



# TIDINGS

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**JANUARY 2020**

VOL. 54 NO.1

## winter studies *register now!*

### • WEDNESDAY EVENINGS •

#### **PASTOR BRIAN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Wednesdays at 6:15 pm, beginning January 8. Ongoing. No cost.

#### **CONFIRMATION FOR GROWNUPS**

Are you the parent of an upcoming confirmand? Do you ever wonder why Methodists do things the way we do? Led by Rev. Amy DeWitte. 8 weeks. Wednesdays at 6:15 pm beginning January 8. No cost.

#### **THE WALK: FIVE ESSENTIAL PRACTICES OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

How do we follow Christ – grow in him, and faithfully serve him? Learn five practices that are rooted in Jesus' own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament. 7 weeks. Wednesdays at 6:15 pm, beginning January 8. \$14.

#### **UNAFRAID: LIVING WITH COURAGE AND HOPE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES**

For anyone struggling with fear or wondering how families and communities can thrive in troubled times, this study offers inspiring message full of practical solutions. 6 weeks. Wednesdays at 6:15 pm, beginning January 8. \$17.

#### **SHAKEN: DISCOVERING YOUR IDENTITY IN THE MIDST OF LIFE'S STORMS**

A study for couples. Find confidence in your identity and knowing who you really are. Learn Biblical principles that will help you keep the faith, no matter what comes your way. Wednesdays at 6:15 pm, beginning January 8. \$11.

### • THURSDAY MORNINGS •

#### **COVENANT**

Covenant is an ongoing study for women of all ages covering a wide scope of the whole Bible. New participants welcome! Led by Laura Eanes. Thursdays at 9 am, resuming January 9.

#### **JESUS IN THE GOSPELS**

The overarching aim of this study is to deepen discipleship through better understanding of the biblical texts and their message. Led by Carolyn Johnson and Al Berst. Thursdays at 9:15 am, resuming January 9.

#### **EXPERIENCING GOD**

A study group for women. Through examination of biblical and contemporary illustrations, participants will understand and apply seven realities of experiencing God. Thursdays at 9:15 am, beginning January 9. \$12.

**Studies begin JANUARY 8-9. Register online now!** Questions? Contact Rev. Amy DeWitte at 879-1737 or [adewitte@trinitybirmingham.com](mailto:adewitte@trinitybirmingham.com).

[trinitybirmingham.com](http://trinitybirmingham.com)

*wednesday  
evening activities*

**RETURN JANUARY 8**

Dinner, Kids Choir & Adult Studies

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR BRIAN

What if you already have what you need?

That's the question we're asking ourselves this month, as we dive into the new year with a sermon series about spiritual gifts. The witness of the scriptures is that God equips the saints for ministry, meaning that God has already given us everything we need to accomplish His work in the world. While we are all uniquely created, we are each made for the sake of the whole – our gifts are meant to complement one another. The problem is, those gifts are often ignored, misunderstood, or never employed for the good purpose God intended them.

When we don't know what our spiritual gifts are, when we don't understand the particular things that God has placed in our lives for His glory, we perpetually run the risk of being in the wrong spot. We can get burned out, or bored, or feel useless when we aren't getting a chance to use the gifts that God gave us. I have had seasons of life when I so desperately wanted gifts that God didn't give me that I ended up trying to do things I wasn't called to.

The wonderful truth of the matter is that God made you on purpose, for a purpose, and one of the most important works of faith is discerning what spiritual gifts He has placed in your life. One of the challenges of a church like ours is that it is so big, you can easily skate by without ever being challenged to name and develop your God-given spiritual gifts – we get lulled into the false notion that either our gifts don't matter, or that Someone Else will do what needs to be done.

One of the membership vows we make when we become a part of Trinity is to support the work of the church with our gifts. That means financial support, of course, but it's much more than that. It's finding ways to share in the work of the church together, by teaching, leading, serving, praying, singing, shepherding, sharing our faith, etc. Being the Church is meant to be more than simply showing up for worship, it's believing that God has EQUIPPED us for a mission that comes from the very heart of God, and the only way we will accomplish it is with everyone playing their part.

As we enter this new year together, I invite you to begin praying about the gifts God has placed in your life, and why He gave you those particular abilities or resources. What remarkable thing might He be calling you to in the next 12 months? What if there is some kingdom good that will never happen if you don't step up? What if you are the answer to someone's prayer?

What if you already have what you need?

See you Sunday,  
Brian



Rev. Brian Erickson  
SENIOR PASTOR

berickson@trinitybirmingham.com  
205.879.1737



*introducing...*

TRINITY GIFTS ACADEMY: Practical tools for managing your financial gifts

Trinity is excited to launch this important new program in 2020. Each month, we will hear from professionals on money matters. The sessions will cover topics such as: understanding investments, paying for college (saving, scholarships and financial aid), buying a house, wills and funeral planning, saving for retirement, wills and funeral planning, budgeting for high schoolers and collegiates, and much more.

FIRST SESSION: Wednesday, January 29 at 6:15 PM  
INSURANCE

Don't miss the first session of this program. It will be held on Wednesday, January 29 at 6:15 PM. (Location to be determined) Nolan Cesnick, VP Alabama Insurance Exchange, Inc., will present the The ABCs of Insurance.

These sessions will offer a safe place to ask questions and you will receive unbiased, non-sales oriented information. RSVPs are appreciated for each session - to RSVP contact Julie Wright at [jwright@trinitybirmingham.com](mailto:jwright@trinitybirmingham.com) or 205-768-6089.

• Watch *Tidings* for coming dates and additional topics. •

# Treat Yo Self!



## TRINITY WEST HOMEWOOD

### Treat Yo Self: January Worship Series

Since when did self-care and self-worth become selfish? During January, Trinity West Homewood is reclaiming our sacred calling to love ourselves as God loves us.

### "The Gifted Class" Small Group

Ever wanted to be in the gifted class at school? Well, here's your chance! Starting January 8 at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall, you and your neighbors are invited to figure out what on earth you are meant to do with your life. Led by Laura Eanes and Danette Banish, this six-week small group will help you better understand your strengths, passion for ministry, and spiritual gifts as well as discern how to best use them to further God's mission. Contact [leanes@trinitybirmingham.com](mailto:leanes@trinitybirmingham.com) for more information. Childcare provided.

### Sand Mountain One-Night Mission Trip

Are you interested in devoting 24 hours to serving others? The afternoon of Friday Jan. 31 through Saturday Feb. 1, Trinity West Homewood is heading to the Upper Sand Mountain Parish where teams regularly serve by painting houses, doing minor home repairs, building handicap ramps, and/or hosting children's ministries. Contact Liza Spencer today at [lspencer@trinitybirmingham.com](mailto:lspencer@trinitybirmingham.com) to express interest.

### JANUARY Happenings:

JAN 05	Treat Yo Self Worship Series begins*
JAN 05	All Community Hour Small Groups resume, 10 AM*
JAN 08	Monthly Dinner, 5 PM Fellowship Hall
JAN 08	Yoga resumes, 6 PM Sanctuary*
JAN 08	"The Gifted Class" Small Group begins, 6 PM Fellowship Hall*
JAN 12	Invitation to Serve in 2020, during worship*
JAN 26	Next Steps Lunch (Potential & New Members), 12 PM Fellowship Hall*
JAN 31	Upper Sand Mountain Mission Trip, Jan 31 - Feb 1

\* Childcare provided

**9 & 11 AM Worship | 10 AM Community Hour**  
914 Oak Grove Road, Homewood  
Rev. Matt Andrews | [mandrews@trinitybirmingham.com](mailto:mandrews@trinitybirmingham.com)  
[www.trinitywesthomewood.com](http://www.trinitywesthomewood.com)

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

### UMW Annual Diaper Drive Returns in February!

SAVE THE DATE! The UMW will once again partner with Bundles for Hope Diaper Bank to sponsor a Diaper Drive during the month of February. Donations (both new and opened packages) of diapers size newborn - 6 will be collected and distributed throughout the Birmingham and surrounding areas. Donation Bins will be located throughout the church and a **Diaper Bundling workshop will be held on Sunday, February 23 at 3 PM in the Fellowship Hall.** Everyone is welcome! Monetary donations can be made in the church office. Be on the lookout for more information concerning this wonderful ministry.

### What is UMW?

The United Methodist Women at Trinity are part of a global network across the denomination focused on missions, spiritual enrichment and social action. UMW turns faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world. Want to get involved or have questions about UMW? Contact Sarah Wessel at [umwpresident@trinitybirmingham.com](mailto:umwpresident@trinitybirmingham.com).



### YOUNG ADULTS Tuesday Evening Dinner

Are you in your 20's (ish)? Not married? Out of college?

If so, join us on Tuesday nights at 6:30 PM at the home of Mark & Lisa Elliott. A free, home cooked dinner is served along with fellowship, study and door prizes! For more info, contact Lisa at [lelliott@trinitybirmingham.com](mailto:lelliott@trinitybirmingham.com)

## The TRINITY Ministry Fair Returns January 26

SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26 • 9:15 - 11:15 AM

Join us in the Oxmoor Fellowship Hall  
to learn about serving opportunities in 2020!

If you are unsure where you are equipped to serve, a great starting place is the "Spiritual Gifts Discovery." You can find a link to take this quick quiz at [www.trinitybirmingham.com](http://www.trinitybirmingham.com). Just click the SERVE tab at the top of the home page and follow the links!

...

If you are a part of a ministry that would like to participate in the Ministry Fair, contact Laura Eanes at [leanes@trinitybirmingham.com](mailto:leanes@trinitybirmingham.com) to reserve a table!



# TRINITYKIDS

SPARK! kids at the Homewood Christmas parade.

## JUMP INTO THE NEW YEAR, JANUARY 2

Send those kids and all their energy to come jump into the New Year with Trinity Kids. We will be hosting 1st-5th graders off-site at URBAN AIR from 8-10 AM on January 2nd. Be sure to fill out a waiver at [urbanairtrampolinepark.com](http://urbanairtrampolinepark.com) so that your child can jump.

## THE CALM BEFORE THE STORK, JANUARY 12

If your family is expecting to grow through birth, fostering or adoption this year, join us on Sunday, January 12 at 9:45 AM in the Nursery (1st floor). We will connect you to resources, talk about baptism, introduce you to other parents, and take a tour of parent hot spots in our church. Questions? Email Eleanor at [echristiansen@trinitybirmingham.com](mailto:echristiansen@trinitybirmingham.com).

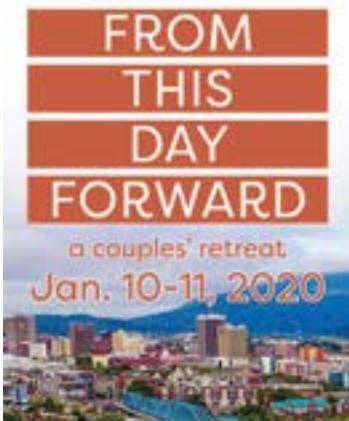
## HEY NEIGHBORHOOD DAY, JANUARY 20



Looking for a fun way to spend the holiday? Join us for our "Hey Neighborhood Day" on January 20 at 10 AM. We will be hosting an interactive morning learning about some of the amazing creatures God has made. We will open and close the morning with a few crafts and will have creatures for your kids to touch and discover. This is a *Hey Neighbor!* event which means we want you to use this opportunity to invite a neighbor to our church for this fun day. So grab a friend and come join us for a morning of animal surprises!



Join us on Facebook: Questions about TrinityKids? Contact Eleanor Christiansen  
TrinityKids 205-879-1737 | [echristiansen@trinitybirmingham.com](mailto:echristiansen@trinitybirmingham.com)



### REGISTER NOW:

[www.trinitybirmingham.com/adults/from-this-day-forward-marriage-retreat-2019/](http://www.trinitybirmingham.com/adults/from-this-day-forward-marriage-retreat-2019/)

## Marriage Retreat is JANUARY 10-11

Register today for the retreat to be held in Chattanooga, TN on the weekend of January 11. Programming will take place on Saturday from approximately 9:30am-3:30pm, at St Paul's Episcopal Church (305 W 7th St). Monica Harbarger, a Licensed Counselor at United Counseling (our UMC counseling partner), will be our speaker and guide. Price is \$50 per couple, covering lunch, supplies and speaker costs. Couples will be responsible for their own lodging and dinner. Overnights are recommended but not required, to make the most of a getaway with your love! We will organize some group hang outs for those interested. Questions? Contact Eleanor at [echristiansen@trinitybirmingham.com](mailto:echristiansen@trinitybirmingham.com).

50+  
MINISTRIES

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### WED. JANUARY 8 • BINGO

Join us for fun and prizes at Trinity West Homewood, 11:30 AM. \$6.00 if you would like lunch. *Reservations appreciated.*

### SAT. JANUARY 11 • SELF DEFENSE TRAINING

Make plans to attend! Representatives from the Homewood Police Dept. and Blue Line Combatives will share important information on: Mindset - Situational Awareness - Fear Management - Improvised Weapons - Hand to hand combatives. What you learn may save your life! 10 AM - 12 PM in the Oxmoor Fellowship Hall. \$20

### THUR. JANUARY 16 • DECATUR DAY TRIP

Join us for this fun excursion to North Alabama. Vans leave Trinity Oxmoor at 8:30 AM and return at 4:30 PM. \$32 plus lunch on your own. We will visit the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. It was established in 1938 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife. We will also visit the Cook Museum of Natural Science, a state-of-the-art natural science museum in downtown Decatur. Enjoy lunch at Big Bob Gibson's – recognized as one of the oldest and most prestigious barbecue restaurants in the world.

### MON. JANUARY 20 • TRINITY SINGERS

Join us for a concert at Fair Haven at 2 PM. (Vans leave at 1:15 PM)

### FRI. JANUARY 24 • LUNCH BUNCH

Soho Social in Homewood! Vans leave Trinity Oxmoor at 11:30 AM. A community based bar & grill centered around the needs and wants of Homewood. A unique spin on American classics. Familiar, and yet fresh at the same time.

### TUES. JANUARY 28 • PACESETTERS LUNCHEON

The monthly luncheon will be held January 28 at 11:30 AM in the Oxmoor Fellowship Hall Oxmoor - \$6.00 lunch. Guest speaker will be Rev. David Thompson – Topic TBD.

Questions about 50+ Ministries or to RSVP for an event, contact Julie Wright at 205-879-1737, [jwright@trinitybirmingham.com](mailto:jwright@trinitybirmingham.com)



Our senior adults enjoyed a recent Christmas trip to Dahlonega, GA.

# MISSIONS & OUTREACH

## FAMILY MYSTERY MISSION TRIP

Save the Date! This trip is coming in the spring, MARCH 21-24! Bring the whole family. Date for interest meeting TBD. Email Liza Spencer at [lspencer@trinitybirmingham.com](mailto:lspencer@trinitybirmingham.com) with interest or questions.

## LIL' LAMBS SPING 2020

Lil' Lambs is a biannual consignment sale that provides gently worn clothing, toys, and furniture at reasonable prices. The funds from the sale will be used to support our local and international mission teams and projects. Register today to be a seller or a volunteer: [www.trinitybirmingham.com/kids/lil-lambs/](http://www.trinitybirmingham.com/kids/lil-lambs/)



### LIL' LAMBS Schedule:

- Thursday, JANUARY 30 Preview Sale
  - Volunteers shop at 4 PM, with \$5 entrance fee
  - Consigners shop at 5 PM, \$5 entrance fee paid at registration
  - Public preview sale from 6-8 PM, with \$5 entrance fee
- Friday, JANUARY 31 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- Saturday, FEBRUARY 1 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (*many items half-price*)

All unsold items marked donate will go to Trinity's Children's Clothing Closet and Kids Connection.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

This Advent, as a result of your generosity, we supported our 24 Ministry Partners through our annual Manger Offering. This second-mile offering supports organizations like the Firehouse Shelter and Urban Ministry. We will be collecting second-mile gifts again during the Lenten season to support our Ministry Partners. Also during Advent, you helped to provide Christmas gifts to 400 adults and children through our Angel Tree ministry.

Questions about Missions & Outreach  
Contact Kristan Walker at 205-879-1737 | [kwalker@trinitybirmingham.com](mailto:kwalker@trinitybirmingham.com)

To volunteer with Missions & Outreach  
Contact Liza Spencer at 205-879-1737 | [lspencer@trinitybirmingham.com](mailto:lspencer@trinitybirmingham.com)

## *annual flower workshop*

**January 11 | 8 AM - 12 PM**

Rickey Whitley, an award winning floral designer, will discuss floral techniques and demonstrate a floral design on Saturday, January 11 from 8 AM-Noon in the Sanctuary. Lunch will be served afterwards. If you plan to attend, please email Melinda Hurd at [mhurd4018@gmail.com](mailto:mhurd4018@gmail.com).



# NEXT STEPS

If you are new to Trinity, we invite you to join us for NEXT STEPS. It's a friendly membership track designed specifically for our guests and new members. At NEXT STEPS, you will meet pastors and staff, learn more about Trinity and our Methodist beliefs.

**Oxmoor Campus: Every Sunday 9:45 AM in the Large Parlor**

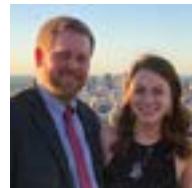
Questions about NEXT STEPS? Contact Julie Wright  
[jwright@trinitybirmingham.com](mailto:jwright@trinitybirmingham.com) | 879-1737

## NEW MEMBERS *welcome!*



### Austin Shiver & Meg Cole

Austin and Meg joined Trinity by vows from another Christian denomination. Austin is a supply chain analyst for Dollar General Distribution Center and Meg is a RN at the UAB trauma and burn unit.



### Alex Sullivan & Katharine Ferdman

Alex and Katharine joined Trinity by transfer from other United Methodist Churches. Alex is a sales rep for Stryker Orthopaedics and Katharine is an engineer at Southern Company.



### William Chenoweth & Kaitlyn Peterson

William and Kaitlyn joined Trinity by transfer from another United Methodist Church and by vows from another Christian denomination. William is a portfolio manager at Regions Bank and Kaitlyn is a physical therapist at UAB.



### Alex Levy & April Hoge

Alex and April joined Trinity by profession of faith and associate membership. Alex is a research assistant at UAB and April is a health science research specialist at the VA Medical Center.



### Linda and Clyde Tisdale

The Tisdales joined Trinity by vows from another Christian denomination. Clyde is a banker at Regions Bank.



### Marvin Claytor

Marvin joined Trinity by transfer from another United Methodist Church. He is retired.



### Elizabeth Powell

Elizabeth joined Trinity by transfer from another United Methodist Church.

### Katherine Hunt (not pictured)

Katherine joined Trinity by transfer from another United Methodist Church. She is a physician at Inverness Dermatology. She has two young sons, James and Teddy.



**Tidings Trinity United Methodist Church** (USPS 0641-120) is published monthly by Trinity United Methodist Church, 1400 Oxmoor Road, Birmingham (Homewood), AL 35209-3998. Periodicals postage paid at Birmingham, AL.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: *Tidings*, Trinity United Methodist Church, 1400 Oxmoor Road, Homewood, AL 35209-3998

Open the latest issue of **TIDINGS**



**SUNDAYS at Trinity** | **OXMOOR CAMPUS:** Traditional Worship 8:30 & 11:00 AM • Contact Worship 8:30 & 10:45 AM  
Sunday School 9:45 AM • Youth Activities 6:00 PM  
**TRINITY WEST HOMEWOOD:** Worship 9:00 & 11:00 AM • Community Hour 10:00 AM

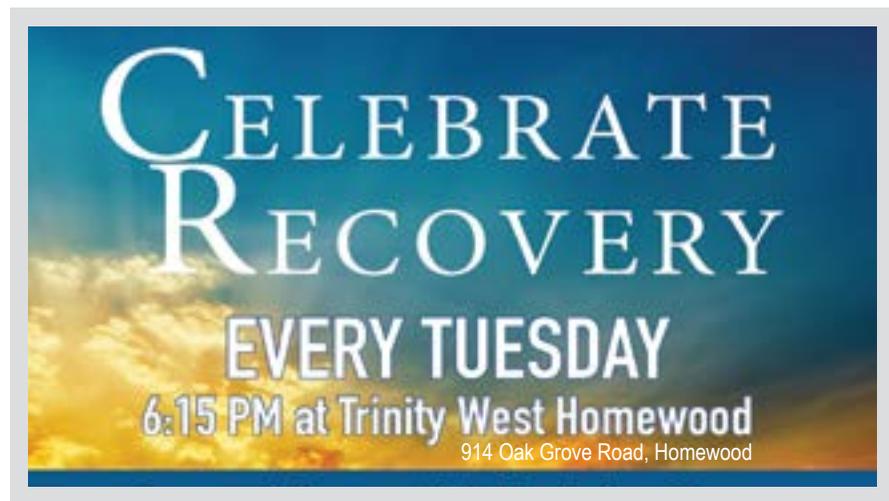
**Oxmoor Campus:** 1400 Oxmoor Road, Homewood • 205.879.1737 | **Trinity West Homewood:** 914 Oak Grove Road, Homewood • 205.942.4622  
CARE LINE: 205.868.9709

[www.trinitybirmingham.com](http://www.trinitybirmingham.com)

ON CALL #: 205.538.3682

# IMPORTANT DATES

- Jan. 02 "Jump Into the New Year" Kids Event
- Jan. 08 Wednesday Supper Returns
- Jan. 08 & 09 Winter Studies Begin
- Jan. 10 & 11 Couples Retreat Weekend
- Jan. 11 Annual Flower Workshop
- Jan. 11 Self Defense Training
- Jan. 12 The Calm Before the Storm
- Jan. 20 Hey Neighborhood Day Kids Event
- Jan. 20 Administrative Board Meeting
- Jan. 26 Trinity Ministry Fair
- Jan. 28 Pacesetters Luncheon
- Jan. 29 Gifts Academy Session: Insurance
- Jan. 30 Lil' Lambs Spring Sale Begins



## january preaching schedule

SUNDAY:	Traditional	Contact 8:30 a / 10:45 a	West HWD
January 05	Brian Erickson	Amy DeWitte / Brian Erickson	Matt Andrews
January 12	Brian Erickson	Amy DeWitte / Brian Erickson	Matt Andrews
January 19	Brian Erickson	Amy DeWitte / Brian Erickson	Matt Andrews
January 26	Brian Erickson	Amy DeWitte / Brian Erickson	Matt Andrews