



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
ROOTED IN CHRIST † GROWING IN FAITH  
440 Maxwell Road • Eugene, Oregon 97404

## February Tidings

### Grace Notes

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
and with all your soul,  
and with all your strength, and with all your mind;  
and your neighbor as yourself.”*

Luke 10:27

In this great commandment, one way we are called to love God is with all our strength. In last month's grace notes, I shared the strengths of our congregation that were identified by the consultation team who visited last October. So let us love God and give thanks that our strengths as a church include 1) **Boldness in reaching out**, 2) **Love for one another and for this church** and 3) a **Resource rich environment** that includes but is not limited to: a) People of different generations and varying socio-economic levels, b) Highly useable and accessible facilities c) Endowment funds and annual financial support from the membership, d) Meaningful worship experiences, e) Strong pastoral leadership willing to take risks and f) Skilled staff and leaders committed to this congregation's health and vitality

This month, I am lifting up our three top challenges that were identified by the consultation team. We are using our strengths to confront these challenges through the prescriptions that we have already begun to implement. I have concluded this article with an update on how the work and ways that you can get involved.

### Challenges

- 1. Lack of Clear Vision** The congregation suffers from too many emphases, too many messages, too many agendas, and too many small steps in different directions which do not result in significant outcomes. The lack of clear vision can lead to exhaustion and a perception that there is incomplete follow through.
- 2. Struggles with Communication** -A perceived lack of communication exists. New communication technologies, the shift in governance structure, rapidly changing programs and worship compound the perception. Brian McLaren says, “In the absence of communication, organizations burn trust”. The shortage of trust at Trinity and concerns about decision making processes have resulted in “parking lot” communication, rumor, and discomfort in the congregation. When conflicts arise the church does not adequately process them in an open and honest way, resulting in an inability to let go and move forward.
- 3. Scarcity Mindset** Resources are not being efficiently used in support of the mission and vision of the church. Despite rich resources, there is a sense of scarcity. God has given the people of Trinity everything needed to fulfill their mission. An excess of ideas and agendas leads to distracted deployment and lack of impact.

### Prescriptions

**1. Mission and Focus** The Executive Leadership Team, in consultation with the coach, will develop and implement a church-wide process to answer these questions posed by the existing mission statement (“To form disciples of Jesus Christ as we gather in love, grow in faith and go out in hope to transform the world”):

- Who are we gathering in love?
- What we are going to transform in the world?

## **2 Deepening Relationships and Improving Communication**

**2a. Deepening Relationships** -The Leadership Team, in consultation with the coach, will empower a task force to design and implement a process of building relationships across the current sub-groups of the church. The purpose is to increase levels of trust, have fun and celebrate one another, create and renew friendships, and develop comfort with meeting others.

**2b. Effective Communication** -The Leadership Team, in consultation with the coach, shall create a communication ministry task force to perform a communication audit and develop a plan of communication. The task force shall include the pastor, coach, administrative assistant, one person who leads a program ministry in the church, and one person with communication expertise. The plan will be approved by the Leadership Team, widely distributed to the congregation, and turned over to leadership and staff for implementation.

## **Prescription Implementation**

**1. Mission and Focus**—Mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**. The church –wide process we are using to answer the questions posed in our first prescription will be a day-long **Multiply your Impact workshop with Rev. Beth Estock** from Portland, OR. Beth will be leading us through a process in which we actively engage with information that we have already gathered, specifically the results of the online church-wide *360 degree survey* and the *Mission Insite* demographic information that is detailed information on our closest neighbors within a 2 mile radius of 440 Maxwell.

Beth is an ordained elder in the Oregon-Idaho United Methodist conference who works as a church revitalization consultant for the Path 1 where she leads and coaches churches throughout the United States in revitalization. In addition, Beth leads a house church network in southwest Portland.

### **2a. Deepening Relationships-**

Dave Chavez stepped up to lead a task force that is being formed to design and implement a process of deepening relationships through a variety of activities. He has been in consultation with Judy Piercey and is in dialogue with others who want to join him on this task force. There is always room for more to plan fun so if you want to join the task force, contact the church office at 541-688-3269.

**2b. Effective Communication** –The communications task force has been hard at work and have completed the communication audit through interviewing a representative group of the church. They have now moved from the audit to developing a communication plan that is consistent and efficient.

## **What can I do?**

### **Be Present**

Plan to be present at the all day workshop on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Commit to be present 3 times per month in worship on Sunday morning.

### **Ask Questions**

If you do not understand what is going on, please pick up the telephone and give me a call at 541-760-3909. Or you can reach me at [robertaegli@comcast.net](mailto:robertaegli@comcast.net). Any of the executive leadership team would also love to talk with you if you have questions. Pat Rankin, Carolyn Loucks, Phil Means and Judy Mortimore serve on the executive leadership team. We are meeting on the first Thursday on the month and request your prayers.

### **Commit to Pray Daily**

Pray daily for the work that God is doing in and through us at Trinity UMC. I wrote the following prayer that will be used in worship, whenever any teams gather to work, and I am asking you to pray it daily starting today and continuing throughout Lent.

### **Trinity UMC Prayer for Renewal**

God of grace we give you thanks for your faithful guidance in the past as we reflect on our beginnings as a church. We remember and give thanks for all the passionate men and women who lived into their vision to share your love with the neighborhood.

At this moment in time, send Your renewing Spirit upon us. Infuse us with power to dream and vision how we are to be a blessing to each other and our neighbors.

Open us to new possibilities as we identify who we are called to gather in love.

Stir up in us deep desire to grow in our faith practices.

Break open our imagination to become instruments of transformation as we go out in hope, extending Your compassion and justice to a hurting world.

May the blessing of God give us strength for our task this day. May the Spirit of wisdom give us courage to keep dreaming and may the love of Christ continue to form us into a beloved community abundantly sharing the promise of new life with all. AMEN.

Blessings on the road,

*Pastor Roberta*



**Neighborhood Pastor Office Hours at Fred Meyer Starbucks on Tuesday Afternoon -**

Beginning this month, Pastor Roberta will be holding weekly neighborhood office hours. If you want to drop by and chat, if you have a question, or if you just want to hang out with the pastor, plan to join her on Tuesdays late afternoon at the Starbucks inside the Fred Meyer store on Division Street. She will be there from 3:30- 6:30 pm on Tuesdays starting on February 3.



**Lent Worship—Practices on the Path -** During our Lenten worship we will be focusing on the practices of faith on the path of discipleship. Last spring we had people share their ‘this I believe’ witness that helped us learn each other’s story. This Lent we will expand that series by having a “This I Practice” witness during Sunday morning worship. We begin Lent at our Ash Wednesday worship at 7:00 pm February 18<sup>th</sup>. What practices of faith do you want to ‘take on’ this Lent? What habits do you want to abstain from this Lent?

**February Worship Schedule (Lent Begins Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>)**

02/01/15	Jesus the Teacher	Proverbs 3: 1-20, Mark 4: 1-20	Chapter 22
02/08/15	Jesus the Transformer	Jonah 4: 1-11, Luke 16: 19-31	Chapter 24
02/18/15	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17, Mark 2: 1-19	Chapter 26
02/21/15	Messy Church	Messy Bread of Life	
02/22/15	New Identity	Matthew 5: 1-16	Chapter 27
03/01/15	Faithful Discernment	Matthew 5: 17-48	Chapter 28

\*\*\* **Lent Noon Prayer will be held at the church on Wednesdays beginning February 25<sup>th</sup> until April 1<sup>st</sup>.**



**Meetings This Month** –There will be a **Facilities Team Meeting** Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the church office. **UMW Board Meeting** will be held Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 10am in the Fireside Room. The **UMW will have a combined Unit Meeting** Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 10am in the Fireside Room. This unit meeting replaces the individual circle meetings. **Messy Church** will hold its next planning meeting March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm in the church office.



Our January Messy Church was a great success! Over 50 children and adults came together for activities & fun including a delicious lasagna dinner provided by Barb Olson. **February Messy Church will be held Saturday, February 21st from 4pm-6pm.** The theme is *Messy Communion – the Bread of Life*. We have lots of great activities planned & we will end with a FREE dinner! Please bring a friend!!



**Mardi Gras Pancake Feed Sunday February 15<sup>th</sup>** after worship. Plan to stay after worship and join in a party! Why pancakes you ask? Pancakes are associated with the day preceding Lent because they were a way to use up rich foods such as eggs, milk, and sugar, before the fasting season of the 40 days of Lent. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18<sup>th</sup> so rather than meeting on Tuesday- we will have our pancake feed and games on Sunday! See you there!



**Come To the Waters---**Introductory Lunch at noon on Sunday February 22. Classes will continue at 5:00 pm Sunday evenings March 1, 8, 15, 22. On the 29<sup>th</sup> we will meet at 4:00 due to the confirmation class at 5:00 that Sunday. Messy Church Come to the Waters Introductory Session—Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.

### Financial Corner

#### Condensed Statement

As of 12/31/2014

Income:	YTD	BUDGET YTD
Pledges & Plate	\$145,526	\$148,800
Rental Income	\$33,613	\$37,056
Other Income	\$24,214	\$17,822
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$203,353</b>	<b>\$203,678</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$203,761</b>	<b>\$214,170</b>

### Roof Update

We need to replace the roof over the Fellowship Hall before the next rainy season. We have set a goal to raise \$20,000 by September and with your help we know we can make it! Please watch for upcoming updates and fundraising opportunities in your weekly bulletin. Be sure to mark your check "Roof Fund" when making a donation.

For a more detailed Financial Statement, please see visit the bulletin board located in the Fellowship Hall.

Each month we will be highlighting a different expense in our budget to help you see your dollars at work here at Trinity.

**Thank you supporting Trinity UMC!**

### United Methodist Women Calendar of Events

Wednesday, February 4th	10:00am	Board Meeting	Fireside Room
Wednesday, February 11 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	Combined Unit Meeting	Fireside Room
Wednesday, March 4 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	Board Meeting	Fireside Room
Wednesday, March 11 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	Combined Unit Meeting	Fireside Room
Wednesday, March 18 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	Blanket Mission Work Party	Fireside Room

**February Birthdays:** (4<sup>th</sup>) Gary Wildish (5<sup>th</sup>) Jean Connaughty (8<sup>th</sup>) Easton Stephens (9<sup>th</sup>) Keith Proudfit, Bill Walker (10<sup>th</sup>) Louise Smith (15<sup>th</sup>) Pat Sirotek (16<sup>th</sup>) Doris Rickman (17<sup>th</sup>) Kristyn Stephens (24<sup>th</sup>) Gunnar Roos (25<sup>th</sup>) Scotty Parson (28<sup>th</sup>) Caelyn Wooldridge-McLain  
**Anniversaries:** (22<sup>nd</sup>) Pat & Jeff Rankin

**Don't forget to join the Birthday Club!** Make a donation equal to your age & we'll honor you with a "cupcake" in the Fellowship Hall. Donations help the church pay for monthly operating expenses.

### Trinity United Methodist Church

**Office Hours:** Monday- Thursday 10am-1pm **Closed Friday**

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