswick County serving thousands of individuals each year. In November 2019, the Food Pantry served 2,280 individuals (including 655 families) which is the highest number ever served.

Not surprisingly, the purchase of food items (over \$92,000 worth during 2019) is the single largest item in the SOIICF budget of over \$165,000 for the past year. Additional funds were used this year to purchase a lot adjacent to the pantry as well as a Freightliner to transport food items.

Other programs of the SOIICF include the Human Needs Fund that provides emergency funds (up to \$250 per family) primarily for utilities, rent, and medical bills. During 2019, 53 individuals/families were served and more than \$8,000 in help was provided.

In addition, the churches of the SOIICF provide worship services to our nursing home residents, organize ecumenical worship services at Thanksgiving and Lent and support the MLK Celebration each year.

In partnership with BC Streetreach, SOIICF churches provide shelter and meals for homeless individuals and families during the winter months. During the 2018-19 winter sheltering, 178 clients were provided 312 nights of shelter as well as hot meals for a cost of over \$9,000.

Your generous contributions each year support these efforts.

**Becky Felton**



**Child: “Grandma would say, “Yes”**

**Mother: “Well, it sounds like my Mom is way cooler than yours.!”**



## A Great Opportunity

**This is a great opportunity to serve the Lord!**

Are you at ease with the use of a computer? Trinity has an opening on the Finance Committee for someone to handle the online giving administration.

It is generally a “help desk” for those having trouble using the software for giving, but also requires a weekly backup and compiling reports to forward to the bookkeeper. This can be accomplished on your home computer.

If you think God is calling you to this position, please contact **Don Collins** at [greenmolly@aol.com](mailto:greenmolly@aol.com) or **Marty Loughlin** at [marty28461@gmail.com](mailto:marty28461@gmail.com).



## Stewardship Moment

My thanks to all of you who submitted your stewardship pledges for 2020. Because of your generosity, we have obtained pledges for almost 70% of our Church budget needs for 2020. This allows the Trustees and the Church Staff to appropriately plan for the Church operations for the year and to continue the many outreach programs that Trinity offers.

We also received \$79,000 in pledges for the Building Fund which will allow us to continue reducing the mortgage on the Church Property.

I also send thanks to Nancy Keziah for her years of service as Stewardship Chair. I know she will do great things as the new Chair of the Creation Care Committee.

By the way, if you have not already done so, you can still make your pledges online or by turning in your pledge card.

“Each of you gives, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Cor. 9:7

**Kent Wood, Stewardship Chair**



## **Extravagant Generosity**

### **A Good Start for 2020**

We start the year 2020 following a very successful stewardship campaign. Our pledges account for a significant amount of the budget, so I want to thank those members who provided us with pledge cards. We had over 180 pledges for the campaign. This information will lead us into 2020 with great expectations of service to our Lord and Savior. God is good!

The 2020 budget represents a 3% decrease from the 2019. This decrease is primarily a result of the refinancing of the church loan. The loan, originally due in 2024, has been extended another 30 months to 2027. All other budget items remain relatively stable. The Trustee's budget has been increased to account for an increase in our liability insurance. There is also a modest decrease in our traditional music worship. The budget is scheduled to be approved by the Finance Committee and Church Council in January.

Some of the budget highlights are detailed below:

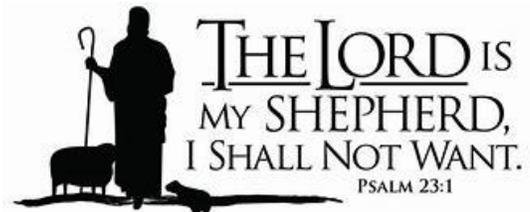
- A modest 2% salary increase to staff
- Provision for a full year with Pastor Hicks
- An increase of seven new missions
- A modification of our church loan (a 30 month extension)

Another bit of good news is the financial results of 2018. The preliminary results show the General Fund had a surplus of over \$7,000. General Fund giving exceeded budget and most expenses were right on budget. I thank all those who had budget responsibilities in 2019 for keeping us on track.

One final good news story is in regard to our mortgage debt. When we started the Capital Campaign five years ago, we refinanced the debt on Murrow Hall and combined it with the purchase debt on the Annex building. We started at \$1,800,000 and have paid that down to less than \$330,000 at year end.

God is Good...All the Time!

*Don Collins*  
*Finance Chairman*



### **Indian Version of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm**

***The Great Father above is a Shepherd Chief. I am His, and with Him I want not.***

***He throws out to me a rope and the name of the rope is love and He draws me to where the grass is green and the waters not dangerous. I eat and lie down satisfied.***

***Sometimes my heart is very weak and falls down, but He lifts me up again and draws me onto a good road. His name is Wonderful.***

***Sometimes, it may be very soon, it may be longer, it may be a long, long time, He will draw me into a place between the mountains. It is dark there, but I'll draw back not. I'll be afraid not, for it is in there, between the mountains, that the Shepherd Chief will meet me. There the hunger that I have felt in my heart all through this life will be satisfied.***

***Sometimes he makes the love rope into a whip, but afterwards He gives me a staff to lean on. He spreads a table before me with all kinds of food. He puts His hands upon my head and all the "tired" is gone. My cup He fills till it runs over.***

***What I tell you is true. I lie not. Those roads that are away will stay with me through this life and afterwards, I will go live in the Big Teepee and sit down with the Shepherd Chief forever.***

*(Author Unknown)*



### **February Birthdays**

1. Brookins, Ally  
Saathoff, Pam  
Surniak, Len
2. Culbreth, Steve  
Rutledge, Jim
3. Cather, Barbara  
Thomas, Jack
4. Caison, Jessica  
Cornelius, Wanda  
Spiliotis, Joanna
6. Beane, Beth  
Johnson, Kathy
7. Burnett, Larry  
Lloyd, Donald  
Reebel, Karen  
Wells, Diana
8. Clary, Jim
9. Clewis, Wyatt  
Flynn, Susan
10. Randolph, Jack
11. Jones, Fairley
12. Patterson, Lee  
Wood, Betty
14. Dunn, Ginger  
King, Nellie  
Pierce, Bill
15. Kirk, Lachian  
O'Neal, James  
Moberg, Kate  
Moore, Peter
16. Culbreth, Wanda
17. Bris-Bois, Doug  
Griffith, Jim
18. Ross, Rodney
19. Doe, Judy  
Starnes, Zeb
22. Nicholas, Kathy
23. Heldreth, Bill  
Rueckel, Wally
24. Bland, Caroline  
Hubble, Rhett  
Jacobsen, John
25. Bland, Amy  
Slease, Jayne
26. Allen, John  
Wheeler, Jim
27. Aman, Shawna  
Carter, Bruce  
Richardson, Landon  
Sherrod, Jacob
28. Board, Tracy