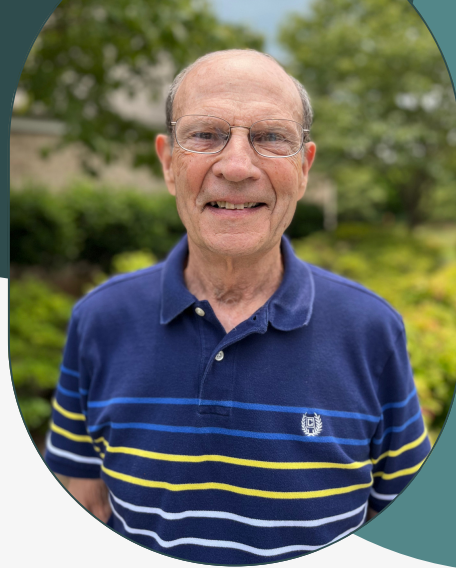


OUR STORIES

Unity in Christ from Rich Cairns

*An inspiring story from our parish
to fill your day with joy.*



Generosity Stories

We are delighted to share that our Stewardship Team is working with a program hosted by the Lutheran synod called Stewardship for All Seasons. As a part of this program, our overall goal for our congregation is to build a culture of generosity. We have so many wonderful stories of generosity right here in our own community, and we will be sharing those with you on a more consistent basis. Be on the lookout for "Our Stories" in your email, in our Weekly Announcements, on our website, and on our Facebook page. We are grateful for those who are sharing their stories to help get this important ministry started.

As I prepared to retire from 30 years of active service in the Army, Pam and I sought a place to call home where we could establish deep and meaningful connections. During our search, we discovered beautiful Smith Mountain Lake and were drawn to worship at Trinity Ecumenical Parish. The idea of ecumenism--affirming unity in Christ--resonated with us. We soon learned that we had found our new spiritual home.

During our two decades here, we have appreciated Trinity's emphasis on welcoming, embracing, and encouraging individuals from diverse backgrounds to participate fully in the parish. We have experienced the power of unity and the richness that arises when different traditions come together to worship and serve.

My sense of generosity is deeply rooted in the values my parents instilled in me as a child—to give of oneself and to serve others. I was taught the importance of giving monetary offerings, if only pennies, as an act of worship. At Trinity, I have observed over and over generous giving intended to sustain overall ministry as expressions of gratitude, as ways to honor our God and as a means of blessing others. Whether it be helping a family devastated by a fire, supporting youth missions, rallying to raise funds for a new roof, or extending aid to those affected by natural disasters, the people of Trinity respond with unwavering compassion and generosity.

My great hope and trust is that we at Trinity will remain true to our roots of unity in Christ, welcoming all warmly with open arms and helping others with generous hearts. May our commitment to hospitality and service be a guiding light, inspiring others to embrace generosity. It is through the unity of believers and our collective generosity that we can make a lasting impact for our neighbors.

-Rich Cairns

