

Volume 9 Issue 8

August 2019



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.THE MESSENGER

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

So, August is already here! Where does the time go?

And, there's no time like the present to take this stand: If we are still breathing, it's never too late...for anything! I will explain!

This notion ran through my head last week as an old Gaither hymn began to play in my brain: *Heartaches, broken pieces, ruined lives are why You died on Calvary.* (*I Will Serve Thee*, Gloria and William Gaither, 1969.)

Have you ever noticed that it's amidst the *heartaches, broken pieces and ruined lives* that Christ does his best work? Jesus thrives within our brokenness!

A little over twelve years ago, I was asked by a church member to visit someone she knew who was dying. In her words, she knew a man who had cancer; and, it had spread everywhere! She went on to say that he had absolutely no relationship with God.

I agreed to do a visit if she'd get permission for me to enter this man's home. All was set up; and, I entered the home totally unaware of the toll that cancer had taken upon his life.

I sat next to him and we began to chat. He'd been a land developer when he was healthy; and, he told me some extraordinary things regarding plans that were on the drawing board for future changes that we'd later see in the Huntersville area.

Some of these changes actually came about. Some of them did not.

Finally, the conversation turned to his condition; and, I was surprised at how vehemently he argued that it was too late for him to turn to Christ. He said that he'd had his chance years before, but he had no faith whatsoever that Christ would accept him in the eleventh hour of his life, after all of the things he'd done.

While I was there, he never wavered from this position. For hours I presented the unfathomable love, mercy, grace and forgiveness offered by God the Father whom we serve.

It was a sad departure as I left. Of course, maybe he reconsidered what I had said afterwards, but on my way out the door I felt completely at a loss.

The thought occurred to me that maybe lots of people think the same way that this man did. Maybe we erroneously think that there is a limited time for us to get a do-over or a second chance.

Well, if we are breathing, it's never too late! *Heartaches, broken pieces, ruined lives are why You died on Calvary.*

And, again I add that it's amidst the *heartaches, broken pieces and ruined lives* that Christ does his best work? We never need to add the caveat that time has run out, that is if we're still breathing!

Once upon a time, King David was grieving all the *heartaches, broken pieces and ruined lives* that he'd caused through the ripple of his extramarital affair with Bathsheba. And, this was not your ordinary, garden variety screw-up.

David had Uriah (Bathsheba's husband) murdered on a battlefield to cover up the fact that she was with child because of him! It took this child's death for David to come to his senses; and, once he did he was devastated.

Hear his words of remorse:

"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment (Psalm 51:1-4 NRSV)."

David is utterly broken and on his knees at this point. He goes on for 19 verses, "Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit (Psalm 51:11-12 NRSV)."

IF David had believed in a God with only a limited time offer; and IF God only issued a limited time condition for salvation, then Solomon would never have been born!

God heard David's confession and granted him forgiveness. He and Bathsheba were married, and Solomon was their next child.

...continued on inside

### For Church information visit:

Visit us at— [www.trinityumcofcharlotte.com](http://www.trinityumcofcharlotte.com)

Rev. Jimmy Howard—(Minister) - [jhoward442@aol.com](mailto:jhoward442@aol.com)

Ronna Privette—(Administrative Assistant) - [ronna@trinityumcofcharlotte.com](mailto:ronna@trinityumcofcharlotte.com)

## CONTINUED ....

Yes indeed, life can reach a point where it feels as if things have gone too far. We can feel like Humpty-Dumpty, that there are just too many broken pieces to put back together again.

But, we can always have hope! Christ does his best work when we are at *Rock Bottom*.

Keep plowing on! All we have to do is tend to the small *next-steps*. Life really is easy if we focus only on that next thing. The Holy Spirit will do all of the heavy lifting.

I think that I can actually make the case that *Rock Bottom* just may be the best place to be. We can't fall any further down; and, the only view we have is up!

Remember, today is a good day to change a life; and, the life that's changed in the process could be your own.

I say all the time; we were not designed to make it in this world. We were designed to remake the world.

So, with this in mind, let's go on out and make a great August. If we are breathing, it's never too late...but keep in mind that none of us know when the breathing will cease! Just sayin'!

*In His Love,  
Jimmy*

### SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

The 2019 Summer Lunch program will wrap on Friday, August 23rd. We thank you for your continued support as we finish up these last four weeks. As always snack items are always needed and appreciated.

We are collecting school supplies for [Classroom Central](#) July 21 – August 11<sup>th</sup>. The main supplies needed are *paper, folders, composition books, markers, pencils, scissors, colored paper, crayons and glue*. There are collection boxes outside the church office so you can drop off your donations. *Thanks, Chuck Laney*

### LETS FILL THEM UP!!

TRINITY'S COLUMBARIUM has been installed. Ride through the Cemetery and see this beautiful addition to our cemetery. Each niche in the structure is \$1,595.00 which includes the lettering for the outside. If you purchase the correct size urn from the funeral home each 12 x 12" niche will hold two urns. Checks should be made out to "Trinity United Methodist Church" with Cemetery Fund in the memo.

### RISE AGAINST HUNGER

September has five Sundays this year and the Outreach Committee would like to designate this extra Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, as a Mission Sunday for **RISE AGAINST HUNGER**. On Saturday, October 19, 2019, a tractor trailer truck of food will come to Trinity Church and with the help of 50 to 60 volunteers we will package meals to be sent all over the world to feed hungry families. Just **\$.34** will feed a family of four. Our goal is to provide **15,120** meals. This cost will be **\$5,140.80**.

We kicked this mission off during Bible School with a challenge to the kids to raise \$300.00. The kids and Bible School volunteers raised a total of **\$507.67**. Now we would like to challenge the church members to raise the balance. We are well on our way!!! We have currently raised a total of **\$2,125.00**. So clean off the tops of your dressers, counters and empty your change jars and bring to church each Sunday and fill the same Rise Against Hunger buckets that we passed around each day at Bible School. We hope you feel the same joy and excitement the kids felt when they heard the coins jingle as they hit the bottom of the bucket. Checks and folded money doesn't make the same sound but it provides the same meals and creates the same joy.

Beginning Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, we will have the Rise Against Hunger donation buckets out in the FLC and Sanctuary along with a huge thermometer to show our donation progress. Volunteer sign-up sheets and a Fifth Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Offering Letter will be mailed out in September. May God Bless us as we meet this challenge to **"FEED MY SHEEP"**.

*Patty Wilson & The Outreach Committee*

### BACKPACK MINISTRY/3RD GRADE BIBLES

Backpack and 3rd Grade Bible Sunday....coming up on August 25!!As our children prepare to return to school Trinity UMC would like to send them out with a special Backpack BLESSING! ALL children, ALL ages....bring your backpacks to either service on the 25th and be a part of this blessing ☐. Also at this time it is our custom to give Bible's to our rising 3rd graders....IF you have one please turn their name in to the office or to Cheryl Howard by AUGUST 12 (we need the names by then so that we can order the right number of bibles).

### NURSERY HELPERS NEEDED

Would you be willing to help at either the 9 or 11am Worship Services in our nursery? If so please call the church office and we can give you more information . We would love to have you join our "nursery family" . For the 9am service you would be volunteering about every 6 to 8 weeks and at 11am service it would be about every 3 months, (depending on how many volunteers we have) .



**FISH FRY**

The Trinity United Methodist Men will sponsor a Fish Fry on Saturday, September 28th. Mark your calendars and plan to join them for some delicious Flounder, Shrimp and Catfish.

Dear Trinity Family,

**WOW!** The past week in Heart Butte MT serving the Blackfoot Indian Reservation was absolutely amazing. God taught us so much through this mission journey; about the people of the Blackfoot Nation, about one another and about ourselves. He showed up BIG in big sky country! We could not have gone on this mission trip without each of YOU. It was a year and a half in the making and we can't wait to share our experience with you. Our lives will never be the same because of this trip and we want to thank you for your encouragement and financial support.

nitsiniyi'taki (We are grateful)

Montana Mission Team 2019



Please join us for a

# Wedding Shower

to celebrate the upcoming marriage of

## Hailey Dechert & Ryan Bryer

(son of Regis & Karen Bryer)

### Sunday, August 18th 2:00-4:00 Drop-In

Trinity United Methodist Church  
Family Life Center  
6230 Beatties Ford Road  
Charlotte, NC 28216

*Couple is Registered at Target & Amazon*

HOSTED BY CIRCLE #1



# THE MESSENGER

## Trinity United Methodist Church

6230 Beatties Ford Road

Charlotte, NC 28216



Church—704-399-1684

9am—Rise-Up Worship Service

10am—Small Groups

11am—Traditions Worship Service

answering Jesus' call to:

**“FEED MY SHEEP”**

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non-profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Charlotte, NC  
Permit No. 770

## Worship Helpers and Prayer Request

### RISE-UP NURSERY

August 4—Lisa Laney  
August 11—Cheryl Howard  
                  Ronna Privette  
August 18—Melissa Falcone  
August 25—Donna Stroupe

### TRADITIONS NURSERY

August 4—Cindy Hough  
August 11—Carolyn Miller  
August 18—Christie Pistolis  
August 25—Holly Hartsell

### USHERS/Greeters for Traditions

Dolores LaPrade, Patty Wilson,  
Teresa Hardee

### GREETERS for Rise Up

August 4—Jimmy Hunter  
August 11—Chuck Laney  
August 18—Avis Summers Lewis  
August 25—Karen Bryer

### FINANCE STEWARDS

Lynne Bruce & Patty Wilson

### STREAMING

#### Rise Up

August 4—David Stroupe  
August 11—David Stroupe  
August 18—Bill McLemore  
August 25—Bill McLemore

#### Traditions Service

August 4—Malcolm Miller  
August 11—Malcolm Miller  
August 18—David Stroupe  
August 25—Davis Stroupe

### PRAYER LIST

Alaska Bible College, Kenneth Alexander, Paul Bolick, Curtis Buchanan, Mattie Harrison, Heritage Bible College, Chet Kidd, Perry McConnell, Carolyn McLemore, Brady McKay, Mary Moore, Claudia Myers, Sheila Oates, Bennie Todd, Margie Todd

\*\*\*In case of an emergency you can reach Rev. Howard by calling 704-458-8187 or call the church office @ 704-399-1684 (Mon – Thurs).

### RETIREMENT RESIDENTS

The Oaks—Naomi Lee (Rm 466)  
The Laurels—David Todd  
Carrillon (Lincolnton)—Mary  
                                  Frances Hunt  
Huntersville Health and Rehab.—  
                                  Mary Moore  
Ranson Ridge—Perry McConnell  
Sherrills Ford Hospice House—  
                                  Claudia Myers  
Home—Carolyn McLemore

### TITHES and OFFERINGS

Needed Weekly—\$5,145.05

Received—\$3,604.88

June online—\$2,080.00

### ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Rise Up Service—71

Traditions Service—116

Online—22

