



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK ... "Beauty for Ashes!"

It is often said that truth simply *is*. We often do not have to force or make truth. All we need to do is recognize it. And, some days I think it's as simple as remembering.

Recently, a block of Scripture has become stuck in my head! It came from Jesus' first sermon; and, he was mostly quoting the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah wrote, "**The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor...To give them beauty for ashes (Isaiah 61:1 & 3 NKJV).**"

This text describes Jesus! At every turn, he brought beauty out of ashes. And furthermore, he was most at home with the poor.

Who are they...the poor? I do not think Jesus was limiting poverty to merely the economically disadvantaged folks of his day.

Aren't the lost also poor? Aren't those who are walking in darkness poor?

What about those who grieve deeply; and, their hearts are broken? Can't we say they are poor in spirit?

Can't we also say of ourselves that we are poor on most days, in one way or another? So, if we are poor then we can take comfort that it is we who Jesus loves to hang out with.

Just maybe the greatest example of poverty was how on that Friday that we call Good, Jesus became the poorest of us all. And, for him, everything turned to ashes.

With the crucifixion of our Lord, there was nothing left but ash and loss. That proverbial *hill far away* that *stood the old rugged cross* was Golgotha.

It was the town garbage dump! The hope of mankind was murdered on a cross at the town dump! Loss! Garbage! Ash!

But, and it's a mighty big one...but then there was Sunday morning! For all time, Jesus transformed the ash and soot of life into beauty with the resurrection. On that first Easter Sunday morning, Jesus turned the world on its axis.

Nothing would ever be the same again. The way that humanity would experience all of life was transformed.

Again, truth simply *is*. Our only task is to recognize it.

Recently, I have been noticing the glorious daffodils blooming. It has reminded me of a scene a few years ago when I witnessed some daffodils blooming on a pile of rubbish near the last church that I served.

The pile consisted of construction debris, portions of concrete and wood... simply trash and refuse. But...and it's another big one...somehow, someway those bulbs came up out of the ground and glorified God with a brilliant yellow flower!

In their reaching for the light, the daffodils were completely oblivious to the trash. They had only one vision; and, it was to recognize the truth within the light, focus only upon it and stretch for the sun!

So, here is a crazy question! Which scenario is truth?

Is the garbage a truth? Is the daffodil a truth?

Jesus taught us about beauty for ashes. If we choose, we can see ashes all around us, but we can also choose to see Heaven...all around us.

And everywhere I go, I see you. (I See You, Michael W. Smith, 2007.)

They say that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. What say ye?

What shall we behold today? The key is to go to sleep tonight and remember all the Heaven that we saw today.

The key is to wake up tomorrow determined to see Heaven, again and again.

..continued inside

*You stand beside me
Give me a song in the night*

*And Jesus I need You
Every moment I need You
Hear now this grace bought heart sing out
Your praise forever*

For Church information visit:

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PASTORS DESK continued

- All that is required is remembrance...and turning to Eternal Truth that we know and love!

*Hope be my anthem
Lord when the world has fallen quiet
You stand beside me
Give me a song in the night*

*And Jesus I need You
Every moment I need You
Hear now this grace bought heart sing out
Your praise forever*

Beauty for ashes
*You find the weak and contrite heart
Shoulder its burdens
And carry it into the light*

*(Jesus, I Need You, Hillsong, Open Heaven/ River
Wild (Live), October 16, 2015)*

Happy Easter! Together we can be born again!

In His Love, Jimmy

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

◆ Maundy Thursday Worship

(Please join us on Thursday, April 1st at 7:00pm in the sanctuary)

◆ Easter Rise Up Worship

(All are invited to the 9:00am Rise Up Service each Sunday morning in our Family Life Center)

◆ Easter Traditions Worship

(You are invited to join us at 11:00am for our Traditions Worship Service each Sunday morning in our sanctuary)



VASES

Have you cleaned out some cabinets or closets recently? If so we would love to have any flower vases that you may have. You can place them on the bench outside the church office door. Any size or shape will work. These will be used to take cut flowers to the shut-ins and friends.

DRIVE THRU EASTER EGG HUNT

We sure do hope that you get this newsletter in time to hear all about our **Drive Thru Easter Egg Hunt** for this crazy crazy year we are having.

This Saturday, March 27th (12:00pm -1:00pm) children of all ages are invited to the drive thru Easter Egg Hunt. It will be a little like a scavenger hunt. Drive your cars to the front of the church and instructions will be given. This will be a little different than in previous years (*but since we did not get to do anything last year we are excited for a bit of normal.*) There will also be an opportunity for an Easter Bunny selfie picture. We look forward to seeing you in your cars this coming Saturday, March 27th!



The United Methodist Men's next **FISH FRY** will be held on Saturday, April 17th. We hope that you will join us for a **Drive Thru Only** beginning at 3:00pm.

The cost is \$13.00 for a plate of *catfish, shrimp, flounder with fries, homemade slaw, and hush-puppies*. We look forward to seeing you in the drive thru on Saturday, April 17th!!! Please help us spread the word!



Caught them...A big thank you to David Stroupe and Wayne Privette for placing the cross for Easter on the front lawn this past week. And to Wayne Privette for placing the lights and purple cloth on the cross. If you are by the church from about 7:30pm to 12:00am please pull in the parking lot and take a picture of it with the lights shining. We would love for you to share your pictures with us!!!

THE TRINITY UNITED METHODIST MEN

Will meet on Tuesday, April 27th for their monthly dinner and meeting. All men are invited to attend!

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Thursday, April 1 @7:00pm in the Church Sanctuary. All are invited!

What is Maundy Thursday?

“The Thursday before Easter, observed in the Christian Church as a commemoration of the Last Supper.” *(Oxford languages)*

“It commemorates the Washing of the Feet and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles as described in the gospels. It is the fifth day of Holy Week preceded by Holy Wednesday and followed by Good Friday. *(Wikipedia)*



THE MESSENGER

Trinity United Methodist Church

6230 Beatties Ford Road
Charlotte, NC 28216



Church—704-399-1684

9am—Rise-Up Worship Service 10am—Sunday School (online) 11am—Traditions Worship Service

answering Jesus' call to:

“FEED MY SHEEP”

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Worship Helpers and Prayer Request

RETIREMENT HOME RESIDENTS

Old Knox-David Todd
North Lake House— Mary Moore
Homebound—Kenneth Alexander, Curtis Buchanan

Novant Main—Alice Flowe

PRAYER LIST

Kenneth Alexander, Anne Griffin, Alice Flowe, Avis Summers Lewis, Chet Kidd, Jamie Kidd, Mary Moore, Betty Pouncy, Aimee Supran

***In case of an emergency you can reach Rev. Howard by calling 704-458-8187 , Ronna Privette @ 704-619-4647

TITHES and OFFERINGS

Needed Weekly— \$5,115.26
Received—\$1,770.00 (3/21)

A contribution has been made to the **Church Budget** in memory of *Mrs. Carolyn McLemore* by John Moore.

Trinity Preschool registration for the 2021/2022 school year is going on now. Call 704-399-1684 ext 23 to get your child register. You can also help by passing on Trinity's Preschool information to friends and family.

Trinity Family,

Thank you all so much for the love, kind thoughts, prayers and visits during this difficult time.

We are truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful congregation.

Love,

The McLemore Family

