

Pastor To Take Some Vacation Time in July

I am going to be taking some vacation time in the month of July. I will be on vacation beginning Tuesday July 7th through Saturday July 18th. I will be out of the pulpit on Sunday July 12th, but have arranged for Rick Galyean to lead the worship that day. I have asked him to provide a musical worship experience. I don't know what he has in mind, but I think that you will want to be present for this worship service. From what I have gathered, he has some very special music planned for this day—both congregational and via persons and groups.

Debbie and I and the family need to go to Michigan to check on her parents and her grandmother. Currently, I don't know the exact day that we will be leaving town, but for sure we will be out of town Sunday the 12th through Friday the 17th.

Join Us for the Prayer Study

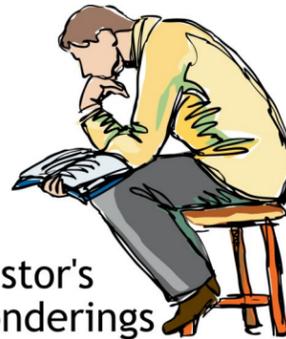
I think we had a good study this past Wednesday night. I saw some people at the study that I don't normally see at such activities. I'd really like to see more fresh faces this coming Wednesday. We will be in session 2 of the Before Amen series narrated and taught by Max Lucado, via video. It begins at 5:30 pm. I suggest that you plan on coming to our fellowship supper and simply come an hour earlier. We'll be done with the video and discussion by around 6:10 pm and you can stay for the dinner.

Welcome to Favorite Hymn Months...

During the months of July and August, we are singing the hymns that you voted for during the month of July. The complete list has been shared with Rick Galyean and we should be hearing some of them as calls to worship, benedictions, and special music. We will also be making our way to the last Sunday of August when we sing the top two hymns. Sorry. I can't share that info with you at this time—I guess you will have to be present on that Sunday and hear them for yourself.

Homecoming Sunday is August 23rd...

You need to go ahead and put that date on your calendar. We will be celebrating Homecoming. I am happy to announce that I have arranged to have the Rev. Don Scott and his wife Peggy present with us on that Sunday. He will deliver our morning message. Christy Smith is also hard at work putting together a video from the picture albums that we have found. She will be playing it on the monitor in the fellowship hall during the meal. Make sure to tell folks about it and be here with us.



Pastor's
Ponderings

Guest Columnist

Seven Key Reasons Your Church Attendance May Be Declining

by Thom Rainer

My five-year old grandson asked me how old I was. When I told him I would turn 60 in a few weeks, he responded: "I didn't realize people got that old."

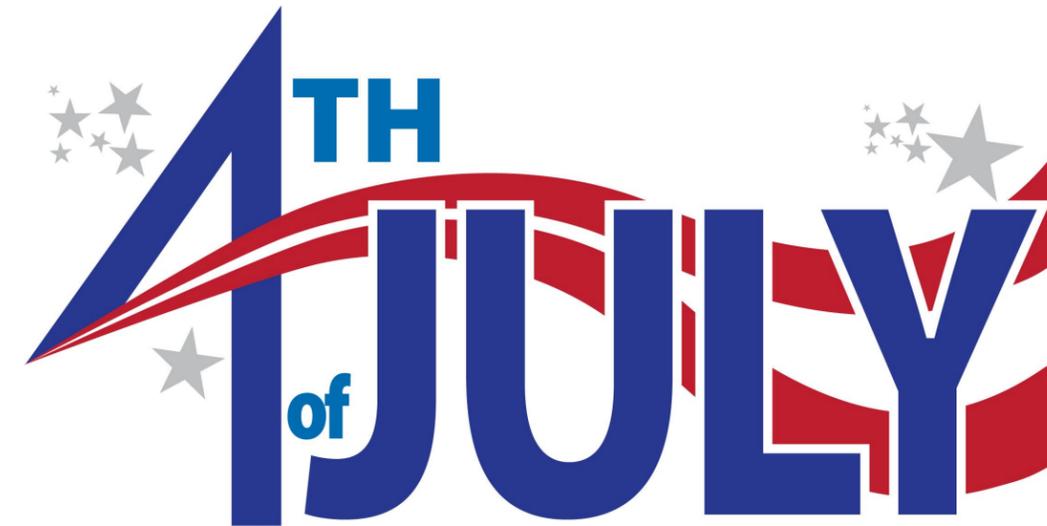
Indeed, in 60 years, like any of us who have lived a few years, I have seen change, lots of change. And I am seeing change in local congregations faster than any time in my lifetime. One of the most disheartening changes I am seeing is the declining attendance in a majority of churches. I am asked repeatedly to diagnose and help with these challenges.

Though addressing the issue of declining attendance cannot be covered in a brief blog post, I hope it will be helpful to share some high-level perspectives. See if any of these seven reasons apply to your church.

- 1.) "Cultural Christians" no longer see the need to attend church.** "Cultural Christian" is really an oxymoron. I refer here to those men and women who once attended church for social, political, or business reasons. Most of them no longer feel it is necessary to be in church to be a regarded citizen in the community.
- 2.) Church members are attending less frequently.** I have noted in other articles how I see this development as potentially the greatest contributor to attendance decline. Three decades ago, a very active church member attended three times a week. Today we call those who attend three times a month an active church member.
- 3.) Expectations are lower for church members.** One of the reasons church members attend less frequently is that very little is expected of them in many churches. If we expect little of our members, that is exactly what we will get.
- 4.) Insufficient emphasis on groups.** This reality may be one of the most neglected areas of church life. Groups of all kinds – home groups, small groups, Sunday school classes, life groups, and others – are key to assimilation and greater commitment. The importance of groups must begin with the pastor and all other key leaders in the church.
- 5.) Inward focus.** In too many churches, the emphasis is on "me, myself, and I." Some members are more concerned about the temperature in the worship center than the eternal destinations of their neighbors. The "me-focused" church is on its way to decline.
- 6.) No clearly defined process of discipleship.** Eric Geiger and I reported on this issue in our book, Simple Church. Growing churches are much more likely to have a clearly grasped and implemented process of discipleship than declining churches.
- 7.) No strategic plans for multi-venues or multi-campus.** The trend of multi-venue and multi-campus churches may be the most significant in church practices in the past three decades. Even smaller churches are now planning for more than one site or venue. Those churches not making such plans are more likely to be declining.

Decline in church attendance cannot be defined in seven simple statements. But these reasons are at least broad explanations of what is taking place in many of our congregations.

The Trinity Companion
Sunday July 5, 2015



Trinity United Methodist Church

203 E 1st St, South—POB 217
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

Worship begins at 11:00 am

Pastor—Rev. Terry Goodman

Office: (276) 523-0789

Text Only : (760) 621-8264

Email: trinityumcpastor@gmail.com

www.trinityumc-bsg.net

You can sponsor a bulletin. For \$15, we can put color on one side and for \$25 we can put color on both sides. Contact the office to see if the Sunday you want is available.

This Bulletin is
sponsored
by...



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!

Greeters: Kathleen Gillespie and Pat Bowden

Prelude

Announcements, Welcome, and Introduction : Skip Skinner

Call to Worship: “This Is the House of the Lord”

*** Opening Hymn:** “Battle Hymn of the Republic” No. 717

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

(You will be given an opportunity to share joys and prayer concerns. Please raise your hand and wait until an usher comes to you with a microphone.)

Children’s Message

The Presentation of God’s Tithe and Our Offerings

Ushers: Patty Robbins, Alberta Mitchell, Kathleen Gillespie and Christy Smith

*** The Doxology** No. 95

Musical Offering: Special Selection: David Goodman

The Presentation of God’s Word

Scripture: Mark 6:1-13 Kim Parsons

Lector: The Word of the Lord for the people of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon : “Check Your Baggage at the Door”

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

(Please join in the ritual as it begins on page 12 in your hymnal.)

*** Closing Hymn:** “America the Beautiful” No. 696

*** Pastoral Benediction :**

Postlude:

*** Please stand, as you are able**

Musical lyrics reprinted using CCLI # 1083130



The Trinity Tribune

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Prayer Studies

The Prayer Group is holding a Prayer Study on Wednesday July 8th at 5:30 pm.

Circle Meetings

Sunday July 19th
Asbury Circle—5:00 pm

AARP

AARP will be meeting on Monday July 6th at 10:00 am. All persons 50 years of age or older are invited to attend.

NOW Team Meeting

The NOW Team will be meeting on Monday July 6th at 6:30 pm.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held on July 20th-July 24th beginning at 5:30 pm and ending at 8:25 pm. Registration begins at 5:20 pm and the ages are 3 years- entering 5th grade.

July Meetings and Activities

Monday July 6, 2015

- 10:00 am—AARP
- 6:30 pm—NOW Team

Wednesday July 8, 2015

- 5:30 pm—Prayer Studies
- 7:00 pm—Choir Practice

Sunday July 12, 2015

—5:00 pm—UMYF

Sunday July 19, 2015

- 5:00 pm—UMYF
- 5:00 pm—Asbury Circle

Monday July 20, 2015

—5:30-8:25 pm—Vacation Bible School

UMYF meets Sunday nights at 5:00 pm for a meal and 5:30 pm for meeting.
Choir meets each Wednesday at 7:00 pm

UYMF Meeting

The UYMF will not be meeting today July 5th.

Kids In Christ

Kids In Christ will not meet in July. The next meeting will be the second Sunday in August.



Financial Snapshot

The Administrative Board thinks that it is important that we give you a weekly Financial Snapshot. Here are some figures to ponder:

Funds need for HVAC Units.....\$ 5,800
Current Balance Forward Trinity Maintenance:\$ 5,602
Money Given to General Fund
Budgeted Need to Date\$79,657
Actual Amount Given to Date \$77,414



“I HAVE NOT STOPPED GIVING THANKS FOR YOU, REMEMBERING YOU IN MY PRAYERS.”

EPHESIANS 1:16, NIV

For Those with Cancer:

James Horne; Liz Ashley; Robin (Rita Nash’s Daughter); Barbara Polly; Debbie Cooper; Wilma Nein; Phyllis Gilley; Melody (Mellie) Gilley; Doris Berta; Sandra Rich

Facing or Recovering from Surgery or Hospital Stay

Beth Hagan; Becky Clark; Helen Cochran; Mary Warner

Non-Specific Prayers for:

Brownie Polly; Dagni Spurlock; Virginia Sigmon; Geneva Allen; Jim Gates; Fred Vanbever; Jennie Shupe; Hope Meade; Matt Carroll; Jim Cooper; Melvin Carter; Kenny Spurlock’s mother; T. R Davidson; Bill & Jean Hendrick; Mike Shaffer; Peggy Bates; Marion Kocher; Bob Horne

- Pray for our Pastor and the Leaders of our church.
- Pray for the Leaders of the United Methodist Church.
- Pray for those in the Church in need.

If you know that someone on the prayer list has passed away, please contact the church office.

July 2015						
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