



THE TRINITY TIMES



Following Christ, we equip, energize and nurture all God's people to transform

Welcome to **Trinity** United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER 2010

6800 Wurzbach Road
San Antonio TX 78240



SEPTEMBER AT TRINITY

September 5

8:45 and 11 a.m.
9:45 a.m.
12:15 p.m.
12:15 p.m.

Holy Communion

Worship services
Sunday School for all ages
Youth Choir rehearsal
Family Life meeting

September 11 Remember this day and offer a prayer

September 12

8:30 - 10:00 a.m.
8:45 and 11 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
9:45 a.m.
12:15 p.m.

12:15 p.m.
12:45 p.m.

Acolyte Training (page 3)

Missions Breakfast
Worship services
Recognition of TUMS teachers
Sunday School for all ages
Missions and Outreach Team Meeting
Youth Choir rehearsal
UM Youth Fellowship

September 19

8:45 and 11 a.m.
9:45 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
12:15 p.m.
12:45 p.m.

Worship services
Sunday School for all ages
Recognition of TUMC teachers
Youth Choir rehearsal
UM Youth Fellowship

September 26

8:45 and 11 a.m.
9:45 a.m.
12:15 p.m.
12:45 p.m.

Recognition of Public and Private School Teachers

Worship services
Sunday School for all ages
Youth Choir rehearsal
UM Youth Fellowship

October 9, 2010—Watch out for "Wild Game Dinner" (with Silent Auction)



Again, save the date!



Come travel to the Holy Land

with Bishop and Mrs. Dorff

Join United Methodists in the San Antonio area...

Departing January 31, 2011
From San Antonio for just \$2246 (plus tax and tips). You will fly with Educational Opportunity Tours 10 days.

Questions may be addressed to:

Jerry Jay or Betty Smith

884 Lake Breeze Drive

Canyon Lake, TX 78133

Directors of Travel Ministry

for Educational Opportunities Tours

Phone: 830-899-3916

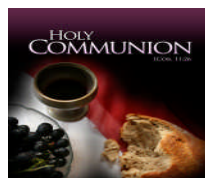
Email: jerryjay@gvvc.com

Your journey of a lifetime includes:

Round trip air fare, deluxe motor coaches, guided sightseeing, entrance fees to sites visited, first class hotels, buffet breakfast and dinner daily, and online Bible Study guide.

NEWS Flash!

Are you Ready!
"Free For All" is back—
Saturday, October 16. Details coming soon! Save the date!



October 3, 2010
This day, World Communion Sunday



'Margaret's Musings'

Rev. Margaret Decker, Pastor



Sometimes it takes me a long time to move in. I have been particularly slow this time. However, the office is beginning to look like I am finally really moving in. Some personal mementos are showing up in the office. It doesn't look quite so bland or perhaps sterile. There is more to come.

The mementos or knick-knacks that I have remind me of people I have known and points in my life. Sometimes it is very difficult for me to give up these things because when I see them, I think about times past. People and events help shape our lives. If we lived in isolation, then we would be very bland and, in a way, sterile. The people we have encountered teach us about life—the good, the bad, and everything in-between. The noteworthy events in our lives bring perspectives and insights that we might not have gleaned any other way.

The ultimate grounding for our lives is our faith. Some of us are blessed to only have encountered pleasant and good people. If you are one of those people, thank God for such a blessing. Some of us are blessed by having basically carefree lives. If you are one of those people, thank God for such a blessing. Many of us have encountered people who untrustworthy, abusive, negative, or have other attributes that demean and hurt those who are around them. Life may at times seem bleak. Many of us have times when the circumstances of life seem to almost crush us. We may be tempted to give up all hope. In those times, we need to pray earnestly. We need to search the scriptures and read and reread passages like Romans chapter 8, particularly verses 31-39. In those words we are reminded that God is always with us—nothing can separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus our Lord. We are all blessed by this enduring love of God, and we all should give thanks.

We might think of the impressions from people we have known and things we have experienced as the invisible mementos of our interior lives. If we have given these "mementos" over to God to bless and/or to redeem them through grace, then these "mementos" can become vehicles for reaching out to and understanding the hurting people we encounter. May we always be willing to walk beside and to help bear the burdens of those around us. May we share our faith with others so that they may be grounded to God through faith.

It is wonderful to be in service with people who love God, love this congregation, and reach out to people of the community.

Yours in Christ,

Margaret

United Methodism 101

There is the possibility to have a class for anyone, either visitor or member, who wants to know more about the United Methodist Church. The class would last for 8 weeks and will be led by Rev. Margaret Decker. For the class to form at least 6 people need to register. The class will begin after Labor Day.

The class will meet either on Sunday at 5:00 pm or on Wednesday evening. If you are interested in participating, please, contact the church office. At that time let Cynthia know your preference for the meeting time.



Jason Brown
Chancel Choir/Youth Choir Director



Dear Trinity members and friends,

I'm going to take an opportunity to brag about some of the musical gifts we have here at Trinity UMC. The Chancel Choir has begun rehearsing again after taking a short summer break. I must say that I've missed being surrounded by such a warm group of individuals. Once we would start our Wednesday rehearsals and I would hear those beautiful voices, I would forget about how tiring my day was and I'd always end up with a smile on my face.

As the seasons have changed, so have a few roles. Instead of singing in the back row, I have the wonderful honor of directing the Chancel Choir. I must say that I was welcomed with open arms and I feel very supported by everyone at the church.

We began rehearsing on August 18 and we will make our Fall debut on Sunday, September 5th at 11:00. I hope that you can be in attendance. Of course, Advent and Christmas are already on the mind, so please consider joining us for any amount of time that you're available. You're always welcome! For those that don't feel comfortable making a "joyful noise", I have faith that you'll gain confidence and learn something new about your abilities should you choose to venture out of your shell!

Until next time, God bless!

Jason Brown

OPEN HOUSE MONTH

The Worship Committee has set the dates for Open House Month. We will begin **September 12th and continue through October 2nd. Each of the four Sundays we will have special recognitions or observances.**

October 3rd, World Communion Day, we will have a special Communion service. We look forward to seeing everyone each of these Sundays, as we do every Sunday. Please invite someone to attend with you or call someone we haven't seen in awhile and let them know they have been missed and that we look forward to seeing them!

Updates from SPRC

We are pleased to announce that Jason Brown will direct the Chancel Choir and the Youth Choir. Tina Lopez will lead the Early Ensemble.

We are very thankful for the persons who continue to serve in their particular areas of the Music Program: Layne Kerley, organist; Connie Medrano, youth choir accompanist, and Stacie Brown, bell choir director.

We are still looking for someone to lead the Children's Music Program. If you are willing to serve in this ministry, please, contact Diana Humiston or Margaret Decker through the church office (210) 684-0261.

Trinity UMC Sunday School is in need of a Kinder/1st grade teacher.

Curriculum (for the Green Church, new for this year) and training will be provided. If you'd like to team teach with another adult, that would be fine. The commitment is from September 2010 to May 2011.

If you're available and interested in doing this, please contact Becky Thaxton, Director of Children's Ministry, as soon as possible.

Thank You,
Becky Thaxton
Director, TUMC Children's Ministries
210-684-0261
BT@trinityumcsa.org

Today's Inspiration on Wisdom
"THE FIRST STEP IN THE ACQUISITION OF WISDOM IS SILENCE, THE SECOND LISTENING, THE THIRD MEMORY, THE FOURTH PRACTICE, THE FIFTH TEACHING OTHERS."
Solomon Ibn Gabriol

Children's Ministry Announcements



Congregation – The Children's Ministry Department Needs Your Help

In September we will be starting with a new curriculum called, The Green Church. In preparation for that study we need a few of the following items:

paper towel rolls	wrapping paper rolls
tissue boxes	unused/saved gift wrap
ribbons	yarn
fabric scraps	old pantyhose (washed please)
cardboard egg cartons	buttons

We will be using the above items for recycled craft projects. As always, we do thank you in advance for your support.

God bless you,

Becky Thaxton

Director , TUMC Children's Ministry

Reaching Out/Touching Our Community

Glen Oaks Elementary School has asked if Trinity UMC would be interested in being a community partner with them. Glen Oaks is designated as an ESL campus/refugee school and has 2 "newcomer classes", specifically marked for refugee students who come mainly from the Middle East.

Volunteers are asked to donate about 2 hours/week of their time to Glen Oaks Elementary. Training will be provided and background checks will be conducted by N.I.S.D.

If you're interested in donating your time to this worthy effort or have any questions please contact Becky Thaxton via e-mail (BT@trinityumcsa.org) or by telephone 275-3864 (cell phone). As always your prayerful consideration is encouraged.

Baked Potato Luncheon

Sunday, October 3rd, is just around the corner. Please plan to stay after the 11:00 a.m. worship service and join us in the gym for the Missions' Annual Baked Potato Luncheon with all the trimmings. Our UMW (United Methodist Women) will have some wonderful items for a silent auction to benefit our local, district, conference, and world wide ministries. We will also have a table of priced items for sale.

How can you help? Come to this event to eat and shop. Also, if you have any nice item that you would like to donate to our silent auction, please bring it to the gym at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 2nd, or on Sunday morning before the 11:00 worship service.

If you have any questions or need assistance with a donated item, please call Connie Medrano at 308-6095.

Thank you all for your help.

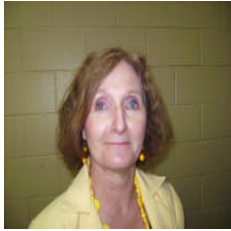
Greetings!

The Greater Emmaus Northwest San Antonio Community bids you welcome to attend a monthly gathering.

The October 2010 gathering will be held at Trinity UMC on Friday, October 15 at 6:45 p.m. in the church Sanctuary.

If you have questions, please call me.

Thank you,
John Reed
(210)645-4744



Harriet's Hopes

When we join a Methodist church, we promise to uphold it "by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness." In my 32 years at Trinity, I have observed our congregation doing just that so very often.

We have a prayer ministry that meets every week to pray over those on our prayer list, plus others. At every service we mention aloud others for whom we want the congregation to pray. I have never attended a meeting here that did not start with prayer.

Our presence is practiced in so many ways, not just being in church on Sunday morning. Many of our membership are on committees that meet at least once every other month, some every month. Our choir members meet every week on Wed. night (except for 6 weeks in summer), and most show up a half hour before the service to rehearse again every Sunday. Our handbell choir meets every Wed. night and plays at both services one Sunday per month (again, except for summer). We also have an Early Ensemble and a youth choir, both of whom rehearse weekly. At least 2 people come every weekday to our church to deliver Meals on Wheels to shut-ins. Three people come to our church once every week to help in our office. Some of their duties go beyond just office work. They include replacing envelopes, pens, and bookmarks in all the pews, updating bulletin boards, sorting keys, preparing booklets for church conference, and occasional duties that just come up, plus the usual office duties.

Our gifts usually are thought of as monetary, but all these volunteer activities ARE GIFTS. You can give the gift of time. If you can carry a tune and can match a tone when you hear it, consider singing in one of our vocal choirs. You don't even have to be able to read music; just be able to repeat what you hear. If you play an instrument, please tell our choir director or someone in one of our choirs of your talent; we can use you! If you are comfortable reading aloud, you can serve as a liturgist. If you feel comfortable talking to strangers, you can serve as an usher. We should ALL be able to greet a stranger when we see someone we don't know on any given Sunday and welcome him to our church. Just a few Sundays ago a couple came to our Sunday School class and said that they had visited several churches but returned to ours because we were the FRIENDLIEST! Let's not lose that reputation! Also, if you feel you can't give enough monetarily, do your best not to cost your church. Every newsletter costs \$.75 PER COLOR PAGE, plus the cost of the paper. Do you print yours at your own computer, or do you ask your church to buy one for you? Do you leave the light on in the restroom when you leave, and you're the last one out?

Our service involves people who are present, but who do more than just show up. At least 2 people come EVERY weekday to our church to deliver Meals on Wheels to shut-ins. At least 4 people usher every Sunday. At least 2 people serve as liturgist every Sunday. During the school year, 2 children serve as acolytes every Sunday. At every communion there are volunteers to help distribute the elements and to guide people to the front of the church and back. We have volunteers watering our garden, pulling weeds, harvesting the vegetables and fruit, and delivering the food. Although we now pay people to mow and edge our grounds, we still need volunteers to trim hedges. Even picking up trash should be everyone's job. If you see trash where it shouldn't be, be a good servant, and pick it up. Members of our Board of Trustees not only find people to do work around our campus, but some also do the work, themselves. We have Sunday School teachers for all our classes, some are teachers in "real" life, but many just volunteer to teach.

Our witness is an addition to our usual promises, at least, on paper. We ALWAYS witness, but sometimes we don't witness FOR God. Remember that someone is watching us nearly all the time. Try not to be one of those people who cause someone else to say, "If that's a Christian, I don't want to be one." Are you "singing the praises" of your church, your denomination, your Christ, and your God? Maybe you're talking people OUT of attending our church. Do you witness FOR us or AGAINST us? Do you witness FOR God and Christ or AGAINST Them?

I tell Cynthia every week in the office, "They can't fire me; I'm a volunteer." Remember that you volunteered to be a Christian and a United Methodist. God doesn't fire us. As long as you are keeping your promise to Him, you're still employed as a Christian.

See you in church,

Harriet Phillips

2011 ZIMBABWE MISSION TENDEKAI MUZOREWA

June 2011 we are planning a mission to Zimbabwe, where we are helping to construct the water well.

In preparation we will do a fundraiser to continue the entire project at Muziti UMC Centre. The water well includes getting electricity connected so that we can pump water using electric pump. The fundraiser is on October 9th, 2010 at Trinity UMC at 5:30 PM. Contact Tendekai Muzorewa at 320-0862 or Mary Holland at 210-492-8711 for additional questions. Two members of the San Antonio District UMC, Dorrit White and Mary Holland visited Zimbabwe in July 2010 and this is what they observed..

"The church is very much alive in Zimbabwe.

There is a middle class that is working hard to help the country recover. It's just that many of the middle class have left. It's a reasonable expectation that many will return.

The economy has a long way to go to recover, but it isn't impossible.

Education levels prior to the country's problems were among the best in Africa. The people who hosted us are very well educated, middle-class people who were doing a lot with very little.

People continue to seek higher education.

There are many orphans and other compromised children due in part to AIDS, poverty and other conditions that affect potential. Even so, there are people working to solve these problems.

Tenacious entrepreneurial-ship is in evidence wherever you look. It, too, is compromised by outdated equipment, a troubled economy, and the associated market conditions.

The people are tough, they solve problems, and they just continue forward.

They want, and do, help themselves. What they need is a kick start from time to time.

Examples of kick starts:

The water well we will be involved in needs electricity for the pump. The closest electrical connection is 5 kilometers away. No kidding. We saw it and measured it. They won't be able to raise all the funds needed to solve this. But they do intend to do what they can.

A church sewing group needs more training, but the tailor (who is also a retired pastor) who was their original instructor is unable to pay for the gasoline to continue meeting with them and providing further instruction so they can improve their skills and market more of their crafts.

Children need help with tuition. Citizens who work and have businesses do help these children. It's just that there are just so many that no one can completely solve the need alone.

School supplies such as paper, pencils, pictures, chalk (yes, chalk) are needed. There are small school supply businesses, so it's often more cost effective, and puts money into the economy, to engage these businesses with funds rather than to send actual supplies into the country.

Most of the 28 teachers in one school we visited walk 5 kilometers each direction from their homes in one town to the rural school in another. By the end of the week they are tired. But they remain committed, and they continue to walk! And these 28 teach 1200. Really.

Physically, Zimbabwe is a beautiful country. There's natural beauty in every direction.

Regarding the faith of the people we met:

Supporting their churches is a high priority.

Their pledges are announced in service. This is expected. No one is bothered.

They place their weekly offering on a table in the middle of the altar area. Each person walks up and does this.

They begin rural churches under trees and continue in that manner until they raise enough funds to build a structure.

They raise funds by selling the harvest of their gardens/farms.

Their "sections", neighborhood fellowship groups within the churches, commit to raising funds for one thing and another. An example would be doors for a parsonage or windows for a classroom extension.

Services are long. There is a lot of prayer.

They share resources among each other a lot.

More later. Thanks again -- ever so much!

Dorrit