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Trinity Times

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From The Desk of David Abbott

April Showers Bring May Flowers

I remember this phrase from when I was a child. This April it seems quite appropriate, with a lot of rain and even a snow shower?!?! April Showers. May flowers...Roses...
Roehs.

At the end of June, Pastor Susan Roehs is transitioning from her time with the UMC to the new Global Methodist Church. On May 15, Susan and myself will give a joint message on what is going on with the UMC, the GMC, and general conference. But that is not the point of this article; the point is to celebrate and honor our beautiful "Roehs."

Susan and Fred have been at Trinity for three years. During their time with us, they have become family. Fred, who is not always in the spotlight, has done so much for our church and has supported Susan in her role as Executive Pastor. Fred, we appreciate you so much and we are eternally grateful for your impact on Trinity UMC. May God richly bless you.

Many, if not all, the good things that have happened at Trinity over the last three years are directly related to Susan. She has been a constant companion on our journey and she has balanced me out, making me a better minister. Her love for people, both in our community and each of you, is incredible. Her desire to Love God, Love People is evident everyday. Her focus on bible study, discipleship, and prayer has impacted me and I am sure all of you tremendously. As a "new" pastor, Susan's decades of pastoral service has been an seemingly unlimited source of wisdom and guidance for me as I continue to understand just what a pastor should look like. If you want to see a Godly, loving, spirit-led pastor, look no further than Susan Roehs. She has made our staff, ad council, and church better for having been a part.

Though I am sad to see her go and I will miss her wisdom for sure, I am so excited for this new season in her life. What a wonderful thing to see when someone passionately follows God's calling on their life.

Susan, I love you in Christ. Thank you for making me better. Thank you for making us better. Trinity is better now than when you first arrived, a testament to your greatness. I pray that God richly blesses this next chapter of your story. Remember, no matter where you go, you will always be a member of the Trinity family.

From your friend and partner, a thorn among "Roehs",

david

Trinity Kids

Sunday School has been going great. We have had more children coming and we are learning so much. We have taken a break from Moses and are now learning about what happened after Jesus rose from the tomb. We have started having many trivia games and it is so cool to see all the kids wanting to play and being able to answer the Bible Trivia questions. We are still looking for volunteers to help, please let me know if you would like to help. The nursery is open every Sunday and the volunteers have been amazing. The ages for the nursery are 0 to 3 years old and the ages for Sunday school are 4 years old to 11 years old.

We are not going to be having a VBS this year. We have decided that we are going to be focusing on That Thursday Thing and Sunday school. We do have some ideas about summer, but we are still in the very beginning stages. We have had some much going on this past month, and I cannot wait to see what all is coming this month.

We will be having a little graduation ceremony for 2 of our 5th graders in Sunday School. On May 29th during Sunday School, we will be having a little party for them. After the 29th these 2 will be joining all the adults during service on Sundays.

Lynessa Grossman

Susan Says.....

Executive Pastor Susan Roehs

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's supper), and to prayer. Acts 2:42 NLT

For about six months now, I have been trying to answer the question, "Why are so many churches dying and what can we do to reverse the trend?" I have studied the Bible and books written on the early church. I don't have the answer, yet, but I am seeing some trends in the early church that are missing in our churches today.

The first thing we see in the passage above is that the believers devoted themselves to learning as much as they could about being a Jesus follower. Today, we have the Bible to show us how to be Christians but fewer and fewer are reading the Bible. According to, The Bible in America: 6-Year Trends, in 1991, 45 percent of America adults told Barna they read the Bible at least once a week... But since 2009, Bible reading has become less widespread, especially among the youngest adults.

I believe the past year when we read the Bible together, has built in us a stronger community.

However, with the trend of young adults not reading the Bible much if at all, this will not necessarily bring in the young adults who are needed to keep the church growing. Millennials are looking for some of the same things that the early church offered. According to Carey Nieuwhof, millennials want "Your time. Your heart. And your attention. And a chance to actually connect with people. Churches that elevate community will do better with Millennials than churches that don't.



Love God.
Love People.
Make Disciples.

I don't think it is just Millennials who want community, I think community is something we all crave, yet is missing from so many of the events and activities we do these days. If Trinity is to grow, not just in numbers, but also in maturity, we need more opportunities for relationship building. We will not bring people to Christ simply by meeting a physical need. That often needs to be the first thing we do, but then we must engage those coming to us in authentic conversation. This may or may not increase worship attendance. But what it will do, as it did in the early church, is "...add to [our] fellowship those who were being saved."

Acts 2:47

One thing is for sure, if we want to reverse the trend of dying churches, our focus must shift from bringing people in through worship to bringing people in through relationships and community.

Pastor Susan

Break Free Ministries

We have so much happening right now, so I'm just going to give you the highlights!

-We are up to 50 women who have requested a penpal. We currently have 6 women waiting on mentors.

-We are up to 16 women requesting help with housing/placement upon release from prison.

-Our new website is live, thanks to Ryan Farkas! Please check out

www.breakfreeministriesin.org to read all about everything that is happening!

-We became our own 501c3/nonprofit! To do that, we have to have our own board.

We are excited to announce our board members:

-Debbie Atchley (President)

-Alicia Baumgartner (Treasurer)

-Tammy Dean (Secretary)

-Eric Grimes (Advisor)

-We have a new partner in the Hearten House. They are located in Auburn, IN.

-We had our first mentor dinner. There were about 20 of our mentors who came to enjoy dinner, fellowship, and a time for questions and answers.

-We have a new partner that will be offering the option to purchase shirts, cups, and other gear to wear with the Break Free logo while also earning money for the ministry. Be watching our website for more information coming soon!

-We have several meetings coming up with prospective partners, so please continue praying that God will continue to open doors for partnerships and funding. Thank you so much for your continued support!

THE ARCHER HOMESTEAD

In 1919 Trinity Episcopal Church purchased the land at the corner of Short and Putnam Streets. The Archer Homestead, a 2-story brick house at 617 Putnam Street was included in the purchase. The house can be seen immediately west of the church in older pictures. It was constructed by David Archer and his brother-in-law Thomas Hatfield in the early 1800s. The homestead was the girlhood home of Olive Heathman. She was a member of Trinity for 80 years having been admitted when she was 8. Her marriage took place in the parlor of the old parsonage on Cass Street.

The house served as the parsonage for the new church for many years. In 1952 the Trustees discussed the "small but continuous repairs needed on the parsonage". At this time the house was being used as a rental property for \$30.00 a month. A discussion was held on what the advantages would be if the house was torn down and the lot seeded in grass. A suggestion was made that the land could be used to build an educational center with more classrooms. A motion was passed to demolish the house. Gaskill Wrecking Company was given the contract for the demolition and the leveling of the lot. The salvage rights were given in lieu of payment. In 1959 the educational wing was built on this site. It was dedicated on May 17, 1959. The service was led by the Rev. D. Charles Elson.

Participants included Dr. Byron F. Stroh, School Superintendent, and Eugene Boch, Church Lay Leader. Bishop Richard C. Raines performed the Act of Consecration.

From the Consecration program:
Now we would dedicate ourselves to the task of adequately using our lovely new building for Christ and his Kingdom. As we do this "The Trinity Story" will be a wonderful continued story. There is more advance, more adventure and more romance ahead.



Thinking back on all that has been going on around the church recently, it's hard to believe it's only been a month! Our Easter Egg Hunt exploded with so many families and children pouring in to participate. We lost count of how many we had total, but guessed that there were around 100 people total. With such an incredible turn out, it's not surprising that things got a little crazy, but most importantly, I believe that everyone had fun and got to learn a little bit about the Easter story.

Next up, we had a great time at the lockout on April 22, with the other UMC churches! We spent time at Covenant, Trinity, Forest Park, and St. Joe throughout the night, and each stop was an adventure. We had 3 students from Trinity attend, with the total number of about 30 youth. While at Trinity, we spoke about Break Free ministries, and they were able to put together 20 care packages for the ladies at Genesis House. They also spent time during prayer stations writing notes to the ladies that will be included in the bags we give. I was extremely proud of our students and excited to see such a wonderful group of youth coming together for this event.

Looking forward to this month, we are making plans for camp. We currently do not have any students signed up, and many are busy with other plans and are therefore unable to attend. If you have any students interested in attending camp this year, please let me know as soon as possible.

I will be traveling to Guatemala May 10- May 21st. I'm excited to visit friends and ministry partners there, while also hoping to rest up for a bit. While I am away there will be no youth events during the week...

May 12 and May 19 there will be no Thursday Thing.

Thank you for all your prayers and support. I am so blessed to continue to serve here at Trinity, and excited for the ways God is moving in the lives of our youth.

Kaleela Grossman
Youth Ministry Director

Finance Notes

I am excited about the office changes that have been put into place since the first of the year. New financial programs, new purchasing systems, new security and phone technology. Many thanks to all who have researched, developed and put into place the changes. By the way, most of these changes will save us money, either now or in the future.

On my walk this morning I took notice of the NEW all around me, the green grass, the bright yellow dandelions, phlox beginning to pop out all over the neighborhood and the buds on the trees. Sometimes we don't like change, but other times we welcome the change. Change is fresh, it is refreshing, it is bright and beautiful, and sometimes change is cold and dreary and sad and we want to be angry about the changes. In the end change is made usually for the greater good.

What does this have to do with Finance? Not sure really, but felt that I needed to recognize the good changes, changes that are sometimes hard but meant for good. As of the end of March, our bills are paid and we will be able to replace our boiler for heating our building for many years to come. The wall on the east side has not leaked since the repairs were made and the ceiling leaks have hopefully been repaired.

Future building needs to pray about are the repairs to the east wall in the sanctuary and along the staircase, and continued upgrades to our roof on other sections of our building.

Mary DeLaRosa, Finance Chair



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