

Pastor's UPDATE



A Publication of
Pastor Terry Goodman
and the
Trinity United Methodist Church
203 E 1st St, S — POB 217
Big Stone Gap, Virginia 24219

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Why Have You Changed the Format?

Welcome to the new look for the Pastor's Update. This new look is coming to you via PDF file. If you can receive an email, then you should be able to access a PDF file. By creating the Update in this format, I am able to store it on the church web site and make it available to a wider range of people.

I have learned that it is a time saving device to create information pieces such as this Pastor's Update in formats that allow it to be shared in multiple ways. This increases the potential reach of the Update and at the same time cuts down on the amount of time spent working on outreach items. So, for me, and I think for the church, it becomes a win-win scenario as I unroll this new format.

Yes. I know it's got vibrant colors. Get's your attention, doesn't it? I may tone it down or the color scheme may change entirely at some future point, but, for now, let's see if the bright colors work. Honestly, I prefer more muted tones, but I think this color scheme has some possibilities.

In addition, this format lends itself to being printed. It will easily print on 8.5 x 11 inch paper. Color will be nice, but it should also make an acceptable black and white copy.

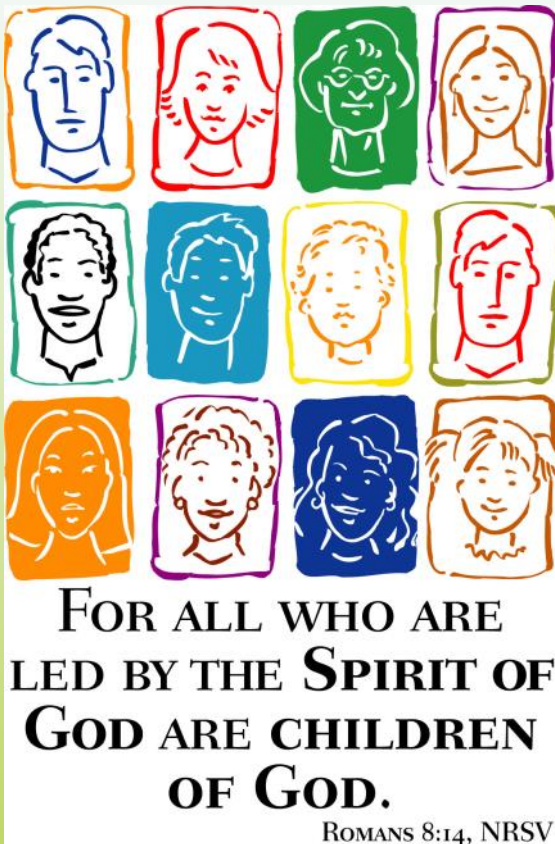
You will also note that I am labeling this as a monthly rather than a weekly publication. I will continue to send out an email version with just short reminders about things happening to which I want to draw your attention.

Also, please note that in the PDF version, the various links should work. Click on them in your PDF reader and be taken directly to the corresponding web page.



I hope that over the last few years you have heard me stress the important role that prayer has in our individual and in our church's life. I also hope that you have heard me discuss how difficult it can be to regularly engage in prayer. I have shared my own struggles, and I believe that my struggles mirror some of your struggles.

For Holy Week, I am going to offer the Offices of Prayer four times each day. These Offices will be : Morning (8:00 am), Mid-day (noon), Vesper (6:00 pm), and Compline (10:00 pm). I will post the videos for these offices on our church Facebook page at the times noted above. Each video will be about five minutes in length. I encourage you to participate in these offices of prayer as a Holy Week kind of devotional. For those that have never seen one of these Offices, they may seem a little strange, but I believe that God can use these times of prayer to bless us. They will start on Palm Sunday March 20th @ 8:00 am.



Verse by Verse Study Through Romans

I began a verse by verse study through the Book of Romans via video sessions. You can watch and view them at your leisure 24/7/365 on the church web site or Facebook page. Below are links to the videos that have already been posted. New links will be added as I create more videos.

[Romans: Introduction](#)

[Romans 1:1-17](#)

[Romans 1:18-32](#)

[Romans 2:1-16](#)

[Romans 2:17-29](#)

[Romans 3:1-8](#)

[Romans 3:9-20](#)

[Romans 3:21-26](#)

[Romans 3:27-31](#)

[Romans 4:1-8](#)

Pastor Embarks in an Online Mission

I have begun the process of creating an online presence in a community called [YouNow](#). (link takes you to my page on YouNow.) It is a community of people, mostly ages 13-30 that allows a person to create an online persona (I'm know as Pastor Terry) and I broadcast a live audio and video feed in an area known as #advice. So far, I have about 70 people that follow my online broadcast. I let them know that I can talk with them on just about any topic they choose. I especially want to talk with them about matters of the faith. In the 10 days or so that I have been online, I have talked with 6-8 people about the Christian faith. I have had prayers with numerous people. I have talked with two youth that said they had been having suicidal thoughts. I have talked with at least three persons that needed help with cutting and one or two that said they had addiction problems. I get the opportunity to share the Christian faith and make a difference in the lives of some impressionable teens and twenty somethings. Although I am not the oldest person in the YouNow community, I am definitely one of the oldest. Please pray for these young men and women as we enter into conversations. If you are interested in following one of the online sessions, then let me know and I'll get in touch with you the next time I broadcast.



This is a picture of Marion Kocher taken on February 11, 2016. She was celebrating her 102nd birthday. Debbie, the boys and I went by her house to sing Happy Birthday to her.



It's been a while since I did a sermon series. However, that's about to change. On the Sunday after Easter (April 3rd) I will begin a series entitled: **Did Jesus Have a Plan-B?** This series will take us sequentially through Jesus' only plan for the spread of the gospel as found in Luke chapters 5-9. Along the way, I'll spend a week on each chapter and address the following themes:

(04-03) **Week #1**—Did Jesus Have a Plan B?

(04-10) **Week #2**— Jesus Calls the Disciples

(04-17) **Week #3** — Jesus Gives the Disciples a Firm Foundation

(04-24) **Week #4** — Jesus Provides Opportunities for the Disciples to Build Their Faith

(05-08) **Week #5** — Jesus Lets the Disciples Observe the Way He Does Things

(05-15) **Week #6** — Jesus Sends the Disciples into the World on Their Own (Pentecost Sunday)

While these may or may not be the titles of the sermons, they are good descriptors of what the series will entail. Note, that between week #4 & week #5, there is an off week. Between those two Sundays I will be in Dallas for a workshop on Stewardship. The Annual Conference is sending me so that I can bring back ideas that our Stewardship Team can use. They also tell me, that there's a good chance I am about to be named as Chairperson of the Conference Stewardship Team. I hope to have a very special worship service planned for May 1st. I'll be letting you know more about that as the time draws nearer.

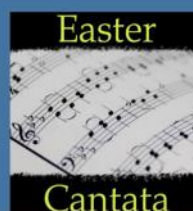
MARCH EVENTS



Meets
1st Monday
At
6:30 pm



Trinity UMC hosts the
Lenten Worship Service and Meal
Thursday March 17, 2016
At Noon



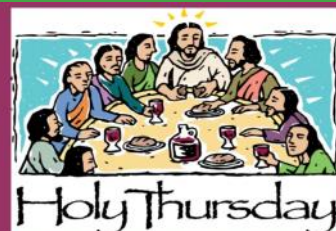
Sunday
March 20th

During Morning Worship



Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday March 20th
2:00-3:30 pm
Grades 5 and Lower

Holy Thursday
Communion & Footwashing
March 24th @ 6:00 pm



Easter is early this year!
Join us for Easter Sunday worship
On March 27, 2016.
11:00 am

Join us for a special time of worship.



Join Us Each Week
for Prayer

Wednesday at 6:00 pm

Since coming to Trinity UMC in June of 2012, I have had the opportunity to observe the church in action. I came realizing that Trinity had some tumultuous years under her belt prior to my arrival. I have no desire to rehash those years, but please bear with me as I explain what I think those years did to the church and her ministries.

With the failure of pastoral leadership, not once but twice, the church was thrown into a leadership vacuum. I cannot comment on how the church did ministry prior to this time in its history, but I can comment on what I think happened afterwards.

I am sure that you have all heard the axiom: "Nature abhors a vacuum." With the lack of pastoral leadership, I believe that the laity of the church stepped forward and began to fill the leadership vacuum. The laity grew strong and carried the church through some of her darker days. Programs, activities, and events were undertaken and promoted. I am sure some were successful and others not as successful. Herein, though, lies the root of our current problem.

I believe that as lay leadership increased there was no central coordinating function. This role is traditionally done by the pastor. The pastor most often provides the direction that funnels the programs and activities of the church in a certain direction. With the lack of pastoral leadership, the church kept moving forward, but there was no central coordination of her activities and programs.

I am seeking to once again provide a centralized direction for our church so that all of us will be able to understand what we are trying to do and how we are going to do it. We need a process that will help us once again be about the Scriptural mandate of making disciples for Jesus Christ.

I intend to do this with, as the song goes, "...with a little help from my friends." We are going to call this group the **Simple Church Team** because we are using the book of that same name as a guide to help us in



that process.

Our goal will be to create a process that moves people from their first visit at the church, into a small group, and then into a service group. Ultimately, our goal will be to create a process that lets people learn how to worship, grow closer in small groups to one another and to God, and then to serve God in ministries within the church and community.

As I survey our church the problem that we have is that we can get people to come to our worship service, but then what's the next step for a first time visitor. I believe that we fail by not offering a process that will move persons into a group that will allow them to get to know church members and at the same time grow closer to God.

This will be my thesis when I convene the Simple Church Team and begin our prayerful deliberations as to what the next steps are for our church to grow and, also, to help our members grow into stronger disciples for Jesus Christ.