

Together...



We Make a Difference



Trietsch Memorial United Methodist Church
To know Christ and to make Christ known



Dr. John Allen
Senior Pastor

Our Mission
*To know Christ and
to make Christ known*

Our Vision
*We are a beacon church
reaching out to develop
followers for Jesus Christ
through worship,
growth and service*

*“For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also”
Matthew 6:21*



Dear Friends,

“Together...We Make A Difference” has been this year’s theme for our Stewardship emphasis. Changing lives for Jesus Christ is our business. We are the smiling face of God, sharing with the community and world the good news of God’s hope through Jesus Christ.

Our church has a great tradition of stepping out in faith. Our faithful work “to know Christ and to make Christ known” continues to transform lives. Our potential as a Kingdom building church for Jesus Christ is limited only by our capacity to step out in faith – **TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

Over the past nine weeks we have been highlighting our **Come Together, Grow Together** and **Serve Together** Ministries to demonstrate the awesome impact of our work together. During these weeks we have shared testimonies from members in the mailings and in our worship. The response has been overwhelming. Many of you have shared with me how much it meant to read someone’s story that mirrored your own. It has been exciting to see you get involved in new ways in what God is doing. You have truly responded to the call to pray, attend worship, grow in faith, serve and witness. Thank you.

The final step in this journey is to commit ourselves financially to the work of our church. During Worship on November 13, we will respond to God’s call to commit ourselves to the mission and ministry of our church for 2012.

Couples can list their combined financial commitment on the Stewardship Promise or if preferred, complete that separately. We will use the financial indication as a means to plan for the 2012 calendar year. All financial commitments will be kept confidential and can be changed or modified at any time by calling the finance office.

For Trietsch, 2012 will be a critical year, as our ministries in the Family Life Center increase to meet the needs of our community. As God is leading you, please prayerfully consider increasing your commitment to Christ and His church. Many of our members are under the stress of a harsh economic climate. Many of these families have responded with great faith, but the time is now for those of us who can to pick up the difference.

Please return your cards on Sunday, November 13, Commitment Sunday. If you are unable to attend, please feel free to return your card in the enclosed envelope or you may respond by email directly to the finance office at andrea@tmumc.org.

It takes all of us pulling together to “Make A Difference” for Christ’s Kingdom. The scriptures teach us that God calls not for an equal share but rather an equal sacrifice. We see through the story of the widow’s mite in Luke 21:1-4 that the smallest gift is sometimes the largest when given in faith.

I am excited about the journey ahead of us. We have so much to celebrate.

In Christ,

Dr. John Allen



COME, GROW & SERVE Together

Trietsch is a community of believers in Jesus Christ. We worship together, study the Bible together, teach and learn from one another, work on mission and outreach projects, and experience the transforming power of God's love along the way. Simply put, we make a difference when we COME, GROW and SERVE together.



COME Together

Come to Connect, Worship & Praise

When we **COME Together**, we connect with God, through worship, prayer, music, special events, or hospitality. An integral part of this is for each of us to invite others to be a part of any of these areas. When we invite our friends and family to worship, to a musical, a Bible study, or a children's event, this is an example of our witness for the love of Jesus Christ.

Our PRESENCE and PRAYERS are important aspects of Stewardship. Whether you are new to Christ or continuing a lifelong journey, we grow closer to Him when we participate in vibrant, exciting worship, music, prayer and family events.

[Jesus said,] "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." — Matthew 10:40

GROW Together

Grow our Faith, Family & Friends

One of our defining values is to **GROW Together** in our Christian walk. Trietsch is a wonderful place to grow closer to God and others through vibrant studies, small groups, Sunday school classes, and various adult, youth and children's ministry activities. Through growing, we are better equipped to WITNESS about our faith in our words and actions and help ourselves and others come to know Christ's redeeming grace and transforming love.

Things of value take attention and intention, and there is no greater goal than to be a disciple of Jesus Christ! It takes commitment to "Make A Difference" in your own life and in the lives of others.

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." — Romans 12:2



SERVE Together

Serve Each Other, Our Community & Our World

Trietsch is a spirit filled church of love that offers a wide-range of ministries, special events and service opportunities -- all designed to deepen our relationship with God. We reflect the love that God has shown us by serving others, both in the church, in our community and around the world. We know that service is an important part of the Christian life.

Together we make a huge difference by reaching out and ministering to the needs of people not only within our church family, but also to those beyond the walls of our campus.

God has equipped us to show love and SERVE others and use our unique GIFTS. By serving others, we find we are blessed in return.

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others." — Philippians 2:4



Together... We Make A Difference

Action is More Important than Words



The women of Trietsch have made a huge difference in my faith journey. Specifically, Jan Deering, Trisha McWilliams, Briana Currey, Denise Robinson, Anila Dhanam, the Wednesday Bible Study ladies, and my Reunion Group have made the biggest difference.

When we first joined Trietsch, Jan Deering invited my husband and I to join a small group. I was inspired by her obvious love of Christ...She is generous, kind and so knowledgeable about the Bible and it is not a Sunday show, but a way of life. I was amazed not only by how much she knew, but that in spite of how much she knew, that she was constantly seeking to learn.... After much encouragement and support from Jan, I was privileged to participate in The Walk to Emmaus...

Trisha and Briana were in a huddle that I participated in, and while I was nervous to join and thought I would have nothing in common with the women in this group.... They provided a space where I could open up and receive good counsel, support and accountability – things that have been so important to my continual spiritual growth.

Denise has been my friend, Sunday School teacher, mentor, adoption reference, boss (when I was a youth group leader) and sounding board.... When she tells me she will pray for me, I know she will. When we went to Houston to meet and bring home our son Kaleb.... we returned home to find a welcome committee and so much evidence of love in our home. It made me feel so great about raising my son and eventually our daughter at Trietsch. It was such a huge expression of love in action, that it showed me that action is often far more important than words.

Anila has lovingly encouraged me to remain in study. She once crossed the sanctuary to personally invite me to return to the study after a long break and it was EXACTLY what I needed at the time. She reminded me, in the tender and not at all pushy way she has, not to let busy-ness interfere with making time for God and godly people. – *Michelle Rae*



I Have Been Blessed Beyond Measure



My life growing up consisted of “church floating” with grandparents, aunts and uncles, FCA, then in college with roommates—I would go to church wherever and whenever I could! I knew I wanted a relationship with the Lord. But it wasn’t until I joined Trietsch and got involved that my relationship flourished and will continue to do so!

I have to say that my first experience with VBS, which was Construction Zone, changed things for me. Music really moves me—that is why I LOVE to attend the contemporary service at 9:30 - and why Worship Rally moved me too! I was a co-guide with Julie Lane that year and was moved to tears at the love and spirit for

God that filled the sanctuary every morning—by Suzanne and the entire WR team! Which is why I promptly signed up to work in music and soon thereafter EVERY Worship Rally the week of VBS. Not only do I get to fellowship with wonderful and talented Christian people, like Kris Melvin, Amy Parsons, Emily Evans, Stacey Kostas, Tanya Allen (and many, many more), all day for 5 days, I also to get to see the love for Christ shine through all of the adults and kids that come through the sanctuary every day. Some people think I am crazy for doing it—and I am—crazy for God and for Trietsch!!!!

This is just one of the MANY experiences—I could go on about the people and things that have touched my life at Trietsch! I am blessed beyond measure that God led me to this place! - *Christina Hedding*



A Place to Belong



I attended Trietsch because a neighbor said it was great and knew we wanted a contemporary service. We tried Trietsch and loved the music and knew we needed to start going for our children.

Peyton was in Faith Voyage, and I became his teacher. Sarah started going to youth and loved it. She and I decided to go on a Mission Trip. We were both very nervous.

I hoped the trip would impact Sarah’s life, but it changed both of our lives. I remember thinking “How can I go on this as a youth leader when I have not even read the bible?” I was a child when it came to scripture and Christ even though I was in my forties. Kris, Denise, and the other adults were amazing and accepted me for who I was. After the first day, I felt like I belonged. *Sandi Stevenson*



Together... We Make A Difference

The Possibilities are Boundless



Trietsch has been more than a church to me, even more than a home; much more. Along with millions of kids across the United States, I had a drug problem. I was drug to church every Sunday regardless of my best efforts to fight it. I say this because I encourage parents who fight their own kids today to be strong; it was this relentless perseverance of my mother's that put that fledgling feeling of guilt into my head 15 years after I swore I would never step foot into a church again. (To those moms out there wondering, yes, I did send my mom a thank you card a few years ago to let her know I have her to thank).

It was nearly 8 years ago, we had one boy and another on the way. I was laying in bed struggling with this void in my life and knowing God was the answer but still trying to figure out different ways to solve this problems without wasting a Sunday. Lisa (my wife) said, "I think we should seriously consider going to church." I resigned, "Okay, go pick one."

I spent the next year coming to church and making sure I didn't meet anyone, make eye contact with any of the pastors, or spend more than one hour of my weekend on churchy stuff. (I had a Sunday time card, and I needed one hour per week, overtime didn't net me

any extra pay). Then, much to my dismay, Lisa wanted to take the Methodist 101 course. After I pointed out the fact she has been a Methodist her whole life and we could make better use of our time, she insisted she wanted to go. So, of course we went and it wasn't so much the content of what was taught but the genuine sincerity of the person teaching the class that really got to me. In the following weeks I was looking through the bulletin (previous to this I didn't even read the bulletin in attempt to maintain my distance from the church) and saw an announcement for the church softball team.

That softball team was made up of some of the most solid, well rounded, yet human, Christians I have ever met. I learned what it was to serve, be humble, yet strong enough in your faith to let go of what you think is important in this world and discover what path God has for you. One of the guys on the softball team wanted to start a small group and do the 40 days of Community and asked us to join. At this point I still wasn't so sure, so he put the small group meeting on Monday night so we could stay and watch football afterwards. Once again, it wasn't so much the content of what we were studying, but the sincerity and faith of those in the group that opened my eyes to what faith, the church, and God was really about.

Then I wanted to learn more. I couldn't take enough classes, be involved in enough activities, and volunteer enough of my time and I have never looked back nor regretted anything. I read the bible, took a disciple class, went on the walk to Emmaus, taught Sunday school, walked the streets of the homeless and poor, and the list continues. All this within the Trietsch community. What a fantastic opportunity this church has given me and continues to give me today. For the past 6 months I have been very restless and Dr. John Allen hit the nail on the head when he said a great revival is coming. I have felt it coming for some time and feel ready to be an active participant. I encourage all to get involved, take that step, join that team or activity they have been thinking about. The possibilities at Trietsch are boundless. – *Scott Whisenunt*



Thank You God!



Only God knew what I would be facing when He called me to Texas! I arrived in Texas in September, 2004, from Canada with my new husband, Ralph! I was new to Trietsch, unlike Ralph who had been a member several years, so I was just getting to know people, making new friends.

In September, 2006 I was diagnosed with stage 3C Ovarian Cancer & it is during this period that I became even closer to Christ! After two weeks from surgery we asked the church for help & were overwhelmed at the response! People we didn't know came forward to help with numerous things. We had meals brought to us, our home cleaned, people sat with me after chemo even if I just slept! Even my overgrown garden got taken care of with loving hands! These are just a few of the many things we were helped with!

I was moved by the love & care from people who didn't know me, and they have become dear friends!

After everything is said & done I have been led to become a Stephen Minister, among other ministries in the church, so that I may bring someone loving care just as it was brought to me.

I call Trietsch home as that is where my heart is, & where your heart is, is where you call home. My friends here are my family. I love them all & cherish what we have. GOD, Thank YOU for calling me to Texas! - *Cindy Hartsock*



Stewardship

What is Stewardship

Stewardship encompasses our time, talents and spiritual and financial gifts. Through Christ we are called to the mission and ministry of our church with the five-fold promise – to support the church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness.

On Commitment Sunday, November 13, we look to God as we commit these promises to the work of the church. Please complete the Stewardship Promise that is included in this brochure. Prayerfully consider your commitment to celebrate the gifts God has given us and truly come together to make a difference for others and ourselves.

Together, we can change lives and make a positive impact on our neighborhood and the entire world.

- **Prayers**

The Bible emphasizes the importance of communicating with God through prayer. Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) – through spoken word, written word, thoughts, meditation and song. Prayer is the way to a real and personal relationship with God. Speaking with God should come as naturally as speaking with each other. In John Wesley's words, "Prayer is truly the most useful of all pastimes."

- **Presence**

Presence is more than just coming to church on Sunday. It is being present in mind, body and spirit. To be connected to God and fellow Christians, we must engage our mind and allow God to lead our spirit. Being present at worship and at ministries that occur in and beyond the church keeps us fully incorporated into the body of Christ and better equipped to help others.

- **Gifts**

Consistent, planned and proportionate giving is an expression of our faith and demonstrates our commitment to God and the church. By giving financially, we not only support our church, but we support the many ministries we provide the community. All we have comes from God.

- **Service**

A vital church is a church that serves. We reflect the love that God has shown us by serving others, both in the church, in our community and around the world. We know that service is an important part of the Christian life. We are the hands and feet of Christ.

- **Witness**

The best way to be a witness for Christ is to lead a Christ-like life. We may hesitate to talk to others about God because we don't think we know enough about the Bible. The good news is that God gives us all the gifts to fulfill this command. Sharing how God is working in our life may be the opening someone needs to learn more about how God can provide peace in their lives as well.



"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." - Helen Keller

Together... We Make A Difference

Why Am I Asked to Give?

Trietsch is a vibrant, growing church, and the wonderful things we do for our congregation and community require significant expenditures. During the budget-making process each year, plans and goals are balanced against the expected income, determined by your commitments. In this age of uncertainty, it's natural to want to store up as much as we can. But imagine how you can make a difference in the life of a child, a senior adult, or someone with special needs. We can take all our gifts, combine them with the gifts of others, and truly change lives.

2012 Proposed Budget \$3,358,750

Each area includes expenses and staff for...

Worship

Worship, media, music, choirs, orchestra, handbells, etc.

Connections & Congregational Care

Congregational/pastoral care, funerals, weddings, visitations, support groups, hospitality, mobilizing volunteers in ministry, etc.

Discipleship

Education (children, youth, adult), children and youth activities, special needs ministry, small groups, Sunday school, sports, women's ministries, men's ministries, etc.

Missions

Local, national and international missions, etc.

Building & Operations

Building, administration and finance, etc.



2011 Ministry Highlights

Together...We Have Made A Difference

Below is a small sampling of what we accomplish together with your Stewardship

- 1,100 kids enjoy VBS & Mission Camp with the help of 665 youth and adult volunteers
- 800 kids and adults participate in Upward and other sport programs
- 400 youth attend worship, Sunday school and various weekly activities
- 100 students commit to a life with Christ through Confirmation
- 1,350 attend Sunday school, Bible Studies and other weekly discipleship opportunities
- 200 youth and adults build & repair houses through Habitat for Humanity, Amor, C2K, etc.
- Mission teams work in the areas of health, education and service in Africa
- We help support four missionaries in Cameroon, Kenya, Latin America and South Africa, as well as a CCA Chaplain in Lewisville
- 6,000 summer lunches served to children in need through Kids Eat Free
- 243 kids attend TEC preschool/kindergarten each year
- 365 ministry opportunities are available each year



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We Make A Difference*



TRIETSCH
MEMORIAL UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

6101 Morriss Road
Flower Mound, Texas 75028
972-539-8547

comegrowserve.org or tmumc.org