



# THE RIDER

Trinity United Methodist Church

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## PASTOR'S CORNER: VITAL CONGREGATIONS

(ANSWERING THE OLD METHODIST QUESTION: ARE WE YET ALIVE?)

REV. TERESA KEEZEL

As congregations have been shrinking, the leadership of the church keeps asking: *Why? Are we not connecting with people? What does connect with people?* They embarked on a big study by asking congregations that were growing: *What is working for you?* As the thousands of responses returned several answers also kept being voiced. Below is the list of the 16 Key "Strategies".

### 1. Engagement of disciples in small groups and the number of ministries for children and youth.

- Vital churches have more small groups.
- Vital churches have more programs for children.
- Vital churches have more programs for youth.

### 2. Lay Leadership

- Vital churches focus on increasing the effectiveness of lay leaders (understand their role and carrying these roles out effectively.)
- Vital churches have lay leaders who demonstrate a vital personal faith (regular worship, intentional spiritual growth, personal devotional life, and giving of financial resources.)
- Vital churches place an emphasis on rotating lay leadership in order to involve more people over time.
- Vital churches call, equip, use and support more lay leaders than non-vital churches. (20% or more of their worship attendees describe themselves as current or past leaders in their church.)

### 3. Pastor

- Vital pastors give attention to developing, coaching, and mentoring lay leadership to enable laity to increase their ability to carry out ministry.
- Vital pastors use their influence to increase to increase the participation of others in order to accomplish changes in the church.
- Vital pastors motivate the congregation to set and achieve significant goals through effective leadership.
- Vital pastors inspire the congregation through preaching.
- Vital pastors, when they are serving effectively stay for a longer period of time. (Short term appointments of effective pastors decrease the vitality of a congregation).

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(Continued)



#### 4. Worship

- a. Vital churches offer a mix of contemporary (newer forms of worship style) and traditional service.
- b. Vital churches have preachers who tend to use more topical sermon series in traditional service.
- c. Vital churches use more contemporary music (less blended music that includes traditional tunes) in contemporary services.
- d. Vital churches use more multi-media in contemporary services.

As you can see, we are very active in missions.

We have engaging worship.

We are developing our use of multi-media and contemporary music.

We continue to start small groups, and new people continue to volunteer for leadership positions.

*Trinity is a 'Vital Congregation'.*

This year Pat is going to Annual Conference. She will come back and share with us stories and ideas that are shared there that we may want to try here.

Over the next couple of months, I will try to highlight these different options and engage us in the question of "How can we reach people for Christ?"

## A GREAT BIG SHOUT OUT



Thanks so much to HA and AI for heading up the Rebuilding Richmond project for us. The day was rainy but the attitudes were cheery. We had about 25 adults and youth volunteer their time. The lady we helped was so very gracious. We hung shingles on a shed and replaced its door. We cleaned gutters, recarpeted a front porch, replaced a side door, dug up several tree stumps, retiled a bathroom, and replaced knobs in the kitchen.

Thanks so much to everyone who helped. About 40 homes in all were helped in the neighborhood that day. The church gave \$1,000 to be able to participate.



## CHILDREN'S CHURCH?

This summer we are trying Children's church. Starting the last Sunday in June, on every other Sunday we are offering children's church at the 11am service. Children ages 3 - 5th grade will remain in worship until children's time. The Little ones will remain in the nursery as they have been. During children's church, we hope to develop an understanding of worship (alter, paraments, sacraments) and enjoy a time of Bible story and crafts. We are excited to see how this goes and Thanks to the people who are offering to help.

## WE HAVE TODDLERS!!!

Yes we do! That wonderful age when children no longer sit and sleep. They enjoy talking. They simply must move. They explore the world around them. Because we do have grand explorers, we are trying to accommodate them.

The baby nursery in the back of the sanctuary is transforming. The large crib has been left in there to function both as a crib for a baby and as a changing table. A small fridge and a small microwave have been placed in the room as well. We are looking into having some toys that are toddler appropriate, and we are trying to clear out some space for greater movement.

In addition to the nursery room, we also supplied a sofa, small table and chairs, and some coloring materials in the empty room in the back of the sanctuary. The space is designed for an adult to be able to go to the back and have space for a younger child to move about, yet the adult to be able to remain in worship.

We are trying out these two options. Thank you for your willingness to meet the needs of our growing children.

## ONCE UPON A PARABLE



## MUSIC NEWS

PAT MADISON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

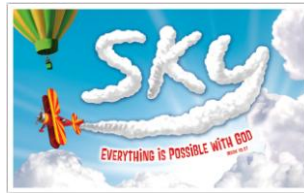
To those who teach and keep our music programs alive at Trinity, I give you a great big THANKS! We also thank the parents who bring their children to rehearsal. We appreciate the opportunity to work with these children.

Thanks to Odyssey and all the youth who participated in Youth Sunday. You all did a beautiful job! I appreciate the extra rehearsals and personal time that you put toward this service. It is wonderful to have this amazing talent in our church. I look forward to hearing more from our instrumentalists and our vocalists. Please let me know if you are interested in sharing your talent in a summer service. Summer is a great opportunity for solos, so call me at the church if interested.

Children's Sunday is June 3rd at 11:00 a.m. Cherubs will be singing, Chimers will be ringing, and the Angels and Treble clefs will be presenting, "Life School Musical" which will give us all the "Key to Life"! A church picnic will be held on the grounds following the service. Come and support our children and enjoy a great opportunity for fellowship with each other.



The Trinity Chancel Choir continues to rehearse during the summer months. If you are home from college, or if you have always wanted to see what choir is like, please join us for rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. If you have young children and need a sitter for rehearsal, we can provide that while you sing. Come and make a joyful noise to the Lord!



VBS Music needs music leaders! Please let me know if you are available to help teach the songs beginning July 8th!

Thanks to Lucy Shields and Carol Sanders for their help with the organization of the Prop closet. It looks so much better!

Thanks to the members of the UMW who have fed our children on Wednesday nights. You have been such a blessing to our children and their parents.



## SPECIAL EVENT IN AUGUST!!

We are in the process of planning a night of storytelling and singing with Linda Goodman and the Trinity Men's Chorus on Friday, August 10th! Linda will be leaving our area soon so don't miss this opportunity to hear this wonderful night of storytelling and music! Put the date on your calendar and plan to come and bring a friend. Homemade desserts will also be served!!! Hope to see you there!

Have a blessed summer!

~Pat





# NOTES FROM THE LAY LISTENER: VITAL CONGREGATIONS AND TRINITY

DAVID BAILEY, LAY LISTENER

## Advancement Goals - Virginia Conference between Now and 2015

A (average worship attendance)	12%
B (number of people who will join by profession of faith)	40%
C (number of small groups, Sunday school classes & Bible studies)	20%
D (number of people from the congregation engaged in local, national & international mission/outreach)	26%
E (total amount given by congregation to other organizations for support of benevolent & charitable ministries)	8%

## TUMC Attendance Average by Year

Year	Total	Early Service	Late Service	Sunday School	Change From Previous Year
1995	197				
1996	202				2%
1997	204				1%
1998	189				-7%
1999	200				6%
2000	169				-16%
2001	167	35	132	90	-1%
2002	177	43	134	96	6%
2003	168	52	116	91	-5%
2004	162	46	116	86	-3%
2005	165	49	116	88	2%
2006	176	51	125	85	7%
2007	163	45	118	76	-7%
2008	166	50	116	81	2%
2009	149	47	102	74	-11%
2010	147	46	101	74	-1%
2011	161	45	116	68	9%
2012	199	45	153	87	23%

Thanks to Tom Kennedy for compiling the usher's statistics on attendance.

How does Trinity fit into the efforts at the conference to make disciples to transform the world? That is something that only Trinity can answer. We must have some basic foundations to make our assessment. We also must commit to doing the study and follow through:

The initial premises by the Bishop's Steering Committee are:

- The reassurance that the people called Methodists "are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives" (Ephesians 2:10).
- A confession that as a Church we have pursued self-interests and allowed institutional inertia to bind us in ways that constrain our witness and dilute our mission. We have been preoccupied more with defending treasured assumptions and theories, protecting our respective turf and prerogatives, and maintaining the status quo for beloved institutions.
- An unflinching recognition of decades of decline in membership and attendance, less engagement and influence in communities than desired, aging constituencies and leaders, and financial strains.
- An emphasis that any "reordering" should be predicated upon sound and accurate understandings of how to best direct leadership, time, talent, and money to cultivate more vital congregations.
- A commitment to work from a foundation of facts rather than opinions by commissioning research based on extensive data-mining and objective methods for identifying relevant trends and behaviors.

At the conference level we will collect, report and review, and act on statistical information that measures progress in key performance areas in uniform and consistent ways across all churches and annual conferences, to learn and adjust our approaches to leadership, policies, and the use of human and financial resources (this will include indicators such as how congregations and annual conferences are increasing their effectiveness in implementing the three factors of vitality: attendance, growth, and engagement).

Responsibility and accountability to God and to one another require that we gather and share information about outcomes, and the factors leading to desired results as well as to articulating the aspirations and intentions that emerge from our common life and faith.

*Adaptive change and leadership are not possible without an authentic purpose and vision; powerful, cohesive, guiding coalition; strong standards, and accountability.*

This will require us at Trinity look closely this year at the baseline. We have to ask ourselves the serious questions about what we say we are doing and what we actually accomplish, there must be a lot of prayer and planning to make this happen. Notice that the goals are about outreach. In the chart to the left, you can see that Trinity has been deficient in attendance but now we have started to see some growth.

And what has been seen as the factors demonstrating vitality?

- Effective pastoral leadership including inspirational preaching, mentoring laity, and management
- Multiple small groups and programs for children and youth
- A mix of traditional and contemporary worship services
- A high percentage of spiritually engaged laity who assume leadership roles

The full report is found at this link. [Vital Congregations Steering Team Report.](#)

## JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have all news, pictures and articles to the office no later than Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup> for inclusion in the June Newsletter.

You can send items by email to [trinity@trinity-umc.com](mailto:trinity@trinity-umc.com) or drop off at the office.



## UMW MAY MEETING

BARBARA SMITH

UMW will meet Thursday June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. We will be assembling UMCOR layette, health and school kits which will be taken to Annual Conference June 22-24<sup>th</sup>. We would like to thank those who donated items and money for these kits.



## YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Remember our youth and their leaders as they travel to Atlanta for their summer mission trip from June 17-23<sup>rd</sup>.



# The Gideons International

## FATHER'S DAY MEMORIAL TRIBUTE BIBLES

RICHARD WILKES

The Trinity Worship Committee and the Chesterfield South Gideon Camp are encouraging our church members to contribute Gideon Memorial Bibles in "Honor Of" or "In Memory" of your fathers as part of your Father's Day gift for your Dad. Hotel Bibles can be purchased for \$5 each, and each Bible has the opportunity to touch 2,300 people during its normal service in a hotel or motel. When a Memorial Bible is removed from a hotel, it is put into service in a prison where it continues to serve to bring men and women to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as their personal savior. What better way to honor your loved one than with this gift that truly does keep on giving.

Please see one of the Trinity Gideon members, Maury Beck, Jeff Harrison, Lee Kump, David Shaffer or Richard Wilkes for information on ordering Bibles and submit your order by June 12, 2012. The Gideons will provide a card to notify the person that you are honoring, and the church will print a list of contributors in the Father's Day Bulletin.



## VBS IS COMING!

Mark your calendars now for Vacation Bible School. Trinity VBS will be 6-8 pm July 8-13<sup>th</sup>.

At Sky VBS, kids imagine what it would be like to bounce among the clouds, soar with eagles, and reach for the stars. The Bible comes to life in new and powerful ways as kids explore why nothing is impossible with God. Through every experience, kids find that they can trust God. Start soaring now--register to be a part of this Sky VBS!

Online registration and more details at:

<https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/TrinityUMC>

## BIRTHDAYS

Help us update our information; if your birthday is this month and you are not listed, please notify the office so we won't miss you again!

**June 3** Aubrey Tarkington  
Joyce Honderich

**June 4** Bob Napolitano

**June 6** Harold Saunders

**June 7** Pat Shrader  
Ian Lang

**June 9** Barnes Wall III

**June 10** Sidney Pha

**June 11** Melissa Busse  
Travis Collins

**June 12** Alan Nowlin Jr.

**June 13** Susan Rouze  
Larry Melton  
Ellen Melton  
George Sawyer  
Christopher Echols

**June 17** Christopher Burley

**June 18** Ruby Sawyer

**June 20** Meredith Beck  
Meredith Lively

**June 21** Jean Hazzard  
Melanie Krauchunas  
Megan Johnson  
Rodney Rasmussen

**June 22** Betty Kennedy

**June 23** Sonya Burley

**June 24** Jean Brode

**June 26** Alex Pettigrew  
Donald Seely

**June 27** Patricia Farmer

**June 28** Bill Shelton

**June 29** Ed Hazzard  
Renee Sandlin

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES!

Join us June 10<sup>th</sup> as we recognize our graduates during the morning service. Our Trinity 2012 Graduates are:

### High School

Ashley Cameron Matoaca High School  
Zachary Conner Matoaca High School  
Liz Kump Thomas Dale High School  
Ashley Lively Prince George High School  
Ashley Nowlin L.C. Bird High School

### College & University

Meredith Beck Virginia Tech  
Krystal Cofer VCU  
Rebecca Keezel William & Mary  
Thomas J. Kennedy US Coast Guard Academy



## THANK YOU

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Trinity congregation for all of your support during our mother's illness and subsequent passing. We appreciate all the cards, thoughts, visits and prayers - especially the prayers - that we have received from this wonderful group of people known as the Trinity congregation.

The reception after the funeral on Wednesday was "beyond the call of duty" and all of my siblings said to thank each and everyone for their hospitality.

We are both happy to be part of such a loving and caring congregation. Again, thank you all for caring so much!

Blessings,

Lana Lefferts and Daphne Altice

## OFFERING TELLERS

June 3 & 10 Al Tougas & Linda Lewis  
June 17 & 24 Judy Seely & Deborah Napolitano

## NURSERY WORKERS

### BABY NURSERY

June 3 Carol Sanders & Judy Seely  
June 10 Judy Seely & Lucy Shields  
June 17 Lucy Shields & Carol Sanders  
June 24 Carol Sanders & Judy Seely

### TODDLER NURSERY

June 3 - Children's Sunday, No Toddler Nursery -  
June 10 Angie & Haley Rasmussen  
June 17 Bertelle Bunyard & Diane Springfield  
June 24 Cyndy Morris & Jackie Sawyer

*If you are interested in helping out in either nursery, please get in touch with Diane Springfield.*

# June 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 8 am UMM 9 am Children's Play Practice
3 CHILDREN'S SUNDAY 8:30 am Contemporary Service & Communion 9:45 am Sunday School 11 am <b>"Life School Musical"</b> Picnic on the grounds	4 7 pm Trinity Belles 7 pm Boy Scouts	5 7 pm Praise Team	6 6 am Bible Study 6 pm Cherubs & Angels Picnic 7 pm Men's Chorus 7:30 pm Choir	7 7 pm AA	8	9 10 am Bagging food at Sherbourne
10 GRADUATION RECOGNITION <i>Regular Sunday Morning Schedule</i> NO Sun Afternoon Music for Summer	11 4:45 pm Safe Havens 7 pm Trinity Belles Dinner 7 pm Boy Scouts	12 7 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Worship Committee Mtg.	13 6 am Bible Study 7 pm Men's Chorus 7:30 pm Choir NO Cherubs & Angels for Summer	14 FLAG DAY 7 pm UMW 7:30 pm AA	15	16
17 FATHER'S DAY <i>Regular Sunday Morning Schedule</i>  Youth Leave for Mission Trip	18 7 pm Boy Scouts NO Trinity Belles for Summer  Youth on Atlanta Mission Trip	19 7 pm Praise Team  Youth on Atlanta Mission Trip	20 SUMMER BEGINS 6 am Bible Study 6:30 pm District Scout Mtg. 7 pm Men's Chorus 7:30 pm Choir Youth on Atlanta Mission Trip	21 7:30 pm AA  Youth on Atlanta Mission Trip	22  Annual Conference Begins Youth return from Mission Trip	23  Annual Conference
24 <i>Regular Sunday Morning Schedule</i>  Annual Conference	25 7 pm Boy Scouts	26 7 pm Praise Team	27 6 am Bible Study 7 pm Men's Chorus 7:30 pm Choir	28 7:30 pm AA	29	30

If you have items to add to the calendar, please let the office know by email to [trinity@trinity-umc.com](mailto:trinity@trinity-umc.com) or phone at 748-2349.

