

The Trinity Times

"Trinity United Methodist Church – God's Place of Welcome and Worship"

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Our Promised Land

Christmas Cantata and Dinner

December 18, 5:00 pm
Christmas Dinner at 6:00 pm covered dish

NOVEMBER 2005

A personal note from the pastor's desk on the topic of generous giving

Dear Fellow Trinitarians,

It has been a great joy to watch our congregation become excited and energetic about this land acquisition. What has touched my heart to the core are the dreams of our people concerning the use of the land. The possibilities written on your index cards from three Sundays ago made me get a bit misty eyed. You are not interested in competing with other churches, or using the land to just serve church members. In the true spirit of our risen Lord and Savior, you are aware of our surroundings and all the need in our neighborhood. Jesus was never concerned with making life comfortable for himself and his disciples. He reached beyond his comfort and healed, taught and risked so much for so many. When I read the cards, I see the same spirit because you are concerned about serving outsiders who are poor, dirty, hopeless and helpless. Because of your dreams, I have no doubt that God will bless this endeavor.

Our leadership team has been meeting every Sunday evening at 5pm with our professional consultant, Bob Powell. And in those meetings Bob has expressed over and over "not equal giving, but equal sacrifice". Bob struck me at the core when he says this because I have been struggling with my pledge. I want to share my struggle with you to let you know that you are not alone. This journey of giving will be something that we all will take, but we will take it together.

First, let me get personal. When I look forward to the next three years of my life (three years is the time line for paying all pledges), I see HUGE changes. As most of you know, Kevin and I plan to welcome the latest Holmes addition into our home in mid-May. And as most of you don't know, my husband will be taking a new job sometime within the next three years as a resident chaplain at the VA in Johnson City (My husband is preparing for a career in hospital or prison chaplaincy and he must serve as a resident after ordination). Babies cost money and going from pastor to resident means a pay cut. With those things on the horizon, how can I be faithful to God with my finances concerning this wonderful opportunity that I so want our church to have?

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Congregational dreams for land acquisition

- ↓ Community Playground
 - ↓ Picnic Area
 - ↓ Flag Football/Soccer Area
 - ↓ Additional Parking
- Community Center which would house:
- ↓ Preschool targeted for low income families with dual working parents
 - ↓ Clothes Closet
 - ↓ Professional Christian Counseling Services
 - ↓ Classrooms for job training/English speaking classes
 - ↓ gym and kitchen

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, November 1

Women's Bible Class 10:00 am
Scout Troop 111 7:00 pm

Wednesday, November 2

Charge Conference for Land Approval at 6:00 pm

Thursday, November 3

Cub Scouts Pack 201 7:00 pm

Sunday, November 6

Host and Committee Introduction at 5:00 pm in the Prayer Room

Tuesday, November 8

Women's Bible Study 10:00 am
Scout Troop 111 7:00 pm

Thursday, November 10

Cub Scouts Pack 201 7:00 pm

Friday, November 11-12

Women's Retreat - Gatlinburg

Tuesday, November 15

Women's Bible Study 10:00 am
Scout Troop 111 7:00 pm

Wednesday, November 16

Cottage Meeting

Thursday, November 17

Cottage Meeting
Cub Scouts 201 7:00 pm

Saturday, November 19

Prayer Vigil for Consecration Fund

Sunday, November 20

Cottage Meeting 9:45 am
Consecration Sunday and Luncheon

Tuesday, November 22

Women's Bible Study 10:00 am
Scout Troop 111 7:00 pm

Thursday, November 24

Cub Scouts 201 7:00 pm

Tuesday, November 29

Scout Troop 111 7:00 pm

Children and Youth

Our children have not been left out of the acquisition of "our promised land". They are not only active participants but also inspirational! The children submitted bookmarks to be given to our adults as a reminder of why we must purchase this land. The leadership team chooses one to be distributed

throughout our church family- **congratulations**

Cara Barb!!! You'll soon be receiving a color copy of her bookmark with her vision of "our promised land" in one of the stewardship mailings.

The children have also been learning about stewardship in Sunday school and will be given an opportunity to participate in our Consecration/Campaign Sunday on November 20.

Our "tweener" group will learn about stewardship at 6pm after they practice for their Christmas Play at 5pm on Sunday evening.

The children and youth will begin our worship with a banner parade and they will be given the opportunity to purchase square feet of land for 3.50\$. They are very excited and are a great source of energy and excitement for our church.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS-December 4 – "Visit Bethlehem at Fender's Farm" after church!!!

24 hour Prayer Vigil for our church!!!
November 19-November 20, 11am-11am
Our congregation is invited to sign up for the 24 hour prayer vigil concerning the William's property acquisition. It's the biggest thing that's come along for us in a while so we want to ask for God's guidance, provision and care as we set about this HUGE task. Please sign up for your slot in the narthex of the church. We want to keep the altar warm with knees 24 hours before our Consecration Campaign Sunday.

Wednesday Night Meals

November 2

**Pizza, Breadsticks
And Salad**

November 9

**Maryland
Chicken**

November 16

**Thanksgiving
Dinner**

November 23

**Thanksgiving
Break**

November 30

**Soup Beans
Potato Casserole
Coleslaw/Cornbread**

3\$ per adult and 2\$ per child

What is an informational meeting?

An informational meeting is central to our campaign. This is a smaller, more intimate gathering of church families. Bob Powell will speak for 45 minutes concerning stewardship, the land purchase and ability to give along with creative ways of giving. We will end our time in prayer and seeking God's will. This is an excellent time to have all questions answered and share ideas.

Most cottage meetings will take place in circles that already exist in our church like Sunday school classes, Bible studies, men's club and so on. But you may receive an invite to someone's home if you do not attend any of these avenues. Your host will be providing refreshment either before or after Bob Powell's presentation. You will have ample opportunity to speak with other church family member's concerning the land purchase as well as pose questions to a member of our leadership team, pastor and Bob, himself.

You will receive an invitation to an informational meeting and we ask that you RSVP. The dates of those meetings are November 16, 17, and 20.

Exactly what will Bob speak about?

The pastor will begin the meeting with prayer and a few words about our current budget. Then Bob will cover all the details about the land purchase (you'll be very pleased with what he has to tell you concerning price, availability and so on). If you have any questions about these details, this is your opportunity!! Then Bob will speak on creative ways to give beyond just cash. These topics are stock and bonds, personal property, insurance, estate planning and sacrificial giving. We will spend some time in prayer seeking God's will. And as always, questions are welcomed.

What if I'm asked to host a meeting?

If you are asked to host a meeting at your home - congratulations!!! Our leadership team has a high opinion of your hospitality. You'll be given a list of families that you'll host as well as a date to be trained as a host/hostess. Bob will meet with you and give you all the direction you need to set the tone for a great meeting. The date of the host training is Sunday, November 6 at 5pm in the church prayer room.

What if I can't make it to my informational meeting?

Informational meetings will take place in several times and places. Please alert Alex Smith if you cannot make your meeting and he will get you in another informational meeting. If you miss your meeting our make-up date is Sunday, November 20 at 9:45 am in the prayer room (the room across from the sanctuary).

What will happen on November 20?

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" During November 20, I am worship, we are asking worshipers to make financial giving commitments to our church's mission and ministry locally and around the world.

Every attendee who indicates what they will try to give, with God's help, does so voluntarily by attending morning worship. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to make a commitment.

Each family will receive a commitment envelope on which they may indicate what they will try to give to the 2006 Annual Operating Budget and what they will try and give over the next three years to purchase the Williams' property. We ask that you prayerfully consider what God is calling you to give to these two causes.

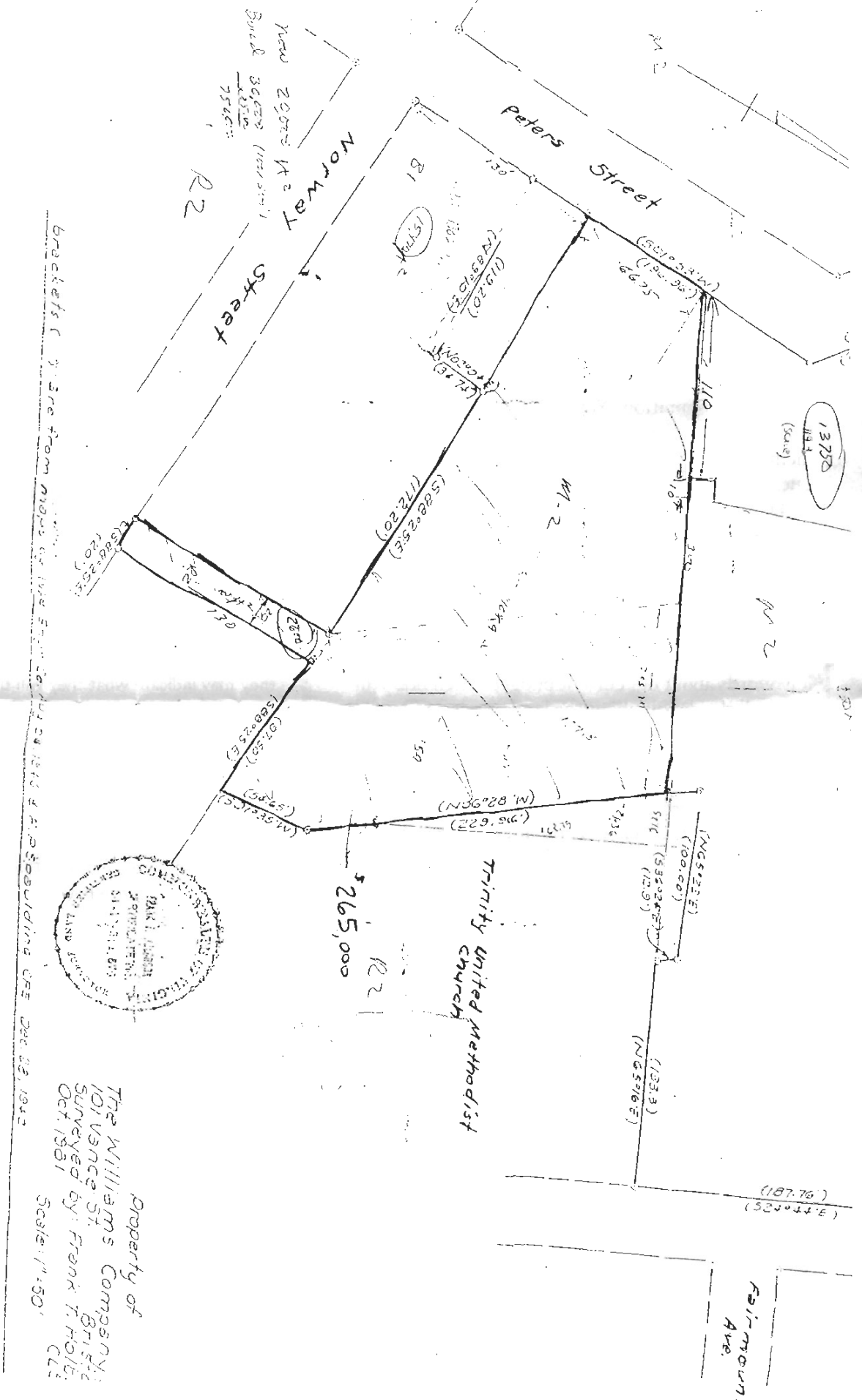
During morning worship our consultant, Bob Powell will instruct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship. The worship service will be followed by a catered meal, no cost to you, because we celebrate what you are about to do. Please

join us for this exciting Sunday as we take the first step in acquiring "our promised land" and fund ministries that are touching lives right now!!

Thank you to our leadership team for all their hard work!

Doug Sims, Mike Helton, Bob Sharp, Alex Smith, Nancy Smith, Eva Sims, Aimee Rasnick, Greg Sage, David Curtis, Bob Bailey, Ruth Hutton, Pasty Hudson, Sue Sexton, Kriss Sage, Katy Sharp, Megan Branson, Helene Denny, Melanie Bailey Wright, Linda Roberts

Please make sure you fill out a reservation card given out at worship for the luncheon following the November 20 worship service. (Ask an usher for one you are in need of a reservation)



EXACTLY WHAT ARE WE BUYING?
 Size of purchase - 5.7 acres
 Amount - 277000
 Zoning - zoned for M-2 business (shaded area)
 Why is it a bargain- the price is significantly less than if bought by a business

4-8-05

Serving our church this month

Scripture Readers

November 6 – Melanie Wright
November 13 – Mark Denny
November 20 – Claudia Beach
November 27 – Sallie Rowley
December 4 – Jane McKamey

Acolytes

November 6 – Erika Trinkle
November 13 – Felicity
Russell
November 20 – Abbi Sage
November 27 – Chole' Privette

Food Pantry

Alex and Nancy Smith
November 9 – 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Bread Delivery

Linda Roberts

Do you think you could rent out your space during race season?

Here's some info on a place that does great background checks and follow-up. Kevin and I were very impressed with the family that stayed with us - top notch! They will visit your home and give you a contract if you are interested.

racelodging.com

E-mail: email@racelodging.com

RACE LODGING LLC

P.O. Box 424

Bristol, Tennessee 37621

Phone: (423) 764-5454

Fax: (423) 764-5454

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After speaking with my husband, we decided to get creative. God has blessed us by giving us a huge parsonage! We rarely use the downstairs, so we decided to rent the suite downstairs out for the race. That will yield \$420 in the spring and fall. A total three year giving of -\$2520. My husband and I also thought sacrificially. What could we sacrifice in order to give more money each week in addition to my tithe to our church? We decided we could sacrifice an extra \$10-20 a week by doing less in the entertainment area. Taking 15\$ times 52 Sundays a year times 3 years equals 2340. 2520 plus 2340 equals \$4860. When I divide that number by the amount that each square foot will cost (\$3.50), I feel rather blessed to be able and buy 1389 square feet!!!

Let me remind you that this is above and beyond giving to the budget. I get creative there too! Every penny given to me as an honorarium for a funeral or wedding is signed over to the offering plate plus a pledge of \$50 a week. At the end of the year, I pay close attention to see if I need to step it up, but usually the honorariums have been so generous I've given over a tithe! Can you sense my excitement in being blessed and then being able to turn around and bless God!!! My husband and I both have grown spiritually through giving to our churches. And you would think that with 10% of our income going to the church, our financial goals would be lacking? No way. Just to let you in on a great joy - our financial goal of paying off all our student loans before the baby gets here will not only be accomplished, but we will pay it off two months in advance - leaving us with two extra months of saving in the bank (probably to be spent on a tractor trailer of diapers!). Our income from the church didn't increase that much, but we were blessed financially in another way outside our normal means. Believe me, I'm so glad to work for a God that blesses outside the normal means!!!

Concerning the land acquisition, I wish that I could buy it all for our church! But God just didn't bless me with bucket loads of money. God blessed me with a huge parsonage and the ability to do less during the week so I can give a little extra. It's all about sacrifice and some of you will be able to do as Kevin and I have. But some will be able to do more because God has blessed you with more. Remember it's not about equal giving, it's about equal sacrifice.

I am praying for you as you struggle with your pledge, remember to dream of things to come, and make your decision to serve our Lord and Savior with deep thought and prayer. *Be creative and be bold for the Lord always and everywhere --- Pastor Amy*

November Birthdays

4 th - Dobbie Hudson	12 th - Edwin King	20 th - Barbara Holbrook
4 th - Mary Jo Shanks	13 th - Tina Harris	21 st - Marcia Harrison
5 th - Brady Hudson	15 th - Halie Harris	22 nd - Doris Alexander
5 th - Patty Hurley	15 th - Noel Dillow	
5 th - Douglas Buda, Jr.	15 th - Warren Sexton	
6 th - Audra Blaylock	17 th - Thomas Whitaker	
6 th - Erika Trinkle	17 th - Jonya Comton	
8 th - Bruce Hamilton	18 th - Nicholas Holbrook	
10 th - Katherine Finley	18 th - Amber Dunn	
10 th - Kerri Hunigan	19 th - Ella Blair	
11 th - Jackie Dunn	19 th - Bernice Booher	
12 th - Patty Hudson	19 th - Ricky Mitchell	

November Anniversaries

1st - Patsy and Brady Hudson
2nd - Kenny and Misty Arnold
6th - David and Jean Boygs-Rowe
15th - Phillip and Susan Roe
23rd - Jack and Bernice Booher
25th - Elbert and Peggy Creed

Trinity United Methodist Church
320 Carter Street, Bristol, VA 24201

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Bristol, TN-VA
Permit No. 87

Our Prayer List

MEMBERS

Wes and Winnie Hill
Newland Haire
Audrey Clark
Charlie Winter
Joe Tolley
Cynthia Whicker
Georgia Poole
Barbara Russell
Pastor Amy and Kevin
Bruce and Jackie Hamilton
Omah Lee Shaffer
Alma Ruth Hunigan
Coleen Pierce

FRIENDS

Heath Calhoun
Dot Barnes
Kay Ferguson
Sam Hardwick
Carla Farmer
Mary Brant

SHUT-INS

Betty Hopkins
Ella Blair
Jessie Fullen

Names on our
prayer list rotate
off approximately
after six months
unless
otherwise notified.
Please contact
the church office
to make any
changes.