

# TRINITY BEACON

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

## August 2018 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

### “Healing Waters”

20x40 oil painting by Debra Joy Groesser  
in loving memory of Al Baillargeon

As part of our office remodel, Deb Groesser graced Trinity with a truly awe inspiring artwork. This piece of art is more than just something pretty to look at though. It is a testimony of God’s abundant love. We invite you to read about the story behind the art from Deb herself.



This piece was painted in my studio from a plein air painting (painted on location) I did on the shore of Lake Michigan on July 26, 2012, during the Door County Plein Air Festival. It has a very personal story behind it. My father, Al Baillargeon, was in hospice care when I reluctantly left for Door County on the Saturday before. I had been helping to care for him for several months since his lung cancer recurred. My father insisted I go. He gave me orders to "paint the best paintings I've ever done" and if something happened while I was gone, not to feel guilty.

I arrived in Door County on Sunday night. I received a call from my sister early the next morning. During the night, he took a turn for the worse. Despite his wishes that I stay there and paint, I turned around and drove back home. He was not very coherent when I walked into his room. When he saw me, he said with perfect clarity "What are you doing here? You're supposed to be in Wisconsin painting." He made me promise I would go back and after much insistence on his part, I promised him I would.

That was Monday night. On the afternoon of Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, my father entered into his eternal rest. As his memorial service wasn't going to be held until ten days later, the next morning I kept my promise to him and drove back to paint in Door County. The plein air painting that "Healing Waters" was based on was the first painting I did after arriving. I cannot even describe the emotions I experienced while painting it...but all the while I felt my father guiding me, and I kept hearing his words. As I finished, I called for my husband to come and see what he thought. At that exact moment, the most beautiful double rainbow I've ever seen appeared over Lake Michigan...it looked like the same rainbow our former pastor saw the afternoon before, shortly after my father passed away. I was certain it was a sign from my father...I kept my promise and he was pleased.

It was such an emotional experience. I believe when we pass on from this earth, that this is not the end. In my faith, we believe that is God's promise and I think I witnessed that first hand on that day. Needless to say, the original plein air painting, "The Promise", is and will remain in my family's private collection. "Healing Waters" is a testament to God's promise.

Debra Joy Groesser

*(picture of "Healing Waters" used with artist's permission)*

**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

**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:** Dr. David Galant   **Media Director/Worship Leader:** Matthew Hindley   **Accompanist:** Alex Lunardi  
**Controller:** Penny Holzbauer   **Facility Coordinator** Koy Potthoff   **Administrative Assistant:** Vicky Segers  
**Building Supervisor:** Judy Slavik

## Mission Notes

The Mission Team continues to invite you to help us fill the boat with non-perishable items. To help you remember what we are collecting this month, here is a little poem:

This month, here's the happy thing about spices....  
Is you really don't have to be concerned about the prices...  
'Cause Dollar Tree has shelves of just what suffices....  
And shopping there for the Food Boat is just what my advice is!

The next Mission Team meeting will be August 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm (please note this is the second Wednesday of the month, not the first like usual).

Judy Dappen  
Chairperson

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### Scavenger Hunt

We have started a summer-long Scavenger Hunt on our Facebook page. Each Wednesday, a list of three items is posted that have a common theme. Your task is to take a picture of as many of the items as you can find and upload them as a comment to that week's post. For each item found, you will receive one point. An additional point can be received for the week if you are in one of the pictures (for a total of four possible points each week).

The last set of items will be posted on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, and you will have until the 29<sup>th</sup> of that month to post pictures. Then, on Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will announce the winner and present them with a prize. It's not too late to join in, so what are you waiting for?!

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### Nature Play Area

Stay tuned for the grand opening/dedication of the Nature Play Area in August! Information regarding this area of the front lawn will be shared soon.

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### Open Position

Trinity is currently looking to fill the position of a Daycare Director. Job description/application for this job is available on the church website: [trinityralston.org](http://trinityralston.org). If you, or someone you know, would be or are interested in helping to lead the growth of our church daycare, please contact the church office at 402-331-4054.

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### New Members

Trinity welcomed as new members this past month: Cruz Shannon through baptism on July 1<sup>st</sup>, Marius Slavik through baptism on July 8<sup>th</sup>, Dale & Connie Harwick through profession of faith on July 15<sup>th</sup>, and Katrina Sieler through transfer of membership.

## Education Notes



**Vacation Bible School** was amazing. We had another successful year of over 50 kids registered. They experienced the Ride of a Lifetime with God and found adventure on the river. The memory verse for the week was Isaiah 43:2, "When you pass through waters, I will be with you." A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped. We had people glue things, cut out and laminate, search at stores for supplies, teach, run music and video, etc. It takes a full team! So THANK YOU!



Kids and congregation members gathered items to send to a troop in Qatar. This was our mission work done during VBS week. The kids brought over 300 items while the rest were from church members. Enough goodies, notes and letters to fill 19 boxes!! Our goal was 10, so, great job! What a blessing for this troop to receive.



VBS KITCHEN CREW!

### Youth night out! Movie Night at Highlander!

When: Thursday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7-10:30pm

Where: The Accelerator Community Lawn (2112 N 30<sup>th</sup> St)

Movie showing that night: *Black Panther*

The large lawn is located on the back side of the Accelerator. Food will be provided, please bring your own chair/blankets/drinks... and enjoy the show! Admission is free and the movie is rated PG-13. Let the youth fellowship continue just before school begins again...



**Back Pack Blessing 2018** is approaching! This will be held at *both* services on Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. Please bring a bag or back pack you would like to hold as we bless you. Students and teachers are welcome!

Also on that day, from 9:30-11am, we will be hosting a **pancake feed fundraiser** for next year's Youth Mission Trip (free will offering). Please join us!

If you are interested in being a Sunday School teacher, please let me know as soon as you can. Preparations are beginning for the new year. Sunday School starts with a fun kick off on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Let your light shine!!  
Becky McClanathan

## August Birthdays

- 8/1 Michelle Christensen  
Dianne Fowler  
Valerie Monzu  
Joey Tyner
- 8/2 Micah Tillman
- 8/3 Christopher Eckleberry
- 8/8 Curtis Linse
- 8/10 James Sederburg  
Marisa Weichel
- 8/11 Diane Gowens  
Pat Rogers
- 8/14 Jackie Kiolbasa  
Chris Polivka  
Judy Slavik  
Cam'ryn Wolf
- 8/15 Ayana Grutel  
Ann Robinson
- 8/17 Ray Loveland  
Bob Whitehouse
- 8/19 Sharon Walsh
- 8/20 James O'Doherty
- 8/21 Linda Kerns  
Juandiego Martinez
- 8/22 Paul Dudzinski  
Jason McClanathan
- 8/23 Barb Jensen
- 8/24 Cole Fowler  
Allison Frazee
- 8/25 Dee Bruns  
Felicia Dodenhof  
Cora Miller
- 8/26 Ed Schnackenberg  
Joyce Sederburg
- 8/27 Matthew Hindley
- 8/31 Roy McAllister

## UMW Notes

<b>Sat, Aug 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Yearbook & Program Planning Meeting	9:30am
<b>Sat, Aug 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Soup & Pie Meal Planning Meeting	9:30am
<b>Thurs, Aug 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Bingo @ Hillcrest Shadowlake	2pm
<b>Tues, Aug 28<sup>th</sup></b>	UMW Executive Board Meeting	6:30pm
<b>Wed, Aug 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Yearbook & Program Planning Meeting	1pm
<b>Wed, Aug 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Residence Birthday Party @ Hillcrest Shadowlake (4 cakes to be furnished by Marcy Circle)	

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### Saturday Book Club

You are invited to join us in Room 205 at 9am on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, for fellowship and discussion. This month our selection is *A Place Called Winter* by Patrick Gale.

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### Trinity Methodist Men

The Trinity Men's Group will meet on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 8am for their version of the Big Red Breakfast. If you are interested in learning more about this group, then contact Steve Gage.

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### Thank You

Thank you for the many thoughtful expressions of care and concern during my recent recovery. Your prayers, cards, calls, and gifts were all greatly appreciated. ~Diane Hansler

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### Ralston Archives

The Frank & Velma Johnson Ralston Archives Museum will be open Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm. Lots of Ralstoy's will be on display, plus more.

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### Don & Millie's Sunday

Eat at Don & Millie's on Sunday, August 26<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.

