



Trinity United Methodist Church Newsletter

“Live by Faith, Be Known by Love, Be A Voice of Hope”

November 2025

Volume III, No. 11

Uneasy or Hesitant Evangelism?

The last two issues of the *Trinity United Methodist Newsletter* have looked at evangelism and why being evangelistic is difficult for many. This may be because evangelism is perceived as proselytizing instead of interactive agreement, the fear of being misunderstood, or a lack of in-depth understanding of biblical theology. Today, we complete the series by looking at how being a Methodist may inhibit an overt practice of evangelism.



Methodism has a long and complicated relationship with evangelicalism. On the one hand, Methodism was born out of the evangelical revival of the eighteenth century under John and Charles Wesley, who emphasized personal conversion, holiness, and spreading the gospel. Yet, over time, many of us have become uneasy with the label “evangelical”, especially in the modern American context.

One source of tension is *theological*. Methodists emphasize grace as God’s gift offered to *all* people, expressed in the Wesleyan doctrine of *prevenient grace*, a doctrine stating the grace of God comes before justifying grace and prepares our hearts and minds to hear and receive the gospel of Jesus Christ. This contrasts with some strands of evangelicalism that lean heavily on individual election or a narrow “born again” conversion narrative. For Methodists, faith is less about a one-time dramatic experience and more about a *lifelong process* of sanctification and community worship.

As noted in the September and October Newsletter articles, the second issue is *social and cultural*. The United Methodist Church, for example, has historically actively pursued social justice causes, including abolition, temperance, civil rights, and global missions. In contrast, the modern evangelical movement, particularly in the United States, is often associated with conservative politics and culture wars. Many Methodists resist being tied to this image, seeing it as a distortion of their broader mission of *compassion, inclusivity, and service*.

Finally, Methodism is connectional and liturgical, grounded in tradition and communal practice. Evangelicalism’s emphasis on individualism and non-denominationalism can seem at odds with this structure.

In short, while Methodism shares roots with evangelicalism, differences in theology, social priorities, church identity, and prevenient grace doctrine to evangelism helps explain why many of us are hesitant to share our faith outside our inner circle of friends.

Don Stacks

Pastor's Corner

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.—2 Corinthians 9:8

I snapped the photo of the tree outside Fellowship Hall on October 20, 2024. It was in the aftermath of Hurricane Milton, and as you can see, the wind and rain had nearly stripped the tree bare.

A few days after the storm, I asked Penny Gear to create a sign that read, “I survived Hurricane Milton.” Doug Evans affixed it to the tree not long after Penny made it.

Fast forward nearly a year later: The tree outside Fellowship Hall is so filled with branches and greenery that we can't see the sign anymore. But it's still there. We may have to get Penny to create a sign on a stump in front of the tree or something!



The thing is, we can't see a tree growing just by looking at it in the moment. It grows imperceptibly. Only when we look at it over time do we see the incredible changes that happen when we let God work.

And so it goes with Trinity United Methodist Church of Jensen Beach. Looking around our campus today, we may not notice the new copper roof that went up just a few years ago. Or the resurfaced parking lot. Or that our Fellowship Hall has brand new floors and an art gallery on the walls. We wouldn't know that just a few years ago, we converted an upstairs area into sleeping quarters so we could partner with Family Promise to provide temporary housing for families in need. Or that we converted one of our classrooms into an assembly line for our Blessings in a Bag food ministry for local students. We might not even notice the outdoor worship area and fitness trail that Sam Rhodes and other volunteers built for us. A newcomer to our 9:00 am service would not know that our amazing, uplifting, energizing new Gospel sound is but a few weeks in!

God has done so many amazing things through the faithful people of Trinity, but unless we knew what it looked and sounded like a decade ago, we wouldn't see it at all! And it's all thanks to *your* faithful contributions of time, effort, resources, and abiding faith and love.

This month, we at Trinity will focus on stewarding our Church towards a brighter, even more vibrant future. We will give thanks for the Saints, express gratitude for those who have served our nation, *and* Trinity faithfully. We will meditate on God's vision for our future and give thanks for every divine blessing. Please take some time this November to prayerfully consider your level of involvement and investment in Trinity's present and future. Trinity is in *our* hands!



God has given us everything we need, and I have all faith that when we give of ourselves for others, God will bless us abundantly all the more, not as a transaction, but out of Divine, Holy, and everlasting love for us!

Anil



The Prayer Hand

The “prayer hand” is an easy way to remember five essential aspects of prayer: confession, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise. We can pray through each of these five purposes, using the prayer hand to walk through each. Remember that prayer is ultimately about aligning our own hearts with God’s, and just as the fifth aspect explains below, praises to God should permeate every part of our prayer.



The little finger represents *confession* where I agree with God about my sin. As John 1:9 notes, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

The ring finger represents *petition* asks God to provide for my needs. 1 Samuel 1:27, “I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I ask of him”.

The middle finger represents *intercession*, where I ask God to provide for the needs of others.

Ephesians 6: 18-19 goes on to note that we should “Pray in the spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests”. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. Pray also for me, that whenever I “speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel...”

The index finger focuses on *thanksgiving*; I thank God for what he has done in, through, and for me. I also thank Him for His answers to prayers in the lives of those around me and for His ongoing work across the nation and the world. As noted in Ephesians 5:20, “...Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The thumb represents *praise*. I let my enjoyment and adoration of God overflow into words. As the thumb can touch all four other fingers, praise should permeate every part of my prayer life. Psalm 146: 1-2 says “Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.”

Don Frye



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Office: Anne Pappas

Communications: Randi Schwartz

Nursery: Sandi Mulvaney

Music: Cynthia Beam

Organist: Dr. MJ Montague

Choir Accompanist: Hye-Yun Chung Bennett

Facilities: Doug Evans

Media: Mike & Tiffanie Fields

Your Saul?*

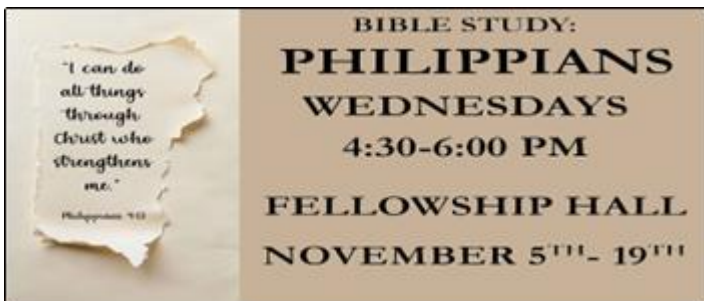
Sometimes I read my daily devotions more out of habit and fail to truly stop and think about what they are saying to me. Not really the best way to hear from God, if you are going along just to get through it. However, the devotion I read this week really gave me food for thought; I should say God gave me food for thought. Ananias' obedience to God went far beyond helping Saul. He was being used by God to help someone else become a great leader chosen by God. What we do for God isn't always a big to-do, but an opportunity for God to do His great work. Listen to what he is asking of you. Will you be obedient? Will you help someone else be what God wants them to be? Read the following devotion by Max Lucado and ask yourself these questions.



I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in Him and receive eternal life. 1 Timothy 1:16 NIV Ananias enters and sits on the stone floor. He takes the hand of Saul, the had-been terrorist, and feels it tremble. He observes Saul's quivering lip. Ananias realizes Christ has already done the work. All that remains is for Ananias to show Saul the next step. "Brother Saul..." (How sweet those words must have sounded. Saul surely wept upon hearing them.) "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 9:17). Tears rush like a tide against the crusts on Saul's eyes. The scaly covering loosens and falls away. He blinks and sees the face of his new friend. Within the hour he's stepping out of the waters of baptism. Within a few days he's preaching in a synagogue. Saul soon becomes Paul, and Paul preaches from the hills of Athens, pens letters from the bowels of prisons, and ultimately sires a genealogy of theologians, including Aquinas, Luther, and Calvin. God used Paul to touch the world. But he first used Ananias to touch Paul. Has God given you a similar assignment? Has God given you a Saul?

Has God given you a Saul?

Rick



*Devotion excerpted from *Outlive Your Life—You Were Made to Make a Difference* by Max Lucado (2012, Thomas Nelson.)



Southeast District Listening Tour: Hearing, Sharing, & Dreaming Together—An Infoshare

This fall, Bishop *Tom Berlin* and other conference leaders embarked on a statewide Listening Tour, inviting churches across Florida to come together for open conversation, reflection, and hope-filled planning for the future of our United Methodist Church.

On September 25th, representatives from United Methodist Churches across the Southeast District gathered at First UMC of Stuart for a time of honest dialogue, deep listening, and shared vision. The goal was simple yet powerful: To discern where God is leading us next and how we can faithfully serve the people in our communities.



Together, we explored questions like:

- Where are we as a church today?
- What challenges do our neighbors face?
- How can the church best meet those needs with love and purpose?

Key Needs Identified

In small group discussions, participants lifted up the many dreams and challenges our communities are facing. Common themes included:

- Veteran Support
- Affordable Housing
- Child Care
- Legacy Planning
- Ecological Practices
- Economic Opportunities
- Support for the Working Homeless
- Immigration and Inclusion
- Loneliness

These are not easy problems to solve—but they are sacred opportunities for ministry.

Exploring Solutions Together

We also asked: *What resources already exist within our churches?* Many ideas emerged:

- People who care—volunteers with compassion and calling.
- Retired professionals—offering expertise and mentorship.
- Church space—to host events, programs, and community gatherings.

Conference-wide resources such as the Ministry Hub, Wesleyan Podcasts, and on-demand training classes can help churches grow and collaborate.

Action Steps and Ideas

Participants brainstormed creative, practical ways to move forward:

- Come Together—Attend each other's events and build local partnerships.
- Mentorship—Connect retirees and experienced professionals with younger generations.
- Community Engagement—Be visible through social media, health fairs, and local meetings.
- Collaborate—Work with nearby churches on shared ministries (like joint Easter Sunrise services).
- Innovate—Explore new forms of ministry, youth development, and community outreach.

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Trinity's Commitment

At Trinity UMC, we're already taking steps in veteran support:

- Honoring veterans in worship and special services (Veterans Day, Memorial Day, July 4th).
- Inviting veterans to our free pancake breakfasts.
- Collecting supplies for Emerald V, a local veterans' home.

And we know—we *can always do better*.

Looking Ahead

Florida's diverse population calls us to be creative, inclusive, and connected. As we move forward, let's continue to ask: *How can we fill these needs together?*

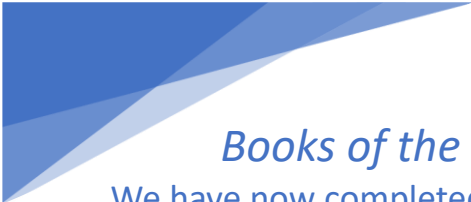
By sharing our stories, using our gifts, and working side by side, we can make a lasting impact for the Kingdom of God—right here in our communities.

Curious about what the Florida Conference has going on?

Feel free to visit the website- <https://www.flumc.org/>- you'll find more information than you ever thought existed!

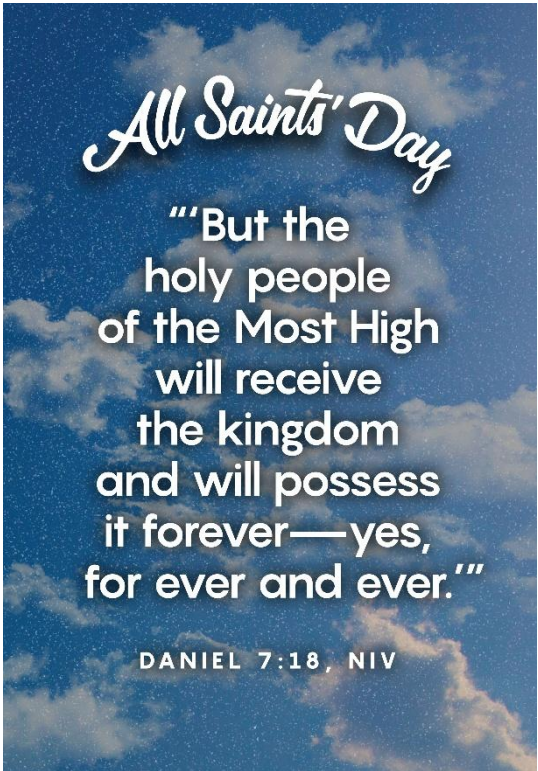
Happy reading.

Randi



Books of the Bible

We have now completed reviewing the 39 books of the Old Testament. In January 2026 we will begin reviewing the 27 books of the New Testament. We still have several virtues yet to cover (see pages 18-19 of this issue).



All Saints' Day

“But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever.”

DANIEL 7:18, NIV

November 1st

From Trinity's Sound & Media Department

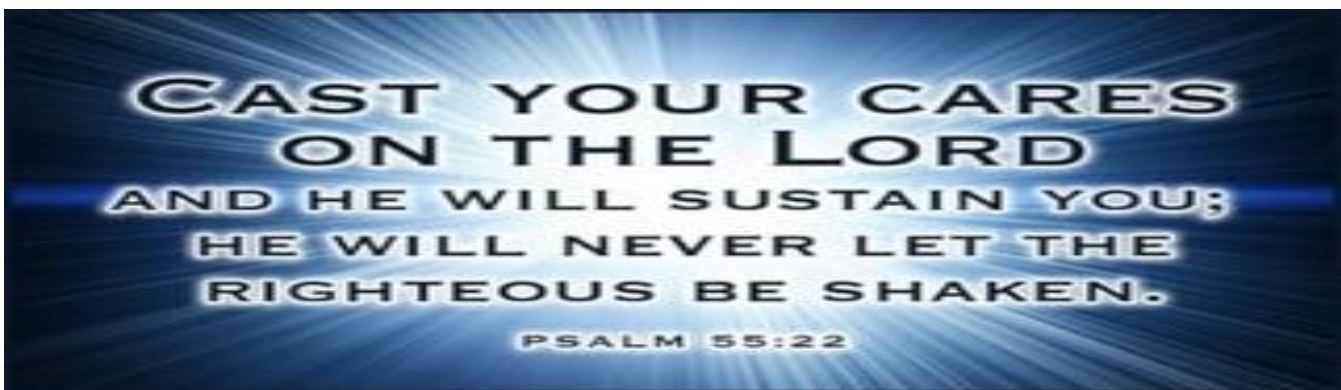
Stress....Can It be effectively managed??

Can stress genuinely impact your overall well-being? The answer is a resounding... yes! Stress can influence you on various levels—mental, physical, and emotional. And the pressures we encounter daily can build up over time. While certain stressors, such as significant life changes, health challenges, and unforeseen events, may be out of our control, it's crucial to acknowledge their effects.



As we go about our daily lives, the demands of work and family can lead us to experience stress without even realizing it. We often become so entrenched in our roles that others expect a consistent level of performance from us. When we fall short of these expectations, our stress can escalate even further.

Stress is a multifaceted phenomenon that involves physiological, psychological, and systemic elements; it's much more than just an emotional reaction. It represents an intricate process that engages both our minds and bodies.



So, how can we effectively manage stress? The first step is to pinpoint its origins. Recognizing what triggers your stress can empower you to seek solutions and regain a sense of control. One constant in this journey is the unwavering love that God has for you. Even when we might not be attuned to our own needs, God has a unique way of guiding and supporting us. Each of us faces our own challenges; while some may seem heavier than others, it is essential to remember that everyone is fighting their own battles. Ultimately, only God truly comprehends our struggles.

(Continued on page 8)



Once we identify the sources of our stress, it is crucial to develop strategies to cope with it. Everyone has their own methods for overcoming stressors. Simple practices can make a significant difference, such as prioritizing self-care through regular exercise, maintaining a balanced diet, and ensuring adequate sleep. Additionally, incorporating relaxation techniques like deep breathing and meditation, reaching out to your support network, and managing your time wisely can help alleviate daily stress. Small adjustments can create a substantial impact on our overall stress levels.

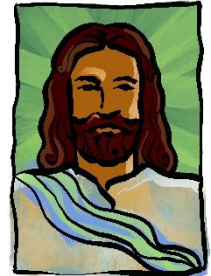
In conclusion, stress is an inevitable part of life, but it doesn't have to dictate our well-being. By acknowledging its presence, implementing effective coping strategies, and leaning on Faith and Community, we can manage stress in a way that fosters growth, resilience, and peace. Embrace the journey, trust in the process, and know that you are not alone. With time and effort, it is possible to cultivate a life that balances challenges with Joy and Fulfillment.

*"Stress is not what happens to us. It is our response to what happens.
And response is something we can choose." – Maureen Killoran*

Mike & Tiffanie Fields

What Does Jesus Mean to Me?

In a Bible study last Spring, Pastor Singh posed this question for the class and had us write a paragraph on it for homework. It was a daunting task for me to condense all I feel about Jesus into a single paragraph. People have written entire Gospels about this. It was wonderful however, to hear the varied and profound writings of my classmates about Jesus. My paragraph is humbly submitted below. I will ask my classmates to submit theirs for future newsletters.



Perhaps you may get the urge to submit one.

Jesus

To me, Jesus is a wonderful enigma. I can't comprehend the totality of His essence. He is our God, yet He became human to die for us and earn our eternal salvation. In the process He is the ultimate role model for how we should live our lives. Because I am a sinner, I fear and revere Him. At the same time, I love Him so much. Yet I haven't learned to love Him enough. I don't even know how I should address Him when I pray. Then again, I have the feeling He's okay with that, and I often feel that I'm conversing with Him during my prayers. He has always been my reason for optimism about our lot as humans in this world, and the promise of what's to come for eternity. Of one thing I am certain. Jesus is the personification of love for us and always has our back. The more we learn about Him, the better we are and the more joy we share.

Terry Tychan

Priscilla Circle Christmas Craft & Bake Sale

Ready to shop for Christmas? Come and join us on November 29th, Saturday, from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for our annual *Christmas Craft and Bake Sale*. We will have over 20 vendors selling all types of Christmas crafts from wreaths, jewelry, quilts, unique gifts, and oh so much more. Get some great ideas for someone that might be hard to shop for or just something special for yourself.

As well as crafts, we will have a wonderful opportunity for lunch. We will be serving Italian subs,



chips, and soda/water for only \$5.00, so that is the best lunch deal in town. We will have some delicious baked goods as well to enjoy after lunch or to take home and enjoy later. All homemade items that are so delicious. Come shop, have lunch, and a time of fellowship.

Priscilla Circle continues not only to support areas within our church, but in our community and around the world through the Heifer Project.

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to a great way to kick off the Christmas season.



Pat Williams



**NOISY CHANGE
THIRD SUNDAYS**

Your loose change helps end hunger and poverty through investment, mentorship and uplifting communities as Heifer International trains the next generation of leaders.

SPONSORED BY: PRISCILLA CIRCLE WOMEN'S GROUP



FIRST SUNDAYS!

PLACE DONATIONS IN OUR
COLLECTION CART
AT SANCTUARY ENTRANCE

**NEEDS UNOPENED
NON-PERISHABLE
FOOD ITEMS**

A PRISCILLA CIRCLE MINISTRY

News From the Finance Committee

November 2025

We recently received some correspondence from the Florida United Methodist Foundation regarding charitable contributions and wanted to pass it on to our congregation.

As the year 2025 draws to a close, many of us begin to reflect on ways we can give back—and there's exciting news from recent tax law changes that may affect your generosity. The new law signed into law July 4, 2025, introduces several important new rules around charitable giving, many of which will take effect in the 2026 tax year.

A few highlights: beginning in 2026, taxpayers who do not itemize will be able to deduct up to **\$1,000** in charitable contributions (\$2,000 for couples filing jointly). Itemizers will see a new “floor,” requiring charitable contributions to exceed **0.5% of adjusted gross income** before deductions apply. And for higher-income households, the maximum deduction rate for charitable gifts will be capped at **35%**, regardless of the top marginal tax rate. Together, these changes will reshape the way individuals plan their giving, making intentional stewardship more important than ever.

So, what does this mean as you consider supporting your church before year-end? A few tried-and-true tips still apply. Make gifts before December 31st so they count for the current tax year; consider giving appreciated assets like stock rather than cash to avoid capital gains. Donating stock offers tax advantages, like avoiding capital gains tax and receiving a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the stock (if held for more than a year), which allows you to give more to charity.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) are for those aged 70½ or older. QCDs from an IRA can be a tax-efficient way to give. These donations reduce your AGI and bypass the new 0.5% floor and high earner-deduction cap.

Additionally, please consider Trinity UMC when you have Legacy discussions with your financial professionals and/or attorney.

Always keep thorough records of your donations.

End-of-year giving remains a powerful way to express gratitude, strengthen your church, and plan wisely for the future.

The Finance Committee continually seeks information that is pertinent and timely for our congregation.

Jim Williams
Chair



November 30th



November 11th

Methodist Men

On Saturday, October 4th, thirteen Methodist Men met for breakfast of scrambled eggs, potatoes, and sausage.

The meeting was called to order by Don Frye at 8:20 a.m., and Terry Tychon led with a devotion regarding discovering the gift of faith and gave the opening prayer. Terry's devotional led to discussion regarding how we acquire, learn, and share our Methodist faith.

Jim Williams reported on the group's finances, noting that Methodist Men's banking account currently has \$2,889.32 in it, but costs from the picnic had not yet been routed through to us. Jim reported that our finances continue to be in good shape. Discussion was then centered on how to best use the money. Don F. noted that we might want to purchase a new coffee pot since we have yet to hear if Trinity has followed up with that request made several months ago.

Don F. then talked about events in November. Our next meeting will be on November 1st and will be catered by Joyce Monticello. He asked the group to RSVP regarding their attendance as soon as possible. The next pancake breakfast will be held on Saturday, November 8th, and asked who was willing to work the breakfast. Several men volunteered and discussion then focused on making the breakfast process better. It was agreed that rather than taking orders as soon as people sat down, we would sit them, offer them coffee or juice, and after delivering drinks would then take their breakfast orders.

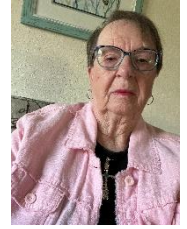
The next order of business was to discuss the upcoming *Hanging of the Greens*. It was agreed that we would hang the greens and put up the Christmas tree on November 23rd immediately after the 11:00 service. Don F. will coordinate with the women of Priscilla Circle and finish by sharing a pizza with the women. Prior to adjourning the meeting several members engaged in a discussion of the gifts we each bring to Trinity and others, with a focus on how we each help each other in dealing with the events of life. Many men talked about how Trinity and the men's group itself had helped them through both normal and trying times. After the discussion ended, Don F. closed the meeting with prayer at 9:25 a.m.

Don Stacks



Lunch Bunch

In the midst of the pandemic, the loss of human contact and interaction became a concern for many. From this concern, as a result a fellowship group known as *Lunch Bunch* was formed that met in the Fellowship Hall. All guidelines for Covid were followed and here we are...still going. Through the years we, sadly, have lost some members but we also have happily had others join us.



I have been asked, "What do I have to do to join?" Simply show up! There are three basic rules that we abide by...we do not talk/discuss others, no politics, and what is said in LB stays in LB! We find our lives/antics and so forth enough to share. We share our sorrows, fears, our joys, life events, and we also cry together and laugh together. Lunch Bunch is a *fellowship*.



There are no dues as we all serve the church in many ways. But there have been times when a need was brought to us and we have taken a few undisclosed outreach projects.

Presently we meet two times a month. The *first* Tuesday we meet at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall with a sack lunch...this is a more intimate setting and on the *third* Tuesday we meet at 11:30 a.m. at a restaurant chosen by the group. It will be in the *Bulletin* and Rick will announce it at both Sunday services.

We welcome all the ladies of the church and their friends to come, join us when it is possible and be prepared to laugh and make new friends.

Blessings,

Nancy Wood



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN
OUR MEAL PREP TEAM?**

*Serving Family Promise
& Members in Need*

CONTACT: DARRYL BAKER (772) 215-2262




JESUS

BLESSINGS IN A BAG

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MARTIN COUNTY

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FOOD FOR THE WEEKEND!**

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HELP US TO HELP FAMILIES THRIVE

WE NEED MONETARY DONATIONS AS WELL AS FOOD DONATIONS



INDIVIDUAL SERVING MEALS- JUICES-MILKS- SNACKS- FRUITS
DONATIONS COLLECTED ON THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Lost in Atlanta

When our son was a Junior in college, he called home to tell us that one of his roommate's family dog just had puppies. He wanted to know if he could have one. We explained that it wasn't a good idea since he was playing ball and was out of town a couple days each week. I was talking to a friend at work about it and she recommended we take one of her kittens for him. My husband was not a fan of cats but agreed to take a kitten to Mark for his birthday. I usually choose the scrawniest or ugliest because no one else would want them. But this time I chose a fat little male kitten who was the largest of the litter. His coat was sable with black stripes and looked like Yoda from Star Wars.

When we took him to the vet we found out he had a cold that caused his little eyelids to swell and his eyes to water. He was very placid and had little interest in coming out of his cat carrier. After a few days of antibiotics our little friend started to show his personality. My husband always said he didn't like cats, but one night I returned home to find our little ball of fur asleep on my husband's chest. So much my professed cat hater.

The Friday before Mark's birthday we headed to Orlando with the kitten. Mark was at practice and left a key for us. When he got home, he gave us each a big hug and as he was hugging me, he spotted the kitten over my shoulder and blurted out "no way." He loved him right away. We were trying to think of a name, and I mentioned he was born during Hurricane Andrew that had crossed over Florida a couple of months earlier. That was it, he named him Storm. Storm slept in Mark's baseball cap right next to Mark's pillow.

As Storm grew, he lost his sable coloring and was all black. We got to see him when Mark came home for holidays. Our condo in Ft. Myers had a loft and I placed a stuffed animal on the right side of each step going up to it. At night Storm demonstrated his hunting prowess.

Each morning, we would find a pile of "dead" stuffed animals at the base of the stairs.

After Mark finished college, he played minor league baseball. He brought Storm to stay with us in Lexington. We had Storm for about a year. Mark's season finished and he came by to get Storm and head back to Florida. His car was packed to the roof with no room for a cat carrier. Storm rode in his lap. Just south of Atlanta, Mark's car broke down. As he was walking on the off ramp to Route 75 with Storm in his arms a semi drove by and startled Storm. He jumped out of Mark's arms, crossed a field and disappeared under a chain link fence. Mark searched while he waited for the tow truck, and when the tow truck arrived, the driver used his spotlight, and they continued to search for about an hour. Well, the car needed a new transmission that would cost more than the car was worth, so Mark rented a car to get him home. Mark returned to look for Storm. Unfortunately, he didn't find him and sadly headed to Florida without him.

I was devastated. Three counties merged where Storm got lost, so I called the animal shelters in all three counties each day. A week had passed, and I was so worried. I moped around. My husband, in an effort to snap me out of my funk, said "why don't you use my frequent flyer miles and go down there. That way you know you have done everything you could to find the cat". I don't think he really thought I would do it, but I was on the first flight out the next day. I prepared flyers to distribute. When I arrived at the exit where Storm was lost, I was shocked at how congested it was. There were four or five car dealerships, a hotel, and a mall at the end of the road. Whew. Where to start...

I went to each business and car dealership and asked if they would post my flyer in their



(Continued from page 13)

breakroom. So far no one had seen him. The next day I decided to talk to the men in the service departments because the doors were always open and the men went outside moving cars around. One of the men at the Olds service department had seen Storm hanging out with some strays in the back employee lot at closing time. I decided to go to the spot where he had been seen. I took a magazine and a can of cat food just in case. I sat in the car until midnight. Read and reread my magazine. Nothing.

Each day I walked around the perimeter of each dealership. I checked the animal shelters. Then back to my search. My sneakers were showing wear, and I was getting hoarse. By day five I was beginning to lose hope. I only had one more day before I had to return home. I was walking the perimeters of the lots the last day. There was a strip of land about 25 feet wide that separated the Chevy and Olds dealerships. There was a sharp drop-off from the Chevy lot to the Olds lot. It was overgrown with shrubs and large trees and had a couple large boulders. I was walking along the fence on the Olds lot on the lower level and spotted a black tail disappear into a hole under a boulder on the other side of the fence. I called "Storm". He came bounding out of the hole, meowing, and with eyes as big as saucers. He came right over to the fence, rubbing back and forth, still meowing. I knelt down and pulled the bottom of the fence forward. He didn't like being held, but he crawled under the fence and right into my arms. He was crying and I was crying. I squeezed him tight and hurried to the car. I opened a can of cat food, but he wasn't interested. He just kept rubbing against me and head butting me.

Back at the hotel I called my son and my husband. They couldn't believe I found him. I couldn't believe it myself. I wiped Storm off with a wet washcloth to get the dumpster smell off him. We didn't sleep very well. He headbutted me. I pet him. He purred. We fell asleep. He'd awake with a start. He headbutted me. I pet him. He purred. We fell asleep. That went on all night.

I had to go to the local Target to get a cat carrier that I could take on the plane. Storm was a big 22-pound kitty, and I had to tuck all his parts into the carrier, but he didn't seem to mind. The handle wasn't very sturdy, so I used straps from my luggage to secure the carrier. Going through security at the Atlanta airport I was told to take him out of the carrier. Oh no! I took him out, holding him tight and as I stepped through the scanner, I could feel him tensing up. Oh boy...if he got away in the airport, I'd never find him. With the help of one of the TSA agents I got him back into the carrier, secured the strap, and boarded the plane. The carrier fit neatly under the seat in front of me. He could see me through an opening on top, so he was happy, and he slept all the way home.

As we got close to home in the car Storm started meowing. He was starting to smell familiar scents. It was Sunday so my husband was home. Storm went right up to him rubbing against his legs and meowing. It was kind of like him saying "Hi Pop, bet you didn't think you'd ever see me again."

A visit to his Vet showed he was anemic and covered in red ant bites. Other than that, he was in good shape. After that Storm became my cat. My \$3000 cat. He was worth it. He gave us another eight years of love.

Sally Young



Recipe of the Month: Cajun Sausage and Rice

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 14 ounces of Cajun sausage (I just used a regular smoked sausage) cut into thick coin slices.
- 1½ cup of long grain rice (I rinse mine a few times)
- 2 bell peppers seeded and chopped
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 stalks of celery, diced
- 3 garlic cloves minced
- 2 teaspoons Cajun seasoning
- ½ teaspoon smoked paprika
- ½ teaspoon oregano
- ¼ teaspoon ground pepper
- 2⅔ cups of low sodium chicken broth
- 1½ cups of frozen peas
- Sliced green onions for garnish (that's up to the cook)

To make sausage and rice:

- Heat 1 tablespoon of oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Then you want to add the sliced sausages and brown both sides.
- Stir in chopped bell peppers , diced onions and diced celery and cook for 6-7 minutes or until tender or soft.
- Add the minced garlic, Cajun seasoning and smoked paprika, oregano, and pepper (make sure you put the same amount as in above ingredients) cook for about a 1 minute.
- Pour in 2 2/3 cups of chicken broth , 1 1/2 cups of rinsed rice and 2 cups of the frozen peas. Bring to a boil then reduce heat to low and cover and simmer for 20 minutes.
- Remove from heat, keeping it covered and let it rest for 10 minutes. Then fluff with a fork, garnish it with the greens and serve it warm.

Notes: It serves about 4-5 people and if you want you can use a little more sausage.

You can also get veggies already diced from store.

Levi Miller



A recipe from...



ADVENT

Music Ministry

November...a time to be thankful. As time flies by with our day-to-day activities, we may forget the many blessings we have in our life. Our Trinity Music Department has the honor and blessing to provide a wide variety of music, not only at both services each Sunday morning, but also during the numerous special events throughout the year.

I'd like to take a moment to be thankful...and not just *count my blessings*, but to *name them one by one*. I'm so very thankful for:

- *My team* who gives their time and talent to our program...Dr. MJ, Hye-Yun, and Darajoe...You are **the best!!!**
- *Trinity Choir*...Not only are you great singers, but I also consider you all my friends and family. We sing together, laugh together, and pray together.
- *Praise Team*...Thank you for your dedication week after week. You bring life and spirit to our Celebration Service.
- *Soloists and Special Music Artists*...You each bring your own vibe and style to our worship. We **are** blessed to have such great musical talent here at Trinity.
- *Marge and the Manfellows*...How can you go wrong with a name like that! We love everything you four do for us!
- *Trinity Ringers*...What fun we have in our little ringing group. Let's continue to grow and bring that unique beautiful bell music to our church.
- *Instrumentalists*...Your playing adds the soul into our music. Thank you!

I also want to extend my thanks to the quiet little elves that help me organize the music and do other assistive tasks throughout the year. You know who you are, and I am blessed by your willingness and support!

Shalom and many blessings to all,

Cynthia
Music Director

Church Council

Trinity's Church Council met on Sunday afternoon, October 19th, to discuss matters of concern to the church, hear committee reports and recommendations, and act on motions brought before it. The meeting was opened by Chair Barry Brunner with prayer by Pastor Singh at 2:58 p.m. The September 2025 meeting minutes were accepted. Barry then noted that there was excitement with many of the new things happening with the 9:00 a.m. Service and that the Council would be asked to look at creating an Outreach and Evangelism Committee. The following committee reports were presented, discussed, and acted on.



Church Council Meeting

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Trustees: Trustee Levi Miller reported that 37 projects had been completed and that future projects might include landscaping; updating the Sunday School's bathroom that was under consideration for possible renovation to a fully functional handicap bathroom, this idea was tabled for later discussion; new sound and lighting system for the services; campus clean up; exterior painting; and a new campus drawing.

Finance: Dale Forbes presented TUMC's financial report. We are a little off budget at this time but that we received a good annual financial audit report.

Stewardship: Jim Williams reported progress on the stewardship pamphlet and that November will be Stewardship Month with sermons on stewardship and congregational members talking about stewardship at TUMC.

Lay Leader: Rossilyn Miller reported on the classes she'd taken for the Lay Leader position and what she has learned and how to apply to TUMC.

SPRC: Jennifer Baker reported that the committee had been working on the budget and was preparing for employee evaluations before the end of the year.

Lay Delegate: Sue Nance reported on the line dancers and that for now only advanced dancing was being planned.

Nominations & Leadership: Pastor Singh reported that new leaders voted on last meeting onboarding would begin soon and that the required paperwork was getting done.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Singh noted that the seasonal increase in worship was leading attendance up. He noted that attendance in both the Priscilla Circle and Methodist Men was good and that both his Lunch & Learn and the Bible studies stay well attended.

Chair: At this point Chair Barry Brunner asked the Council to consider adding a new committee to develop and carry out outreach planning for TUMC. Discussion focused on the scope of responsibilities, to include taking over advertising outreach from the Pastor. A motion

was made to approve the committee by Levi Miller, seconded by Donna Ross, and passed unanimously.

Relational Campaign: Pastor Singh and Don Stacks introduced a membership recruitment plan based on what they described as a campaign based on congregational input for names and addresses to be used in a direct mailing.

Music: Cynthia Beam reported that she was able to add instruments for the Christmas *Cantata* and had sent invitations to other choirs to sing in the *Cantata*.

Congregational Care: Rick Decker reported that he was close to becoming certified as a Lay Speaker with one more class to be taken. He noted that we were holding a *Drum Circle* in the Fellowship Hall on the afternoon of November 9th and that the *Christmas White Elephant* party would be held on December 12th.

Priscilla Circle: Pat Williams reported that 25 women attended their last meeting with four new members attending. She reported that Noisy Change had raised \$274 for our Heifer International mission and that 134 pounds of food was sent to House of Hope in September. She also reported the *Craft & Bake Sale* would be held on November 29th and that lunch would be available. Priscilla Circle members would be helping with the Men's November 9th *Pancake Breakfast* and that the congregational Christmas Gift would be a pocket Jesus.

Methodist Men: Don Frye noted the next Men's meeting would be November 1st, the first Pancake Breakfast on November 8th with veterans eating free, and that the Men and Priscilla Circle would be hanging the Christmas greens on November 23rd.

Family Promise: TUMC hosted a family for four weeks and they will return in a week for another stay. Volunteers were thanked for their help with the families.

Communications: Randi Schwartz reported on the new electronic front sign. She and the Pastor

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reported on the Bishop's Listening Tour report and that we needed to begin telling our success stories of a mid-sized (200-250 member) church. Outreach was also discussed regarding the possible adding of a Girl and/or Boy Scout troop at TUMC. Randi reported on the progress of the TUMC Garden.

Newsletter: Don Stacks reported that the *Newsletter* would turn 4-years-old in January. He noted that he was getting more content from congregational members and that the *Newsletter* had now completed reviewing all the books in the Old Testament and would begin covering the New Testament in January 2026.

Administration: Anne Pappas said she had almost completed the Charge Conference materials. She discussed a new "meet and greet" for the incoming leadership class. Discussion focused on when to hold the event, with a

decision being made to hold it at 12:30 on November 11th.

New Business: Chair Barry Brunner then asked staff to leave the meeting so the Council could deliberate about the 2026 budget. SPRC chair Jennifer Baker led discussion of the staff's 2026 compensation, including the Pastor's compensation. After discussion the 2026 compensation plan was passed unanimously. Jim Willams then moved approved the 2026 budget, noting that it contained a planned increase of 10.12%. After discussion the budget was unanimously approved.

Chair Brunner then asked for any new business. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. in prayer by Pastor Singh.

Don Stacks

Artists at Trinity[†]



[†] Photography by Dale Forbes.

MERCY

AT-A-GLANCE

FIRST

First time the subject appears in the Bible:

Genesis 43:14: And may God Almighty grant you **mercy** before the man so that he will let your other brother and Benjamin come back with you.

LAST

Last time the subject appears in the Bible:

Jude 1:23: save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show **mercy**, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

THREE VERY IMPORTANT OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES ON THIS SUBJECT:

- **Exodus 33:19:** And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."
- **Psalms 51:1-2:** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
- **Micah 7:18:** Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

THREE VERY IMPORTANT NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES ON THIS SUBJECT:

- **Hebrews 4:16:** Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
- **Matthew 9:13:** But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.
- **Ephesians 2:4-5:** But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.



God's Important Messages about Mercy:

Mercy and justice are seen as types of opposites in the Bible. The Old Testament focuses on justice (an eye for an eye); however, Jesus changed the world with his messages of mercy (forgive 70 times seven times). Children will often try to seek justice on their own. Hence messages of "revenge is mine, says the Lord" should be given often.



BIBLE STORIES SHOWING MERCY:

- 1 Samuel 24 tells the story of David sparing King Saul's life. Saul had been hunting David and trying to kill him for years. When David finally had the opportunity to kill Saul, he didn't.
- Joseph had profound mercy on his 10 brothers after they sold him into slavery. Years later when he recognized them, he gave them land and food and much of his kingdom. The story begins in Genesis 37 and threads through to the end of the book.

MERCY

Worksheet

AT-A-GLANCE



Write **OT** on the beginning line if the book is in the Old Testament. Write **NT** on the line if the book is in the New Testament. Then fill in the blanks to make each passage read correctly. Counting the letters helps!

___ Exodus 33:19-- And the LORD said... "I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have ___ on whom I will have compassion."

___ Matthew 9:13-- But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the ___, but sinners.

___ Psalm 51:1-2-- Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my ___ and cleanse me from my sin.

___ Ephesians 2:4-5 -- But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by ___ you have been saved.

___ Micah 7:18 -- Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay ___ forever but delight to show mercy.

___ Hebrews 4:16 -- Let us then approach God's throne of grace with ___

WORD BANK

compassion angry iniquity righteous
confidence grace

November 2025 Happenings

Sundays

- Celebration Service (9:00 a.m.)
- Fellowship Hour (10:00 a.m.)
- Traditional Service (11:00 a.m.)
- Children's Sunday School (9:00 a.m.)
- Adult Bible Studies (9:30 a.m.)
- Prayer Time (10:30 a.m., Bob Engle Room)
- 1st Sunday: *Communion, House of Hope Donations*
- 3rd Sunday: *Noisy Change*
- 4th Sunday: *New Member Sunday*
- Lunch & Learn (2nd, 12:30 p.m., *Stewardship*)
- *New Members Class* (16th, 10:15 a.m.)
- Church Council (16th, 12:30 p.m.), Trustees (2:30 p.m.)
- *Hanging of the Greens* (23rd, 12:30 p.m.)

Mondays

- Line Dancers (1:00–3:00 p.m.)
- Priscilla Circle (10th, 10:00 a.m.)

Tuesdays

- Tai Chi (9:30 a.m.)
- Lunch Bunch (11:30 a.m.)
- Trinity Ringers (5:30 p.m.)

Wednesdays

- Hooks & Needles (12th, 26th, 10:00 a.m.)
- Treasure Coast Singers Practice (10:00 a.m.)
- Blessings in a Bag (12:30 p.m.)
- Line Dancing (1:30 p.m.)
- Bible Study—*Philippians* (12th, 19th, 4:00 p.m.)

Thursdays

- Line Dancers (1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.)
- Lunch Bunch (11:30 a.m.)
- Bible Study—*Letters from a Skeptic* (6th, 13th, 20th, 4:00 p.m.)
- Praise Team Rehearsal (6:00 p.m.)
- Choir Rehearsal (7:00 p.m.)

Saturdays

- Men's Meeting (1st, 8:30 a.m.)
- Pancake Breakfast (8th, 8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.)
- Drum Circle (8th, 3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.)
- Tai Chi (15th, 9:00 a.m.)
- *Christmas Craft & Bake Sale* (29th, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.)

Trinity United Methodist Church

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