

Parson to Person by Pastor Dave

Ah, February! Still winter, but with encouraging signs. Holidays behind us, we're pretty much recovered by now, and all the stuff we postponed till January is just about done. A time where we enjoy the delights of Love in honor of St. Valentine, and the brevity of the shortest month of the year.

In our church life, February is a blossoming time. All the seeds we planted together through Advent and the dreams we nourish in our weekly worship and our annual meetings have taken a bit of rootedness now. In honor of these blooming times ahead of us, I would like to share an encouraging vision for our spiritual home, Trinity UMC.

I think we can honestly say that our attitude is bright, our attendance is increasing, our ministry in

the community is visible and strong, and our desire to do the right thing is undiminished. Post-COVID, as we all limp back from the enforced isolation, these are all really, really good things. I also think I can honestly say that, no matter how complete our post-pandemic recovery, we are not quite as zippy as we were a few years ago. Most of this is simply biology, as our bodies and minds slow down a bit, and as fatigue comes earlier and earlier in the day.

But not all of it... our society suffered mightily from not only the disease but the enforced estrangement. Many of us couldn't wait to get back among others, but some discovered that they were just fine with solitude and separateness. There are quite a few beloved Trinity kin that are joining in less fre-

Our Purpose
To ENGAGE people in joyful relationships with God and with each other, so we will GROW in Christ-like compassion, and SHARE the blessings of the Holy Spirit.



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quently, and some who have basically disappeared into another way of life, another set of habits. The root causes of these realities are many, but the net effect on the church is singular: the church suffers. St. Paul said that when one part of the body suffers, the whole body suffers with it. By extension then, when one church member is discouraged, we all feel the malaise. When one church member feels estranged, that tension is shared by everyone.

You know the old saying about how you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink? This is a real working model for the church – that we offer 'living water' on Sundays, vibrant, uplifting worship and ideas that actually help with our actual lives. We offer, and offer, and try to include and welcome and encourage, but ultimately whether our 'living water' is sipped or gulped or ignored or spit out is a most individual choice. And if enough individuals choose to say 'no, thanks', we are all more diminished.

We cannot control or manage other people's choices, but we can do all in our power to make our local version of 'living water' as palatable, fresh, and inviting as possible. Of all the choices one might make on a Sunday morning, we want joining in at Trinity to head the list. And we will achieve

that goal, friends, when our aliveness, our authenticity, and our compassionate spirits combine to create an experience of holy community that is distinctive and not to be found anywhere else.

I close with a quote from the incredibly wise Howard Thurman: "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive." I am inviting you to find part of your aliveness, part of your unique gift in service of God and neighbor here at Trinity. Together, we have all the treasure, talent, time, and tenderness that any church could ask for. We just need to grow it, nurture it, and let it transform our lives and the life of our community.

UMW NOTES

On Wed. Jan. 18th, the first meeting of the New Year opened with the election of new officers who will lead the ladies to promote fellowship, disseminate information of wide interest thru speakers and schedule fundraisers to donate to their preferred charities. There will be more news about the traditional fundraisers, the Rummage Sale in the Spring and the Bazaar in December, at upcoming meetings.

Elected were: President: Neva Wacker; Vice President: Carolyn Clayton; Secretary: Katya Yarosevich; Treasurer: Coleen Schlo-man; Sunshine Chair: Lily Loughlin.

The Treasurer reported a \$15,000 balance in the checking account. Coleen assured the group there are adequate funds to pledge \$1,000 to the church, to increase the amounts given to 11 local charities to \$800 and to add the Independent Living Program, the Wildcat Pantry and the Esplanade House food programs to the budget.

Lily intends to send e-cards to birthday celebrants if email addresses are available, and Neva and others are considering how the UMW and the church can work together on memorial receptions.

Next meeting is Feb.15th at 10:00 at the church library. Program – Joe Picard, from the Chico State Wildcat Food Pantry.

Submitted by Lily Loughlin

Bazaar Wrap Up

1. First and Foremost - Thank you to all of you and those that helped at the Bazaar
 - a. Things that went well
 - b. Things we may think about doing differently or want to consider for next year.
2. General
 - a. Amount Made and Donations Made
 - b. Reports of Departments: Would appreciate a small written report to put in Binder. Please Include your helpers, best sellers and ideas you have for this next bazaar and things you would like to see done differently. Email to [REDACTED]
 1. Lunch and Sweet Rolls
 2. Pies Served and Number of Pies
 2. Decorations and Table Set up in Hadley Hall
 3. Country Store
 4. Candy Booth
 5. Cookie Booth
 6. Next To New
 7. Jewelry
 8. Tea Towel
 9. Handicrafts
 10. Cashiers - Credit Cards?
3. Misc. - Questions and Ideas generated today.

Sbmitted by Mary Wahl

MISSIONS - NEPAL - PARADISE

Nepal is often in the news. Trinity has its own news representative in Nepal, **Katherine Parker**, a United Methodist Missionary working under the auspices of United Mission to Nepal, an umbrella group of Christian missions. She is a graduate of UC Davis and her family lives in Northern California.

Katherine will be in California this summer/fall 2023 and will visit Trinity UMC which has supported her for years. She has sent us a 2023 Calendar and News of the work of UMN, plus a letter. To view these items, stop by the Coffee sales table or a nearby table in Hadley Hall on Sunday morning.

She is also available for a ZOOM call with some of us. Let me know if you are interested.

PARADISE - UMVIM (United Methodist Volunteers in Mission)

Join a VIM work team to Paradise or Happy Camp this spring or summer to help rebuild after their fires. There's a job for everyone from swinging a hammer to painting or being a helper to meal preparation. Check out the details

at [the+mission+connection+january+2023.pdf \(brtapp.com\)](#)

Questions? Comments? Suellen Rowison, [s \[REDACTED\]](#)

Submitted by Suellen Rowison

From your Financial Secretary:

Sorry, there Is No More Amazon Smile. Oh well, we tried! :)

Also, if you have questions about your 2022 Statement of Giving, let me know. Thank you *as always* for your generous giving!

Submitted by Pamela Beeman-Rabut

Coffee Hour

Please join us for coffee hour and fellowship each Sunday in Hadley Hall after the 10:30 a.m. service. You can follow the crowd through the left door at the altar end of the sanctuary or greet the Pastor and then turn right at the front door and enter the education wing through the North door. Then proceed straight to The Hadley Hall entrance.

Submitted by Suellen Rowison

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ENGAGE

GROW

SHARE



WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 5

Matthew 5:13-20 is where Jesus brings us the everlasting images of salt and light, and suggests ways for our conduct in this world to model the best of each of these. Holy Communion will be served today, and the message will be called “Savoring and Shining”.

Sunday, February 12

We continue to glean insights from the Sermon on the Mount... today our focus will be Matthew 5:21-37, where Jesus fills the old interpretations with new and refined meanings. The homily today is entitled “Everything Needs Updated”.

Sunday, February 19 TRANSFIGURATION

Our annual visit to the mountain top with the core disciples and Jesus is today! The story is from Matthew 17:1-9, and we witness the revealing of Jesus’ true nature. The sermon this morning is called “Out of The Shade and Into the Sun”.

Sunday, February 26 LENT 1

The holy season of Lent begins again today with the most familiar of the Lenten tales, recounted in Matthew 4:1-11, the story of Jesus at the start of his ministry being led into the desert and tempted by the Adversary. I expect a lively sermon to come forth, and am tentatively naming it “Never Deserted!”