



## Snapshot of Our Finances

### General Budget

YTD Revenue for General Budget:  
\$106,585.47

Total General Budget Expenses:  
\$115,422.78

YTD General Budget Balance: (\$8,837.31)

### Net Assets

YTD Restricted Funds and Endowments:  
\$132,954.56

Unrestricted (General Budget) Checking  
Balance: \$5,230.32

YTD Total Net Assets: \$138,184.88



### Sunday Worship Attendance

Average Attendance: 67

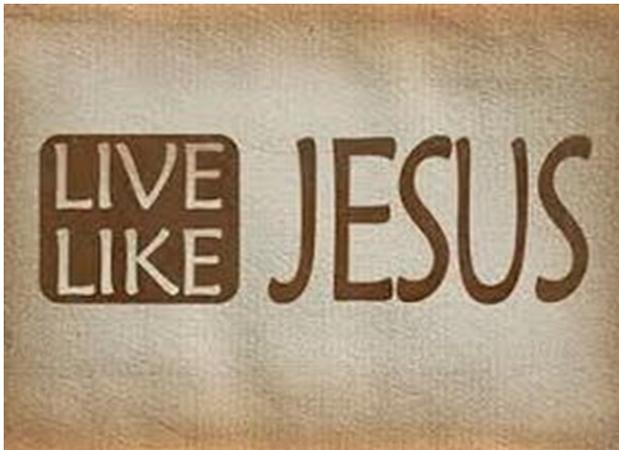
Sunday School Attendance: 18

Small Group Attendance: 5

Administrative  
Board  
Information



Trinity United  
Methodist Church



### **From the Administrative Board:**

A Congregation in the Retirement Stage of Life

At our last meeting, pastor Robert led us through a visioning exercise called **The Life Cycle of the Church** developed by Dr. Phil Maynard. The Life Cycle of the Church is like a parable. A parable tells a familiar story; then, at the end our eyes are opened to a new meaning and possibilities.

**The Parable:** We enter this world as infants. Through a lot of nurture, security, and love, infants grow to be adults. Adults, in some way, replicate the process. Soon their nest is emptied. We settle into a life of retirement. Old age ushers us into a season of role reversal: Adult children become their parents' parents... until the time of death. We know from experience that our family name continues as long as the Cycle of Life is replicated by each generation.

**The New Meaning:** The Health and Viability of the Local Church depends on its nurture, security, and love of God's children as they pass through each of Maynard's 10 Life Stages. For example, we often hear that our youth is the future of the Church. This half-truth blinds us from seeing the whole picture. Experience

teaches us that the Life Span of our Youth Group depends on the children in the nursery and childhood programs.

Yes, youth may invite their friends, but seldom bring infants and children with them. Youth inviting youth will increase the size of the Youth Group but it seldom extends its Life Span. At Spring Creek UMC, we went from no youth program to a vibrant program that averaged 15-20 people. I kept talking about our need for Adults with infants and children. After six years, the youth had all graduated and left for college. People had a hard time understanding how the vibrant program died over-night. It did not die they graduated to a new-life stage of living.

The Youth Group did not die. It grew up! The youth became young adults. Their parents could not see that their "empty nests" also emptied the youth group. We did not have infants in the nursery or children in Sunday School.

### **Trinity UMC:**

The Administrative Board recognizes that TUMC has entered the "Retirement Stage" of Life but sees clear signs that "Old Age" will soon arrive. With retirement comes a shift in how people spend their time. Each Stage of Life remains important to Congregations in the "retirement stage" of life. Programs, activities, leadership roles are highly valued. It is simply time for those celebrating "Adulthood", "Maturity", and "Empty Nests" to fill their shoes. What does a Church do whose nursery is empty and children and youth programs barely have Adult Leadership? To whom do Leaders turn to fill volunteer positions? Such are the questions of congregations like Trinity UMC.

### **Good News:**

We live in a unique time in Salvation History. People in the "Retirement through Old Age

Stages of Church life" are experiencing what George Barna calls "Spiritual Discontent." They have discontenting questions? "What will happen to me when I die?" "What will God say to me on the day of judgment?" "How do I cope with my feelings of unworthiness?" "What will heaven be like?" I have lived a "good Life" — am I good enough to enter heaven." At the same time, people 40 years old and younger long to learn how to live a spiritual life.

Just in case I have not made myself clear, both groups are seeking the same thing. Their questions are totally different, but the answers are the same. They both long to discover the Way of the Spiritual Life in Christ Jesus.

How do we make Disciples of Jesus Christ? Folks, they must be born of the Spirit. The Spiritual Life addresses the very core of our being, not our doing! The Spiritual Life calls us to "lift up our hearts," "have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus," and discover that God still speaks in a still small voice from the dept of our souls. The Spiritual Life is a wakeup call to be conscious of God in you, above you, and working through you.

"Space, the final frontier!" Yes, indeed, but not the space traveled by Starships. The final frontier is INNER SPACE. The Great Command calls us to explore God's House that shall never be built by human hands. It is built of inner heavenly spaces we call heart, soul, and mind. It is built to be an Inner Space of Agape. God is Agape! We are created to reflect Agape, live Agape, and tell everyone what we have seen and experienced.

One in Christ,

Robert Burlingham, pastor