



*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World*

## August 2017 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

**Now pick up that staff with your hand. You'll use it . . .  
-Exodus 4:17**

Last week, Margo and I were on our way to a United Methodist Conference in Kansas City. On the way there, we were listening to a Christian radio station. The speaker mentioned the importance of a walking stick/staff in Old Testament times. While the staff was used for protection and walking, it held a far greater importance. Today we have computers, smart phones with cameras, social media, and a number of other things that help us to hold onto memories. None of this was in existence back in the Old Testament.

The Israelites of the Old Testament were a nomadic people. This means that personal libraries were not in existence. There wasn't even a family Bible to write down the family tree in. Instead, what they did was to carve into the staff the important dates and information of their family and tribe. This was how they held on to their memories. The staff was an original smart phone. So when God told Moses to pick up his staff, God knew there was a multitude of things Moses would be using that stick for.

As I sit at my desk, I am looking at my "walking staff", i.e. my calendar. It is what helps me to remember the important dates and times in my life. I mark it to help me remember anniversaries, birthdays, school dates, as well as church meetings and events. I have no doubt that each of you has a way of tracking all of these important dates and so many more, but what about the dates that have to do with God?

How often do we think about the days that God was so prevalent in our lives we could not help but know it was God? Do we mark the day we came to know Jesus in our lives? Do we take time to honor God for the blessings we have been given, with family, friends, jobs, and other people and moments? What about the moments that God used you to be a blessing in someone else's life? Do you take time to thank God for using you to help bring someone else closer to God?

When we joined the United Methodist Church (yep another date we probably should remember), we promised to uphold it with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our outreach. On July 23<sup>rd</sup> we had VBS as the theme for worship. We had 230 people in attendance with close to 50 children. I told the staff on Tuesday that this Sunday was one of my "Top 5" since I have been here. I honestly believe that this should now become our every Sunday experience. That Sunday is on my walking stick. But that only happens if we all work to see God's vision for our church come to pass. We are each called to make disciples and grow God's kingdom here on earth. I believe this is a very real opportunity for us as a church. It excites me to just type it.

As a side note, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July I was walking around downtown Ralston and took a moment to step into one of the shops. In the corner they were selling, yep you guessed it, walking sticks. I now have a walking stick that I will also use to help me remember the important moments in my life and the church's life. So we can take that staff and GO!

Grace and Peace  
Matt

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**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  
**Adult Education Director/Accompanist:** Vicki Buras   **Choir Director:** David Galant  
**Media Director/Worship Leader:** Matthew Hindley   **Facilities Coordinator:** Jon Lindhjem  
**Administrative Assistant:** Vicky Segers   **Building Supervisor:** Judy Slavik

## Mission Notes

If you knit or crochet, the Mission Team could use some more prayer shawls for the **Prayer Shawl Ministry**. Please contact Judy Slavik if you have any questions.

The Mission Team is continuing to provide **sack lunches** for the Stephen Center. If this is something that you would be interested in helping out with, please get in touch with Judy Dappen for future dates and times.

The Mission Team is **scheduled to meet** on Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30pm. They always welcome new members.

**Dining for Women** will next meet on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at Noon. Anyone is welcome to attend these informational gatherings, simply bring a dish to share, and your own place setting.

Judy Dappen  
Mission Chair

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### Thank you

The net profit from the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Picnic in the Park and July 4<sup>th</sup> Food Stand was \$1856. Thank you to everyone who helped make these two events a success.

A huge thank you to all of the Trinity members who donated pies and helped out at the Pie & Ice Cream Social on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. You help make this event happen each year. -Jan Gorman

A heartfelt thank you for the prayers, calls, and cards. I hope to see you all soon. -Gloria Pearson-Williams

Thank you so much for all the prayers and messages for my daughter, Tina. She was in reconstructive surgery for six hours, and will require more procedures in the future, but no more as drastic as this one. Thank you again. Please don't stop praying. -Shirley Kramer

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### Trinity Friends

"Trinity Friends" is back by popular demand for the fall, with signups beginning August 6<sup>th</sup>!

Trinity Friends consists of several groups of Trinity members (usually 8-10 people in each) who are interested in getting better acquainted with other church members through small group get-togethers outside of church. *Not everyone who signs up needs to be a host* – you can just come enjoy the fellowship. We are always looking for new members. Each group meets once each month September through November, usually on the weekend. Then a potluck meal for all the Trinity Friends is held the first Sunday in December.

The get-togethers could be going out to a movie then meeting somewhere to discuss it, playing cards or games followed by a dessert, sharing a potluck meal, attending a concert, meeting for coffee/dessert – whatever fellowship the host for the month chooses.

Questions? Contact Ray or Connie Loveland at either 402-596-0610 or [connieloveland@cox.net](mailto:connieloveland@cox.net).

## Education Notes



**From left to right:** Elijah, Michelle Christiansen, Lori Henderson, Jacob Johnson, Madison Lyons, Sophia Lyons, Aubrey Jenson, Abby Lyons, Becky McClanathan, Pastor Matt, Bekah O'Doherty, Bob Wiley, Kim Whitehouse, Debbie Dudzinski, Bob Whitehouse and Matt Hindley.

**Vacation Bible School** was a huge success!! We had 47 kids registered and over 50 attending throughout the week! This number did not include the over 30 volunteer staff and teachers!! We were so blessed to have all the support in educating our kids, decorating the church, preparing the classrooms and teaching during this special week of learning about God. Maker Fun Factory is all about God creating us for a purpose, and we are all unique and wonderful. The kids were able to be creative, build things and have fun.

Our mission this year, was to help support the YES (Youth Emergency Services) organization here in Omaha and the kids donated over 200 items of personal hygiene products during VBS week. What a magnificent number! The YES group was so excited to get this support and grand donation.



**August 6<sup>th</sup>** will be our *last summer Sunday School class* and our kids will share what they studied throughout the summer.

**August 13<sup>th</sup>**, We will have a Backpack Blessing of teachers and students at **BOTH** services. Please come with or without your backpacks and share in our time of blessing teachers, students and administrators.



On **August 13<sup>th</sup>**, we are excited to have a **BACK TO SCHOOL BREAKFAST** for our congregation! Join us at **9:30am** in Fellowship Hall to celebrate our new school year with fellowship, breakfast and coffee.

### **Youth Gathering this month:**

The second Sunday of the month, **August 13<sup>th</sup>**, youth will meet to help serve breakfast for the congregation at 9:30am. If you have a middle school/high school student who can help serve breakfast, please rsvp to me at [beckym@trinityalston.org](mailto:beckym@trinityalston.org).

The fourth Sunday of the month, **August 27<sup>th</sup>**, youth will meet from **5-7pm**. Activity is to be determined.

**Fall Sunday School classes and KFC** (Kids For Christ/Wednesday night classes) will resume in September. Dates to be announced.

Becky McClanathan  
Director of children & youth

(pictures on this page courtesy of Becky McClanathan.)

## August Birthdays

- 8/1 Michelle Christensen  
Valerie Monzu  
Joey Tyner
- 8/3 Christopher Eckleberry
- 8/8 Curtis Linse
- 8/10 James Sederburg
- 8/11 Diane Gowens  
Pat Rogers
- 8/14 Jackie Kiolbasa  
Chris Polivka  
Judy Slavik
- 8/15 Ann Robinson
- 8/17 Ray Loveland  
Bob Whitehouse
- 8/19 Stormy Dean  
Sharon Walsh
- 8/20 James O'Doherty
- 8/22 Paul Dudzinski  
Jason McClanathan
- 8/23 Barb Jensen
- 8/24 Allison Frazee
- 8/25 Dee Bruns  
Cora Miller
- 8/26 Joyce Sederburg
- 8/27 Matthew Hindley
- 8/31 Roy Mcallister

**Sat, Aug 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Sat, Aug 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Thurs, Aug 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Tues, Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Wed, Aug 30<sup>th</sup>**

## UMW Notes

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| Yearbook & Programs Planning Meeting   | 9:30am |
| Soup & Pie Meal Planning Meeting   | 9:30am |
| Bingo @ Hillcrest Shadowlake   | 2pm    |
| UMW Executive Board Meeting  | 6:30pm |
| Residence Birthday Party @ Hillcrest Shadowlake<br>Mary Circle to furnish four cakes |        |

Esther Circle is scheduled to do the monthly kitchen cleanup for August.

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### Saturday Book Club

Saturday Sisters Book Club will meet on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 9am in Room 205. The selection for August is *The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend* by Katarina Bivald. You are invited to join us at any time, even if you have not read the book.

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### Trinity Methodist Men

The Trinity Men's Group will meet on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 8am in the Fellowship Hall. Plan to join them for coffee, breakfast, and a guest speaker as they build their faith together. For more information, please contact Steve Gage.

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### Lending Library

If you like to read, check out Trinity's library of books in the china cabinet located on the stage in Fellowship Hall. There are a variety of books for adults, some of which were past selections of the Saturday Sisters Book Club.

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### Ralston Archives

The Frank & Velma Johnson Ralston Archives Museum will be open on Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm.

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### Don & Millie's Sunday

Eat at Don & Millie's on Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 5pm and the church receives 20% of your purchase.

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### Calendar insert

You will find inserted in this month's Beacon a copy of the current calendar for August. Please check the website ([trinityralston.org](http://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.