

Trinity United Methodist Church
215 North Church Street
Durham, NC 27701

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The Steeple
August 2011 Newsletter of
Trinity United Methodist Church

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Serving Christ from the Heart of Downtown Durham: **Experiencing** the Love of God through Jesus Christ, **Sharing** God's love in word & deed, **Inviting** others to faithful living in the Kingdom of God

FEATURE

Vision Team Considers Vital Congregations

By the time you read this, the Vision Team will have met three times. The phase the Team is in now is a time of learning how-to-vision and how-to-listen to the congregation, the community, and to God. In so doing, we are taking note of practices to adopt and practices to avoid. One of the next phases in the process will be to learn more about the "current realities" facing our church and community.

There is an ongoing healthy consideration of "current realities" going on throughout our denomination. A group of bishops and other denominational leaders recently released a report called "A Call to Action." In it, they identify the marks of so-called "vital congregations". These congregations range in size from small to large. They are in urban areas, rural areas, and everything in-between. You can read more about the indicators of vital congregations and the Call to Action report at www.umvitalcongregations.org.

Others in the denomination have concerns about the Call to Action. They note that indicators of vital congregations tend to be numerical in nature. For example, in the North Carolina Conference, pastors are now required to report their church's average worship attendance and number of new "professions of faith" (adults who join who have never joined a church before), and whether the church has paid their apportionments, every quarter. Such emphasis on numbers, say the critics, distracts the churches and pastors from making dedicated disciples with spiritual maturity. "You cannot evaluate quality by focusing on quantity," writes United Methodist blogger Dan R. Dick.

Your Vision Team will be listening to these many voices from across the denomination as well as to your voices right here in our congregation. We pray that God will guide us in every possible way. And we solicit your prayers to support us. Please feel free to share your thoughts with us as the process moves forward.

In Christ,



Rev. Taylor Mills

COMMUNITY LIFE

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/1	Betty Clark	8/15	Karen Bullock
	Gertrude Mudzingwa	8/16	Shelley Cook
8/2	Ed Palmer	8/18	Trudy Maness
8/4	Bill Leathers	8/20	Ed Rogers
	Brian McGiverin	8/23	Priscilla Horvath
8/7	Mary Clarkson	8/24	Rebecca Mills
8/8	Rob Shoaf		David Taylor
8/11	David James	8/26	Marie Montague
8/12	Jane Morgan	8/27	Russell Odom
8/14	Mark Daughtridge		Eve Stelzenmuller
	Ruby Richey	8/30	Karen MacDonald

Happy Birthday! *If you have an August birthday and it is not listed here, please contact the church office!*

THANK YOU

To my dear church family,

Thank you for all you did to care for and support Dick during his illness. Thank you for all you did to ensure his funeral was a proper and fitting service to honor him. He was blessed to have you in his life, as am I. Thanks be to God.

*With love,
Annette Morgan*

Trinity Family,

Thank you for your help and patience while I remember how to be an office manager! Thanks especially to Josh & Mani Stout, Nancy Childers, and Joan Pepper for holding down the fort while I was on vacation - and catching up!

*Gratefully,
Magan Stubblefield*

SUPPLICANTS	8/7	Communion Sunday
	8/14	Youth Sunday
	8/21	Anne Tice
	8/28	Lauren Williams

READERS	8/7	Sharon Jones
	8/14	Youth Sunday
	8/21	TBA
	8/28	Jeff Stewart

GREETERS	8/7	David & Betsy Taylor
	8/14	David & Betsy Taylor
	8/21	Collins & Mary Clarkson
	8/28	Collins & Mary Clarkson

USHERS	Jim Delbridge, Captain	
	Carl Ross	Ed Palmer
	Dale Ross	Steve Harris

NURSERY	8/7	Joan Pepper
	8/14	Betsy Mills
	8/21	Elizabeth Benson
	8/28	Karen MacDonald

FLOWERS	8/7	George & Mac Newton
	8/14	Annette Morgan
	8/21	Open
	8/28	Open

Acolyte
Elyssa Harris

Badge Table
Marie Montague

Altar Guild
Priscilla Horvath & Mani Stout

Communion Stewards
Josh & Mani Stout
Carolyn Hunter

MEMBERSHIP

Taste and See

By Sarah McGiverin (<http://jerusalemtojericho.wordpress.com/>)

I am from popcorn popped in Wesson oil and smothered in salt on a Sunday night,
From Wonderful World of Disney and the Mini Page.

I am from a series of homes not my own with furniture not my own,
Made home only by the people within and the pictures on the wall,
and by just caught fish dredged in cornmeal and deep-fried
on so many summer nights that the kitchen curtains
took on a perpetually greasy smell.

I am from the white clover and the yellow dandelion and the red raspberry:
a thicket full of thorns and flowers and profuse green leaves, with fruit enough
for the rabbits and the birds and three small children to eat their fill of,
and still enough left over to fill jar after jar of seed studded jam.

I'm from the Easter family softball game and a dogged insistence on fair play:
From Winburn and Mason and Charlie and Ed.

I'm from rooting for the underdog
And tense rivalries.

From "Let your little brother win" and
"You could have killed your little sister!"

I'm from the parsonage and the pew and the taste of grape juice
Made holy by my father's reassurance, "poured out for you and for many..."

I'm from just outside the Beltway and the banks of the James,
From venison and oyster stew, and squash boiled with onions and then mashed;

From the spicy sweet smell of my Father's head, that lingered on his pillow,
The show tunes Mom sang as she stirred bargain ground beef in Ragu.

From the countless carousels of slides, pulled out and shown
With a hum and a click-clack, but only after wrestling the screen from its mustard-
yellow metal tube.

I am from a bottomless cup of coffee at a pharmacy lunch counter,
I am limeades and calamari and fried chicken livers;

I am the smell of dead pine needles in the hot summer sun,
Sitting on a wood deck by the Rappahanock and cracking crabs.

I am from learning to lose graciously in the pool halls of Austin, Texas,
and from learning that love doesn't have to destroy me, almost too late.

I am from Brian and Hannah and a baby whose name I do not know yet, but whom
I will love just as fiercely.

I am from the halls of Duke Divinity, from the distant sound of hymns being sung
and the warmth of a hand in mine as we pray together. I am from discovering that
I am not the firstborn, but that Christ is, and he has forever redefined for me who is
my blood-kin.

Losses in Our Church Family

David Gibson

Saturday, July 2, 2011

Betty Winston Cox

Saturday, July 16, 2011

*Our deepest sympathies to their families
and loved ones.*



**Remember
Our Homebound Members**

**Cornelia Mason
Woodbury Wellness Center
2778 Country Club Drive
Hampstead, NC 28443**

*The family would appreciate any
cards or letters sent to Ms. Mason.*



James Robinson of
3440 Balfour West
Durham, NC 27713
joined July 10th!

*Congratulations to
Edwin & Ethel Snuggs!
Their great grandson John
Robert Riddell was born
July 24, 2011 to parents
Scott and Lauren Riddell.*



NEWS & EVENTS



Hiring Processes

The Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (S/PPRC) is actively filling two positions at this time: Office Manager and Childcare Assistant. Resumes have been received for both and are being reviewed by search committees at this time. The S/PPRC will then make final decisions.

The anticipated start date for the Office Manager is around August 10th. This will give the new hire two weeks to shadow Magan Stubblefield (Interim Office Manager). Magan starts Duke Divinity School at the end of August and will continue working as Director of Christian Nurture and Minister of Visitation.

Pastor Away 8/15-8/20



The Pastor Will Be Away

Rev. Taylor Mills will be on family vacation from August 15th to 20th. A nearby pastor will be retained to respond to emergencies. That

pastor's name and contact information will be published in the bulletin closer to the time.

Habitat for Humanity Celebrates 25 Years in Durham

To celebrate its 25th anniversary, Habitat for Humanity of Durham enlisted the vision and talent of local artists Lynn Bregman Blass and Leah Sobsey. The duo gathered and scanned more than 500 images representing the involvement of friends from across Durham through Habitat's 25 years. These images include photos and objects that people hold close as symbols of Habitat's housing ministry.

Habitat's images of home and hope will be displayed throughout Durham to share its transformational mission so that more people might become involved. Over the next several weeks the display will remain in our Sanctuary. Please stop by and take look at this unique piece art work.

All images were hand transferred onto adding machine tape and then dipped or brushed with encaustic medium, a process involving beeswax and damar resin. True to Habitat's belief in environmental justice, the strips were hung using door and window frames salvaged from a nearby deconstruction site.

Guest Preacher August 21st

The Rev. Bruce Stanley, President and CEO of Methodist Home for Children (MHC), will be our guest preacher at both services on August 21st and a special offering for MHC will be received. Now in his sixth year at MHC, Stanley has served as both a Senior Pastor and an Associate Pastor for six churches. Stanley is native to West Virginia and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from West Virginia University. He also holds a Masters of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School.



Concert at Trinity

On Sunday August 28th, the 100 Men in Black will hold a concert in our sanctuary at 5:00PM. 100 Men in Black is a community-based male chorus with open membership to all within the Triangle community who love to sing and share the good news of the gospel. They sing traditional gospel, quartet, spirituals, contemporary gospel, anthems, chorale and *a capella* music. Proceeds will be used to fund their trip to our sister city Durham, England. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending!



Piney Wood Park a Success! Thanks to the 71 members of the Trinity Congregation for its support of the Annual Church Picnic. It was a perfect day: beautiful weather, great food, and fun fellowship! Thanks for the wonderful food you all provided and our special thanks to Russell Odom for grilling the hamburgers and hot dogs on his personal grill and to Reggie and Liz Allred for pickup and delivery of the meats and items from the church kitchen for Russell and all of us. Thanks also to the setup and cleanup crews and to Betsy Mills for her creative activities with the children.

The Tices have provided pictures for your viewing on Trinity's website at www.trinitydurham.org.

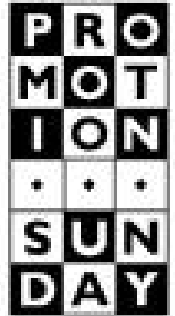


SPECIAL SERVICES

Please plan to be
in worship on
AUGUST 14TH
for the youth-led
worship service!

Back-to-School/Christian Education Worship

August 28th will be a special Sunday at Trinity United Methodist Church! It will be the occasion of "Back-to-School" themed worship services and a celebration of Christian education in our church family. *All students – grade-school, college, graduate, Divinity, etc. – and all teachers and professors are invited and strongly encouraged to attend.* We will promote children who are moving from one Sunday School class to another and we will dedicate all Sunday School leaders and participants. Adult students, please make a special effort to invite your friends to come to Trinity for worship on August 28th.



CHILDREN

A huge thanks to all who helped this year with VBS! Each night the children visited "Hometown Nazareth, Where Jesus was a Kid." We talked about Jesus' family, his name, and his home. They heard bible stories, made crafts, and shared how they had seen God in action each day.

This wouldn't have been possible without your help! Thanks for the tents, the craft supplies, the food, the giving of time, the dressing up, and the love and care extended to each child. Special thanks to Pam Guidry Vollers, Karen MacDonald, Lauren Crowell, and Angela Fountain for their organization and leadership.

Check out the pics on our website: www.trinitydurham.org.



Treasurer's Report for the month ending June 2011

BUDGET		<i>The left side set of numbers is where we should be in the budget to the date of June 30, 2010.</i>	ACTUAL INCOME	
Contributions:	\$174,000		Contributions:	\$151,383
Other Income:	\$33,400		Other Income:	\$23,491
TOTAL:	\$207,400		TOTAL:	\$174,874
BUDGET		<i>The right side set of numbers are the actual income and expenses that we have had up to this point of the year.</i>	ACTUAL EXPENSE	
Apportionment:	\$33,269		Apportionment:	\$33,270
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$51,150		Utilities & Maintenance:	\$48,151
Personnel:	\$100,449		Personnel:	\$96,450
Other:	\$22,750		Other:	\$16,786
TOTAL:	\$207,618	<i>The DIFFERENCE is the amount our expenses have exceeded our income.</i>	TOTAL:	\$194,657
DIFFERENCE:	(218)		DIFFERENCE:	(19,782)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & GROWTH



ARE YOU BORED? WOULD YOU LIKE SOME EXCITEMENT IN YOUR LIFE? WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET FOLKS AND HAVE FUN AND MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC TOGETHER?

Well, come on down to the Pine Room on Wednesday nights beginning at 7:30 p.m. and join the Chancel Choir. You will find welcoming friends, enjoy great fellowship and create beautiful music. How easy can that be! Our first rehearsal for Fall 2011, begins on Wednesday, September 7th. All singers are welcome. New folks are encouraged to come and try us out -- we would love to have you! Our music is always varied (no boredom here), we provide leadership for music in the 11 o'clock worship service, plan special services and enjoy a healthy and hearty social life! How wonderful can that be! Hope to see you on September 7th.

NOW: if you don't like to sing, or, don't think you can sing -- but, you can read music, then you should consider joining the Trinity Ringers Handbell Choir! Our first rehearsal is also on September 7th, at 6:00 p.m. We can always use ringers! And -- talk about having an incredible time making great music -- it's absolutely wonderful to create such beautiful sounds and enjoy it so much that you forget how quickly the time goes by and what a great fellowship you're having with your fellow ringers! How special is that! Come and find out -- Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. in the Pine Room.

If you have questions about either the Chancel Choir or the Trinity Ringers, please feel free to contact Betsy Taylor at [\(919\) 967-7697](tel:919-967-7697) or et4087@gmail.com. I look forward to seeing you in September.

--Betsy Taylor

Open Door Bible Study

You're invited to join the Open Door Sunday school class as we study the book of John! We're using a Bible Study guide from N.T. Wright's "For Everyone" Bible study series. Each lesson has discussion questions, background info, and suggestions for relating the text to our lives today.



EXPERIENCED WITH DIABETES?

Willing to share your wisdom? WE NEED YOU! One of our members has just been diagnosed with Type-2 diabetes and needs to learn more about this life-changing condition.

IF...

- You have diabetes
- You live with a diabetic
- You have experience managing aspects of diabetes (i.e. health coach, nurse)

AND...

- You are willing to share with a fellow Trinity member your experience and practical information on managing diabetes...

THEN... please contact the church office and leave your name and preferred contact information. For email users, please put "diabetes" in the subject line.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to help!



Trinity Singles Small Group

Led by Alan R. Hall

If you are single and would like to join our group for outings and topical discussions of being Christian singles, please join our new group Friday night August 5, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the parlor. Look forward to seeing you!

Bible Study @ Stubblefields

Want to know the Old Testament better? Looking for a short term small group? Please join us as we continue our study of the books of Ezra & Nehemiah at the home of Jason & Magan Stubblefield (2708 Legion Ave/Durham 27707) on Wednesdays, July 13th-August 24th, 7:00-8:30pm.

Ever Wanted to "Ush"?

Volunteers are needed and welcomed to the ministry of ushering. Ushers get to take money from people and wear a special ribbon on their name tag. If you are interested, please put your name and a note to that effect on the attendance pad on the end of your row today and put the sheet in the offering plate.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & GROWTH

Interfaith Hospitality Network

(AKA "IHN")

Trinity has an upcoming IHN week late in August – Sunday, August 28th through Sunday, Sept. 4th (Labor Day Weekend). **This outreach ministry has an ongoing need for evening and overnight hosts, both male and female; couples are welcome as well.** Other opportunities to participate are listed below.

Who might consider being a host?

You might be interested if you:

- Are compassionate
- Have a concern for families who "live on the edge"
- Enjoy interacting with people, including children

Beginning August 14th, there will be a sign-up poster available after each service for those willing to help with the upcoming IHN week. There also will be a section for those interested in learning more about this outreach ministry.

IHN Volunteer Opportunities

Evening Host 5:30 – 8:30pm Help transport guests from the IHN Day House to St. Philips Episcopal Church (403 E Main St/27701), help serve supper, eat and visit with families, and interact with the parents and/or children.

Overnight Host 8:30pm – 6:30am Visit with families, sleep (!), and help transport guests back to the IHN Day House in the morning.

Cooks Prepare a supper meal for guests and evening hosts (usually 10 – 15 persons) and deliver meal to St. Philips by 5:45 – 6:00pm. You may work individually or in teams; this is a great opportunity for a small group or SS class to engage in ministry! [Note: Cooks and their family are welcome to stay and eat with our guests.]

Meal Sponsors Provide financial support to help cover the cost of providing a special meal for our guests (i.e. having a cook-out or providing take-out).

Take-Out Meal Delivery Order a take-out meal (\$ and food order provided!) and deliver it to St. Philips by 5:45-6:00pm. [Note: You and your family are welcome to stay and eat with our guests].

Couponing Tips and Tricks

Led by Pam Guidry Vollers

We have heard so much in the news lately about how bad the economy is but the bottom line for most of us is that the cost of everyday items is growing but our paychecks aren't. That is where couponing comes in. I know you've seen them: the couponers at the store with their giant notebooks and calculators crunching the numbers as they fill their carts. You may have even seen "Extreme Couponing" on TLC where people leave the store with carts full of stuff that they got for free or almost free. I may not be that extreme but I have figured out how to spend less and get more from each shopping trip while still getting the brands my family prefers. Please join me for a workshop on **August 20th at 10am** in the **Pine Room** to teach you some of the tips and tricks you can use to make couponing work for you and your family's budget. See you there!



Prepare the Way!

As many of you know, Trinity provides a meeting space for an NA support group each Sunday evening from 5:30 – 7:00pm. These weekly gatherings provide essential support and education for folks who've struggled with narcotics addiction. This group has a significant area of need which limits participation – they have no means to provide child care. Many persons, particularly women, cannot attend these meetings because they do not have someone to watch their children.

Members of the Outreach Committee are exploring the possibility of meeting that need by arranging supervised child care during NA's meeting time. If you are interested in assisting with this proposed ministry, especially as we brainstorm possibilities and explore its feasibility, please either contact the church office and mention "NA child care" or speak directly with Joan Pepper.

If there is enough interest, we will schedule our initial meeting in late August/early September and announce meeting details in the weekly email and in Sunday bulletins.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Every Wednesday	Weekly Prayer Group, 9:45am, Parlor Contemplative Prayer Group, 12:15pm, AV Room
Every Thursday	Men's Prayer Group, 6:30am, Parlor
Every Sunday	Worship Services at 8:45am (Weekly Communion) and 11:00am Sunday School, 9:45am, Classrooms Confirmation Class, 2:00pm, Blue Sunday School Room Knit Together, 4:00pm, Classroom 3

Monday, August 1	Allred/Shoaf ChristCare Group, 9:30am, Parlor ChristCare Leader Training, 6:30pm, Parlor
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Tuesday, August 2	Memorial Service for David Gibson, 5:30pm, Parlor
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Wednesday, August 3	Ezra & Nehemiah Study, 7:00pm, Stubblefield House
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Friday, August 5	Trinity Singles Small Group, 7:00pm, Parlor
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Sunday, August 7	Vision Team Meeting, 4:00pm, AV Room
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Monday, August 8	ChristCare Leader Training, 6:30pm, Parlor
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Wednesday, August 10	Ezra & Nehemiah Study, 7:00pm, Stubblefield House
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Thursday, August 11	Jones' ChristCare Group, 7:00pm, Trudy Maness' House
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Saturday, August 13	ChristCare Leader Training Retreat
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Sunday, August 14	Youth-led Worship Service
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Monday, August 15	Community Kitchen, 6:00pm, Urban Ministries
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Tuesday, August 16	Middlers Dinner, 6:30pm, Chili's on Chapel Hill Blvd
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Wednesday, August 17	Ezra & Nehemiah Study, 7:00pm, Stubblefield House
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Saturday, August 20	Couponing Tips & Tricks, 10:00am, Pine Room
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Sunday, August 21	Vision Team Meeting, 4:00pm, AV Room
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Tuesday, August 23	Trustee Meeting, 6:00pm, Parlor Finance Committee Meeting, 7:15pm, Parlor
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Wednesday, August 24	Ezra & Nehemiah Study, 7:00pm, Stubblefield House (last night!)
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Thursday, August 25	Jones' ChristCare Group, 7:00pm, Trudy Maness' House
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Sunday, August 28	Christian Education Worship Service Administrative Council Meeting, 12:30pm, Sanctuary 100 Men in Black Concert, 5:00pm, Fellowship Hall
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SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, Sept. 7	Fall bell choir begins, 6:00pm, Pine Room Fall choir rehearsal begins, 7:30pm, Pine Room
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Monday, Sept. 19	UMW Circle 10, Noon, Carolyn Warden's House
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