

Trinity United Methodist Church

The Highlighter

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“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?”

1 John 3:17

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February 2010

Growing and Flowing in Community

Once again, I want to say, “Thank you!” to everyone who has so kindly responded with your questions of concern, e-mails, texts, cards and in a variety of ways during the time of my father’s recovery from coronary bypass surgery. Our whole family has felt the undergirding of prayer, and been buoyed by your expressions of love and support. My father is recuperating well, and is looking forward to renewed energy after his time of convalescence. Many thanks!

* * *

As I write this month’s column, we’re in the midst of our *The Hole in Our Gospel* series of messages and studies. I hope that each person reading this has taken the opportunity to pick up a copy of the book and is thinking about the insights – all very Biblical – that it contains and that we’re also unpacking on Sundays. If you haven’t yet, you’re missing a great opportunity – take a look!

This study has been a challenge for me as I’ve been preparing the Sunday worship and messages. My own walk as a believer is stretched as God calls to my heart, challenging me to live a more fully-devoted life, and not just focused on a partial “gospel” (i.e., the parts that I find easy or congenial). And much of this has to do with what it means to live authentically in community.

When I was a boy in rural Carroll County, we lived on a small ridge at the bottom of which was a creek which wound through pasture land and by the ruin of an old grist mill. My friends and I used to enjoy riding our bikes to and along the stream; and then when the deadfalls and undergrowth would get too thick for us to pass, we’d strike out on foot in search of adventure. Though it could become respectable after a heavy rain or snow melt – and was a roaring river the year Hurricane Agnes passed through – most of the time it was a very small and tame affair, its course and channel shifting a bit with the seasons, providing ever-new trails to discover among the sassafras and skunk cabbage that lined its way. Sometimes, especially during the warmer and drier months, portions of the stream would get jammed up, as creeks will, by fallen limbs and rocks and the sundry trash from homes and passing cars. In those places, pools of stagnant water would develop, topped with a froth of scum and algae bloom, breeding mosquitoes and other nasty things, and giving off a foul odor. Nearby the “main channel” of the little stream would flow clear and gurgling over the rocks and streambed, with its fresh smells of woody vegetation. Sometimes we’d be able to “clean up” the stagnant places by moving a limb or some debris so the flow would start again. But mostly, we just gave

those spots a wide berth.

Christian communities – whether they’re local churches, fellowships, small groups, or ministries – are a bit like a country stream, in that it’s always needful to have a steady inflow, and a steady outflow, to stay healthy and fresh. God’s life-giving word and Spirit, the good news of Scripture and the blessings of fellowship together, the love and encouragement and insights of other believers: all of these flow in, bringing refreshment and nourishment. As long as that influx is matched by an outflow of ministry in the form of evangelism, service, missions, and caring ministry, spiritual health prevails. But let either end be stopped, and problems arise.

Like a stream, when a community becomes inwardly-focused and loses the outflow, then the very nutrients which have flowed in to sustain its life begin to breed toxins and become foul. But when a community realizes that it has been blessed to be a blessing for others, and organizes its life in this way, then a healthy flow is restored.

This principle, that growing and flowing are linked together, is in keeping with our *Hole in Our Gospel* theme. Or, as Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote many years ago in his classic book on Chris-

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Pastor's Column

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tian community, Life Together: "So long as we eat our bread together, we shall have sufficient even for the least. Not until one person desires to keep his own bread for himself does hunger ensue." This sharing of ourselves and of our community, in the name of Christ, for the needs of the world, is both the gift and the challenge of our life together. How we rise to that call and keep that flow will have a lot to do with the fragrance – or odor – we give off to the world around us. Let's make ours the sweet fragrance of a grace-filled, exuberant sharing!

* * *

Before signing off, I want to share about an opportunity I'm excited about: during Lent, we will be offering a series of studies and teaching on 24 Hours That Changed the World, focusing on the last 24 hours of Jesus' Passion and crucifixion. It's an opportunity for us to be renewed again in our faith as we remember Christ's self-giving love for you and me and the world. Watch for more info in CH@T and on our website!

Flowing,
Charles

Love Like You Mean It: Marriage Mentoring

Deaf Interpretation Available

Every other Sunday at the 9:30 am service we offer deaf interpretation of the worship services. Your next opportunities are February 7 & 21.

Marriage Mentoring

Trinity is dedicated to building up families by strengthening marriages through our Marriage Mentoring program. This ministry is based on a program developed by Drs. Les and Leslie Parrot. Marriage Mentoring is where a relatively happy, more experienced couple purposefully invests in the lives of another couple to help that couple effectively navigate a journey that they have

already begun. Marriage Mentoring is not marriage counseling – it is where one couple is willing to listen and share their time and experiences with another couple to encourage, challenge and motivate them to strengthen their relationship. Marriage Mentoring relationships are established by pairing more experienced couples and couples who are recently married, who have been married for awhile but are looking to make their marriage better, or who's marriage needs some help repairing. If you would like to have a more experienced couple that could walk beside you, Trinity has couples trained to be mentors available. If

you would like more information, please contact Mike & Mona Monsma at 410.414.5897 or marriage-mentoring@trinityumchurch.org.

Cemetery Clean-Up

The Prince Frederick Methodist Cemetery Corporation will be holding its annual spring clean-up at the cemeteries the week of March 14. Any decorations you wish to save should be removed before that time. Spring decorations may be placed on the gravestones after March 21st. Thank you for removing all grave decorations as they become unsightly. And as a reminder, it is very helpful during mowing season if decorations are kept to a minimum. Thank you for your on-going cooperation.

Blessings, Thanks & Prayers

Congratulations to...

Madelyn Elizabeth Lindsey who was born December 14; her proud parents are Charlie & Julie Lindsey; grandmother is Marjorie Williams

Our Sympathy to the families of Anna Mae Denton (mother of Harold Denton & Marlyn Sutton; grandmother of Gwyn Novak); Kitty Farris (mother of Katie Willie); and Alan Thornton (husband of Arlene Thornton) who passed away last month

Ongoing Prayers for Those Who Have Been Hospitalized Over the Last Month...

Genevieve Fowler, Dicie Hudler, Addison Wallace, Barbara Brown, Jimmy Young

Don't forget to call and visit our **nursing home residents.**

Asbury Assisted Living: Shirely Jacobson (#122AL)

Asbury Nursing Center: Ed Hayes

Solomons Nursing Center P.O. Box 1509 Solomons, MD 20688: Frances Sherbert

The Hermitage 13325 Dowell Rd., Solomons, MD 20688: Beth Emerson, Joann Dardin

#114

Make Your Reservation Now for Cupid's Café

Adults, bring your sweetheart or group of friends for an evening of wonderful food and live entertainment Friday, February 5 from 7-10 p.m. when we host Cupid's Café. Soup, and chocolate fondue are \$25 per person, reservation at our Room between services is also available with \$5! Pictures with your are also available. And silent auction for fabulous Café is hosted the benefit World Vision missions ministry. If it snows, Cupid's Café will be held Saturday, February 6.

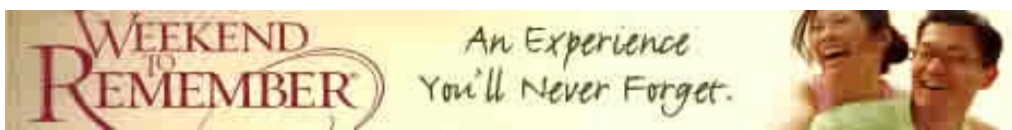


Free Movie Night : Set Apart

Need something to warm your heart during this chilly weather? Then bring your family and friends to free movie night! On Saturday, February 6, 2010, the feature is a coming-of-age drama, "Set Apart".

Urban teens, used to life on tough streets with negative influences, accept an invitation to attend a country rodeo ranch. Some are open to the experience, willing to learn new ways of making decisions and dealing with temptations. Others see the ranch as an escape from problems that are threatening not just their future, but their very lives. At first, their new environment provides comedic fish-out-of-water anecdotes. But as the kids learn new skills and gain confidence in themselves, they begin to realize just how special God made them. Eventually, though, their past problems catch up with them, setting the stage for a showdown between their past reality and their future dreams.

The movie is Dove-Family-Approved, and begins at 7 pm in the sanctuary.



Marriage is defined by memories. In the early years are memories of passion and anticipation. Late come unexpected events, challenges, and disappointments. The events of life will lead either to memories of joy and fulfillment or pain and heartbreak. So much depends on how you cultivate the most important relationship in your life.

At the Weekend to Remember conference you will...

- Explore God's purpose for bringing you together in the first place
- Understand the role hardship plays in making every marriage stronger
- Make meaningful progress toward resolving past hurts
- Learn to recognize hidden strengths of your marriage that disguise themselves as obstacles
- Discover a brand new appreciation for your spouse
- Create an individualized plan for a lasting, healthy marriage
- Develop an exciting new outlook for your life together

How will your marriage be remembered? No matter where you are in the process, now is the time to take steps that will make your marriage everything that God intended it to be. A lifetime of great memories begins with a Weekend to Remember. The registration rate is \$258 per couple. Register online at our group web page <http://www.familylife.com/groups/trinityumc>

There are three conferences in the immediate vicinity:

February 12-14	Gaylord National Resort	Washington, D.C.
February 19-21	Hyatt Regency Baltimore	Baltimore, MD
March 12-14	Hyatt Regency Reston	Reston, VA

For more information about this conference, visit www.familylife.com/conferences or contact Mona or Mike Monsma 410.414.5897.



Breakfast is Back!

Great news! First Breakfasts are back beginning Sunday, February 7. Come downstairs and enjoy a free cup of coffee and a hot breakfast with all breakfast donations going to our VIM fund. Breakfast is served from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Contributions of home baked goods for us to have available at the bake table would be appreciated. Why go to Bob Evans and wait for a table when you can enjoy good food and fellowship and have your money go to a great cause?

Missions Marketplace Makes a Difference

This year we tried something new and created a 'Missions Marketplace' at the Winter Festival with items available for sale that represented places and/or organizations that we have supported or visited in the past. If an organization or congregation supplied us with items to sell, the proceeds were returned to them. Displays for the following were represented at our marketplace 2009:

- Unalaska United Methodist Church
- Red Bird Missions
- Four Corners Native American Ministry (Navajo Nation)
- Russia Volunteers in Mission (VIM) 2009
- West Virginia VIM 2009
- Sponsorship of Mark and Shana Tant (missionaries in Italy)
- Fair Trade coffee (as offered at weekly fellowship hour)
- Trinity Youth
- Habitat for Humanity
- *UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)
- *Heifer International
- *World Vision

**Alternative giving display. Gifts are available through online catalogs year round by these organizations.*

Next time you have a gift giving occasion, considering purchasing something in honor of the gift recipient.

We hope Missions Marketplace 2010 will have even more items available for sale so we can continue this outreach to those we share missional relationships with.

THANK YOU to all Trinity Members from those that received God's Love this past Christmastime through our outreach to them through local programs. Our Giving Tree ministry supported Birthright, RoughSide of the Mountain UMC children/youth (Navajo Nation) and the Angel Tree (Calvert County Dept of Social Services). We also provided sweaters and large print Bibles to residents at Solomons Nursing Center, stuffed animals from the Bears from Badges program to children in crisis and gifts to guests in the Safe Nights Program (supporting homeless in our community).

"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers - not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve.

1 Peter 5:2

UMW's Winter Schedule

January 2010

Rachel Circle will meet Wednesday, January 20 at 9:30 a.m. in the Church Parlor; Hostesses: Fran Damerell and Mary Irvin. Please read Chapter 2, "The People" in our study book.

The Trinity United Methodist Women will not hold a General Meeting in January; however, the Executive Council will meet to go over our budget and plan for the remainder of the year.

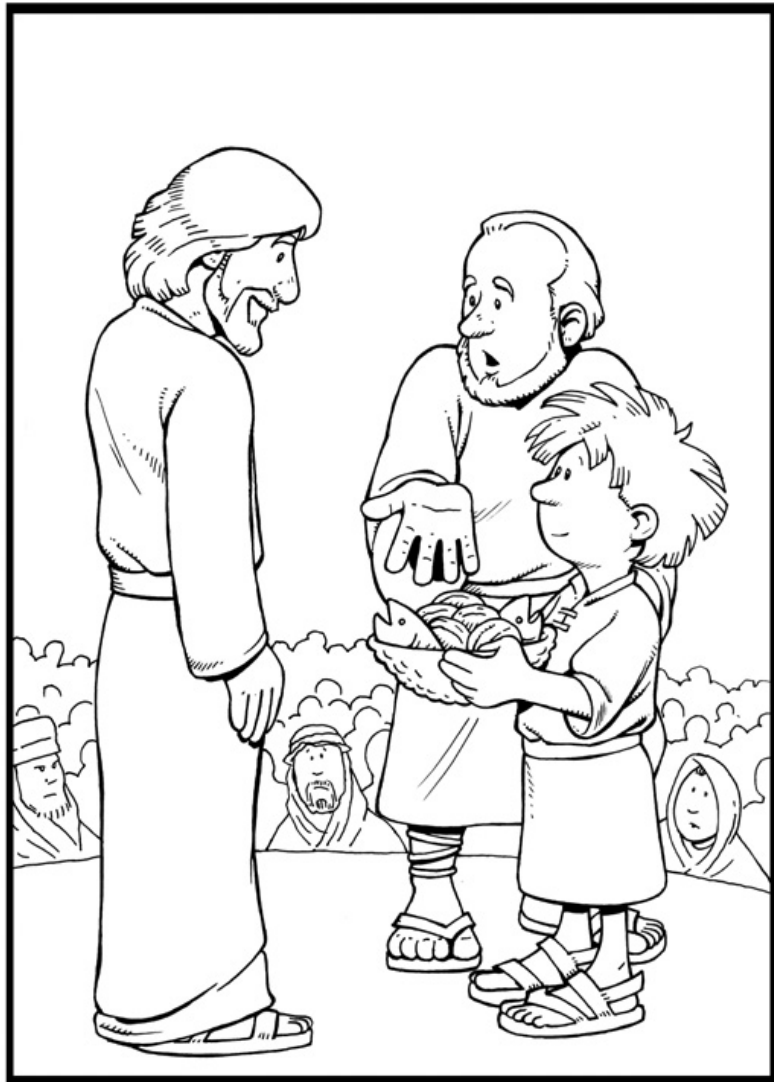
February 2010

Trinity United Methodist Women will hold their Annual Service for 2010 on Wednesday, February 10 at 1:30 p.m. in the Church Parlor.

The Rachel Circle will *not* meet in February. All women are invited to join us. There are still study books available. Questions? Please call Wanda Wells at 410.394.3344.

P.S. Thanks so much to all who helped with the Farm Bureau Legislative Dinner in early January. The Farm Bureau folks truly enjoyed the food.

Share



Jesus Feeds the 5,000

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CHURCH**

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Heath Wilson, assistant pastor

**Don't miss *Cupid's Cafe*
Friday, February 5! Get
your tickets now!**

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