

# “The Messenger”

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## FROM TRUE MORSE,

### Help Shape Our Future

Like many, I did not fully know what to expect when I retired in August 2022 after working the last 5-1/2 years of my career in Winston-Salem, commuting each weekend. One hears and reads about many people who do not know how to fill the void left by a consuming profession. My casual thought was it would be a simple transition by filling my newfound time with many interests I previously did not have time to do as much as I wanted. Due to my out-of-town work situation, I had not been involved in the life of Groce for those years. When Rev. Gerald Davis called me in the Fall of 2022 to ask if I would chair the leadership team in 2023 as Groce implemented the Simplified Leadership Structure, I immediately said yes so I could do my part. Believe me, I had no idea how personally transformative that simple “yes” would be.

I would learn that what we now call TL3 (Team Loving, Learning, Leading) filled a void in my life created by the loss of being part of an extraordinary work team. That void has been filled by an equally incredible, committed, passionate, and accountable team known as TL3 along with all the other dedicated members of Groce.

Jeremiah 29:11 rings true for me personally in this transition, and for Groce as a whole – “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Come help Shape Our Future at Groce by attending all, or as many as you can, of the four Shape Our Future Roundtables on Saturday, May 18th, Sunday, May 19th, and the last two on Saturday, June 1st. The entire congregation is invited. We will be determining and planning the future ministries at Groce by answering the question, “Where will we focus our excitement, passion, and resources over the next 3-5 years?” These will be facilitated by Rev. Mark Ralls, District Superintendent, and Shonnie Streder, District Vitality Associate. Your ministry team chairpersons and TL3 have been working with Mark and Shonnie to make these roundtables spiritually exciting and energizing. The only remaining ingredient needed for their success is your passionate engagement and enthusiasm at the roundtables.

See you there!



# TL3 Update

## March 19<sup>th</sup> TL3 Meeting

### I. Discussions & Updates

- **Psychological Safety discussion**
- **Shape Our Future Roundtables with the entire congregation**
  1. A foundational information document was reviewed and revised
  2. The communication plan to the congregation was reviewed
  3. Dates and times for the roundtables that will be held in Asbury Hall and be facilitated by District Superintendent, Rev. Mark Ralls, and District Vitality Associate, Shonnie Streder
    - **Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2-6, “Practical Vision”**
    - **Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**
      1. 12:15-1:30 Lunch
      2. 1:30-4:30, “Underlying Contradictions”
    - **Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**
      1. 9-12, “Strategic Direction”
      2. 12-1, Lunch
      3. 1-4, “Focused Implementation
- **Trustees, Technology, and Epworth Management Team**
  1. The front door magnetic lock with opening sensor is repaired and the documentation is in progress for future reference. There was not any documentation about the original installation nor was the installation company still in business.
  2. The Spring HVAC preventative maintenance (PM) work is completed – filters, belts, and coolant charge, as necessary
  3. The main boiler and water supply backflow valve inspections are being scheduled. The small boiler backflow valve will also be inspected and likely replaced.
  4. **Epworth Management Team (EMT)**
    - The first team meeting was held. Jane Williams had to step down and True Morse filled her spot.
    - The team reviewed the memorandum of understanding (MOU) and leases in preparation for likely working out a new MOU with Homeward Bound and issuing new leases.
    - Will Troxell (EMT chairperson) has been gathering information in preparation for a meeting by him and Jill with Homeward Bound.
    - Ms. Tish paid rent through the month of June for a total of \$2900.
- **Financial**
  1. No one had received any feedback from the congregation on the new quarterly budget report that was sent out
  2. For 2024, as of March 17, we are behind in contributions as compared to the budget
    - \$10,224 behind on pledged contributions
    - \$6,180 behind on non-pledged contributions
  3. **Statement of Financial Position**
    - Groce has one checking account that includes monies from all funds designated for Operations, Facilities, and Special (restricted) Funds
    - Groce tracks the balances of each of these internal funds through its accounting system administered by Crawley Lee, CPA
    - Currently, and for many past years, Groce does not have sufficient funds on hand to cover the total of designated internal funds, Operations, Facilities, and Special Funds. As of 3/17 this shortfall is \$22,569 but it has been gradually decreasing as Groce improves its cash position.
    - It is important to continue to appropriately minimize Operations and Facilities expense outlays to decrease the shortfall. Improvements in revenues/contributions will also help with this shortfall.



# TL3 Update Continued



• The above is not to say that Groce does not have sufficient cash on hand to meet day-to-day Operation's needs. It means that we are using funds that are technically assigned to Facilities and the list of Special Funds in order to pay day-to-day Operations expenses.

4. Based on how we stand on the operations budget year-to-date and the Statement of Financial Position we are not in a position to pay any apportionments at this time.

5. The Business Leadership Team (BLT) will meet to go over the financial position of the church and bring back a recommendation with respect to any special campaigns, offerings, etc. to support apportionment payments, debt retirement, etc.

## 2. Decisions

- None

## 3. Next Meetings

- Thursday, April 25, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 21, 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 18, 6 p.m.

~ Submitted by True Morse

## Fragrance Free

In our dedication to "do no harm", we have decided to designate the first four pews of our Sanctuary as "fragrance-free". This includes but is not limited to perfumes, colognes, body sprays, etc. We thank you for this observance!

~ Submitted by Groce Staff

## Family To Family

Bell Elementary has requested tutoring assistance for students falling behind on their grade level. They need volunteers on Tuesday/Thursday mornings from 7:30 – 8:15. Two persons could form a "tutoring team" and each person take one of those days as opposed to a twice a week commitment.

If you have questions or want to volunteer, please contact Jane Morse at [janemorsedpt@gmail.com](mailto:janemorsedpt@gmail.com)

## Lunch & Learn

Come join us Tuesday, April 9, 2024 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM, for a "Lunch and Learn" regarding Long Term Care at Cornerstone Restaurant, 102 Tunnel Rd., Asheville, NC 28805. Enjoy lunch on us. No obligation. Limited seating available. Call David T. Stovall at 828-275-3608 to register.

## A Matter of Balance

Join instructor Brea Kuykendall for an evidence based program designed to help older adults reduce their fear of falling and increase their activity levels. This program will run on Mondays from 10am - 12pm beginning on April 1 and running until May 20. Call 828-251-7438 to register today. The program is free to attend and located in Asbury Hall.

~Submitted by Jane Morse

## Kneeling Cushions

Stop by the bulletin board outside of the Sanctuary to learn about our Kneeling Cushions! Information and history provided by Gail Rodgers.

# Spring CONCERT SERIES

Sunday, February 18 ~ Biltmore Brass

Sunday, March 17 ~ Vee & Mr. T

Sunday, April 28 ~ Brass & Organ

All Concerts begin at 3pm  
Free | Donations Welcome  
954 Tunnel Rd, Asheville

(828)298-7647 | [www.groceumc.org](http://www.groceumc.org)

## Tailgate Market

The Tailgate Market is back and better than ever! Resuming their spot in our front parking lot, the Tailgate Market will be in business every Friday from 3 to 6pm. Come on out to see everything from local produce to art and music!

## Medicare 101: the Basics

The Council on Aging of Buncombe County is offering this free presentation to explain Medicare enrollment, costs, coverage for 2024 and answer questions you may have regarding this insurance option. The event will be on Monday, April 29, from 6 to 7pm in Asbury Hall. Call 828-277-8288 ext. 1304 to RSVP today!

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

04/08 Kathy Tullis

04/10 Mike Lamb

04/11 Ella Hoffert  
Teaghan Powell

04/15 Jane Morse

04/16 Tim Towery

04/20 Carter Ratcliff

04/21 George Cole

04/23 Mason Lamb


04/28 Meredith Tuten

04/30 Nancy Lewis

04/20 Tim & Terri Kilmer (39)

# April

Take time each day to pray for members of your church family.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 7 Worship - 8:30 & 11 AGAPE - 9:45am	1 Office Closed Balance Class - 10am Handbells - 5:30pm Beekeepers - 7pm	2 Parkin Group - 10am Tai Chi - 1:30pm SMBB - 7pm	3 Nurture - 5pm Choir - 6pm Pickleball - 6pm AA Meeting - 6pm Bricks4Kids - 9a - 2p	4 Isaac Group - 10:30am Tai Chi - 1:30pm Welcome Table - 5pm UMMen - 6:30pm	5 Tailgate Market - 3pm - 6pm	6 Blue Ridge Hon. Flight - noon - 5pm
14 Worship - 8:30 & 11 AGAPE - 9:45am Youth - 5pm	8 Balance Class - 10am Handbells - 5:30pm Guitar League - 6pm	9 Tai Chi - 1:30pm SMBB - 7pm Bev. Hills - 7pm	10 Retired Teach - 10am UMM@VRO - 4pm Choir - 6pm Pickleball - 6pm AA Meeting - 6pm	11 Isaac Group - 10:30am Tai Chi - 1:30pm Welcome Table - 5pm	12 Tailgate Market - 3pm - 6pm	13
21 Worship - 8:30 & 11 AGAPE - 9:45am Youth Fundraiser - Noon	15 Balance Class - 10am Handbells - 5:30pm	16 Tai Chi - 1:30pm Miriam Circle - 3pm SMBB - 7pm	17 Sarah Circle - 4pm Choir - 6pm Pickleball - 6pm AA Meeting - 6pm	18 Isaac Group - 10:30am Tai Chi - 1:30pm Welcome Table - 5pm	19 Tailgate Market - 3pm - 6pm	20
29 Worship - 8:30 & 11 28 AGAPE - 9:45am Concert Series - 3pm Youth - 5pm	22 Balance Class - 10am Outreach - 3:30pm Handbells - 5:30pm Bev. Hills - 6pm	23 Tai Chi - 1:30pm SMBB - 7pm	24 Table of 16 - 11:30am BCAE - 4pm Choir - 6pm Pickleball - 6pm AA Meeting - 6pm	25 Isaac Group - 10:30am Tai Chi - 1:30pm Welcome Table - 5pm TL3 Leadership - 6:30pm	26 Tailgate Market - 3pm - 6pm	27
30 Tai Chi - 1:30pm SMBB - 7pm	29 Balance Class - 10am Handbells - 5:30pm Medicare 101 - 6pm	30 Tai Chi - 1:30pm SMBB - 7pm				

**Warrior Canine Connection**  
 Mon. - Fri. from 8am to 5pm  
 \*Dates are subject to change.

