

check
this OUT!



Follow Us:

On Twitter



On Facebook



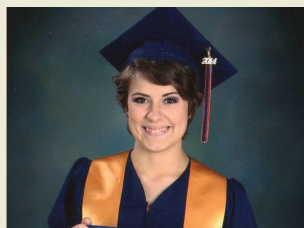
Google +



YouTube Channel



You are Called and Empowered by God to Serve Others on Behalf of God.



Church Honors Graduates

It's not always easy watching those we love go through those transitions in life such as graduation. It means that our little boys and girls have grown up and become young men and women. They may be moving out on their own—or they may be staying around for a while. Somehow, though, things are different.

We have watched them grow and we now understand that it's no longer up to us. We have raised them and taught them and now it's up to them to go out into the world to make their mark on the world.

In an attempt to recognize their accomplishments, the church hosted a dinner on their behalf in June. A special meal, a special head table, stories from those present and a video that highlighted those growing up years. It was our way of saying, "Job well done." It was also our way of saying, "We hope that you remember all that the church and your family has taught you and that you are a success in life."

We will continue to pray for our graduates and will always be here for them. They are a part of us, and we look forward to celebrating with them all the achievements that await them.



Summer 2014
Volume 1—Number 1



getting to the
point

By
Rev. Terry
Goodman



You are a young adult (aged 18-32). Life has so much to offer you. You may be searching. You want to know who you are. You want to know why God made you. You want to know what you are going to do with the rest of your life. You are full of questions and, often times, have very few answers. I suggest that you embrace this period of your life. Explore and experience the things that are available to you, but never forget that you ultimately exist to bring honor and glory to the God that created you and that sustains you. Also, don't ever forget that I and your church stand ready to help you with any of those questions. We have plenty of love and advice, feel free to ask us to share it with you.

The Trinity CONNECTION

A Quarterly Publication of the Trinity United Methodist Church

A Newsletter Just for You...

One of the things that we have come to realize, is that once someone graduates from high school, it often becomes difficult to keep in touch with them. Some go off to college. Some get jobs—not necessarily in the community. Some move away. Many, just sort of drop off the radar when it comes to activity within the church. This newsletter is the idea of our Shepherd Team. Our goal is to use it as a way for our church to keep in touch with those that graduate and then move on to other things in life. We hope that you will find it informative. We hope that you might even note some of the activities and events that we mention in this newsletter and make a special effort to come back and participate in them.

Regardless of where you are and what you are doing, we want you to know, that we still love you and care about you.

9 Things to Do While You're Still Single

By [Molly Jasinski](#) July 23, 2014

Molly Jasinski is passionate about a lot of things, including serving Jesus, helping with behind-the-scenes work on [TrueLoveDates.com](#), spending time with family and friends, and cheering for the Green Bay Packers. You can follow her stream-of-consciousness thoughts on her [personal blog](#) or [Twitter](#).

A bucket list
for before you
tie the knot.

I've been single my entire life so far. And while there are difficult days, there are definitely upsides to being single that can be overlooked. There's no reason to sit around, waiting for the dream guy or girl to come along.

As for me, I'm learning to live life, no matter my relationship status. After polling my married friends and reflecting over my life, here are the top things to do while you're still single:

1. Travel As Much As Possible.

You have the time now and no one else's schedule to work around! Go for it. I've been fortunate enough to fly to visit college friends in Seattle and South Carolina, stand in my friend's wedding in Texas, go on summer camping trips and spontaneous day road trips, and even live in three different states in the past few years. Traveling gives you a chance to experience new things, expand your worldview and gives you a sense of pride (the good kind) in your abilities to handle things on your own. Plus, it's just fun!

2. Save Money.

I'll admit, this is one I am still working on. Adjusting to marriage can be difficult enough without the added stress of financial burdens. Many of my married friends recommend building up your savings and paying off as many loans as possible now as opposed to later. Also, practice budgeting now (I'm preaching to the choir here)—it'll be one less thing to adjust to in married life eventually.

3. Enjoy Time With Friends

This one goes for time with both married and single friends. I treasure my relationships with my friends in both categories. Since I only have my schedule to consider right now, setting up times to grab coffee or go on week-end excursions is rather simple. Use this precious time with friends to the fullest—don't let it slip by.

4. Get Involved With Church

Along with the time with friends, connecting at church is much easier to commit to when you're single. I'm cur-

(Continued on page 3)

Visit us on the Web www.trinityumc-bsg.net



Spiritual Formation Happens
(part 1) by Jimmy Davis

We don't practice spiritual disciplines to get God to love us, but to hear Him say it.

I was once asked in a youth-ministry job interview about the current state of my devotional life. I admitted sheepishly that I was "taking a break" from spiritual disciplines because my "personal time with God" had slipped across that fuzzy line between loving devotion and legalistic duty. Not my best foot forward, but at least I was being honest. The truth is, after more than 30 years of walking with Jesus, my pattern has been a predictable one:

- 1) Pursue prayer and Bible study with Spirit-driven, get-to-meet-with-God energy.
- 2) Watch that energy slowly dissolve into self-dependent, ought-to-have-my-quiet-time effort.
- 3) Eventually give in to what's-the-use apathy.
- 4) Repent, regroup, and pick it up again at step one.

Spiritual Formation Happens

I've considered giving up spiritual disciplines for Lent — or forever. But the fact is that even if I stop reading my Bible, praying or going to worship, my spiritual shape will still be formed by some set of practices by which I live. You see, we are not only capable of being molded, we are given to being molded. For better or worse, we're all being shaped by something into the shape of something all the time.

C. S. Lewis said it best in Mere Christianity:

“And taking your life as a whole, with all your innumerable choices, all your life long you are slowly turning this central [part of you] either into a heavenly creature or into a hellish creature: either into a creature that is in

harmony with God, and with other creatures, and with itself, or else into one that is in a state of war and hatred with God, and with its fellow-creatures, and with itself.... Each of us at each moment is progressing to the one state or the other.”

"Discipline," according to Jerry Bridges, "refers to certain activities designed to train a person in a particular skill." Everything we do, or don't do, is a kind of training. Everything that you and I desire, think, say, listen to, watch, read, or choose comes together to form a pattern of activities training us to live either a hellish me-first life or a heavenly you-first life. This pattern is largely made up of a set of "disciplines" that you and I practice over and over again, consciously or not. They may not feel like spiritual disciplines, but they are forming our souls. The decision is not whether you will or won't practice spiritual disciplines, but rather what sort of disciplines you will prefer to practice. As the late John Stott once said, "Holiness is not a condition into which we drift." So we have to choose the pattern of disciplines that will train us in the skill of holy living and wholly loving.

The Purpose of Cross-Shaped Disciplines

One simple statement made by a retreat leader several years ago gave me hope that I could pursue Christian spiritual disciplines from a heart of desire, not duty. Our church's youth ministry staff was taking a weekend away to learn more about the validity and variety of spiritual disciplines practiced throughout the history of the church. Anxiety welled up in me as the retreat leader told us we would spend two days practicing journaling, solitude and silence, and all sorts of prayer and Bible reading. Fear of falling back into legalism gripped me, until he explained, "I don't practice these disciplines to get God to love me, but to hear Him say it." "I don't practice these disciplines to get God to love me, but to hear Him say it."That one little side comment completely changed my understanding of the purpose of the spiritual disciplines.

I realized I had been practicing "cross-less devotions." I was working hard at spending time with God while forgetting the very Gospel that permits and prompts me to do so. We are not to practice Bible reading, fasting, solitude, prayer, and other disciplines to make God happy with us but to make space to hear how happy God is with us because of Jesus. When I have a quiet time in order to get God to love me, I am a legalist who

"slaves away" to earn the favor of God, not a loved son who enjoys fellowship with his Father.

The purpose of spiritual disciplines is to make room in my life to "repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15), to forsake my broken cisterns and drink again from "the fountain of living waters" (Jeremiah 2:13). Cross-shaped spiritual disciplines enable me to hear God the Father say that I already have His acceptance and approval through God the Son so that I can now work with Him in the resurrection power that God the Spirit supplies. I cannot earn the presence and power of God in my life by saying and doing the right things. Practicing the spiritual disciplines enables me to enter God's presence and engage His power by embracing the good news that Jesus has already said and done the right things for me. When my spiritual disciplines are shaped by the cross, then whatever spiritual discipline I practice, my aim is the same: to feed by faith on Jesus Christ as He is offered in the Gospel.

Now, take some time to evaluate your own practice of spiritual disciplines by pondering a few questions:

What pattern of practices is shaping your soul for better or worse?

What part do the disciplines of Bible reading, prayer and public worship play in the shaping of your soul and the way you live your life?

Do you struggle to understand the point of spiritual disciplines? Try rephrasing my retreat leader to evaluate your own spiritual practices: "I don't _____ (pray, read my Bible, fast, etc.) to get the Father to love me. I _____ to hear Him say He loves me in the Gospel of His Son, Jesus Christ."

In part two, we'll get even more practical as we think about the power and practice of cross-shaped spiritual disciplines. Stay tuned.

This article was found at: <http://www.boundless.org/faith/2014/spiritual-formation-happens-part-1>

You might want to check out that web site. It is geared to young adults and seems to have lots of good material. -TDG



David applying texture to sheet rock walls.



USE THIS
PRECIOUS TIME
WITH FRIENDS
TO THE
FULLEST—
DON'T LET IT
SLIP BY.

steps to spiritual
growth ...

1
Read Your Bible

2
Practice Prayer

3
Engage in Service

4
Find Christian
Friends

5
Go to Church

(Continued from page 1)

rently helping out with my church's children's ministry and love that I can dedicate as much time to it as I do. I'm usually free for the extracurricular events outside of Sunday mornings, too, so I try to help out with those as often as possible.

It can be easy to feel down about how open your schedule may seem without weekly romantic dates to go on, but it's so fulfilling to use this season of life to invest in others.

5. Live With Friends

Once you marry your future spouse, that's the last roommate you'll ever choose to live with. Kind of crazy to think about, huh? So if you've always thought it would be fun to be the Rachel to your friend's Monica or the Chandler to your friend's Joey (sorry, I couldn't resist a Friends TV show reference), what better time than now? I had a roommate who became a friend during my time living in Texas, and now my sister and I share a place, which is great. We both know that we might not be roommates forever — although we do have a backup plan to become crazy cat ladies together if necessary (just kidding...we like dogs better) — so we're enjoying all the Netflix marathons, meals together, and general silliness we're having while living together currently.

6. Go For Any Academic Dreams You Have.

When I entered college, my plan was to find a guy there, get engaged, graduate and get married.

Simple, right?

Well, thankfully God had different plans, because what I didn't realize about myself back then was that I can be very easily distracted from a goal. Had I had a boyfriend, maybe I would have been too preoccupied to fully go after a dream I'd had since I was 8 years old: to graduate with a Bachelor's degree. I ended up graduating with my BA in four years.

It's never too late to go back, get another degree, go for a Master's, etc, but it gets much more difficult once you're married or thinking about starting a family. So if you have an education dream, now is the time.

7. Go On Mission Trips

This one goes along with the travel point. I am going on my first mission trip as an adult this summer (I've previously gone on two when I was still in high school) and I'm very excited about taking such a big step in faith. Yes, it takes a lot of commitment now, but it's something I wanted to do during my time of singleness because I've had several friends, most of whom are married with young kids, who tell me they'd love to go on one too but it's not the right time in life for them currently. For me, it is, and it's something I don't want to waste.

8. Establish Routines For Whatever You're Passionate About.

If you have something you've always wanted to pursue, be it a new hobby, sport, dream, so on, work toward it now. Don't let it be that mystical thing that you'll get around to "eventually." Sure, you're busy, but you still have more free time now than you will later in life, so be brave and try something new!

9. Spend time with God

This one may seem obvious, but it's interesting how easily it can be overlooked, at least in my own life. I have tons of time to do all the things I mentioned above, but most important of all is to spend quality time with my Savior.

Make it a part of your daily life now to read your Bible, pray, journal and go to a Bible study. Don't forget the One who loves you most of all. It's a great, important thing to try to accomplish everything listed above, but if we miss this last point, our time without a significant other will have been without a real purpose. So, go ahead, embrace this thing we call singleness, achieve your goals, and follow God above all. Because life doesn't start when you're married—life is happening now.

This article was originally posted at [truelovedates.com](http://www.truelovedates.com)

Read more at <http://www.relevantmagazine.com/life/relationships/9-things-do-while-you%E2%80%99re-still->



Sunday August 31, 2014
Rev. Jeff Wright is preaching
Potluck Meal after the Church Service

