



REV. ROBERT CLARK II  
Pastor  
pastor@tumcsa.net

Rev. Octaviano Garcia  
Associate Pastor

**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

TUMSchool phone  
210-684-5214



# 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



**2017 Missions  
DECEMBER**  
Special/Fourth Sunday  
Offerings:  
**FAIRFIELD ORPHANAGE  
(ZIMBABWE)**

## *Generosity Matters*

God speaks to each of us in different ways. It may be looking into the eyes of a hungry child, or homeless stranger asking for gas money in a parking lot. Perhaps it is a call to aid the survivors of a hurricane that brings God to the forefront of our minds. Sometimes it is being aware of the needs of our church family that reminds us of our ability to help others. These calls to support the less fortunate also support our most important business, to make disciples of Jesus Christ in order to change the world. Please pray as you respond to your Estimate of Giving in 2018. It is God's call to do His work through Trinity.

## *News Flash!*

## Contribute to Trinity UMC as you shop Online!

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Trinity UMC whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. Your price is the same but Trinity UMC receives a portion of the price. It's a Win! Win!

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know - same products, same prices, same service. Support Trinity United Methodist Church by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.

Just sign-up, then choose Trinity United Methodist Church, San Antonio, and start your shopping. Have fun!



## Greetings from the prayer team.

Pastor Bob shared with us the ways God showers us with His grace. The first way was through prayer. He mentioned that we don't have to say elaborate prayers. One way to help us develop a discipline of prayer would be to set alarms on our phone. The "breath prayer" works well for that method. Its versatility is very appealing. If you are not familiar with the "breath prayer", it works like this. You can use a favorite Bible verse. I like the first verse I memorized in Sunday School. (Breathe in) Say to yourself, "Show me your ways, O Lord." (Breathe out) Say to yourself, "Teach me your paths." Psalm 25:4 NIV. You can use a favorite hymn. The plants in my garden like "Stand up, stand up for Jesus" (Breathe in) Say to yourself, "Stand up, Stand up for Jesus." (Breathe out) Say to yourself, "ye soldiers of the cross." (Breathe in) Say to yourself, "Lift high His royal banner." (Breathe out) Say to yourself, "It must not suffer loss." (Breathe in) Say to yourself, "From victory unto victory;" (Breathe out) Say to yourself, "His army He shall lead." (Breathe in) Say to yourself, "till every foe is vanquished;" (Breathe out) Say to yourself, "And Christ is Lord indeed." Words by George Duffield, Jr. You can use something from the liturgy. (Breathe in) Say to yourself, "Lord, have mercy." (Breathe out) Say to yourself, "Christ, have mercy." (Breathe in) Say to yourself, "Lord, have mercy." Repeat. Sometimes I have found myself in times when I could not pray. Open your heart to the Holy Spirit. You can say something simple (Breathe in) "Jesus, help me." (Breathe out) Say to yourself, "Jesus, help me." Repeat. In this season of Advent, the Magnificat is perfect. Luke 1:46-55 A good stress reliever is Psalm 23:1-2 (GNT) (Breathe in) Say to yourself, "The Lord is my shepherd;" (Breathe out) Say to yourself, "I have everything I need." I use this one every day. I hope you will enjoy using the breath prayer as much as I do. May the Holy Spirit be with us all as we prepare for the coming of our Savior.



In Him,  
Sandy Keyser

**STEWARDSHIP**  
*a way of life* life is why *we give™*

**H**ello brothers and sisters in Christ,

I wanted to revisit a topic I have written about in the past, apportionments. I have grown up in the Methodist church but for the majority of my life, I did not know what apportionments were other than each church in our conference is required to pay them to our conference. I wanted to explain why a church is required to pay them, how much our church is required to pay in 2017, the balance still due and where does the money go to when it is sent to the conference.

THE **GIFT** OF  
**GIVING**   
**BACK**

The Rio Texas Conference website states that we can do so much more together than on our own. The conference calculates a church's yearly apportionment amount due based on a portion of our expenses. Our 2017 apportionment amount due is \$37,903. We have paid \$20,750, leaving a balance of \$17,153 still due.

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Up until last year Trinity United Methodist Church has always paid our apportionments in full. We were unable to do this because we lost a few very generous givers. This year our congregation has stepped up from last year in giving, not only to the general budget, but also your phenomenal gifts given to the Miracle in May. But unfortunately, we still do not have enough in our budget to pay the remaining \$17,153 due to the conference for 2017 Apportionments by year's end.

Being able to pay this commitment is very important to me and other leaders of our church because our church needs to be able to do its part in helping God's children in need. Here is a brief outline (taken from the Rio Texas Conference website) of what this giving does and how much of each dollar given goes to that specific ministry.

### **General and Jurisdictional (27 cents of every apportioned dollar)**

#### **The World Service Fund**

Serves as the financial lifeline to a long list of Christ's mission and ministry throughout the denomination.

#### **Africa University**

Transforms Africa by educating and empowering students from across the African continent.

#### **Ministerial Education Fund**

Prepares men and women for effective ministries.

#### **Episcopal Fund**

Pays Bishops' salaries, covers their office and travel expenses and provides their pension and health-benefit coverage.

#### **Black College Fund**

Supports United Methodism's historically black colleges and universities that create vibrant spiritual environments that encourage pride and self-esteem.

#### **Interdenominational Cooperation Fund**

Works in partnership with ecumenical organizations to bear witness to a common Christian faith.

#### **District Superintendent - Chief Missional Strategist**

In our local churches, approximately half of our local giving pays for salaries and benefits of the pastors and lay employees of the church. Salaries are not overhead to the church, but are the way that we do ministry.

Local church salaries are made much more effective by the money given to this apportioned item.

The Bishop and Cabinet work closely with churches to ensure they have the best clergy leadership possible, and to intervene when necessary to solve problems that could otherwise become destructive.

#### **Moving Expenses & Equitable Compensation**

Each year, an average 1/2 our pastors move from one church to another, and the cost of moving is provided through the moving fund supported by this apportionment.

Some churches may need assistance paying their pastor. These churches may need 2-3 years before becoming a self-supporting church again. The equitable compensation funds supplied through this apportionment subsidize the ministry in the church while it is moving toward self-sufficiency.

### **Conference Ministries (27 cents of every apportioned dollars)**

The Rio Texas Mission Vitality Center serves to align and direct the flow of attention, energy, and resources to foster and sustain an increase in the number of vital Rio Texas Conference congregations.

### **District Ministries (7 cents of every apportioned dollar)**

Distributed evenly among the seven districts, the District Ministries Fund supports the work of the District Superintendent and the District Strategy teams in supporting and equipping the local churches for ministry within the context of the district.

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**Ministerial Support (14 cents of every apportioned dollar)**

Supplies effective spiritual and administrative leadership to local churches and the world.

**Administration (11 cents of every apportioned dollar)**

**Annual Conference Session**

The Annual Gathering of the Rio Texas Annual Conference takes place over four days in Corpus Christi, TX.

This fund covers the cost of the facilities rental, shuttle buses, audio-visual and technical support. It also covers the cost of producing the Annual Conference Journal, which is made available to all delegates in printed form and to the public electronically. Since delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference are elected by the Annual Conference, costs related to those delegations are covered under the Administration Fund.

**Treasurer's Office**

Strives to create a culture of trust and confidence in its work to serve our local churches. Through the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and regular audits, Administrative Service is focused on responsible stewardship of the resources of the annual conference.

**Audits for Districts & Campus Ministries**

The Rio Texas Annual Conference ensures that all districts and other organizations related to the conference operate with the same level of integrity and transparency as the conference itself. Regular audits ensure that these offices are following all proper accounting protocols.

**Mount Wesley**

The operations of the Mount Wesley Conference Center are partially underwritten by this fund.

**Pensions and Benefits (14 cents of every apportioned dollar)**

Some of the most valuable assets of the Rio Texas Conference are the women and men who give their lives to serve our churches. We invest our time, money and effort to train and prepare our clergy. We also invest in their continued health and eventual retirement.

Rio Texas Conference requires each church in the conference to pay its apportionments and, unfortunately, if a church cannot do this two years in a row, the church pastor will be transferred. I believe Trinity is very blessed by having Bob and Donna Clark, here and I know others feel the same way. I ask you to join me and other people at Trinity and give an additional offering sometime before the end of the year in order for our apportionments to be paid in full. Our gifts will help the above-listed ministries to continue and to keep our pastor at Trinity for another year to help us continue to do God's work. I know together, we can raise this money.

Yours in Christ,  
*Bonnie Smith*  
Church Treasurer



life is why  
*We give™*

## Mission Trip to Costa Rica

We continue to identify those persons who are interested in participating in or sponsoring someone to participate in a mission trip to Costa Rica July 28 - Aug.4, 2018. You may sign the interest sheet in the narthex or Church office or by calling Lynn Francis at 317-460-1581.

## All-Church Board Meeting

All-Church board meeting is Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 12:15pm. Everyone is invited.

## Charge Conference

Charge conference is on Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

Location: Laurel Height UMC.

## F.I.P.S. LUNCHEON → WED., DEC. 13, at 1 PM

F.I.P.S. will meet for lunch on the second Wednesday in December. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, December 13, at 1 PM at Louie Italian Restaurant in Loehmans Village.

All are invited. Please Join us!



# ADVENT

### Season of Advent schedule of Worship Services

- \* *Angel Series for Advent:*
  - \* *Hope – Sunday, December 3rd*
  - \* *Peace – Sunday, December 10th*
  - \* *Joy – Sunday, December 17th*
  - \* *Love – Sunday, December 24th*
- \* *Sunday, December 17th – Jubellee Ringers and Chancel Choir will lead worship music.*
- \* *Sunday, December 24th – worship services at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.*

### *Happy Birthday to:*

MACLETA CLARK	2-Dec
MELISSA J. EFTA	2-Dec
RENO GERMANN	3-Dec
WENDY WELLER	3-Dec
DON GERTH	12-Dec
TEN MUZOREWA	12-Dec
LUPE PROCTOR	12-Dec
CAROLYN SCRIMSHIRE	12-Dec
DUCK WILCOX	16-Dec
MARCIA ALLEY	21-Dec
LINDA TOWNSEND	26-Dec
CAROL WILSON	27-Dec
BOB LEE	28-Dec
DAVID DYE	30-Dec
DON KETCHUM	30-Dec
PAT PUTZ	30-Dec
CYNTHIA ROMO	31-Dec

### *Happy Anniversary to:*

CYNTHIA & ESTEBAN ROMO	12-Dec
ROY & MARY ROGERS	22-Dec
BOB & TWILA ICENOGLA	23-Dec

# “What We Have Here Is Failure to Communicate!”

*I don't* know how many times I have heard, "I didn't know that!" or "I wish someone had told me!" when the appropriate information was in the bulletin for at least a month, in the most recent newsletter, announced in church for a month, and displayed on the screen at the 11:00 service. Cynthia and I put the bulletin together every week with the information we are given. We try very hard to include all the "happenings" for the week plus things that are coming soon after it.

Before you say that no one told you, or you didn't know that, please be sure you have read the bulletin, the newsletter, listened to the announcements in church, read the screen, visited our church website, checked the church Facebook page, and checked emails from your church. Now we even have a new way to glean information - an electronic sign along Wurzbach Rd! Granted, we don't always list everything everywhere, but we try to list everything we are told to list.

Of course, this means that YOU have to tell us what's going on. Cynthia knows when our two choirs meet on Wednesdays and when the Praise Band meets after church on Sunday, but sometimes these rehearsals change. If I know, I tell her. If YOU know but haven't told me, please send Cynthia an email or call her. As Layne is so fond of saying, "I flunked that mind-reading course." If you are a part of a group that meets only once a month, please let Cynthia know who you are and when and where you are meeting. Especially if something changes from the usual, please let us know. Cynthia does not attend services nor meetings at our church. YOU are the only way some things are transmitted to our media.



When there is a meal at church, please make it clear whether it is to be provided by the church or whether it is a potluck meal. Also, be sure both services know about the meal. If you expect people who don't normally come to be there, please let the person in charge of the meal know. (If some of my family members unexpectedly brought home a "few" friends without letting me know, I would be upset and embarrassed to not have enough to feed all of them). As someone said this past week, I would rather be told by 3 or 4 people, than to not be told at all.

Just be aware that communication goes both ways: you need to read and listen when information is transmitted to you, and you need to be sure information you know is transmitted to the people who need to know. It is not communication if only one side is "there." When Pastor Bob asks whether there are any more announcements, speak up if you didn't read or hear about something you know about.

Even when you pray, you need to "be still and know that [He/She is] God." After you pray what you want to pray, listen for God's answer. Don't hang up on Him/Her! I know you want to be sure you get your requests in, but God would like to talk to you, too. Don't think, "Not Thy will, but mine be done."

In short, before you complain that you didn't know, be sure you looked everywhere that information should be first. By the same token, don't be the reason we as a group didn't know about something, if it was your job to inform the rest of us. I would certainly much rather get several calls at church or be told several times in church or at a meeting about something, than to not get the information out to the right people.

This is just another form of stewardship.

Thank you so much for doing your part.

Harriet Phillips

Lay Leader

