



Sunday June 29, 2014

A Collection of Musings
and Ideas from the Pastor

United Methodist Youth to Go to Dollywood Tomorrow

The United Methodist Youth will be going to Dollywood tomorrow. For more information, please contact Paula Barton.

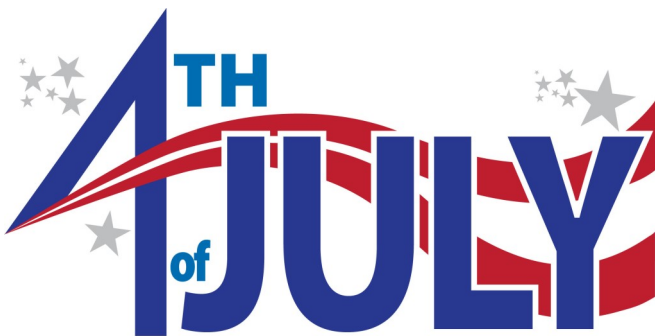
Updates Made to Church Web Site

I spent some time this week making some updates to our church web site. One of the biggest is the addition of a section related to the Sunday service. Although we no longer broadcast on the local internet channel, we still upload videos to the church YouTube channel. Some of those videos have between 400-500 views. Somebody is watching them! The site update, consolidates the Sunday "experience" by offering several items related to the Sunday service on one page for each Sunday.

You will find a link to each Sunday and on that page you will find a Sermon Guide (available for use prior to the service each week), a link to downloadable copies of the Pastor's Ponderings, and the Order of Worship as well as any other special inserts for that particular Sunday. On some Sundays, you will also find an audio message from me. Finally, you will find a YouTube link to the sermon itself.

On paper, I know this may sound confusing, but on the web, I think it looks great and offers an all in one stop for anyone that may have missed a particular Sunday and wants to catch up on what happened. If I have your email address, then you have already been given a link to this new section of the website.

If you didn't get an email from me, then send me an email at trinityumcpastor@gmail.com and I will add you to my list so that I can update you on future changes to the web site. Or just visit the site at trinityumc-bsg.net and go to Media>Sunday Connections and then click on the link to the Sunday you wish to view. (Please Note—we are starting this with the June 22, 2014 sermon—I don't know if we will do a backlog or not. It will take a lot of hours to update past Sundays. Our goal is to keep it up to date as we move forward.)



The Church Office will be closed on July 4th in observance of the Holiday. That means that all information for the bulletin should be in the office by WEDNESDAY of this week so that we can publish on Thursday.



A Look at Upcoming Events

VBS Planning Meeting Re-Scheduled

It's just around the corner (July 28th-Aug 1st) and it is time for us to get down to work on VBS planning. That means that we are going to meet on Thursday night July 3rd at 6:30 p.m. at the church. If you have been contacted by David Goodman, you need to be present at this meeting. If you are wanting to help out, but have not been contacted, then you need to also be present at this meeting. The VBS looks like it is going to be exciting. We need to get everyone informed, involved, and excited. So come out and join us for this very important meeting.

Special Events Planned for July Fellowship Supper

I certainly hope that everyone will come out this Wednesday to our July Fellowship Supper. The meal will begin at 6:30 p.m. We have invited our new District Superintendent, Jeff Wright, and his wife Sandy to be our guests of honor for the meal. It will be a wonderful time to come and meet them. There will also be a picnic, planned by the District, in their honor at a time to be announced. In addition to getting to meet them, we are also going to have a love offering for Paula Barton. Patty Lynn Cooper, from our Shepherd Team, has suggested that we take up a special offering to thank Paula and help her with various expenses related to caring for her mother and sister. A basket will be placed in the fellowship hall for the love offering.

Home Communion Steward Training After Church Today

Immediately following worship today, I will be offering a course on how to serve communion in the home. Our goal is to create a set of two person teams that will go out on Sundays, when we have communion, and deliver the elements to our home bound members. I will provide training and instruction on how to serve the sacrament at this meeting. So please give me time to meet and greet following the service and then meet me in the fellowship hall where the training will be offered. It should last no longer than 30 minutes. This is a very special ministry and I hope that you will attend, even if you are not sure at this point that you would like to serve, I still invite you to come. Seeing what is involved may be all that it takes to make you want to get involved.



Let me tell you how glad we are to have you at our worship service today. We hope that you will encounter the presence of the risen Christ. Please feel free to join in any of the activities or events that you see mentioned. Please come back and worship with us again!

The Pastor’s Ponderings is a weekly publication of Rev. Terry Goodman. It contains thoughts, ideas, articles, and other writings designed to inform and, hopefully, cause you to stop and ponder.

The Romans 12 Project

Cultivating Community Relationships

When Saint Paul’s United Methodist Church in San Bernadino, California, prepared to celebrate its 150th anniversary, the congregation planted a peace pole as a statement of its commitment to discipleship that transforms the world. At that same time they decided to put that commitment into action by adopting two local public elementary schools.

Since then St. Paul’s UMC has donated school supplies, clothing, and flashlights. They regularly pack food boxes for low-income families and provide supplies needed by the school nurses. Church members have lived out their discipleship by making learning aids for teachers, tutoring, and reading to the children. Fall and spring concerts have been hosted in the church sanctuary.

The pastor says, “We have found a passion for the people in our neighborhood. We have found that even though we are not a large church in terms of membership, we can be dedicated to serving the needs of our community. What have been the results of five years of hard work? Whenever we see the kids in the neighborhood they now wave at us. If we go into their apartment complexes, they come running up and will give us hugs. People in the neighborhood know we are a church that cares about them.”

Through the relationships the church has formed, St. Paul’s UMC is seeing signs of new vitality. Their men’s ministry has grown from 7 to 29 as men from the neighborhood have joined them. A youth group that was nonexistent now has 12 active participants and is growing. An urban core church now has hope for itself and its community. As the pastor says, “We no longer are a church worried about dying, but have discovered our purpose as we invite and nurture individuals into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.”

Questions for Discussion

- Who are the children that live near the church? What do you know about their needs? How are you engaged with them?
- Can you name the public schools that are near your church? Who are the principals of those schools? How many students are in each classroom? What percentage of the students receive free or reduced price meals? What items are on the teachers’ wish lists that would make their teaching more effective?

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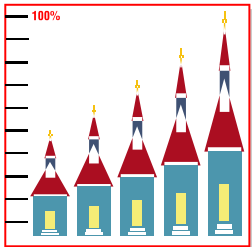
An Update on the Capital Campaign

A special thanks goes out to all the persons and groups that have responded to our Forward Trinity Capital Campaign to raise funds for needed equipment and repairs at the church. Below is where we stand to date on this campaign:

Total Received-Equipment: \$ 4,575
Equipment Goal: \$ 7,000

Total Received Maintenance: \$ 10,867
Maintenance Goal: \$15,000

Just a reminder, we ask everyone to try and have their pledges completed by September 30, 2014. This will allow us to complete the work we need to do during the summer months. Again, thanks to all that have pledged and contributed.



**The Pastor’s Thoughts
on Discipleship**



I gave my son Jacob a compass this past week. It was not just any compass, but one that I had purchased back when I was his age. Although it was almost 40 years old, guess what, it still had a purpose and it still pointed toward north. The compass had not deteriorated. It still knew what it was created to do and it still did it just as it did when I used it nearly 40 years ago. Perhaps, 40 years from now Jacob will be able to pass it on to his children. I’ll bet it will still point north—just like it did then and like it does today.

There is something to be said about knowing your purpose. The Romans 12 article this week ends with a quote: “We no longer are a church worried about dying, but have discovered our purpose as we invite and nurture individuals into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.”

I sense that one of our biggest obstacles to growth here at Trinity UMC is that somewhere along the way we have lost our sense of purpose and/or direction. At times, I get the feeling that some of us are more worried about dying than we are about doing what it takes to live. Sure, we want to live. We want to thrive. We want to be the church that was the shining jewel of the District that it used to be.

I also, sense, however, that we want to do it at the least cost to ourselves. By cost, I am not referring to monetary cost. I am referring to something even more valuable—our time and efforts. For many folks, giving money, (which I don’t downplay) is the simple solution. What we really need, though are people that will give their tithe and that will also give themselves. We need more involvement. We need more enthusiasm. We need more people willing to play the game—not just watch the game.

If you are one of those people wanting to get in the game, then I encourage you to call me this week and talk with me about how you can get involved. I will be surprised if anyone calls. I’ll let you know next week just how many calls I received.