



Trinity Trawler

October 2019

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I started to write this Trawler article while awaiting the arrival of Hurricane Dorian. There was a lot of anxiety around the storm, as there is with every storm, but it came and went without much damage. As I am finishing this article now, five days later, (I am a slow writer) the area is already back to a normal routine.

While awaiting the arrival of this physical storm though, my mind was well aware of another storm that has been raging for quite a while. The storm of which I speak is the controversy over human sexuality in The United Methodist Church. People and groups within the denomination have been discussing and debating differences around LGBTQI+ rights and inclusion for many years.

Earlier this year, a very difficult General Conference was held and the fallout since has been considerable. The storm has continued to rage and many people have been hurt by strong words and much pain has been inflicted on all sides of the issues. There is no solution in sight and there is a very good chance that our denomination will look very different this time next year. Whether this will be an amiable split that some are seeking or whether one or more groups will simply choose to leave and form a different form of Methodism is anybody's guess. It would take a lot of room for me to share all the possibilities being proposed, but the simple reality is that United Methodism will probably look different in the future. I will try to update when necessary, but right now there is nothing to report.

With another General Conference coming in May of next year, and along with unknown changes, I feel that it is time for us to study some of the issues and why faithful Christians disagree over these issues. Beginning October 10th, we will hold a study entitled "*Human Sexuality and The United Methodist Church.*" We will meet on Thursday mornings at 10:00AM and Thursday evenings at 7:00PM. The same content will be presented at each class. Our hope is that all of our pastors will be able to be present and help with the teaching and, even more so, the discussion.

If you are interested in this topic and the future of Methodism, you are invited to participate. We will discuss the various sides of the issue with special emphasis on the Wesleyan Quadrilateral which looks at Scripture first but also Christian tradition, reason, and experience. This will make for a spirited discussion, but we will expect everything that is said to be said in love and respect. A class covenant will be presented at the opening of each class and participants will have to agree to the terms. Honestly, if you cannot discuss controversial subjects with persons who differ from you, this will not be the study for you to attend as all positions will be presented.

The storm that recently passed our way produced a lot of wind and rain, but left us no worse for the wear. We do not know the results of the storm raging in Methodism. Yet, what I do know is the One who holds tomorrow and above all, I know God can be trusted.

As always, if you have questions please give me a call and set up an appointment to talk. I have found that when Christians come together in love to discuss an issue, we may not come away agreeing with each other, but we will have fulfilled our responsibility to the commandment.

*I continue to be blessed to be your pastor and am grateful for your love,
Pastor Stuart*



The Value of Small Group Participation

In the Bible, Jesus primarily met with individuals and small groups to encourage discussion, understanding, mutual support, and fellowship. Southport Trinity Methodist Church offers many opportunities to meet the various personal needs of our members. Throughout the year, we will be describing the various small groups to encourage a better understanding of their purpose and function in hopes that each of you will discover something that interests you.

Encouragement Teams – E-Teams

E-Teams are small groups of men who meet together for the purpose of encouragement, accountability and fellowship. The focus of these groups is to help men get connected, build healthy relationships and grow spiritually.

- Connecting People – In a large church, a Band of Brothers is the best way to get to know other men who accept you and care about you. E-Teams help you to quickly find a place to fit in. (Acts 2:42-44, Romans 15:5-7).
- Healthy Relationships – Building healthy relationships with God and people is foundational to everything in a Christian's life. Healthy relationships help ensure that no one walks alone through the circumstances of life. (Romans 12:10-16, Galatians 6:2, Hebrews 10:24).
- Enhancing Spiritual Growth – The best environment for men to grow spiritually is in a small group where men care for one another. E-Teams empower men for ministry by using the things they are good at and are interested in for ministry to others (1 Corinthians 12:27, Ephesians 4:16, 1 Corinthians 14:12).

Each E-Team determines their agenda. Some teams read relevant Christian-based books and enjoy discussing them. Some just enjoy discussing relevant current events and issues (local, regional, state, national, international) and how Christian men relate to them. Some teams enjoy recreational activities such as kayaking, fishing, golf, bowling, etc. as a way to enjoy the company of Christian brothers in a relaxed atmosphere. Others enjoy going out to lunch or dinner just to be with like-minded Christian men.

All teams are flexible and will drop their agenda to listen, counsel and pray for men who have specific needs in dealing with life issues.

For more information, please contact **David Doe** at 910-253-0819 or email him at dcdoe@atmc.net.



Chicken Pot Pies-YUM-YUM

Remember to sign up for your Chicken Pot Pies. Sign-up sheets are located in the Welcome Center. Please indicate your preference:

- *Traditional - chicken and vegetables
6 inch or 10 inch
- *Moravian - chicken and gravy
6 inch or 10 inch

Include the number of each that you are ordering.

The final order day is Saturday, September 28.

Pick up dates and payment instructions are listed on the signup sheet.

All proceeds will be given to Pastor Stuart's Benevolence Fund.



Creation Care

In July, I attended the National UMC Creation Care Summit in Nashville along with representatives from across the United States, France and Africa. At the conclusion of the meetings, local churches were directed to fulfill two goals for 2020...the Green Church Initiative (GCI) and to focus on climate issues.

The Creation Care team has already begun many steps to bring the GCI to fruition. Please notice the marked recycle bins and trash cans throughout the church and the bulletin boards being kept up to date with the latest information on recycling and other areas of Creation Care.

In September, the children began a "Used Crayon Collection". The used crayons will be mailed to "Crayon Initiative" to be remade for use in children's hospitals. These are special crayons that can be cleaned to remove any bacteria that could harm the children.

Several of our Creation Care team attended "Faith Perspectives: God's Oceans and Coastal Communities" in Atlantic Beach, NC in September and will be presenting information on this program at the ***Wonderful Wednesday*** dinner on ***October 23rd***.

We will continue to keep you informed in future Trawler articles. ***Nancy Keziah, Creation Care Chair***

Pack Your Bags



Openings for the Holy Land Trip Exist

There is now room for **you** on Trinity's trip to the Holy Land and the Oberammergau Passion Play on June 1st-13th, 2020!

EO Travel has given Trinity's tour group the opportunity for 19 more people to join them on this "once-in-a-lifetime" trip next summer.

With Pastor Stuart as our host, 26 have already signed up and the excitement is growing as they anticipate traveling with Educational Opportunities, the leader in Holy Land tours.

Full information is now available on the bulletin board outside of Murrow Hall. Application brochures can be found in the Welcome Center. Please call **Lydia Kelso** at 910 253-6135 with your questions.



Extravagant Generosity

A couple of months ago, I discussed RMD's (Required Minimum Distributions) from our traditional IRAs.

As we enter the season of our pledge campaign and make our commitment for next year, I would like to offer a means to facilitate your re-occurring giving. This can be particularly beneficial as many of us travel throughout the year.

One of the things that Trinity has done to make your giving easier is to establish our online giving system called "ACS." This system lets you set up automatic recurring giving to Trinity so that you don't have to worry about your donations each month. It's as easy as contacting **Marty Loughlin** at marty28461@gmail.com or call her at 910-617-0490 and she will set you up with an account and help you set up your donations.

You can contribute to all the regular funds like the general and/or building fund or any of the special categories such as missions, compassion, Kairos, Together We Can and many others. And, once you are set up, your concerns about making your regular giving timely is no longer a worry.

Don Collins, Finance Committee Chair



Operation Christmas Child Ministry

The Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry will begin on Sunday, October 6th. I will be in front of the church passing out shoeboxes, with instructions inside, before or after each worship service. Look for the giant shoebox! Do not worry if you will not be in church on the 6th. I will also be passing them out on October 13th, 20th, and 27th. Shoeboxes will also be available in the Welcome Center...look for the banner.

Please return the filled boxes to the Conference Room by November 3rd.

I learned a game at an **Operation Christmas Child Work Shop** and you will have the opportunity to play it. The location of this game will be announced later. I also learned that children especially like getting letters and photos from you in their shoeboxes and their favorite gifts are stuffed animals and soccer balls with pumps.

I am not sure how long Trinity United Methodist Church has been participating in the Shoebox Ministry, but I do know that we have been participating for at least 15 years.

Samaritan's Purse started Operation Christmas in 1993 and has collected more than 168 million shoeboxes packed with toys and other fun items given by people like you and delivered them to boys and girls in need around the world in partnership with local churches.

Many of these children enroll in The Greatest Journey, the 12 lesson follow-up discipleship program where they learn to follow Christ and share Him with others.

If you have any questions, please call me at 910-833-0212 or e-mail me at nancejean@gmail.com.

Nancy Gillen



People don't always say, "I love you."

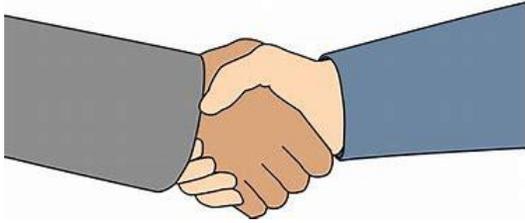
Sometimes it sounds like:

Be safe.

Did you eat?

Call me when you get there.

I made this for you.



9:30 Worshipers

Here is a special opportunity for you! We need you to share the special time of greeting of the regular worshipers and the visitors to the 9:30AM worship service on the first Sunday of each month.

If you are willing to share your smiles and extend a hand of friendship on a regular basis or can substitute when a regular greeter is away, please call me at 919-363-9721 or email me at dhaddon@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Diane Haddon



Bursting Forth in Christ's Love for All

The 2020 Annual Estimate of Giving Campaign theme is **Bursting Forth with Christ's Love for All**. The goals of our campaign, every year, are to make sure we raise enough money to keep our church open and thriving while supporting all the ministries of Southport Trinity UMC and bringing others to Christ with the giving of our financial gifts, our time and our talents.

This year we will look at the mission of the United Methodist Church, the vision statement of Trinity and the core values we embody as the church.

We ask you to pray for the Finance Committee as we plan for 2020 and prepare the budget to accomplish Trinity's ministry for this place and this time in God's world.

The Estimate Giving Packets will be mailed out on October 2nd. This year you will be able to either send in your Estimate of Giving Card or go online on Southport Trinity's website and enter your Estimate of Giving. This confidential online form will go directly to Gill Fitzhugh, Church Financial Secretary.

Nancy Keziah, Stewardship Chair



It's Not Too Late!

Appointments to have your picture taken for our updated church directory are still available for September 23rd and October 23rd. We are requesting that all regular attendees and members of Trinity have their photo included.

If you missed having a photo taken last fall or paid to use a previous directory photo, we ask you to make a photo appointment to avoid having to pay the \$10.00 again to include your photo in the updated directory to be published in late fall.

To make your appointment, go to the church website (southporttrinityumc.com), click on "Church Directory" and sign up.

If you aren't comfortable doing it online, call *Lydia Kelso* at 910 253-6135 and she will make the appointment for you.

A free 8" x 10" photo and the updated church directory will be yours for your effort. ***There is no obligation to purchase pictures.***



CARS4the County

First Vehicle Given Away

The first vehicle given away by CARS4theCounty.Org went to Sheryl Ross. With the dedicated support of her case manager, Naomi Poole, who said, "Sheryl built her confidence in herself, graduating from classes through the Step-Up program. Sheryl has grown a faith in herself and in God like I have never seen."

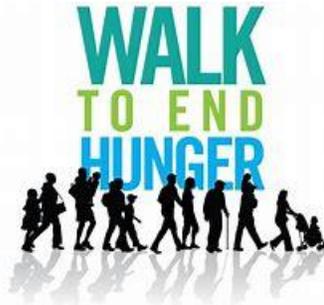
"We are honored to be the 'Conduit of God's Love' from a Brunswick County vehicle donor to this recipient", said John Losch, Executive Director.

CARS4theCounty.Org receives Unique Donation

CARS4theCounty.Org was gifted with a 2000 Porsche Boxter S from Marilyn Singleton & John Horton of Sunset Beach. Because this is a very unique vehicle, it will be auctioned on eBay.com.

Marilyn is thankful she can make a donation like this to help those less fortunate in Brunswick County.

John Losch



2019 Interchurch Fellowship Walk
Join "Team Trinity" on Sunday, October 13, 2019
at 1:30PM in Franklin Square Park.

Since 1984, the churches of the Southport Oak Island Interchurch Fellowship have joined together in annual walks to provide funds for basic human needs in our community and throughout the world. In this time of local and global disasters, our support is more important than ever. For the past nine years, we have invited our members to become part of "Team Trinity" by walking and/or supporting walkers through donations.

In 2018, "Team Trinity" contributed over \$2,300 to the total walk proceeds of close to \$12,000. Seventy-five percent of these funds were used to provide food, shelter, utilities and medical care for individuals and families in Brunswick County. In addition, 25% of the funds went to the Church World Service to combat hunger and provide clean water to those in need around the world.

We look forward to another successful year for "Team Trinity". Please watch for announcements in the worship bulletins and online. You will have an opportunity to contribute and/or sign up for the walk after each worship service on October 6th as well as the day of the walk on October 13th.

Contributions can be made by cash or checks made payable to "ICF Walk" or, if you wish to make a contribution through TUMC, simply write "SOICF" on the check.

A few "Team Trinity" shirts are available on a first come basis. Call or text **Becky Felton** at 910 617-6862 with your questions.

***As I watched the dog chase his tail,
I thought dogs are easily amused.***

***Then I realized I was
watching the dog chase his tail.***



The Gathering Place

Have you been there? To this happening place?

Where and when is it happening?

It's happening between the 8:15AM and 9:30AM worship services in Murrow Hall.

Join us for refreshments and to greet one another with your smiling faces from both services!

And, you are welcome to sign up to bring treats to share!



Handling the Holidays

Handling the Holidays is a segment of the "Walking through Grief" program written by the authors of the Grief Toolbox. This special grief program is sponsored by Stephen Ministry and will be held in the library of Trinity United Methodist Church on Monday, November 18th and Monday, December 2nd at 10:00AM.

Handling the Holidays takes an in-depth look at navigating through those days and seasons when the pain of grief can be overwhelming. The DVD based program offers practical tools and advice from professionals and grievers to help the bereaved develop a strategy and plan for handling the holidays.

This grief program is open to the community and is for those who are newly bereaved and also for those still in their journey of grief. Stephen Ministry wants to walk with you through your grief and especially give hope and support during the holiday season.

Please contact **Cheryl Jones** at CherylRJones@atmc.net for information and to register.



October Birthdays

1. Laudone, Nancy
Register, Rick
2. Jones, Will
3. Cowan, Robert
4. Jordan, Kelly
Weaver, Jonathan
5. Oldham, Doug
Peck, Pat
Smith, Gale
6. Bauman, Nancy
Kirkwood, William
Long, Julie
Williams, Montana
7. Loehr, Gloria
O'Neal, Sherry
Sullivan, Eleanor
8. Bartlett, William
Lewis, Bett
9. Jolley, Anna Beth
Jolley, Caroline
McNamara, David
10. Bell, Melissa
Lull, Bruce
11. Enis, Jackson
Martino, Joseph
13. Berry, Wayne
Dooley, Al
14. Smith, Ron
15. Nielsen, Eric
16. Bland, Greg
Deming, Denise
Hubble, Haley
Jaschke, Pam
17. Williams, Carolyn
18. Devine, Neva
Leach, Susan
Pritchard, Herb
Tatum, Kathy
19. Humphey, Jim
Tucker, Pat
20. Sossamon, Jim
21. Rouse, Jackie
22. McKnight, Mary
O'Neal, Bill
Stolp, Bernadine
23. Allred, Pat
Finley, Marge
Frallic, Teressa
Lawrence, Barb
24. Britton, Dave
Collins, Karen
Dale, Dona
25. Bris-Bois, Gladys
Richardson, Tami
26. Boguskie, Ed
Caruso, Dave
Cook, Robert
Edwards, Amy
Huggins, Susan
Jones, Rhyne
Martin, Jane
27. Edwards, Kay
Sandage, Charles
VanSise, Ron
28. Beach, Norman
Haddon, Diane
Ross, Deloris
29. Albertson, Gary
30. Boehmer, Nikolos
Hill, Ken
Tenenoff, Debra
31. Allardyce, David
Bolin, Madge
Kiely, Susan