



Welcome to Trinity United Methodist Church

"The mission of Trinity UMC is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

6800 Wurzbach Road | San Antonio TX 78240 | www.tumcsa.net

REV. ROBERT CLARK II
Pastor
pastor@tumcsa.net

SUNDAY

Worship Services
8:45 a.m. | 11:00 a.m.

SUNDAY

School for all ages
9:45 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through
Thursday

9:00 am- 4:00 pm

ofcadmin@tumcsa.net

Church office phone

210-684-0261

Church office fax

210-684-5489

TUMSchool phone

210-684-5214



What's Happening



2017 Missions

MAY

Special/Fourth Sunday
Offerings

"PROJECT
TRANSFORMATION"
(YOUTH)

Look for a Miracle in May

May 21, 2017, has been declared Miracle Sunday. The mission of Trinity United Methodist Church is to make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. New disciples mean new guests are on their way. Therefore, it is time to get our house in order. In the fall of 2015, a team of dedicated individuals began work on a plan to upgrade and perform required maintenance on all of Trinity's facilities. They were charged with doing a facilities inventory to identify all the foreseeable needs and then create a five-year plan for catching up on deferred maintenance and implementing necessary improvements. The inventory has been completed, a plan has been made, and we are now ready for the next step. That next step will be to raise the required funds to carry out the plan. That is where Miracle Sunday comes in.

Estimated costs to implement the five-year plan total approximately \$150,000. Our goal is to raise that amount of money, or commitments for that amount, on a single Sunday in May. On May 21, 2017, we are asking members to make a one-time gift, or to pledge an amount to be divided into weekly, monthly, or quarterly installments for a period of one to three years.

Some people have suggested that raising \$150,000 in a single day will require a miracle. That is okay; we are a people who believe in miracles. Our God is a God who does miracles. The only thing to remember is God's miracles usually come to fruition through the work of a human agent. God works through ordinary people like you and me to do extraordinary things.

You are invited to prayerfully consider your role in the miracle we are expecting on May 21st. How is God calling you to contribute to the work of caring for his house? Listen carefully and respond faithfully.

For details on the plan please see the narrative budget included in this newsletter.

Company is Coming!

Trinity United Methodist Church is in a position to experience a fresh new wave of incoming disciples. Recent demographics point to continued growth within a three-mile radius of the church. Approximately 500 new families move into our neighborhood each month. Many of these new people are young single adults or young families. Last year we saw an upsurge in visitors and expect to see even more in the future. It is, therefore, imperative that we prepare our facilities. Company is coming and we need to have our house in order.

A team of dedicated church members has been working since late 2015 to create a five-year plan for the maintenance and renovation of the Trinity campus. What follows is the result of their hard work.

Goal: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by maintaining and upgrading our current facilities to make them both more attractive and efficient.

The plan addresses four areas of need: Grounds, Gym, Worship Center, and School.

Grounds includes a new digital sign on Wurzbach, improvements to sidewalks (primarily for safety), relining the parking lot and painting. The estimated cost of these projects is \$36,150. Approximately \$27,000 of that amount is for the new sign.

Gym includes updating the kitchen, adding a security system, and repairing doors. Estimated costs are \$20,075.

In the worship center the plan calls for repair or replacement of the current heating and air-conditioning system, new floor covering, and upgrading the choir room. Total costs for these improvements is estimated at \$90,000.

The Null building needs painting and new floor coverings. The cost is estimated at \$7,250.

The school requires exterior paint and new doors at an estimated cost of \$3,500.

The total cost is estimated to be \$156,900.

The building and grounds team in conjunction with the Church Board has set as the first priority purchasing and installing a new sign on Wurzbach. The goal for completion of this first step is June 30th of this year. The rest have been prioritized and will be scheduled for completion by June 30th of 2022.

A special thanks to everyone who has worked to provide this plan. A detailed breakdown of the estimated costs and the scope of the project is available to anyone interested in seeing it.

Healthy Church Update

On June 28th of 2015, Trinity United Methodist Church adopted the ministry plan presented to us by the Health Church Initiative consultation team. This plan contained the following five prescriptions which the consultants believed could help Trinity be the church God intends it to be:

- **Facilities Audit**
- **Connecting with Families of Youth and Young Children**
- **Strategic Plan/Ministry Audit**
- **Healthy Church Administration & Organization**
- **Disciple Making Process**

Progress has been made in all five areas addressed by these prescriptions, however, the work is ongoing. A facility audit has been completed, a plan has been formulated and is ready for implementation. The next step will be to raise the requisite funds to complete the plan. More information on this next step will be included in a separate article.

Connecting with Families of Youth and Young Children has been focused on building and strengthening relationships with the families already attending Trinity United Methodist School and special outreach events like the Fiesta de los Niños and Parents Night Out.

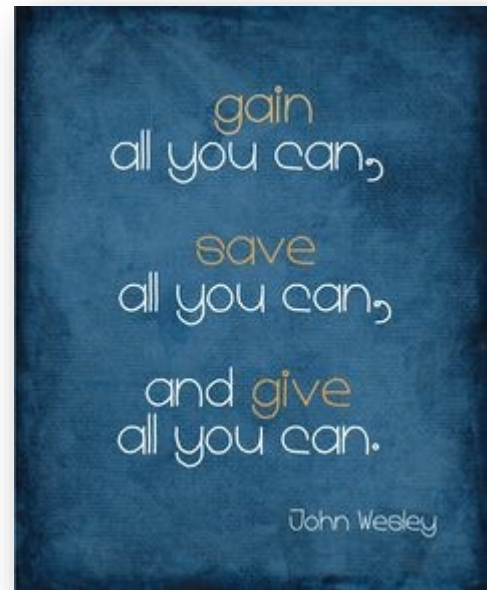
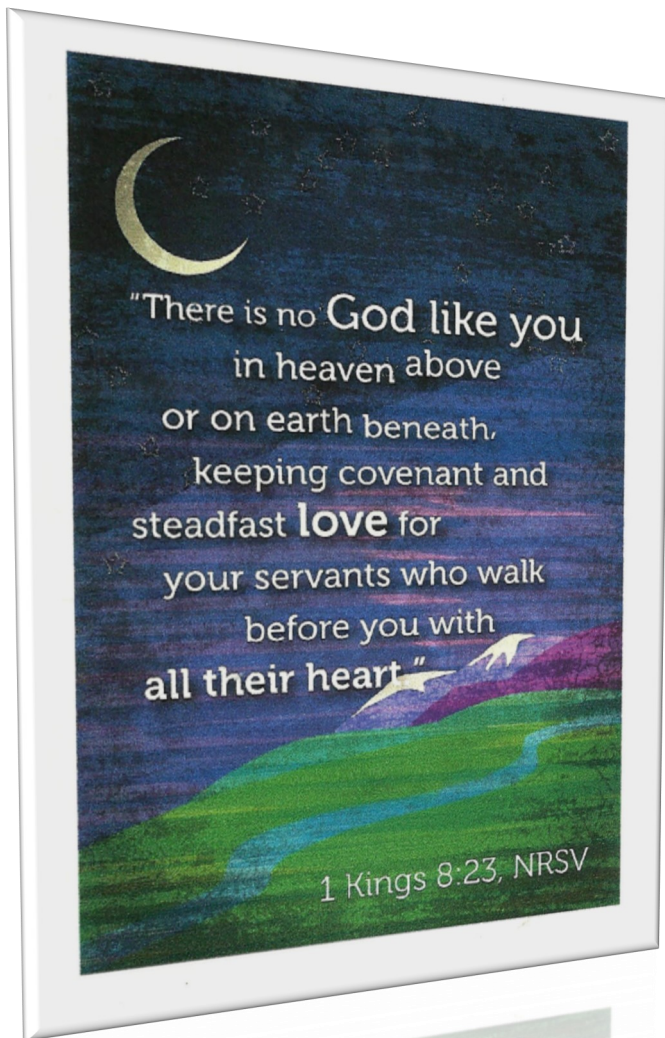
Strategic planning is a place where there is still a great deal of work to be done. We have identified our mission and vision. A ministry audit still needs to be completed. A ministry audit looks at all the ministries of the church to see how each aligns with the mission and vision. Ministries which are not in alignment are given the opportunity to adapt appropriately. If this does not happen within a given period of time, the ministry is discontinued. The key question asked of each ministry is: Are disciples being made?

Healthy Church Administration & Organization: The Church voted to adopt a single board accountability model of governance. We have lived with this model for slightly more than one year; and while we are still working out the bugs, the church seems to be functioning reasonably well. The Board will be evaluating the current structure this summer and it is expected that some minor changes will be made at the time.

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2017 has been named the year of the disciple by Trinity UMC. Our major focus since January has been on disciple making. We are in the process of developing an intentional plan to help people move along the spectrum from unbeliever to mature disciple.

As was previously stated, we have accomplished a lot, but there is still much to be done. If you or someone you know would be interested in joining one of the teams working on one of these prescriptions, please contact Pastor Bob.



An Invitation ...

**YOU ARE INVITED TO
A RETIREMENT RECEPTION**

FOR REV. ERADIO VALVERDE,

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
OF THE COASTAL BEND DISTRICT OF THE
RIO TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**SUNDAY, MAY 7TH
FOLLOWING THE DISTRICT
CONFERENCE
4:30P.M.-5:30P.M.**

**MARY DINN REYNOLDS HALL
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
111 N. ADAMS, ALICE, TX 78332**

A GIFT TREE WILL BE SET UP TO RECEIVE CARDS AND
MONETARY GRATITUDE.

PLEASE RSVP TO DISTRICT OFFICE BY MAY 1ST:
361-852-8268 sheilac@coastalbendumc.org

a letter from the pastor



Dear Friends,

This month, I would like to take a moment to reflect on God's providence. In the book of Genesis immediately following the creation of the first human beings we read: ²⁷

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹ God said, "See, I have given you every plant-yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so¹.

It is humbling to realize that the God of this vast universe, the God who created and is creating, is the God who provides for our every need. Too often I find myself worrying that there will not be enough; worrying there will be too little money, too few resources, too little time, too few... you name it. However, when I come to my senses and look back over the sixty plus years I have been on this planet, I quickly realize that there has always been enough. In truth, there has usually been far more than enough. It is at these times that I am reminded of the words of Jesus:

²⁸ why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' ³² For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But strive first for the kingdom of God^l and his^m righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

What is true for me as an individual is also true for us as a community of faith. If we will simply move forward in faith, doing the things that God has called us to do, God will provide, perhaps not as much as we think we need, but always what we need.

As always, I give thanks to God for each of you.

Pastor Bob

Bad News, GOOD NEWS

Harriet Phillips, Lay Leader

Our Seekers class just finished a wonderful book called "The Case for Easter." If you get the chance to read it, please do! It cost each of us only \$.99! It is worth many times that amount. This little book was written by someone who began as an atheist but became a professing Christian after much study and interviewing. He had to admit that there was no other explanation for our Christian beliefs than what we do believe. Those things MUST have happened!

My husband Tom has mostly quit listening to the news on TV because it is so packed with murders, robberies, assaults, and poor driving resulting in accidents. I can't blame him. I do continue to listen, not because I want to hear awful stories like that, but because I just want to be informed of what is going on. The hardest part is those stories that are the result of willful acts. Sometimes traffic accidents just happen. Sometimes even those are willful acts. Certainly people can be killed by accident, but too many are willful acts. Robberies and assaults are willful acts. I have to ask myself, "What's wrong with people?" I have concluded that insecurity and jealousy are the root causes. We kill, steal, assault, or abuse because we are afraid that someone else has something we want, because someone else is living what we perceive as a better life than we are, or because someone else has in any way threatened us.

As I have stated before, the opposite of love is not hate, but fear! We fear that we will miss getting something, that we will lose something, or that we will be hurt. We fear that someone else will get the job we want and, of course, deserve. We fear that someone will get that last spot in a traffic line before the light changes to red, so we rush to overtake that other car or not let it in, because, after all, being 2 minutes later to our destination will make or break our getting what we want out of that trip! My sixth-grade teacher once told our class that "all accidents are avoidable." In most cases, I believe her. If only we had left earlier, we would not have been in such a hurry and would be on time. If only we had taken the car in when we knew it needed some repair, it wouldn't have broken down. If only we had seen our doctor on a regular basis, we would have been healed from that disease. I know there are illnesses that our current medicine cannot detect soon enough, but I did say, "in most cases." If only we had studied more, we would have passed that test or even received an A!

Granted, many things are not in our control. However, I do believe they are in God's control. What we may perceive as an accident or as really bad luck may very well be exactly God's plan. I have to constantly remind myself that THIS IS NOT HEAVEN! We are here to experience and to learn. Also, I believe that our lives here, even if we get 100 years per life, are only a "blip on

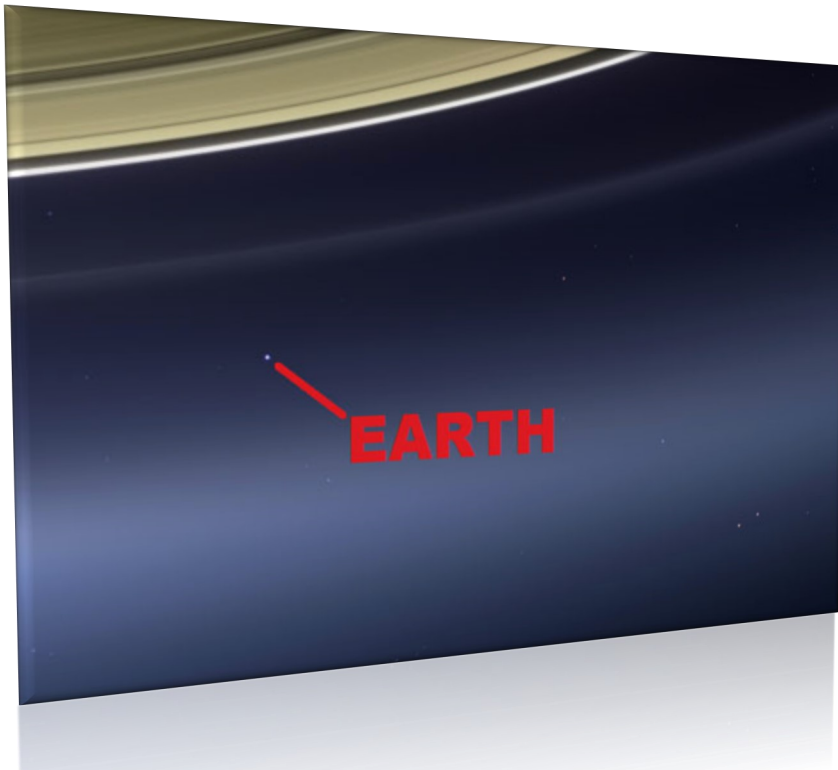
the radar" compared to our time in heaven. I DO wish it didn't seem so very long while we are going through hardships! There is an old Star Trek episode in which there are beings who vibrate at such a high rate that the crew of the Enterprise cannot even detect that they are right there in the same room. I believe that this is a good comparison between our lives on earth and our lives in heaven. (Many of those shows seemed to reflect religious, political, and legal and scientific issues in our actual lives).

I have noticed that in the Bible it repeatedly says, "and it came to pass..." I am relieved to notice that it never says, "and it came to stay." We will get through these trials! It is up to us to decide whether to work within the system or to fight it all the way. It is up to us to decide whether we help others get through their lives more easily or whether we abuse, threaten, belittle, assault, steal, or even kill because we are afraid we will lose something...or someone!

In "The Case for Easter" the author writes about when his wife was seriously ill, and there was no reasonable hope that she would survive her illness. After she passed, many of the author's students called or came by to comfort him. The one theme of all their comments was, "Aren't you glad that Jesus was resurrected?" He said it took a while, but he finally was able to let that knowledge soak in and to let it really comfort him. He knows that if Jesus Christ was resurrected, his wife will be resurrected, and he will see her again! When we face Jesus and God, will we be proud of how we behaved here, or will we bow our heads hoping They don't know how we judged or treated others?

So, we can listen to the bad news and let it consume our daily lives. We can even participate in causing some of the bad news, if we let our fears and insecurities control us; OR we can remember that this life is only temporary and a time to learn, and that the GOOD NEWS is that Jesus was resurrected, and we will also be resurrected!





When I saw this photo on the internet, I must say I was filled with emotion. It looks like we are such an insignificant part of the universe. How far we have come in the last 100 years or so. We can cross the United States in 5 hours, travel to Europe in 8 hours—and to think our forefathers traveled across the United States in covered wagon in months and by sailing vessels to Europe in months. We have come a long way. I looked at that tiny dot we call earth and felt a little different. I know in the vastness of space it looks like we are only a tiny speck, but not in God's eyes. I remember the words of God in Job: "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know? Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place? When I said, "This far you may

"From This Distant Vantage Point"

by Layne Kerley

come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt." Job 38:4-11

Surely, we have an awesome and great God. So, when I see the tiny speck of light called earth, I think all is well. The God who can name the stars surely knows our names.

I wanted to include the words below from Carl Sagan. They say so much....

"From this distant vantage point, the Earth might not seem of any particular interest. But for us, it's different. Consider again that dot. That's here, that's home, that's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every "superstar," every "supreme leader," every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there – on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.

The Earth is a very small stage in a vast cosmic arena. Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and emperors so that, in glory and triumph, they could become the momentary masters of a fraction of a dot. Think of the endless cruelties visited by the inhabitants of one corner of this pixel on the scarcely distinguishable inhabitants of some other corner, how frequent their misunderstandings, how eager they are to kill one another, how fervent their hatreds.

Our posturings, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the universe, are challenged by this point of pale light. Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.

The Earth is the only world known so far to harbor life. There is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to which our species could migrate. Visit, yes. Settle, not yet. Like it or not, for the moment the Earth is where we make our stand.

It has been said that astronomy is a humbling and character-building experience. There is perhaps no better demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world. To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known."

— Carl Sagan (1934–1996)

Scholarships application

- Applications for scholarships are now being processed. Deadline to turn in applications is Monday, May 1st, 2017. Please request an application from the church office at 210-684-0261 or email: ofcadmin@tumcsa.net.

“Save the Date”

- Sunday, July 2nd is our Annual Independence Day Indoor Picnic at noon in the gym.

Attention!

Parents of Easter-Egg Hunters:

- Please return empty plastic eggs so we can fill them for your children next year. There is a green bucket for the eggs in the narthex as you enter the sanctuary. Thank you!

Mark your Calendars!

TUMC Vacation Bible School

- July 24-28, 2017
Children, Youth, and Volunteers needed!
Please contact Julie Vincent at 210-215-9232



Glen Oaks Elementary School needs -

- Toothpaste and toothbrushes please.
Thank you! There will be a labeled box for your donations.

Happy Birthday to:

CHERI DANCAK	1-May
JOANNE BENTON	3-May
JASON BROWN	7-May
CHRISTOPHER CALK	9-May
NELL FAULK	9-May
MIRIAM MAY	9-May
CATHY McFEATERS	11-May
MATTHEW SETTLES	14-May
PATSY HARDIN	15-May
THOMAS SETTLES	15-May
ANDREW KHAN	18-May
KAITLYN PHAIR	21-May
EMILY CALK	23-May
JAN IRETON	24-May
LETHA ADAMS	27-May
TWILA ICENOGLE	27-May
JEFFREY ARNOLD	28-May
NICK BENTON	31-May

Happy Anniversary to:

JEFF & CAROL WILSON	16-May
JAMES & DR JOANNE SMITH	17-May
DON & NORMA KETCHUM	25-May



When we give from the heart, we receive unexpected blessings—
especially the joy of making a difference in someone's life.

2017 Missions Special/Fourth Sunday Offerings

- JANUARY - *Church World Service, Blanket Fund #982810*
- FEBRUARY - *Jireh House*
- MARCH - *One Great Hour of Sharing*
- APRIL - *Children's Shelter*
- MAY - *Project Transformation (Youth)*
- JUNE - *Campus Ministries*
- JULY - *Christian Assistance Ministry*

- AUGUST - *SAMM Transitional Living Center*
- SEPTEMBER - *Habitat for Humanity*
- OCTOBER - *Jireh House - (Thanksgiving offering)*
- NOVEMBER - *Providence Place*
- DECEMBER - *Fairfield Orphanage (Zimbabwe)*

Thank you for your generosity.

Thank you for joining the Trinity United Methodist Church.

When we joined the church, we pledged to uphold it with our prayers.

Please pray for our church every day at noon by simply saying

"JESUS I TRUST IN YOU"

Rev. Bob Clark
Pastor
pastor@tumcsa.net

Cynthia Galang
Office Administrator
ofcadmin@tumcsa.net

Debra Schneider
Director of TUMS
debra@trinityums.org

Jared May
Audiovisuals Coordinator
Jared.a.may55@gmail.com

Mitzi Kelly
Bookkeeper
mkelly@gvtc.com

Connie Medrano
Kitchen Coordinator & Pianist
medrano4@att.net

Jason Brown
Music Director
doispacote@yahoo.com

Stacie Brown
Handbell Director
eicats3719@att.net

Layne Kerley
Organist
ctylane@aol.com



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Monday through Thursday
9:00 am- 4:00 pm
Church phone : 684-0261
Church fax: 684-5489
School phone : 684-5214



... praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:47.

Jesus said, "Come follow Me and I will make you fishers of men".

Worship Services: Sundays 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.*
*Praise and Worship service is every second Sunday of each month. Sunday School for all ages: Sundays 9:45 a.m.

6800 Wurzbach Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78240



Church Website:
www.tumcsa.net



Facebook page:
Trinity United Methodist
Church San Antonio, TX