

THE TRINITY MESSENGER

Trinity United Methodist Church

2724 Whiskey Road, Aiken, SC 29803

Rev. Rodney K. Powell, D.Min., Pastor

Rev. Donnie Bates, Director of Youth Ministries

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www.trinityaiken.org

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Fellowship Supper 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study & Youth 6:45 p.m.

April 2011

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THE TRINITY

Messenger

Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

April 2011

The choir loft was practically full. Their voices were in fine form. Their faces expressed the joy that pervaded their hearts... but it was the song that got me....

I've heard the song before, but in my heart I heard the words like never before: *My chains are gone; I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood His mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace....* I was moved to tears....

It meant so much, you see, because I feel that my chains are indeed gone! I feel as if I've been set free from a long, long bondage.... If you aren't following me, let me explain.

For almost two and a half years I have suffered. I thought I knew what pain was but I was wrong. I wouldn't have wished that kind of suffering on Osama bin Laden! But I have received a gift like I've never received before! And God used some really neat people in the process and I just want to say 'thank you' from the depths of my heart!

God used a brilliant surgeon. I'd never heard of John Vender, MD, but who would have guessed that God would have brought my way a neurosurgeon who has been named among "Best

Doctors in America" (Top 5% in the nation!) by his peers for 2011-2012! Before the surgery I couldn't walk to the mailbox without excruciating pain, or deliver a sermon without sitting.... Now, Angela and I are walking two to three miles a day and my only problem is fatigue—it's been years since I could walk like that!

And God used you! Many of you sent cards; several called or came by the parsonage; several quite capable people filled in for me on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. I know most of you prayed for us because I could sense

Praise
GOD!
from
WHOM
ALL
blessings
FLOW

(Continued from page 2)

the power that only comes from brothers and sisters in Christ lifting their pastor before the Throne of Grace! And to say ‘thank you’ somehow doesn’t seem to quite say enough! It has all been a tremendous gift from God through Jesus Christ, and the way it has all unfolded has been nothing short of miraculous!

This month we remember the suffering and death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We remember how he was betrayed and abandoned by those closest to him. We recall the stories of his torture and horrendous treatment at the hands of those who believed they were doing God and country a favor. BUT, we also remember and celebrate his defeat of death itself! “He is not here,” the angel said. Death itself died. He left behind all that would hold him back that we—you and me—might be brought to God and find salvation.

And the chains that bound our souls are gone! We’ve been set free from the sin and pettiness of our old lives! *And like a flood his mercy reigns, unending love and amazing... amazing grace!*

Some familiar words seem appropriate... *“Praise God from whom all blessings flow...!”*

See you in church and we’ll sing it together!

Pastor Rodney



Don't forget to mark your calendars for the following:

April 21, Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 23

April 24, Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast at 7:30 a.m., served by the UM Men

Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

NEWS & Notes

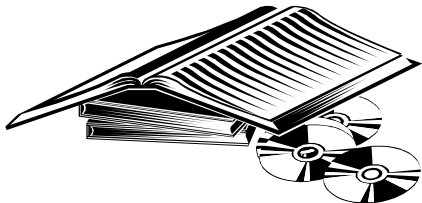
Have you noticed? A console table was placed in the hallway by the narthex. Groups may use it for fundraiser sales displays or other sign-ups. A clipboard, pens and pencils are in the

drawer. On the shelf are baskets for the collection of eyeglasses and UMW labels. If more table space is needed to display items, there is a rectangular folding table in the closet at the end of the hall

Speaking of eyeglass collection ... there is indeed a basket in the narthex hallway for you to drop off your old eyeglasses for donation to the Lions Club. Many thanks to Joanne Morton for her willingness to take care of this. Lions Club International checks the donated eyeglasses, determines the strength and then distributes them worldwide. This is even one of the sources of eyeglasses that Honduras Agape Foundation has for their work in Honduras.

Just a reminder.... the UMW collects “**Labels for Education**” which includes the bar code on the back of the labels of Campbell soups, Pepperidge Farms, V-8, Prego and other products. These are sent to Red Bird Missionary Conference in Kentucky. “**Box Tops for Education**” are also collected and sent to the Wallace Family Life Center in Bennettsville SC. Please help by collecting the above and putting them in the basket provided in the narthex hallway.

Church Archives



Volunteer Opportunity. We are still looking for someone who loves history and likes to organize things to serve as **archivist/historian** for Trinity. Contact the church office (648-4990) if you have questions or are interested.

Are you on **FaceBook?** Have you “liked” Trinity UMC Aiken? Have you told your friends about us? We’re up to 132 fans — let’s see if we can hit 150 by the start of the summer!



Church Library

The church library is located on shelves in the Seekers Adult Class (Room 10). The books are arranged in general categories, such as family resources, Christian fiction, etc. You are welcome to take books out and return them in a timely manner. You are also encouraged to donate up-to-date Christian books, especially fiction.

Classes are encouraged to check the many undated study books available, and to reuse books from other classes so as to practice good stewardship. See Jean Kling if you want to donate books or if you have any questions.

UMW Second Annual Tea

Plans are in the making for our second **UMW Tea on August 27**. I can't wait to see all your smiling faces again this year and all the chattering going on. This year your ticket will be a tea cup and saucer with a story or memory to it. However, no one will be turned away, so if you need a tea cup just let me know and it will be provided.

How about using your imagination by coming in your finest Southern attire topped off with a hat for a tea and of course, don't forget those white gloves. We certainly will take pictures.

I'm very excited to get things put together as I know we will have a lot of fun. Help will be greatly appreciated so please give me a call if you are willing to help. We need a chairman for decorations, help with food, phone calls, kitchen duties and clean-up, etc. The first planning meeting will be on Monday, April 4, at 6:30 p.m. at the church in Room 16, right across from the church office. Please give me a call if you can join us.

Thanks so much for your much needed support.

Betty Fent, UMW President, 649-4536

Tea Party



Stewardship Report For March 2011

Our Presence

Average Church School attendance	88
Average Worship Attendance	196

Our Gifts

Received year-to-date	\$107,386.86
Needed to meet budget to date	\$106,379.00
Special offerings year-to-date	\$41,725.47
Non-gift reimbursements to date	\$ 9,196.88

(includes payments for Eagles' trips & lunches, youth ski trips, etc.)

Our Prayers

Homebound

Sabella Gray at Unihealth Aiken

Maude Pinson at Elmcroft in Martinez GA

Bessie Whatley at Longwood Plantation in Orangeburg SC

George Brooks at We Care Residential in Aiken,

Van and Betty Haynes at home

Buddy and Harriet Murray at Harborchase George Hipp and Al Lewis at Anchor Health & Rehab

Intercession

Donna Fowler, Terry Gossard, Mildred Holley, Joe Lubner, George Fowler, Thelma Pochek, our military personnel



If you would like to place someone or some happening on the prayer chain — or if you would like to be a part of the prayer chain — please call Joye Brotherton at 648-6426 or Jim Kanenberg at 649-5407.

From the Eagles' Nest

Wagon Load of Food for ACTS

The first Sunday of each month is ACTS (Area Churches Together Serving) Sunday at Trinity. Bring your food items on Sunday, **April 3**, and place them in the ACTS wagon located in the narthex.



Soaring Eagles Luncheon

The next luncheon will be Monday, April 25, at 11:30 a.m. We will enjoy a musical program presented by the Aiken High School Chorus — they have been invited back for the third consecutive year and are just great! Lunch will be spaghetti and meatballs, salad and dessert, prepared by Karen Tempel.

Please remember that the price of the luncheon is now \$8.00.

Road Trips

On Wednesday, June 1, we will carpool to the **Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site** in Beech Island for a guided tour of the gardens, slave quarters and plantation house. The cost of the tour is \$2.50 per person. We ask that you please place the correct amount in cash in an envelope with your name, address and phone number on the outside and give it to either Joyce Ross or Ann Bishop. Each car will decide where to have lunch. Two locations within easy driving distance of Redcliffe are the Crossroads Café (located on Sand Bar Ferry Road in Beech Island) or the Five Star Café (located on Laney Walker Boulevard in Augusta and owned by Scott and Jamie Bosley). Both of these are home-style cooking. Or you may decide to come back to Aiken. The tour is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. so we ask that you be at the church ready to leave at 9:45 a.m. or meet at Redcliffe by 10:15 a.m.

Mark your calendars now for our **Fall Foliage Tour** with Carolina Tours on Tuesday, October 25. We will drive through the Smoky Mountains with lunch at the Grove Park Inn. There will be time to enjoy this lovely resort and the gift shops and view the surrounding mountains. From there we will travel to the quaint little mountain town of Waynesville. The cost is \$99 per person.

St. John's UMC has trips planned for June 16-17 to Stone Mountain and for September 15 tour of Beaufort. If you are interested in taking these trips, please call Spence Grotheer at St. John's UMC.

Remember, **Eagles Worship at Anchor Health** on Sunday, April 24.

April Birthdays

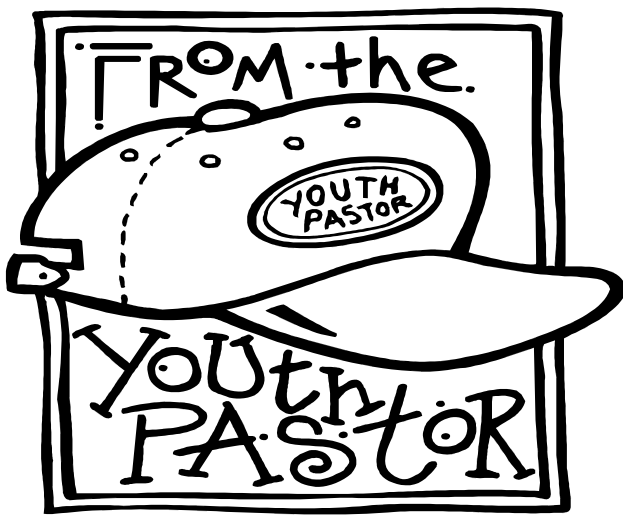
2	Brett Clarke	9	Cara Toole	22	Jay Pittman
	Stephen Clarke	10	Karen Erickson	25	Valerie Charles
3	Jackie East	10	Winnie Pierce	28	Brad Miano
3	Ed Payne	10	Ashlee Young	29	Debbie Lewis
4	Hope Hooper	11	Dylan Barnhart	30	Laurie Rupsis
4	Cynthia Kee	11	April Golding		
4	Sandy Sparks	13	Joye Brotherton		
5	Elizabeth Driver	13	Dianna Dewhirst		
6	Eleanor Hatfield	13	Herb Richards		
7	Emily Maclay	14	Mary Christensen		
7	Carol Smith	14	Corrine Seymour		
8	William Bosley	17	Nancy Dragone		
8	Richard Brockman	17	Joyce Ross		
8	Phyllis Maclay	18	Barbara Gagnon		
9	Tina Holt	21	Tyler Muma		
9	Don Robinson	22	David Erickson		



Altar Flowers

- April 3** Jack & Betty Maier in celebration of their 57th wedding anniversary
- April 10** Millie Jones in loving memory of Dwight Jones
- April 17** Carol Smith in loving memory of her grandparents, George and Ether Fowler
- April 24**

The cost to place flowers is \$45. You can sign up for flowers on the poster in the narthex.



It is an honor to be able to give — and also a blessing. As the youth sang and the Eagles provided the worship service at Anchor Health & Rehab last Sunday, it reminded me of how far we have all grown at Trinity to do service to God. What an honor to be “asked to serve” — to sing, to pray, to provide a devotion, to listen, to give. We need to stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit and be careful when we say “no” to

service. It just may be Christ himself asking.

The Youth will be traveling to **Riverbanks Zoo** in Columbia on Saturday, April 16. We will meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. Please bring money for lunch at Fuddrucker’s and we should return to church by 3:00 p.m.

Congratulations to the 2011 Academic State District Champions. Three members of the team are from our MYF — Taylor Maier, Mitch Mayfield, and Sean Shoppell.

Shoebboxes for Seniors. I hope you have all decided to fill a shoe box for ACTS. There are 4 different groups of items for you to choose from: 1 group is cleaning supplies, the others feature various health and personal care items. There are lists available in the narthex — don’t forget to pick one up and then bring in a filled shoebox to help out the low income seniors served by ACTS. The deadline to return the boxes is Sunday, April 10, and they can be placed in the narthex.

“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”
2 Corinthians 9:11 (NIV)

Praying for you and your family, *Pastor Donnie*

Sonshine Choir Schedule

Sunday, April 3	Practice at 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 10	Call to Worship, "Today Is the Day"
Sunday, April 17	Practice at 5:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday, April 24	Call to Worship, "Alleluia"

Acolytes for April

April 3	Seth Wade
April 10	Ella Morton
April 17	Madison McNeely
April 24	Ali Maclay



On the Lighter Side

The Ten Commandments

Some people have trouble with all those 'shalls' and 'shall nots' in the Ten Commandments. Folks just aren't used to talking in those terms. So, in middle Tennessee they translated the 'King James' into 'Jackson County' language..... no joke! They are posted on the wall at Cross Trails Church in Gainesboro TN.

- 1 Just one God
- 2 Put nothin' before God
- 3 Watch yer mouth
- 4 Git yourself to Sunday meetin'
- 5 Honor yer ma and pa
- 6 No killin'
- 7 No foolin' around with another fella's gal
- 8 Don't take what ain't yers
- 9 No tellin' tales or gossipin'
- 10 Don't be hankerin' for yer buddy's stuff

Now that's plain an' simple. Y'all have a nice day now, ya hear!

Beyond Trinity

Here is a list of events and opportunities offered by various Methodist groups that you may find of interest.

UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska, April 29 & 30. Lovely setting, inspiring speakers, great for some refreshing time away from the busyness of the day-to-day routine. Talk to Vicki Snow for more details.

Grand Camp 2011, June 24-27, at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island, Georgia. New and fun activities designed especially for grandparents to share with their school-aged grandchildren. You can register online at www.epworthbythesea.org.

Asbury Hills is a camp experience that is all about friends, fun and faith. Children and youth can experience God like never before through powerful worship, exciting activities in God's creation, and conversations with new friends. Swim, ride a zipline, hike ... and so much more. Information about Asbury Hills Summer Camp 2011 is available on their website www.asburyhills.org.

SEJ (Southeastern Jurisdiction) Festival of Wisdom and Grace at Lake Junaluska, August 8-11. The theme is "One in the Spirit: Age to Age Conversations." Brochures that include registration forms as well as descriptions of featured workshop leaders are available in the narthex.

Trinity Preschool has openings for Fall 2011 in the Mother's Day Out Program as well as preschool classes.

Please call the church (648-4990) to talk to Lila Crotwell, Director, for more information.



From the Church & Society Committee

On April 22, 1970, the first Earth Day was celebrated. People all over the country made promises to help the environment. We know that there are problems we need to work on and this is our special day to look at the planet and see what needs changing. As Christians we are called to be good stewards of God's beautiful creation. Protecting what God lovingly made is a way to honor God. Let's work together to do that. First a few facts:

- It takes about 30 years for garbage in a landfill to break down.
- Each person throws away approximately 4 pounds of garbage every day.



- For 1 ton of paper recycled, we save 7,000 gallons of water from chemical pollutants.
- Every ton of paper that is recycled saves 17 trees.
- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to watch a TV for three hours - it's equivalent energy to half a gallon of gasoline.

This year try **Precycling!** What is it? Take some action *before*. How? It's easy! Some ideas are:

1. Bring your own bags to the store with you.
2. Buy fewer disposable items to prevent things from ending up in a landfill.
3. Buy "long life" products (such as batteries and light bulbs) or "concentrated" products, (such as juices or detergents).
4. Buy large quantities. If you buy in bulk or in large sizes and quantities, you can put them in smaller containers at home.
5. Buy products with the least amount of packaging, or none at all.
6. Buy products packed in recycled packaging. Make sure you look for the recycled symbol.
7. When possible, don't purchase styrofoam. It contains polystyrene, which is the most difficult material to break down in our landfill and is considered a hazardous waste.
8. Buy from thrift shops or second hand stores - you're recycling!