

Worship

Grow

Serve

Monthly Tidings

Trinity United Methodist Church

TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA

Volume 44, Number 3, March, 2017

Because of God's love for us through Jesus Christ, we exist to worship, grow, and serve.

Glimpses of Guatemala

Jayne Mittan
Guatemala Missionary

Update on Samuel Par

Many of you will remember Samuel. He is the 27 year-old-man we found on one of our trips to a medical clinic. Who can forget that photo of him lying on the ground, naked, and chained to a pole for 6 years due to mental illness? I remember that day like it was yesterday. I remember thinking things like "Is this a human being?", "My dogs live better than this.", "How could this happen?", "Where is God?"

Where Was God?

But God was there that day. He was in Samuel's family who were at their wits end, searching for help, and choosing to ask us. He was there giving me the courage to touch Samuel, speak to him,

He was there giving me the courage to touch Samuel, speak to him, cleanse his body, and bandage his ankles from the chains.

cleanse his body, and bandage his ankles from the chains. He was there with the medical team that was with me; helping me trouble-shoot the situation, cutting Samuel's filthy hair, and helping to buy his medicine. God was there helping us talk to Samuel's family and educate them about schizophrenia, how to give him his medicine and allowing them to trust what we were telling them.

God was also there the week Porch de

Salomon built an enclosure for Samuel to keep him out of the weather while protecting his family from his violent outbursts. He was there every month when it came time to buy Samuel's medicine and do his follow-up visits. And, He was *most definitely* there the day Samuel's chains were cut off through the help of Porch de Salomon.

These were some of the most important landmark events in the life of Samuel. However, as we discovered over time, it was not to last. Samuel's family just could not keep up with taking care of him while trying to eke out a living. They couldn't consistently give him his medicine or keep him clean. Their neighbors encouraged them to poison Samuel so he wouldn't be such a drain on the family's very limited resources. On a subsequent visit, I was disheartened to see Samuel looking much the way he did the first



This is how Jayne found Samuel - naked and chained in the yard.

day we saw him—minus the chains. But, once again, God was there.

With funding from Porch de Salomon we could hire a full-time caretaker for Samuel. Luis goes to see Samuel every day, bathes him, grooms him, makes sure he eats, and gives him his medicine. Luis keeps in touch with Porch to let us know of any needs he may have, or any changes that need

to be made. Luis was truly sent by God to help us help Samuel.

On my last visit, Samuel looked like a different person. While not interacting via

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Jayne prayed with Samuel, asking God for help with his day-to-day care.

Gifts to Trinity

Trinity received the following gifts from
January 11 - February 14:

In memory of **Bridget Phillips** from Linda
& Kelley Phillips.

In memory of **Jean Young** from Mrs. Virginia
Johnson

Bear Sunday a Huge Success!

Sabrina Denmark
Local Missions Co-chair

Thank you, Trinity,. for your wonderful
generosity with Bear Sunday. It was a
great success, we collected 296 beautiful
bears and friends of all sizes.

These bears will comfort children
suffering through difficult situations.
These agencies will provide new homes
for the bears:

Lee's Place
Big Bend Hospice Caring Tree
Children's Home Society
Hope Community
Leon County Sheriffs Department.

Thank you all again for using your time
and money to get the bears to church.



The photo above shows one of the Mission churches Sam
and Wayne visited. They are pictured in the back row. In the
photo below, Wayne takes a selfie with a new friend.



Perspectives on the Cuban Methodist Church Today

Sam Rogers, Sr.
Cuban Liaison
Rev. Dr. Wayne D. Wiatt
Senior Pastor

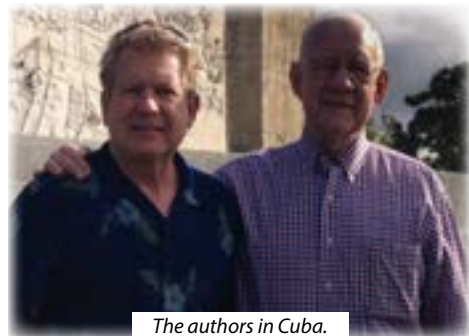
From Sam's perspective

It was a sunny day in south Florida as our
Jet-Blue airbus lifted off from Ft. Lauderdale
International Airport for the brief flight to
Cuba's Santa Clara International Airport in
the Central Cuban city of the same name. Dr.
Wayne Wiatt and I had joined a delegation
from North Florida District Methodist Churches
to participate in a week of worship services and
fellowship with our Cuban brothers and sisters.
Having served as Trinity's coordinator with our
sister Church, Iglesia San Pablo Metodista in
the small village of Fomento since 2002 it was
my third trip to Cuba. For me personally, the
differences between that first trip in 2002 and
today are remarkable - in a good way.

Here is what I mean: Previously, in 2002 most
all daily activity was subject to rigid control
dictated from a central government right into
local neighborhoods countrywide. Trinity's
pastor was required to have written permission
from the Cuban government prior to delivering
his sermon in any Cuban church. Even then a
government operative was almost always
present to listen and observe although many
times not visibly identified. Not so this time. On
the night Dr. Wayne delivered his first of two
sermons to a packed house in Fomento, the
worship service opened with a flag procession
featuring the banner of Christianity, followed
by the Cuban National Flag and the stars and
stripes of Old Glory bringing up the rear. I was
astonished! In previous visits, had either of two
of those flags been displayed, someone likely
would have been jailed.

Following Pope John Paul II's 1998 visit of to
Havana, the Cuban Communist government
granted limited authority to churches to
reopen their doors provided there had
been a church in that location prior to the
1959 Revolution, and then only *within the
footprint of the existing building*. Not to be
deterred and being very brave, a young
couple from Fomento covertly opened a
so-called neighborhood mission known as
a célula in Cabaiguan, a nearby town, with
financial support from Trinity UMC. What that
young couple started, today, is a chartered
Methodist church with a full time pastor and
a congregation of over 80 members.

Our sister church in Fomento has grown
steadily to over 150 members and 50 so-
called friends who attend regularly and
about 50-75 children. Significantly, Iglesia
San Pablo now currently supports five
missions in nearby communities similar to
that of Cabaiguan. Likewise, this growth



The authors in Cuba.

is typical of the total Methodist church
movement in Cuba. According to current
counts, there are more than 500 Methodist
churches and preaching locations with a
community of 65,000 members and "friends." Eighty percent of Cuba's communities have
a Methodist church!

Not only are conditions improving for the
Church in Cuba, so are individual freedoms
and living standards. All Cubans have access
to the internet and to iPhone communication.
One has only to sit in the local town square
for an evening to observe crowds gather
to communicate with friends and relatives
around the local Wi-Fi site. Capitalism and free
enterprise is alive and growing. Everyone has
the opportunity for self-employment to earn
extra money. On a visit to downtown Santa
Clara, we observed many well-stocked stores
with consumer goods of all kinds available to
locals. I was able to purchase several gifts for
friends and family from kiosks located around
the town square. Restaurants, coffee shops,
ice cream stores, pizza parlors and bars are in
abundance.

Progress, yes. But still lacking in
transportation, public utilities and health
care...

Not many Cubans have cars. Those who do,
use them as public conveyances and taxis.
The roads are a mess. Many paved roads have
long standing potholes. Electricity usually is
off between mid-morning and late afternoon.
In the smaller towns, there is no public water
system. Water is supplied by cisterns which
must be filled by tank trucks which are
sometimes drawn by horse and wagons during
the dry season. Most public transportation is
by open bodied trucks, old 1950s American-
made automobiles, and believe it or not, horse
and wagon.

The most critical and immediate need
is in basic health care. While there are
physicians, nurses, dentists and other health
care professionals with adequate-to-good
qualifications, there is little in the way of
medicines and medical equipment. Much of
these medical needs are met thanks to the
continued generosity of churches and to
relatives stateside. Thanks to Trinity, Dr. Wayne

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Music news for March

Mark Repasky
Music Director

Serving our Community

"So, what has our church done for the community lately?"

That is an important question all churches should be asking. How do we reach out into the area where we live and far beyond?

For Trinity's musicians, here is the obvious answer: Get out of our building and into the community to share our music. Since September 2016, that includes two programs by our NETkids at nearby retirement centers/rehab facilities. Trinity Ringers performed in the annual "Ring in the Season" Dec. 3 at First Baptist Church. To my knowledge, it is the only massed handbell concert in the Tallahassee area. Not to be outdone, Heavenly Handchimes traveled to Lake Jackson Community Center and the Tallahassee Senior Center for Christmas concerts in December. On March 18, our two steel pan groups will play at the St. George Island United Methodist Church morning service, then set up and perform an hour program on the beach adjacent to the Blue Parrot

Café. Organist Viktor Billa performed at Westminster Oaks back in September. He also was the accompanist for the annual Sing Along Messiah held in December at Faith Presbyterian Church. Our NETkids choirs plan to share their yearly musical with Westminster Oaks on May 3. And don't forget our steel pans perform yearly on the church steps during the annual Springtime Tallahassee, which is set for April 1, this year. We just made a commitment for about 25 members of Chancel Choir to join with other church choirs in the annual TSO Christmas Concerts, set for Saturday, December 9. Many members of Trinity are accomplished musicians and participate in a variety of community organizations including Big Bend Community Orchestra, Tallahassee Winds, The Community Chorus, and Voces Angelorum (community women's chorus). Then there are middle school and high school bands and choruses attended by some of our youth. And don't forget steel pans at some of the schools! How about Young Actors Guild? There is at least one member of the church who has

his own band that performs in the area. These are only the music groups I know about....expect there are others I forgot to mention. WE ARE EVERYWHERE! Ah, music, the universal language.

Orchestra Sunday Is Coming

One Sunday each year, our Chancel Choir has the rare opportunity of singing with a professional orchestra. We select a theme for the service based on a favorite hymn. This year, our hymn is "Amazing Grace". Come Sunday, April 2 to the 11 am service. We hope to have 40 singers and a 25-plus member orchestra. How often do you see a bagpiper and harp at a worship service, along with a full orchestra? Come, Sunday April 2. Titles of our selections: "Amazing Grace", "Bound for the Promised Land", "How Firm a Foundation", "Make Me an Instrument" and "My Song in the Night." Something unique will happen to another hymn we will all sing that morning, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot." Shhh, it's a secret!



Clockwise from top left, the Cherub choir was small but mighty! The NETkids choirs were excited to help lead worship. For the final hymn, the musicians surrounded the congregation. Who knew Trinity had so many talented orchestral musicians? Just wow! They sounded great!

Local Missions supports Habitat for Humanity

Sabrina Denmark
Local Missions co-chair

2016 Big Bend Habitat for Humanity Faith Build

During the Fall of 2016, Trinity partnered with other Tallahassee churches and organizations to build a home for Sejal Smith and her young family. Sejal had been working toward this opportunity for years, putting in hundreds of volunteer hours, including hours pitching in on the construction of homes for her future neighbors. Starting in mid-September, Sejal, community volunteers, and Habitat staff gathered to begin raising the walls for Sejal's new home at 3005 Wainwright Street, which is behind Sable Palm Elementary School. Even before this date, however, Trinity's financial contribution—along with financial support from other groups and individuals—made it possible for the foundation to be laid and construction



materials to be purchased.

Volunteers from Trinity and other groups participated in almost every facet of the construction process, including framing, sheathing, installing siding and roof trusses, nailing on roof decking, adding insulation to exterior walls, painting, caulking, landscaping, and a variety of other tasks. All who participated both learned new skills and—most importantly—shared in the joy of helping Sejal build the home that will shelter her and her children for years to come.

Trinity volunteers included Kelley Phillips, Bob Callen, Jen White, Jessica Bahorski, Jonathan Leach, Anna Drake, and Marti Chumbler. The Aldersgate Sunday School Class also contributed by providing breakfast and lunch for entire

construction crew on one of the work days. The other churches and organizations that participated in the 2016 Faith Build were Episcopal Church of the Advent, First Presbyterian, St. John's Episcopal, Christ Presbyterian, Fellowship Presbyterian, Holy Comforter Episcopal, Good Shepherd Catholic, Blessed Sacrament Catholic, Bank of America, Thrivent Financial, and Tallahassee Board of Realtors.

Trinity continues to support Big Bend Habitat in its mission to provide the opportunity for homeownership and safe and secure housing for residents of Leon and Gadsden Counties. Be on the watch for news of the 2017 Faith Build, slated to begin sometime in late fall.



The framing is close to completion in the photo to the left. Marti Chumbler, red shirt, nails rafters to the framing.

It's time for Vacation Bible School (VBS) sign-up

Join us June 12-16 for an unforgettable time at **Maker Fun Factory**. Each day we will explore the rock-solid foundation of Jesus' love through these awesome stations:

- Sound Wave Sing and Play
- Bible Discovery
- Game Makers
- Imagination Station
- Snack Factory
- Funshop Finale

Each day we will also learn about the children who will be helped by Operation Kid-to-Kid, our mission



project. You won't want to miss out on all the fun so sign up today, invite some friends and get ready to rock!

Dates:

- June 12-16, 2017
- 8:45-12 noon
- Preschool/Rising Kindergarten (Fall 2017)
- Must be 3 years old by 6-1-17 and potty-trained
- Elementary grade 1-5 (Fall 2017)

Registration:

- \$25 Early Bird fee before Mar. 31
- \$60 Early Bird Family fee before Mar. 31
- \$30 registration fee after Apr. 1



Sign up NOW at <http://ow.ly/kWix309riw3!>

Wellness Activities for March

Health Wellness Team

Wellness Activities

Experts say that staying fit will increase your life expectancy, not to mention the quality of your life!

Becoming Fit at Church (BFC)

One exercise that we do frequently in the Staying Strong class is the "Sit and Stand". **Prevention** magazine has an interesting online article on a variation of this exercise at:

<http://www.prevention.com/fitness/fitness-tips/stand-sit-test-predicts-longevity>. Professor Claudio Gil Soares de Araújo, of Gama Filho University in Rio de Janeiro, has said, "our study shows that

* Suggested donation \$3/class goes for community service or Health Wellness *contact the class leader if you have any questions*

maintaining high levels of body flexibility, muscle strength, and coordination has a favorable influence on life expectancy". Come join in one or more of the five BFC Exercise classes every week:

Staying Strong* (9:30 am. Tues./Thurs.)

Jaqui Griffith

(Jaqui_Griffith@comcast.net)

Ruth Ann High (rahigh@tumct.org)

Variety Mix*

(11 am Tues./Thurs.)

Amy Leach

(AmyCLEach@hotmail.com)

Please let Amy know in advance if you need childcare.

— TUFF TUFF TUFF TUFF TUFF TUFF TUFF TUFF TUFF TUFF TUFF TUFF TUFF TUFF —

This group participates in local races (running and walking), kayak and hiking trips, and many activities for all ages. Join us for fun and fitness with Trinity friends. Look for details of all activities on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1080560685348664/>

Join TUFF (Trinity United in Fitness and Fun) for the upcoming Shamrock Scurry on March 4. Each year, a prize of \$500 is given to the church with the most participants so it's important that you are registered as part of the Trinity team. Trinity has won \$2,000 for missions over the last four years – if we win this year, it will be our fifth in a row! Please contact Marie Bradley if you are planning to participate. Send a text to Marie at 850-728-538 or email MBradley1716@comcast.net. See the TUFF Facebook page for more details or visit <http://shamrockscurry.com/>



Lisa Prasse and Marie Bradley are setting up a Youth Kayaking trip on the Wacissa on March 25. Check the Facebook page for details as they are finalized.

For more information, contact Marie Bradley (MBradley1716@comcast.net) or text 850-728-538).

— TUFF TUFF TUFF TUFF TUFF TUFF TUFF TUFF TUFF TUFF TUFF TUFF TUFF TUFF —

Health Wellness Calendar

Drop in any time!

Classes in the Parlor

BFC Series Exercise Classes

Tuesdays and Thursdays

- 9:15 - Staying Strong
- 11:00 - Variety Mix**

*\$3 suggested donation **Nursery by reservation only

— **Wednesdays** —

(During Lay Academy)

6:30 p.m. - Power Hour

Upcoming Events

- **Mats for the Homeless** will meet in the Conference Room Mar. 9 at 10:30.
- **Hats for Friends** Will not be meeting until September.
- **Mar. 4** - Shamrock Scurry
- **Mar. 25** Youth Kayaking the Wacissa
- **Apr. 1** - Springtime Tallahassee

For more information about the Health Wellness ministry contact: Jaqui Griffith (Jaqui_Griffith@comcast.net), Ruth Ann High (rahigh@tumct.org) or Amy Leach (AmyCLEach@hotmail.com)

Helping Others

Community Garden – Shari Hubbard
(TallyShari@gmail.com)



Calling all garden enthusiasts! **A spring work day is scheduled for Saturday, March 11**, in Trinity's Community Garden. We'll meet at 9 a.m. and work until noon, and would love to have eight volunteers on hand to prepare the garden for spring plantings. Trinity's Community garden is a wonderful resource for fresh and healthy greens, vegetables and herbs—all available free to Trinity members and the Tallahassee community. No experience is needed to volunteer with the Community Garden crew—just show up with gloves. Bring gardening tools if you have them, or we will share. For more details, please contact Gloria Whitaker at whitakmg1002@gmail.com.

Hats for Friends (formerly Hats for the Homeless) – Judy Levy (judithtlevy@embarqmail.com)

This group creates hats and scarves for those in need. There will be no meeting until September. Please work at home. Notify Judy Levy if you would like to learn to make hats and scarves or learn more about the group.

Mats for the Homeless – Rose Glenn (BudsThorn@comcast.net) These mats provide comfortable, moisture-resistant sleeping mats for those in need. Most of the work on this project is done at home and we meet monthly on the 2nd Thursday of each month (Sept.-May) at 10:30 in the Conference Room. **Our next meeting is Mar 9.** Join us and we will be glad to teach you how to make yarn or crochet a mat.

UMW in Ministry Speaker is Sam Rogers, Sr.

Nancy Bedford
Communications Officer

The next meeting of UMW in Ministry will be Tuesday, March 7th in Moor Hall. The guest speaker will be Sam Rogers. His topic will be "Hope House." Everyone is invited to attend, even if you aren't a member of UMW. Monthly meetings are an opportunity to

enjoy fellowship, informative programs and a delicious lunch. Please call Nancy Kerce at 877-6546 for reservations. Standing reservations are preferred. Hope to see you there! *Executive Committee will meet in the library at 10:30 a.m.



- In the Spotlight - Nancy Waugh

If you want to know about people who have been instrumental in Trinity during the last fifty years be sure to talk to Nancy Waugh. A Trinity member since 1967 she will delight you with her personal knowledge, observations, and interesting stories!



You will find Nancy Involved in many church activities... hosting Bible studies in her home, performing with the Heavenly Hand Chimes, and exercising

with the Staying Strong fitness class. Through HEO, she serves as a Trinity Chef preparing meals for receptions, delivering altar flowers, and visiting shut-ins. You will also find her enjoying Wednesday night suppers and Lay Academy classes.

Nancy has always been an active participant at Trinity. She was a Sunday School teacher, an accompanist for the Junior Choir, secretary of the Administrative Board (now called the Council on Ministries), and for twelve years she was the church volunteer coordinator. She has served on the committees of Finance, Music, and Altar Guild.

Alpha Circle: Mon. Mar. 13, 10 a.m. 3975 Meandering Ln. Nan Baird, hostess, Cynthia Smith, chair.

Dorcas Foster Circle: Tues., Mar. 7, at 1 p.m. in the church library. Nancy Waugh, chair.

Mary Martha Circle: Mon. Mar. 6, at 6:00 p.m. 2104 W. Randolph Cir., Julie Pararo, hostess & chair.

Sojourners Circle: Wed. Mar. 1, at noon, Café at St. Johns. Marti Chumbler, chair.

Susanna Wesley Circle: Tues. Mar. 21 at 10:00 a.m. 4423 Sierra Ct. Linda Phillips, hostess, Liz Smith, chair.

The Voice Circle: Thurs., Mar. 16 1804 W. Indianhead Dr. Patti Oakley, hostess & chair.

Watch the bulletin and website, www.tumct.org/connect/ (then select UMW in Ministry & Action Teams) for details as they become available.

As a member of UMW, Nancy has held the offices of Treasurer, Secretary, and Program Resource/Reading Program Secretary. She currently chairs Alpha Circle and regularly attends UMW Executive Board and unit meetings.

During earlier years of church membership, when Dr. George Foster was pastor, his wife Aultie, Nancy and a few other women formed the Tallahassee Convalescent Home Circle. At that time, this was the only home for the aged in this area. Though inexperienced in mental health/aging issues, these women began visiting the home each month and continued to do so for fifteen years until its doors closed! They brought

caring hearts and cheer to the residents.

As a member of UMW and Trinity, Nancy has been committed to faithful service. In Nancy's words, "The UMW is a vital part of our church and has enriched my life in many ways. I have made friends and enjoyed working with them. It has been interesting to learn about the work of this organization which is involved with many projects and supports missions, both locally and throughout the world. During our work and study of missions, we are inspired by the scripture and feel God's help in guiding us to do His Will."

(Guatemala continued from page 1)

conversation (Samuel speaks Kaqchikel, a Mayan dialect, not Spanish) he did acknowledge our presence by standing and walking around. Luis tells us that Samuel sometimes sings to himself. He was clean, fully clothed, freshly shaven, and even had a smile on his face. All of these things are things I never thought I would see happen for Samuel. None of it would have happened without God's intervention. He calls us to love one another, and when we love one another, He gives us the resources we need to fulfill that love.

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Ephesians 2:10 NIV

I look forward to my next visit with Samuel in mid-March. I know that God is continuing His work through Porch de Salomon, Luis, Samuel's wife, children, and mother, medical and construction teams, and me. If you are able, I encourage you to visit the Porch de Salomon web site: www.porchdesalomon.org and find out what you can do to help. Samuel is just one of God's children needing our assistance. I can't help but wonder how many more "Samuels" there are in Guatemala, yet to be discovered.



Samuel has improved a lot from the time when he had the long unkempt hair (shown by a volunteer in the photo at left) to his current condition.

Youth Happenings in March

Lisa Prasse Youth Director
Tanner Johnson Youth Ministry Assistant

A Note from Lisa ...



The Confirmation Class visited the Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More recently.

on our second confirmation field trip and learned a bit about Catholicism.

We visited the Compassion Experience and learned a little more about how we can help tackle hunger in our city and throughout the

In March, we'll begin our Lenten study with many of the other members of our church...this year we're learning about being restored and finding redemption even in the mess that is our own life! I look forward to studying this with my youth as they teach me daily about the *message in the mess*! As hard as we might try every day, we're all a bit of a mess and it's okay!! Because God is IN the mess... working hard to love, redeem and restore each of us.

In February, we visited St. Thomas More

world; we collected funds and food for our Souper Bowl of Caring and donated it all to Second Harvest to help our brothers and sisters right here in the Big Bend and then we had some fun at our Super Bowl party

We helped clean up around the church and did other odd jobs to help raise money toward our upcoming mission trips...the high schoolers leave for theirs this month! We'll head to SIFAT in Lineville, Alabama to learn even more about helping those in need. Please pray for our travels, good health, and servant's hearts while we're away. In addition to that trip, the Shamrock Scurry, the St. Patrick's Day Fest and other mission opportunities, will definitely keep us busy!

Please pray during March for the many upcoming events headed our way, and come get involved! Our Spaghetti Dinner at



Second Harvest benefited from the the food and money raised from Souper Bowl of Caring!

Springtime Tallahassee is a big fundraiser that helps support our SUMMER mission trips. You can help there by donating spaghetti noodles and sauce. There will be a collection bin in the Welcome Center all through the month of March! Tickets will also be for sale-\$5 for adults and \$3 for kids buys you a delicious spaghetti lunch at Springtime Tallahassee! We have Easter Fest on April 8, and then our annual 30-Hour Famine takes place Easter weekend. It's a busy time, but a wonderful time and we'd love to have you!

Important Dates:

Saturday, March 4: Shamrock Scurry!

Saturday, March 11:

- St. Patrick's Day Fest
- High School Mission Trip to SIFAT

Sunday, March 26: Youth sing at 11:00 service

Saturday, April 1: Spaghetti @ Springtime Fundraiser!

Saturday, April 8: Easter Fest 2017!

April 14-15: 30-Hour Famine

Sunday, April 16: Easter!

Saturday, May 6: Confirmation Banquet/ Rehearsal

Sunday, May 7: Confirmation Sunday/ Youth Choir sings at 11

Sunday, May 21: Graduate Sunday (Seniors Recognition)



The Youth visited the "Compassion Experience."

Sign Up **NOW** for Camp!

I know, it seems early, right? But if you want to be part of the great fun at **Warren Willis Summer Camp** in Leesburg, you better sign up - **NOW!**

Just go to <http://www.tumct.org/grow/warren-willis-summer-camp/> and follow the

directions that are listed there. Our sign-up week is July 10-15.



Looking For A Few New People in the Neighborhood

Lora Chapman
Providence Neighborhood Liaison

If you have ever thought about reaching out to children, spreading good will, and making new discoveries, have I got an opportunity for you!

I have led a group of Trinity Volunteers who brought books for the mind and food for the belly to about 20 kids in the Providence Neighborhood.

We had weekly meetings during the month of July. The plan was to help the children keep up their reading skills over the summer.

We were joined by members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority who shared their Community Center with us so that we could have a well-furnished and

safe facility to conduct our Providence Neighborhood Summer Book Club.

I am stepping down to explore new challenges, but I am so in hopes that someone (or some others) will take over this project and continue it another year.

I have tons of material, to share with a new team: new books, art

supplies, records of our previous lesson plans, and a willingness to sit down and share it with you.

Please contact me if you think you might be interested in enlarging your world and spreading good cheer!

Lora Chapman, phone 222-4949 or shchappy@hotmail.com



Cuba continued from page 2

and I left Tallahassee with three large suitcases loaded with medical supplies and equipment, particularly for children and seniors. These included flu, cold and pain medicine for infants and adults, vitamins, bandages, antibiotics, laxatives, medical thermometers, a blood pressure machine, and the list goes on. Thanks to Trinity's support, our sister church maintains a small pharmacy, managed by a member nurse, that provides basic needs for up to a year.

What has remained the same about Cuba? Its people. The vast majority of Cubans have only the bare necessities to sustain themselves and their families. Yet, there is a certain dignity and joyfulness about the manner in which they lead their lives. My first visit to Cuba reminded me so much of my childhood during the Great Depression when people shared what little they had with their neighbors. Their love for God and for each other was palpable then and it remains so today. The church is not just a place where they go on Sundays, but it is the center of daily life. Church services are long by our standards; three hours or more with prayers, witnessing and well-rehearsed singing and youth dance routines.

On our last night in Fomento, just before Dr. Wayne preached his sermon, four elderly ladies were given recognition for their long years of

service. I consider one of those ladies a personal friend of many years. Señora Zoila Garcia-Glez was the long-time director of the church choir dating back to the revolution. One of her twin daughters is now the choir director. The other daughter, together with her husband, started that first church mission in Cabaiguan right



Sam looks for an internet connection on his phone as Dioselvi (in FSU shirt) looks on.

under the noses of their communist rulers. I was filled with a sense of joy that night as Zoila was offered the baton to lead the church choir along with Dr. Wayne who was invited to add his voice as a choir member.

Although there are cultural and procedural differences between our own Trinity Church and Iglesia San Pablo, both are together in the Wesley tradition of love for God and our neighbors. Both churches have survived and thrived down through the years in the face of adversity.

Viva Trinity! Viva San Pablo!

May God bless Cuba and our nation as brothers and sisters in Christ.

--Sam Rogers, Sr.

Epilogue by Wayne

Sam has so beautifully captured the essence of our trip and memories that there is little that I need to add with my pen! I will share that Worship was extraordinary! With limited resources, our brothers and sisters appointed

their sanctuary and even their outdoor chapels (Missions) as if Christ himself were expected to arrive for worship at any moment. The music and dancing engaged you, the singing overwhelmed you, and the worshipers listened attentively in spite of the challenge of language and translation.

I was able to preach twice at San Pablo the night after we arrived and the night before we left. Many leaders from the congregation traveled with us to Sancti Spiritus for the weekend District Conference (2 Days) where the Bishop preached on Saturday. I was invited to give the opening devotion on Sunday morning, and the District Superintendent concluded the Conference with a Message of Hope and Perseverance for the Church followed by Holy Communion for the three to four hundred participants from around the District.

I will quote a song by Hillsong (Darlene Zschech) that best summarizes my thoughts and feelings after this Sojourn to Cuba:

*Fall like fire, soak like rain,
Flow like mighty waters, again and again.
Sweep away the darkness,
burn away the chaff
And let a flame burn to glorify Your Name.
I will never be the same again!*

Dr. Wayne

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