



Trinity Trawler

April 2020

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Several weeks ago, I wrote my newsletter article about my trip to Disney World. My trip was great, and the article spoke about some of the things I learned. Yet, as I wrote it the world changed. News of the COVID-19 virus spread and my trip seemed irrelevant and unimportant. In a few day's period, we went from life pretty much as normal, except with extra hand washing, to social distancing which meant no gathering for worship, no schools and the encouragement to stay at home. It has been kind of surreal. Life, as it had been, changed dramatically.

While I do not have a time machine or a Prophetic gift which allows me to see the future, I don't know what things are like now as you are reading this article. I am guessing that we are not yet meeting in worship together and there are still strong suggestions to stay away from gatherings of 10 or more as was suggested recently by the President's team. I hope I am wrong, but since I often use the newsletter article to tell of upcoming programs for the month or the big-picture vision, most of those plans seem very much up in the air.

What I do know, is that as a church, we will continue to abide by the requests of our government officials and pandemic experts, trying to make certain that we all stay safe. It is a crazy time and our world seems different, changed. This seems to be our duty to God and country.

Yet, into the midst of uncertainty, comes the time in our Christian calendar to be reminded of the greatest story ever told, the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus! While the world can change and be pretty scary and throw plans up in the air, we have the good news of Jesus, to which we can hold when life seems out of control. The world around us can change, but the good news of Jesus doesn't change.

These words of the Apostle Paul help when life is tough...

“Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.” (1 Corinthians 15:1, 3-4)

As we move into an uncertain future, in which we don't know when life will get back to what we knew as normal, we come to the weeks where we are reminded of the most important times of our faith, the death and resurrection of Jesus. This is to what we hold when life changes. It is the anchor for our soul. (Hebrews 6:18)

As I write this, I don't know if we will be able to come together for worship for Maundy Thursday and Easter. Yet, I do know that we will worship our risen Savior! I don't know if it will be physically together or if we will all be in our homes watching online. **We will celebrate because the resurrection of Jesus reminds us that God is still in control and gives us something to which we can hold when the world turns upside down.**

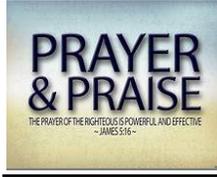
Friends, I look forward to meeting together and being able to shake your hands and give hugs. Until then, we can continue to hold onto that which is most important; the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

That good news will never change!

Pastor Stuart

Any dates listed in this April issue of the Trawler are subject to change.

Experiencing the Prayer Wall



I was asked to share an amazing meeting our ChristCare group had recently. We met in the sanctuary at the Prayer Wall. The Prayer Wall is a God-filled place where one can leave prayer requests and one can pray for other's precious prayer requests. Our group began our time together with a member sharing a devotion about prayer. We then prayed the prayer wall by each member taking a prayer and praying silently. After we prayed for that concern, we would place the tag with the prayer on the table and continue praying for a new prayer. We continued this until all the prayer tags were prayed for.

We then each took a blank tag and wrote a personal prayer request, passed those around our circle until they were all prayed for by each of us in our group.

Lastly, we shared with each other our experience at the prayer wall during our time together. Each of us felt God's presence. Our prayer wall time together was touching and beautiful.

We encourage other groups that haven't had this opportunity to pray at the prayer wall as a group. We were all moved by what a privilege and honor it is to pray for one another.

Cathy Danford



Annual Easter Egg Hunt Is Cancelled



The Garden Guild at Trinity

Have you ever looked at the lawn, the trees, the shrubs and the flowers planted all around the church and the annex and wondered who takes care of all this curb appeal?

Well, I'm happy to tell you that volunteers, men and women, do it with the added bonus of professional services donated by Freedom Lawn. These volunteers function as *The Garden Guild*, a sub-committee of Trinity's Board of Trustees.

The Garden Guild volunteers have no business meetings and no set schedule for working. Some work independently when they have the time and notice the need and others like to pair up with someone and socialize while they work.

There is a need for more volunteers this year, especially someone who has an interest in shaping bushes. If you like to work outside and can tell a dandelion from a daffodil, you meet the requirements!

Contact *Judy Doe* at judydoe@atmc.net with any questions, comments or, hopefully, your offer to join our group.



Holy Communion at Trinity

Debby & Len Surniak are responsible for the Holy Communion set-up for all worship services at Trinity UMC. They have a team of volunteers that help them each month with clean-up after the 9:30AM and 11:00 AM services. They attend the 8:15AM service.

Recently they were asked about the ingredients of the bread. We currently purchase the bread used in communion at Wal-Mart.

The juice that is used comes from Ellen Dorsett's grapes that have been grown on her property for many years. Because of that, we are following the guidelines of the Green Church by the UMC.

We currently offer a gluten free choice for those people that are sensitive to gluten.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Surniaks if there are other food allergies you or a family member experience. They will be happy to check the ingredient list to make sure it is safe for your consumption.

The Surniaks appreciate the faithful service of the following people on the Communion Team: *Cathy & Steve Danford, Ron and Ann Simmons, Dave and Kathy McNamara, Christine Huntsman, Barb Thornton, Dick Sleese, Rick Loehr and Preston Frallic.*



Creation Care News

Easter is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. It is a celebration of new life and a time to reconnect with the natural world awakening from a winter's nap. Spring clothing abounds and children wait excitedly to receive Easter baskets. Unfortunately, Easter baskets have been traditionally filled with plastic non-recyclable eggs and grass that add to our growing plastic pollution.

Following are suggestions that are eco friendly:

- *Repurpose a basket you have, freshen it with spray paint.
- *Buy used baskets at thrift shops.
- *Use other basket substitutes such as a beach pail, tote bag, paper bag, backpack, lunch box
- *Raffia is a good substitute for Easter grass and it can be reused.

Here are suggestions for filling baskets with useful items instead of trinkets that will be quickly thrown out are:

- *Dried fruit, nuts, natural fruit chews and rollups
- *Coloring books, crayons, markers, watercolors
- *Puzzles, a yo-yo, homemade play dough, sidewalk chalk
- *Blow-up raft, swim toys, swim goggles
- *Cards, games, puzzles, bubbles
- *Toothbrush, hair bows, hair bands, ribbons
- *Jewelry, wallet, change purse
- *Doll accessories, building blocks

*****Upcoming events for Creation Care:***

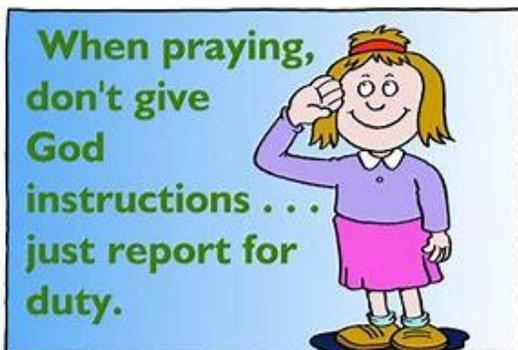
Wonderful Wednesday, **April 22nd**, Creation Care will share updates on recycling and Clean Cape Fear.

Nature Fest, Saturday, **April 24th** from 8:30AM to 12:30PM. Stop by and visit Trinity's booth.

Creation Care Sunday, **April 26th**, Rev. Pat Watkins will bring the message.

Wonderful Wednesday, **May 6th**, Emily Donovan from **Clean Cape Fear** will speak about PFAS in our drinking water.

Nancy Keziah



Camp Rockfish

Exciting opportunity for our 5th through 8th graders

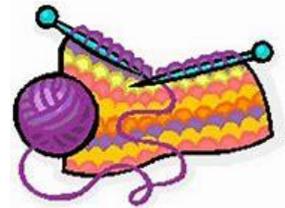
Our Youth Director, **David Wiegand** and I invite the youth to visit Camp Rockfish on **Saturday April 25th** for a day of team building. The cost is \$20 and includes lunch and activities.

We will depart from the church at 8:00AM and will return at approximately 6:00PM. David and I will treat the youth to dinner on the way home.

Please contact **David Wiegand** or me if your child or children are interested in joining us on this fun adventure.

**To the parents of our 5th graders: after you drop your children off to travel with us to Camp Rockfish, stay and meet some of the youth leaders as you enjoy a light breakfast with them.

Sonia Reeves



Prayer Shawl Ministry

On March 6th, the Prayer Shawl Ministry turned 13 years old. We started our ministry with five "Angel" women and today we have 40 members.

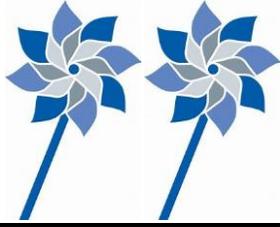
During these 13 years, the Angels have given away over 3,021 Prayer Shawls. When we began, we thought we might give away five shawls. Instead, we initially gave out 100. Some of them have gone around the world to people in need. On average, we give away 20 every month.

This Mission is very important, not only to the people who get the shawls, but also to the "Angels" who make them.

Every Friday the "Angels" gather around the knitting table and bless the shawls that have been finished. Generally, we have between 6 and 20 attending.

You, the congregation, have been very supportive with your prayers and your financial donations. You are a blessing to this Mission. We are thankful for you!

Lynda Sherrill



Children's Ministry

The month of April is Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Month.

We want to help North Carolina build strong families, safe children and supportive communities by raising money selling blue pinwheels.

Our children and leaders will be selling the pinwheels between all three services every Sunday during the month of April. We will be in front of the Welcome Center.

The pinwheels are \$1.00 each. Our goal is to sell all 480 pinwheels. This is where you come in! Stop by and purchase 1 or 3 or 8 or more pinwheels!

We will display the pinwheels you purchase around the Children's Peace Pole and at the Annex. Your support is very important to make this a successful project.



Father God

You always hear the cries of your children. You know every fear, every pain and every loss. Today, we cry out to you to quell the storm the world is experiencing; the fear from the *coronavirus* outbreak.

You have given us the spirit of boldness and we come to your throne. We ask for wisdom and protection for those treating people with this disease, wisdom for those who determine how to contain its spread and protection for those most vulnerable to its attack.

We ask for increased faith in you. You are sovereign, in control, on your throne and nothing happens that is a surprise to you. We ask that you take this and work everything together for your good and the good of your people who are called for your purpose.

You are worthy of our trust and we put our hope in you. Show us our role in this time of uncertainty. Thank you, dear Lord, for hearing our prayer, for your ever present help in times of trouble and for never leaving or forsaking us.

We lift our prayer in the name above all names,
Jesus.

Amen

(This prayer is submitted



The Bible in Fifty Words

God made

Adam bit

Noah arked

Abraham split

Joseph ruled

Jacob fooled

Bush talked

Moses balked

Pharaoh plagued

People walked

Sea divided

Tablets guided

Promise landed

Saul freaked

David peeked

Prophets warned

Jesus born

God walked

Love talked

Anger crucified

Hope died

Love rose

Spirit flamed

Word spread

God remained

(Author unknown)



If You Were Asked...

If you were asked by someone just what Stephen Ministry is, would you be able to tell them the “Who, What, Where, When, Why and How” of it? I’m hoping this synopsis of what was presented at the February 19th Wonderful Wednesday will help you to do just that!

Stephen Ministry was founded in 1975 by Kevin Haugk who realized there were more situations needing care in his St. Louis, MO church than any one pastor could possibly provide. Together with people in his church, he designed a Christ-centered ministry of encouragement and listening through compassionate, caring people he called Stephen Ministers. After starting the program in his own church, neighboring churches soon wanted the training and in 1978 Haugk realized he needed to train a new group, known as Stephen Leaders, who would train the new Stephen Ministers in other churches. Stephen Ministry is now in more than 13,000 churches worldwide, in 180 denominations, in all 50 states and in 130 countries. More than 600,000 men and women have been trained and over 1½ million individuals have benefitted from having a Stephen Minister!

WHO – Stephen Ministers are men and women trained over several months and many hours of learning and reading to become caring, compassionate listeners for those who might benefit from someone to speak with during times like the impact of an empty nest, a divorce, the passing of a loved one, a poor medical diagnosis, aging issues, legal issues, unemployment or even the birth of a baby with all the changes that brings. You might call us the “after people”... we come in “after” these events occur.

WHAT – This is a Christ-centered experience that equips participants with essential caring and relating skills. Participants learn how to listen confidentially, to care compassionately and to walk nonjudgmentally with those going through difficult times in life.

WHERE - Stephen Ministers meet with their Care Receivers at any place of mutual agreement. It could be in the Stephen Ministry room on the 2nd floor of Murrow Hall, in the Care Receiver’s home, walking along the beach or sharing a beverage at a local coffee shop. Any agreed upon place is fine.

WHEN – We usually start out meeting once a week, but that can change as needed. The relationship may last from just a few weeks to several months and, for some, more than a year until both the Stephen Minister and the Care Receiver agree it is time to end the official relationship.

WHY - Why do Stephen ministers do this? We are called in Galatians 6:2 “to bear each other’s burdens” ... to show Christ’s love to others.

HOW – Stephen Ministers are not trained psychologists or therapists and we are not seminary-trained ministers. We are trained laity who listen and we pray...sometimes with our Care Receivers, but always for our Care Receivers and for God’s guidance as we work with Care Receivers.

We hope this has clarified your understanding. But if you have other questions, please ask any Stephen Minister, or leave a message at the Stephen Ministry Room or send a confidential e-mail to sptrinitysm@gmail.com or call the church office at 910-457-6633.

Allie Lull, Stephen Minister



Welcome to our New Stephen Ministry Leader

In January, Trinity’s Stephen Ministry Team sent **Woody Clookie** to a week of intensive Leadership Training in Orlando Florida. We are happy to report he survived and has come back with fresh insight and empowerment to assist in leading this powerful, life changing ministry. He has been commissioned by our congregation to serve in this capacity with your prayers and support.

Woody retired after serving 25 years doing search and rescue and law enforcement in the United States Coast Guard. He next joined NCIS (Naval Criminal Investigative Service) as an intelligence specialist. Woody retired after seventeen years in foreign counterintelligence and counterterrorism as the NCIS liaison to the Department of State and the National Security Agency.

Woody and his wife, Nancy, moved to Southport in 2004 and joined Trinity UMC. He has spent his retirement years giving back as a volunteer EMT and firefighter, a Brunswick County Sheriff’s Office volunteer in the Cold Case Unit and a Cape Fear Hospice spiritual caregiver and volunteer.

Here at Trinity, Woody has served as the Chairman of the Church council, an usher and a member of the Board of Trustees. His greatest joy, however, has been serving as a Stephen Minister since 2008. He is now looking forward to his additional duties as a Stephen Leader.

April Birthdays

1. Carver, Bonnie
2. Enis, Connie
Williams, Boston
3. Arndt, George
Johnson, Woody
4. Bonney, Lucas
Callari, Keren
Fox, Sherri
5. Sandage, Mary Ellen
6. Dougherty, Barbara
Stanley, Linnea
7. Bennett, Joyce
8. Bailey, Warren
Hawley, Jackie
Styers, Pat
9. Bennett, Carl
10. Hitchcock, Dane
Loehr, Rick
Rogerson, Fisher
11. Williams, Anne
12. Pierce, Megan
13. Stelzer, Marilyn
Tewell, Ryan
14. Kee, Carlyle
16. Merkle, Marcy
17. Greer, Hannah
18. Edwards, Ben
Holt, Brenda
Johnson, Bobbie
O'Neal, Jane
19. Simpson, Nicole
20. Smutko, Matthew
21. Gillen, Mark
Strayer, Jennifer
Suiter, Deborah
22. Callari, Stuart
Humphrey, Cindy
Kassler, George
McIntosh, Mac
Simmons, Anne
Sleuse, Jessica
Thranhardt, Carol
23. Davis, Barbara
25. Kee, Jane
Todd, Ann
26. Carter, George
Cleary, Becky
28. Clewis, Earl
Mitchell, John
29. Wallace, Ed

