

Trinity Today



Trinity Presbyterian Church, Little Rock February 2018



Ministering With a Needle and Thread

By Elder Becky Morin, Outreach Division

How many times have you asked yourself if a donation made or a good deed done has made a difference? Often, with our monetary offerings, we never fully understand the impact. Sometimes, we may feel what we have to offer isn't big enough, isn't important enough, isn't good enough. However, sometimes those moments where we can offer our ideas and our time make all the difference in the world.

Felicia, a young lady living at Vera Lloyd Home's Barton House, is one example. Felicia's young life had not been easy. Her life, not stable, like so many of us may take for granted, could best be described as chaotic. Foster care programs can be difficult and the ability to grow roots and relationships very hard. She is one of close to 200 children in state custody because of abuse, abandonment, neglect or adjudication who are cared for and nurtured in a home through Vera Lloyd.

As most of you are aware, Trinity sponsors Vera Lloyd Home in Monticello. We strive to do more than make financial offerings: in addition, we foster relationships with these children and teenagers.

We invite them to Trinity to spend time doing things that other kids their age do as well. We sit down and have meals with them, we share in activities with them, such as Altitude Trampoline Park for a great deal of jumping fun or taking them shopping like other children their age like to do. This past December, we did something a little different. Something that many teenagers may think wouldn't be that fun. Felicia and her housemates might disagree.

Nancy Howell and friend Anna Swallow, along with Sandy Furrer, brought sewing machines, needles, thread, material, and all the necessary supplies to make large pillows for the girls to design and keep as their own. This met a need that was identified when a group from Trinity went on a mission trip to Monticello this past summer. The girls could use their own designed pillows in areas where furniture may be lacking or to spruce up their bedrooms. This endeavor not only provided something the girls could have for their rooms, but also provided a teachable skill that will come in very handy when they start making their homes as young adults. Felicia and her housemates, along with some teenagers from Trinity, spent that afternoon designing and sewing, making their creations with the help of those willing to give their time and knowledge.

A few weeks later when the girls came back to celebrate the Christmas season with us, Felicia was excited to inform us that she'd had a great time sewing that afternoon. She had taken the pillow she made, something she was very proud of, and had given it to her Mom for Christmas. She pointed out if

she had not had this pillow, she wouldn't have had anything to give. Her face was beaming with smiles as

Some of the best things we can give are our time and our skills.

she explained how happy that pillow had made her and how important it was for her to have a gift to give. The other girls relayed how they had used those pillows to decorate their rooms. They, too, were excited to share how they had used their creations.

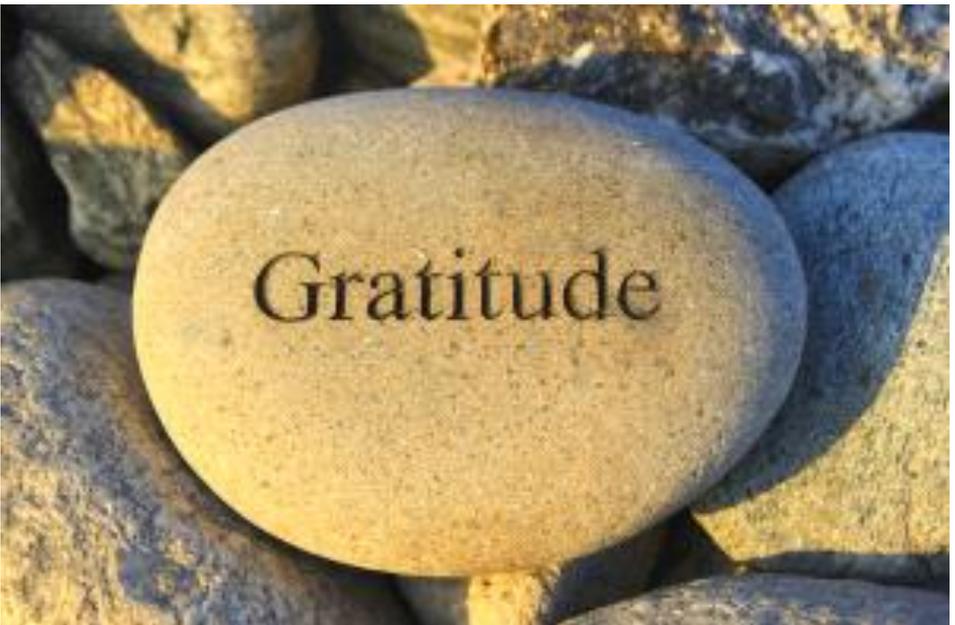
So when opportunities come that you can give, remember Felicia and the other girls at Vera Lloyd. You might also think of Nancy, Anna and Sandy. Giving doesn't have to be financial. Some of the best things we can give are our time and our skills. One afternoon of kindness, spent doing a task that may not seem like much, made a positive impact in these girls' lives, specifically Felicia's. Our gift allowed her to give a gift. Here, the true spirit of Christmas and ministry was found in a needle and thread and a little time.

Gratitude To Be Theme Of Women's Retreat

Women, do you want to develop strong relationships with other women in the congregation? A retreat is a wonderful way to do this as well as grow in your faith. On the weekend of March 9 through 11, all Trinity women and friends are invited to venture out on a weekend of discovery with other women.

We will be lodged in the Smiley and Griffin cabins on Greers Ferry Lake from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch that weekend. Details are still coming together, but our theme is *A Journey of Gratitude*. The cost will be \$55 for the weekend plus an additional cost if you want to have a massage (limited number available, first come, first serve).

Watch for a flyer with details in the next few weeks. Direct questions to Julie Price at 501-626-6477.



FRED

Faith, Religion, Education & Discussion

FRED Talks are informative, challenging and just plain fun. Currently, during the four Sundays of January, the adult Sunday School classes have been suspended so that all adults are free to attend the mid-winter FRED Talk series being given by church member Frank Howell. Over the years, Frank has had an interest in studying how we interpret the world around us using our senses and how these interpretations are lived out in the scriptures. During the first two Sundays, we talked about seeing and hearing. Join us for the last two explorations:



- 1/21: Touch – how physically taking part in our beliefs can impact our own lives and the lives of others.
- 1/28: Balance – maximizing our daily lives for personal growth and impacting those we care about.

Starting at 9:00am each week in the fellowship hall, light breakfast foods are served and fellowship enjoyed, and the talk begins at 9:15.

Regular Schedule Resumes in February

Starting in February, we will continue FRED Talks on every third Sunday. Watch your Weekly Word and bulletin to see details. On February 4, regular adult classes will begin again. The Sacred Journey class in Room 2 will continue making their way through an overview of the Bible using the video/discussion series *The Story*. The Word 3.1 class in Room 6 will continue their study of Philip Yancey's *The Bible Jesus Read*.

The Making of a Hymn “Change My Heart, O God”

By David Glaze, Director of Music Ministries

At Trinity Presbyterian Church we are currently experiencing a wonderful sermon series by Pastor Jeff that will last until Lent. It’s entitled “The To-Do List: The Commandments of Christ.” Every Sunday we have been ending the service with a lovely Benediction Response called “Change My Heart, O God,” and will continue to use this wonderful chorus for the duration of the series. I thought it might be interesting to know the background of this piece.

The words and music were written by Eddie Espinosa in 1982, and he more recently told his story to an interviewer by the name of Lindsay Terry. Eddie told Mr. Terry, “The year was 1982. I had been a Christian since 1969, but I saw a lot of things in my life that needed to be discarded. I had slowly become very complacent. I acknowledged my complacency, and I prayed to the Lord, ‘The only way that I can follow You is for You to change my appetite, the things that draw me away. You must change my heart!’”

Eddie continued, “Shortly thereafter I was in my car on the way to my work, feeling a desire to draw near to God and with the wrestling still going on in my heart. Suddenly, a melody and some words began to flood through my mind. As I stopped at a stop sign I reached for something to write on. The first thing I found was a small piece of yellow paper, which, by the way, I still have, and began to write as rapidly as I could. It was like taking dictation. I wrote the words on the paper, and kept the melody in my mind.”

“Change my heart, O God! Make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God! May I be like You.
You are the potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.”

At the time of Eddie’ writing the song, his family went to church at Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Anaheim, California. Someone told the pastor that Eddie had written a song that would be good for the congregation to sing. After Eddie played it for him, they used it in church, and afterwards the popularity of the song spread like wildfire to San Diego, Los Angeles and in many other places. As they say, “The rest is history.” It’s now included in most hymnals, including the new Glory to God Presbyterian Hymnal.

The essence of Eddie’s song is a prayer asking God to change us, making our hearts “true,” and changing us into his own image. Our sermon series and the To-Do List include these commandments of Jesus: Repent; Follow; Love Your Enemies; Seek the Kingdom; Love, Love, Love; and Go. Hopefully, Eddie Espinosa’s beautiful words will become very meaningful to you as you contemplate the commandment of each Sunday’s service.



A graphic featuring a large, textured orange circle with a halftone pattern. The words "SUMMER" and "TRIPS" are written across it in bold, dark letters. "SUMMER" is in a dark brown color, and "TRIPS" is in a blue color. There are colorful splatters (blue, red, orange) around the left side of the circle. The background is a yellow-to-orange gradient with diagonal lines.

SUMMER TRIPS

SIGN-UP NOW!

Two Trips For Youth Offered This Summer

Junior High Jubilee at Mo Ranch: June 30 – July 5

Who Can Go?

Any current 6th-8th grader! Got a friend? Bring them for an experience of a lifetime!

What is it?

A Presbyterian conference in south Texas that brings in 250 junior high kids from all over the south! It's an amazing week of finding new friends through worship, music, and games! Come swim in the Guadeloupe River and watch fireworks pop over its cliffs with us. You don't want to miss this trip!

How Much?

Trinity Presbyterian youth will only be charged \$400 for the entire trip. Fundraising could bring that down even further! Everything is covered for the week in this price, except for meals while traveling (2 lunches and 2 dinners). **A \$200 deposit is due February 17—make checks payable to Trinity Presbyterian Church and turn them in to Jared Brown.**

GA/Mission Trip in St. Louis: Older Youth and College Age ♦ July 15 – 21

Who Can Go?

Any current 10th – 12th grader or college-aged youth.

Join other youth and college students from around the Presbytery of Arkansas this summer to experience one of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s most important events — the biennial General Assembly — and to serve our brothers and sisters in the St. Louis/Ferguson, Missouri area. We have a unique opportunity this year ... the General Assembly is within driving distance of Arkansas!

What is it?

This trip is a unique chance to see how our church works on a national level and engage in mission work with an intentional focus on learning about race and faith — nationally, and within our own communities.

Mission Work

Since we will be staying in Ferguson, Missouri, which has been in the national spotlight in recent years for racial tensions, we will have an intentional focus on learning about and entering into conversation about race and faith—nationally, and within our own communities. We will also spend time serving in the area. And in the midst of all of this, we plan to have a ton of fun, enjoy the St. Louis area, and grow together in faith and community!

How Much?

\$250 will cover the whole week! **A deposit of \$100 by February 15 is required to hold your spot on the trip—make checks payable to Trinity Presbyterian Church and turn them in to Jared Brown.** The rest is due by March 30.



Youth Group 2017 In Review

By Jared Brown, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

The State of the Youth Group

2017 was a great year for Trinity Youth. From service projects like cleaning flower beds, to trips to Mo Ranch and Wild River Country, we have grown both in numbers and in spirit. We have had amazing support from parents as well as the congregation, from dinners to fundraisers to just being there for our kids. You have made this group more than a sum of its parts, you have made it a group of young Christians. I cannot thank you enough. Through the next year we will be pushing for more service, more learning, and more fun!

We started last summer off with a literal bang at Mo Ranch, where the 4th of July fireworks lit up the sky in front of Presbyterian Youth from all over the south. Nine of which were from Trinity's own youth program. The week in South Texas was more than I could have hoped, it was an experience that we will never forget.

As summer gave way to fall we hiked a mountain together (Pinnacle is technically a mountain!), were locked in a church all night, and celebrated recreation together with snow cones and games. We started out with ten kids on Sunday nights, now we can easily double that on an average Sunday! As we grew, we flourished as a group and came together to produce an amazing service on Youth Sunday.

Visitors became Psalm readers, parents that had never been to church began to come, and we grew in spirit and in number. As we have more mouths to feed on Sunday nights, the congregation steps up to feed them. As we fill cars to carpool to events, we always have more offering to help. To continue to grow as a program that's what we will need.

As winter came, we celebrated Advent together with cookies and fellowship and found time together at the ice rink racing each other and finding the cold hard truth when we slipped and fell, always having a friend's hand nearby to help us up.

In the last year we have done much and our roster has grown, but we are not done yet! Parents never stop amazing me at how they can help. We have so much to look forward to in this new year. Senior High Youth Quake in the spring, fundraising to make Mo Ranch a possibility for even more young members and visitors. As we plan for the future, we will continue to need our parents and congregational support even more. I would like to personally thank everyone that has made this Youth Group what it is today.



YOUTH

Sunday Nights In February

2/4 – Super Bowl Party!

The Trinity Youth will meet in the fellowship hall at 5 pm! We will be having lots of food, fun, and games! We are asking that each youth bring their favorite snack to share with the group!



2/11 – The Commandments of Christ: “Go!”

Youth will discuss the final commandment of Christ, “Go.” Youth will meet in the fellowship hall for dinner at 5:30 for a night of activities and discussion on how our Youth Group can go out and spread the word of Christ in our own communities.

2/18 – Altitude Trampoline Park!

Youth group will meet at the church at 5:15 and carpool to the trampoline park to jump and play from 5:30-7:30. Youth will need to bring \$19 dollars to jump! Parents can pick up youth at the church at 7:45!



2/24 – Board and Brush Art Night!

Come bring your most creative side and build your own art project. Youth will meet from 5:30-7:30 for dinner and painting! From bare wood to stain and stencil, you will create a piece of Christian art that you will keep forever! Bring clothes you don't mind getting stained!



Trinity Game Night



*With Your
Host
David Bass*

**Saturday, January 27
from 6-8pm**

Vegetable Soup, Cornbread & Dessert

Come play games like Pictionary, Taboo, Charades, and Heads Up! Never played these before? No problem—rules for all games will be explained. Surprises! Guaranteed laughs! Win prizes! You can't win if you don't play, so get your game on! Ages: Youth Group through Adult.



W@TT Brunch Open to All

W@TT or Women At The Table is a weekly women's study/fellowship group at Trinity. If you have never taken part in a W@TT study before, it just requires reading one chapter each week, then coming together for an hour on Wednesdays for discussion, sharing and prayer time. It's a great way to meet and get to know new people as well as an opportunity for experiencing personal spiritual growth.

Let's Do Brunch on Wednesday, January 24. All women from Trinity are invited. We will meet in the church parking lot at 10:45am to carpool to the home of Teresa Alexander (18 Ridgefield Cove, 72223) for an 11:00am potluck brunch, fellowship and discussion of the upcoming spring Women's Study that will begin on February 7 and meets at Trinity on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am.

If you can come to the January 24 brunch, please let Nancy Howell know at 501-519-3281 or nancyhowell@comcast.net.

If you cannot make it but are interested in participating in the study, watch the bulletin and weekly email for details. Direct questions to Nancy Howell or Julie Price.

Young Adults Pizza and Trivia At Gusano's Pizzeria



Looking for
a group of
authentic
young adults

to hang out with? Trinity is putting together such a group. Some call us millennials, the generation that's never seen the internet without social media, the ones that have been advertised to our entire lives. Come for real conversation, real love, and real friends. Oh and pizza. And drinks. And trivia. Because we need to prove we have the smarts as well!

Join us at 7:00pm on January 24 at Gusano's Pizza downtown, a casual pizza joint with a sports bar vibe dishing up Chicago-style pies. Live trivia starts at 7:30, so come hungry and with a good team name!

Know someone that might be interested in joining us? Have a question about dress code? (There isn't one!) Text or call Jared Brown anytime at 870-299-0989.

Ash Wednesday

February 14

Pancake Supper

Serving begins at 5:15pm in Gearing Hall. Pancakes were traditionally eaten on the day before Ash Wednesday because they were a way to use up eggs, milk, and sugar before the fasting season of the 40 days of Lent.

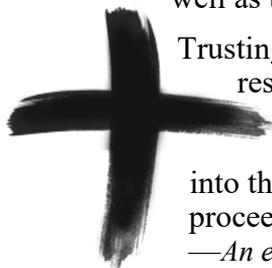


Worship Begins at 6:00

Join us for this special worship service of Word and Music and the Imposition of Ashes to begin our Lenten Journey.

The Lenten journey from the ashes of death to resurrected life begins on Ash Wednesday, which signifies a time to turn around, to change directions, to repent. This day reminds us that unless we are willing to die to our old selves, we cannot be raised to new life with Christ. The first step of this journey calls us to acknowledge and confront our mortality, individually and corporately. This is symbolized through the *imposition of ashes* — placing a cross on one's forehead.

Ashes on the forehead are a sign of our humanity and a reminder of our mortality. Lent is not a matter of being good, and wearing ashes is not to show off one's faith. The ashes are a reminder to us and our communities of our finite creatureliness. The ashes we wear symbolize the dust and broken debris of our lives as well as the reality that eventually each of us will die.



Trusting in the “accomplished fact” of Christ’s resurrection, however, we listen for the Word of God in the time-honored stories of the church’s Lenten journey. We follow Jesus into the wilderness, resist temptation, fast, and proceed “on the way” to Jerusalem and the cross.

—An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship*