

Saying Goodbye...

Don't be dismayed at goodbyes. A farewell is necessary before you can meet again. And meeting again, after moments or lifetime, is certain for those who are friends.

-Richard Bach

When we hear that a goodbye is in our future we have a tendency to worry and/or become anxious. Goodbyes force us to recognize a change in our path, an acknowledgment that we're choosing (or sometimes being required) to move away from one thing in order to prepare for the next. The very reason goodbyes are hard is the reason we need to do them well: because we're leaving something – or something is leaving us - and if we don't fully leave it, or allow it to leave, we are not able to be fully present in the next adventure. If we avoid saying goodbye – or saying goodbye well, it will eventually catch up with us.

Goodbyes...and hellos...life is filled with them – especially in the United Methodist Church.

On March 12th Pastor Steve announced in his sermon that he and Sissy would be moving to a new congregation this summer. It was the first time many people realized that we, as a church, would be saying goodbye to Steve and Sissy so that we would be available to say hello to the incoming senior pastor and his family. Steve shared with us that following an honest and heartfelt conversation with the Staff Parish Relations Committee, it was decided by Steve and the committee, that it was time for a change. Steve and Sissy will be moving to Rock Hill where they will be in ministry with the people of Aldersgate United Methodist Church and we pray that the congregation will welcome them into a wonderful season of ministry!

In order to say goodbye well to Steve and Sissy, we will need your help! There will be opportunities for you to participate in offering them a wonderful send-off so we hope you will make plans to do just that! Here's a glimpse of what you can expect over the next month:

❖ **April 2, 2017 – May 7, 2017**

"Jar of Love"

Beginning Sunday, April 2nd there will be a jar in the Narthex that will be labeled, "Love for Steve and Sissy". Over the next month you are invited to fill the jar with notes for Steve and Sissy containing your favorite memory with them, words of affirmation, words of love, and/or well wishes for their ministry journey ahead

Memory Bible

There will be a journaling Bible in the Narthex that we are asking everyone to sign. Find your favorite scripture, leave a short message in the margin, or simply sign your name

❖ **April 30, 2017 – Celebrating Steve and Sissy's Ministry at Trinity During Worship and in Fellowship**

One Worship Sunday

11:00am

A Service of Farewell to Pastor

During worship, we will take time to share in a service of farewell to our pastor. This service can be found in the United Methodist Book of Worship

Covered Dish Fellowship Meal

Following worship, we will have a covered-dish lunch. Everyone is invited to bring their favorite dishes to share in a fellowship meal as we give God thanks for the three years we have had together in ministry with Steve and Sissy. The church will provide the paper goods, utensils, and some fried chicken

❖ **May 7, 2017**

Our District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Robin Dease will join us for worship to preach and share in Holy Communion while Steve, Sissy, and Angela will be with the Confirmation Class during their Confirm '17 Retreat at Lake Junaluska

❖ **May 14, 2017 – Mother's Day**

At the moment, Steve is planning to be with us on May 14 to share in worship and deliver our message; however, due to calendar issues, there is a possibility that his last Sunday at Trinity will be April 30th. If he is unable to be with us on the 14th, the Reverend Paul Frey will join us for worship as well as bring the message. We will continue to communicate with you as Steve's schedule develops and is made available.

Saying Hello...

For every goodbye, God also provides a hello.

- Donna Gable Hatch

While reading the book, *The Change Over Zone* by Ozier and Griffith, the following story stood out:

“As one of eight children, it was always special for me to visit grandparents in rural Illinois. As our station wagon rumbled down the chalky country road to their house, we would watch Grandma come out the front door with a huge bright smile. She was a rotund woman and upon greeting you would grab the bottom of her apron, lift it upward, and wave it excitedly toward the car, saying, ‘Hello! Hello! Hello!’

After our visit we would pile back into the car to leave, and there would be Grandma with that big smile, clutching her apron in the same way, only this time she shouted, ‘Goodbye!’ Now, that might be because she was happy to see all eight kids leaving; but whatever it was, I always marveled that she said hello and goodbye with the same loving enthusiasm.”

On the opposite side of this insert we established the importance of saying goodbye well, but it is equally important that we be prepared to say hello well. On March 19th, the Sunday after Steve made his announcement, Russ Weinberg (Chair of the SPRC) announced that during the week of June 28th, the Rev. Joseph James would be joining us at Trinity as the new senior pastor. His wife, Rev. Kathy James (an ordained deacon in the UMC) will continue to serve as the SC United Methodist Conference Director of Connectional Ministries.

There are going to be a number of ways that we are going to work together to say hello well to Joseph and Kathy and we will communicate these opportunities to you through several avenues of communication – the May and June Trumpeteers, weekly emails, Trinity’s Facebook page, announcements before worship, and announcements in the bulletin. Right now, however, it is important that we say goodbye well to Steve and Sissy.

Until the time comes when we begin a season of saying hello, we ask that you commit to praying earnestly for the pastors, their families, for Trinity, and for the other churches where they serve or will serve. Please pray for them by name:

- Steve and Sissy
- Joseph and Kathy
- Aldersgate UMC, Rock Hill
(Steve’s new church)
- Trinity UMC
- Cayce UMC, Cayce/West Columbia
(Joseph’s current church)

Let us pray FOR:

- Unity
- Peace
- Clarity
- Wisdom
- Enthusiasm
- Transparency
- Strength
- Grace
- Forgiveness
- God’s will – nothing more, nothing less,
nothing else

Let us pray WITH:

- Confidence
- Gratitude
- Humility
- Love
- Kindness
- Self-less Intentions
- Patience
- Intentionality

Trinity, we have an amazing opportunity to **BE** the church – to Steve and Sissy, to Joseph and Kathy, and to one another. As you commit to praying during this season of transition, seek God in all things and allow God to guide you in ways that you can be a blessing to everyone involved. For it is when the Body of Christ works together that the light of Christ shines for all to see.