



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

January 2017 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

Alpha is coming to Trinity United Methodist Church!

What is Alpha? Alpha is a series of fifteen interactive sessions, typically run over eleven weeks, including a weekend away, where anyone can explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. Everyone is welcome! Alpha is designed particularly for people who would not describe themselves as Christians or church-goers or are new in the faith.

Where did Alpha come from? Alpha started over thirty years ago at Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB), an Anglican church in Central London, UK. It was originally developed as a short course for people in the church. In 1990, Nicky Gumbel took over running Alpha and found that many people outside of the church were warming up to the idea of Alpha. Today, more than 29 million people have attended Alpha in more than 169 countries, and it has been translated into 112 different languages. It runs in every part of the worldwide church – the Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church, the Pentecostal Church and all the mainline Protestant denominations.

Alpha is... Alpha is based on a pattern you find in the New Testament of people bringing their friends, family and work colleagues to meet Jesus. Andrew brought his brother Peter; Philip brought Nathaniel; Matthew had a party and invited all his work colleagues – he said, 'Come and meet Jesus!' Alpha is an easy way of saying to friends, 'Come and see, come and explore your questions, come and hear about Jesus, come and see for yourself.'

In Alpha we try to be... Real – Alpha presents the reality of who Jesus is. Those that run Alpha are real and authentic, and this allows the guests to be real themselves. People are welcome to ask questions and look for answers, with no pressure to contribute and no follow up if they don't come back.

Relational – Alpha is based on genuine friendships that are built up over a few weeks and often last for years afterwards.

Reliant – On Alpha we are reliant on the Holy Spirit because we realize that it is only God who changes people's lives; we just introduce Him. No one can force anyone to believe anything. What we've found over the years is that if we allow people to be themselves and ask their questions, focus on building relationships, and rely on the Holy Spirit, lives are changed.

How does Alpha work? The model for the Alpha small group is not teacher-pupil, but host-guest. It is vital to give guests the opportunity to respond to what they have heard, and to ask questions in a safe, non-threatening environment.

(article continues on the next page)

Trinity United Methodist Church 8009 Q Street Ralston, NE 68127
Phone: 402-331-4054 <http://www.trinityralston.org> [facebook.com/TrinityRalstonUMC](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityRalstonUMC)

Sunday Worship: Services @ 8:30am & 11am, Sunday School @ 9:45am

Pastor: Rev Dr. Matt Fowler **Associate Pastor:** Rev Curt Copple **Pastor of Congregational Development:** Rev Dr. Bob Folkers
Executive Pastor: Rev Dr. Cole Fowler **Children /Youth Director:** Becky McClanathan
Choir Director: David Galant **Media Director/Worship Leader:** Matthew Hindley **Accompanist:** Vicki Buras
Facilities Coordinator: Jon Lindhjem **Administrative Assistant:** Vicky Segers **Building Supervisor:** Judy Slavik

Alpha continued...

Role of the host: 1. Greet newcomers to the group. 2. Introduce guests to one another. 3. Facilitate the discussion. 4. Pray regularly for the small group.

Role of the helper: 1. Look after the needs of guests. 2. Handle administration for the group. 3. Support the discussion with helpful comments. 4. Pray quietly for each guest during the small group discussion.

Do you want to be a part of Training and changing lives? I have been a participant of Alpha, and I am excited to bring it to Trinity United Methodist Church. Please join me on this journey. Come and hear about Jesus. Talk to me to learn more!

Pastor Curt Copple

Mission Notes

On January 4th, 2017, our mission team will set our goals for the year in order to plan for mission projects. We will continue with some of our current projects, such as supporting **local shelters and food banks** with food and hygiene products. Additionally, we will talk about other ways to support these local agencies.

Our **Prom Project** was so successful that we will, no doubt, keep that on our list.

Dining for Women, which informs us about global issues confronting women and girls around the world, will meet on the second Friday at noon in January or February, depending upon the weather, so check the monthly calendar on the church website: www.trinityralston.org.

The **prayer shawl ministry** is ongoing so please let us know of anyone who might benefit from this ministry. We are always in need of prayer shawls so if you like to knit or crochet, we would welcome your donations.

As we look back at 2016, we can be proud of Trinity's commitment to the following projects:

Keeping the boat filled
Supporting Ralston teens in order to attend prom
Donating hygiene kits to Open Door Mission
Writing "thank you" notes to Ralston teachers
Supporting UMCOR's disaster relief efforts
Contributing to Ralston High School pantry
Donating to Living Hope's Thanksgiving meals
Believing that we could reach a goal of 100 gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child
THANK YOU, TRINITY!!!

Our mission team meetings are open to anyone; we meet the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm.

Judy Dappen
Mission Chair

Music News

Choir practice resumes on Wednesday, January 11th from 6-7pm. All are welcome to join if you have a love of music!

New Members

We welcome as a new member to Trinity, Cindy Jolly through transfer.

Education Notes



Youth Event: Welcome to the new year! 2016 was amazing and now it's January! Before I talk about 2017, let's recap our fabulous December happenings at Trinity. December 11th, the Youth group went to Pie Five Pizza and had a fun evening. We shared a meal, exchanged gifts and created prayer boxes. It was a wonderful way to wrap up the year together.

Christmas Program: The kids at Trinity held a Christmas program in our Community Center and shared the story of the New Star (picture below).

Kid's Mission Project: Through December, the kids were on a mission to raise funds for a **Salama Stove** for a family in Kenya. These stoves are designed to create a healthier family environment. They have an insulated combustion chamber that keeps the sides from getting too hot, minimizing the risk of burns in children and cooks. The Salama stove is manufactured in Nairobi by local stove experts. All the materials and parts are sourced from Nairobi and the surrounding areas. Built by Kenyans in Kenya. With the kids efforts, and our own church members donations and support, we have collected **\$360.00!!** Our church is now able to buy **six stoves** and provide a healthy, and safe environment for Kenyan families! Your donations have helped tremendously, and have been more than we have imagined!! Please read the email below that I received this past week:

Hello Becky,

I hope all is well and Happy Holidays!!!!!!!

Thank you very much for your generous donation to Salama Stoves. This money that you raised will go directly to households that are in need of clean and safe energy in rural Kenya. Please send the check directly to the Founder of Salama Stoves Dr. Coleen Stice:

Once again, thanks again for your contribution.

Sincerely,
Todd Wofchuck
Country Representative Salama Stoves
www.salamastoves.com

KFC (Kids For Christ): I am looking for a supportive volunteer to help once a month during KFC, Kids for Christ. I'm looking for someone to help run activities or help with craft activities or games. Everything will be prepped and handled beforehand. The class meets at 5:30-6ish to eat dinner, and then we do activities from 6-7pm with dismissal to parents at 7pm. If you feel inclined to help with our class activities, please contact me at the church or at Becky.M@trinityalston.org.

January 1st: NO Sunday School. Happy New Year!

January 8th: Sunday School resumes at 9:45am.

January 8th: Youth Group 5-7pm

January 18th: KFC resumes. Dinner for KFC begins at 5:30pm.

Class from 6-7pm.

January 22nd: Youth Group 5-7pm

May Your JOY be Full
Becky McClanathan



(pictures on this page courtesy of Becky McClanathan.)

January

Birthdays

- 1/1 James Birkel
- 1/4 Lee Hodgen
- 1/5 Sidney Fraser
LaWray Kinsella
- 1/6 Walt Dudzinski
- 1/7 Diane Hansler
Anette Wilson
- 1/8 Don Johnson
- 1/9 Lynn Hendrix
- 1/10 Pat Hein
- 1/11 Kelly Colegrove
- 1/12 Terry Grage
Ethel Higgason
- 1/13 Meredith Price
- 1/15 JoAnn Gustafson
Scott Pace
Mark Weichel
Maxine Wilkins
- 1/17 Meredith Naviaux
- 1/18 Matthew Bolinger
Izzy Bret
Larry Swett
Anya Wilson-Stepan
- 1/19 Jett Hansen
- 1/20 Larry Braga
Jayden Porchia
- 1/21 Chuck Babbel
Darlene Higgins
- 1/22 Sara Craven
- 1/25 Terry Shannon
- 1/26 Patty Babbel
Kim Hansler
Donald Johnson
- 1/29 Lisa Bolinger
Clay Bowker
Karen Bowker
Virgil Winkelman
- 1/30 Mel Adams
Walter Lenczowski
- 1/31 Michaela Dodenhof
Mary Freeberg

UMW Notes

Thurs, Jan 5th	Naomi Ruth Circle	10am
Sun, Jan 8th	Installation of Officers	8:30am
Tues, Jan 10th	Mary Circle	7pm
Thurs, Jan 12th	Esther Circle	7pm
Thurs, Jan 19th	Bingo @ Hillcrest Shadowlake	2pm
Tues, Jan 24th	UMW Executive Board Meeting	6:30pm
Sat, Feb 4th	Spring Salad Luncheon Planning	9:30am

Mary Circle is in charge of kitchen clean-up for January.

Saturday Book Club

Saturday Sisters Book Club will meet on Saturday, January 21st at 9am in Room 205. The January selection is "The Things We Keep" by Sally Hepworth. You are invited to join us at any time, even if you have not read the book.

Trinity Methodist Men

The Trinity Men's Group continues to meet on the last Saturday of each month at 8am in 2017 beginning on January 28th. Join them this year for coffee, breakfast, and guest speakers as they build their faith together. For more information, please contact Steve Gage.

Lost & Found Clothing Closet

The Lost and Found Clothing Closet assisted eleven new families and 22 children on December 11th alone. Since it's opening four and a half years ago, the Clothing Closet has served 1,127 children and counting! This ministry has thrived through your help. Please, make a resolution and sign-up today to help keep the Clothing Closet running strong in 2017!

Don & Millie's Sunday

Eat at Don & Millie's on Sunday, January 22nd from 11am – 5pm and the church receives 20% of your purchase.

Ralston Archives

The Frank & Velma Johnson Ralston Archives Museum will hold their annual meeting on Wednesday, January 11th at 7pm followed by the regular monthly meeting (weather permitting). The Archives will be open to the public on Sunday, January 15th from 1-3pm with new displays focusing on elections of the past, bar-ware, and the history of the Jaycee's.

Calendar insert

You will find inserted in this month's Beacon a copy of the current calendar for January. Please check the website (trinityralston.org) for the most up-to-date calendar available. Call the church office at 402-331-4054 for more information, or to schedule your event today.

