

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

Telephone: 803 648-4990
Email: trinityunited119@bellsouth.net
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.



December 2011

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Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church December 2011

Dr. James Moore reminds us of an ancient yet beautiful old Christmas legend. The ancient legend tells of how God called the angels of heaven together one day for a special choir rehearsal. He told them that he had a special song that he wanted them to learn—a song that they would sing at a very significant occasion. The angels went to work on it. They rehearsed long and hard, with great focus and intensity. In fact, some of the angels grumbled a bit... but God insisted on a very high standard for his choir.

As time passed, the choir improved in tone, in rhythm, and in quality. Finally God announced that they were ready... but then, he shocked them a bit. He told them that they would sing the song only once, and only on one night. There would be just one performance of this great song they had worked on so diligently. Again, some of the angels grumbled. The song was so extraordinarily beautiful and they had it down pat now. Surely, they could sing it many, many times. God only smiled and told them that when the time came, they would understand.

Then one night, God called them together. He gathered them above a field just outside of Bethlehem. "It's time," God said to them... and the angels sang their song. O my, did they sing it! "Glory to God in the highest... and on earth peace and good will toward all..." And as the angels sang, they knew there would never be another night like this one, and that there would never be another birth like this birth in Bethlehem.

When the angels returned to heaven, God reminded them that they would not formally sing that song again as an angelic choir, but if they wanted to, they could hum the song occasionally as individuals. One angel was bold enough to step forward and ask God why. Why could they not sing that majestic anthem again? They did it so well. It felt so right. Why couldn't they sing that great song anymore? "Because," God explained, "my Son has been born... and now earth must do the singing!"

Can you hear it—I mean *really* hear it...? All of heaven and earth must

have vibrated with that first performance—and not just from the song, but also with the advent of the Christ Child! The Eternal Word himself took on flesh and came as a little male child in the humblest of circumstances and none of creation has been the same since!

But not all have continued to hum that tune. In fact, many have never even heard the song... and never have we needed that song more than we do right now! But, as the ancient legend claims, the angels won't sing it again. It's up to the likes of you and me to sing that song to a world that's not yet convinced they need to hear it...

But the Song goes on and on. The angels initiated the tune but there are others—there have been millions—who've heard the Song, fell in love with the Song, and in their lives fill the void with the beautiful melody of love and reconciliation!

Paul explained it this way: "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. *And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.*" (2 Cor. 5:19, emphasis added) In other words, he's calling us to sing His song!

So, whatever Advent or Christmas tunes may be your favorites, just remember: our song must be His song, and our message must be His...

Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest; and peace on earth...

See you in church... and we can sing it together!

Pastor Rodney



Lay Speaker School will be held at Trinity on March 2 and 3. Watch for further details.

Heart Board tickets are available for the performance on February 23. There are 3 tickets for excellent seats on the main floor, third row, left of center. They are \$25 each. If you are interested, please see Vi Satre.

May God bless and strengthen Trinity's newest members.

On November 20:

- Trinity received into membership Charles (Chuck) Stauff. [REDACTED]

- Caylin Leigh DiFranco and Jordan Alexis DiFranco, children of Stephanie DiFranco, were baptized. [REDACTED]

ACTS Heater & Utility Drive. Help ACTS prevent someone from being cold this winter by supporting this important effort. For each \$40 donation, they are able to purchase a safe, electric oil-filled radiator that ACTS will distribute to those in need of supplemental heat. Your donation may also support ACTS in their utility assistance program for those facing disconnection of services. Last year, ACTS was able to provide 354 families with radiator heaters and to assist 1310 families with overdue utility bills. If you would like to help, checks can be sent directly to ACTS, or placed in the offering, made out to Trinity UMC, designating for "ACTS Heater Drive".

UMW. In November the United Methodist Women sent 169 soup labels and 309 box tops for education to one of their mission projects. Thanks to everyone for your participation! Keep those labels coming — you can put them in the box in the narthex hallway.

Housekeeping Hints for Trinity. Your contributions of items for church projects and events is appreciated, but please make sure that you clean up any "leftovers" and dispose of them in the dumpster or take them home. Storage is at a premium at Trinity, so please don't leave boxes, papers, etc. in the workroom, offices, or hallways. Thanks for your help in keeping Trinity tidy.

Preschool Christmas program. Everyone from Trinity is invited to the Preschool Christmas program on Tuesday, December 13, at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary.

Many thanks to Minnie Hipp for the beautiful Christmas cactus

plants in the narthex. She certainly has a green thumb, and it is so generous of her to share her gift with Trinity.

The church office will be closed December 26-28.

No Wednesday evening activities will be held on Wednesday, December 28 — no Fellowship Supper and no Bible study and Youth.

Poinsettias to honor or remember loved ones will be placed in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 18. The cost is \$15.

The Friendship Circle is selling commemorative ornaments in celebration of Trinity's 50th anniversary. It is a 2-1/2" ceramic ornament with the 50th anniversary logo. They are available in the narthex hallway or in the church office.

1 for \$6

2 for \$10

All proceeds will support the Friendship Circle's "Sweet Folks" ministry to our church family's elderly, homebound, widows, etc.

Notes of Thanks

Dear Trinity Family, may God bless all of you for the prayers and phone calls. The healing process is so much easier when you have a "family" and friends praying for you. Thank you. *David Dick*

Thank you for all the cards, plants, fruit, meals and special acts of kindness extended to us during my recent hospital stay and recovery. The people of Trinity never cease to amaze me with their generosity. It is wonderful to be feeling good again. Your prayers and love made everything so much easier. Thanks once again. Trinity people really are the best! *Terry Gossard*

Thank you, Trinity family, for your many prayers and acts of kindness during my illness. I miss you all and am looking forward to being with you once again. A special thanks to Barnabas. The prayer shawl was so comforting! *Denise Barnhart*

We would like to thank the people of Trinity for their prayers and cards. Many thanks also to Barnabas, and especially Pastor Rodney.

In love, Hal & Betty Muma

Stewardship Report for November 2011

Our Presence

Average Church School attendance	96
Average Worship attendance	235

Our Gifts

Received year-to-date	\$384,605.71
Needed to meet budget to date	\$392,784.00
Total Special offerings year-to-date.....	\$88,710.54
Non-gift reimbursements to date	\$18,113.48
Theological Seminary Fund to date	\$1,622.00
Church & Society's Book Sale	\$917.50

Our Prayers

- [REDACTED]
Sylvia Westerdahl [REDACTED]
Barbara Johnson [REDACTED]
Sabella Gray [REDACTED]
Maude Pinson [REDACTED]
Bessie Whatley [REDACTED]
George Brooks [REDACTED]
Buddy and Harriet Murray [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] George Hipp, Gene Sinclair, Al Lewis, Mildred Holley, Joe Lubner

Intercession

Denise Barnhart, Terry Gossard, Nancy Dragone, Toniann Bundoc, Hal Muma, Shirley Bowers, 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 Kannenberg at 649-5407.

Children's Christmas Play

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 4, for the program that starts at 5:30 PM, followed by a party with a very special visitor from the North Pole. Everyone is asked to bring some sort of finger food. Kids are invited to bring canned goods or other non-perishable items for Santa to deliver to ACTS. The congregation is encouraged to attend and visitors are welcome.

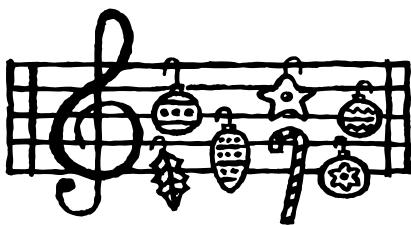
All Sonshine Choir members and participants in the Christmas program need to be at a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 3, at 10:30 AM which will be followed by a choir party and lunch.

New Sunday School Class

Starting in January a new class aimed at parents of small children will be formed. The focus will be Christian parenting, helping parents to be more intentional about teaching their children about the Christian faith. Watch for further information!

Choir Notes

The choir is putting the finishing touches on the Christmas cantata, "Emmanuel." Please join us on Sunday, December 11, during the morning worship service for this special annual event. Also, please consider joining the choir in the New Year. We start all over again in January and will be working on some new and exciting pieces. While our soprano section is awesome, we really could use a few more. If you are a lady and like singing melody, please consider joining us for the new year.



Trinity's Christmas Luncheon to honor the choir will be December 11 immediately after church. The Family Ministry Committee will provide meat and drinks, and the families of Trinity are asked to bring 2 side dishes and a dessert to share. Our honored guests, the choir members, do not need to bring any food for this day. Come share the joy and good fellowship as we celebrate our Savior's birth and the blessing of music.



Birthday Blessings

December

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Pam Cooper | 11 Cathy Jones |
| 1 Betty Fent | 11 Sadie Morton |
| 2 Helen Hileman | 16 George Hipp |
| 3 Virgle Miano | 16 Jamie Morlan |
| 4 Chase Green | 18 Bob Fent |
| 4 Vicky Muma | 19 Joe Lubner |
| 5 Janette Godwin | 20 Anna Holt |
| 6 Breanna McNeely | 25 Nichole Johnson |
| 6 Brooke McNeely | 27 Zach Maier |
| 7 Michael Cheeks | 30 Kyle Cooper |
| 7 Rebecca Halupa | 30 Kathleen David |
| 7 Kristi Tempel | 30 Peggy Piemonte |
| 9 Noel Chapman | 31 Dane Wood |
| 10 Mary Jo Herring | |
| 11 Dot Fiveash | |

From the Eagles' Nest

Wagon Load of Food for ACTS. The first Sunday of each month at Trinity is ACTS (Area Churches Together Serving) Sunday. Bring your food items and place them in the ACTS wagon located in the narthex. Much help is needed so let's fill the ACTS wagon to overflowing.

Eagles Worship at Anchor Health & Rehab. The Eagles will lead a brief worship service at Anchor Health on Sunday, December 18, from 11:30 AM to 12 noon. Bonnie Nowak will be the worship leader, Vi Satre will give the devotions, and Lila Crotwell will play piano. We welcome all to come and worship with the residents there.

There will be no Eagles Luncheon in December, and the Eagles Council will not meet in December.

A bus trip to Columbia is planned in April. Please call Joyce Ross to put your name on the list indicating your interest — no money now, just an idea of who might be interested.

The Edisto Singers will perform at a special concert at Trinity on Wednesday, December 7, at 7:00 PM. It's sure to lift your hearts as you listen to songs new and old.

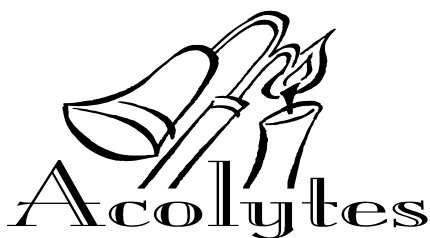


Who Are Eagles?

Eagles are people who are retired, semi-retired, plan to retire, or anyone of any age who is available on any day of planned activities or lunches. You do not need to be member of Trinity to attend.

The Susanna Wesley Circle will meet for lunch at Travinia on Monday, December 19, at 11:30 AM. Remember to bring your gag gift and \$5 donation.

December 4	Sadie Morton
December 11	Madison McNeely
December 18	Elizabeth Morlan
December 25	Seth Wade



Children's Church Volunteers

December 4	No Children's Church, Communion Sunday
December 11	Judy Rodgers
December 18
December 25

As you can see, there are some openings to serve our church and Trinity's children on 2 Sundays in December. If you are able to help out for one of these Sundays — or any time — please talk to Linda Clarke (648-4053).

The altar flowers for **December** are given by:

- 4** Paul and Marguerite Roosen (the parents of Laurie Rupsis) in celebration of their 67th anniversary
- 11** Joyce Ross, in honor of what would have been her grandson Alex Bush's 25th birthday
- 18** Renee Hamlet in honor of Phyllis Hamlet
- 25** Willie and Ella Culler in celebration of their 59th anniversary



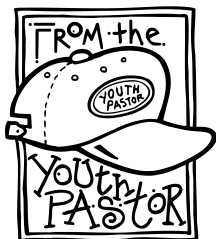
The cost to place flowers on the altar is \$45. A new flower chart for 2012 has been placed in the narthex. If you have a particular date that you would like flowers for the altar, sign up now.

Youth Council will be held on Sunday, December 4, at 4:30 PM.

Youth Ski Trip. You can sign up for the 2012 youth ski trip on the bulletin board in the Youth Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$125 which includes all rentals and lodging, except for two fast food meals during travel. We will be studying how to be sensitive to our family unit.

Youth Christmas Party is on Sunday, December 11, during our regular youth time. All youth are asked to bring a finger food to be shared by all. Also, bring a \$5 or less gift to swap with a male or female.

If you would like to provide snacks for your youth, you can sign up on the sheet on the youth hallway bulletin board.



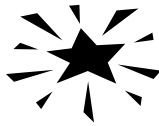
Well, another year is upon us. This is the beginning of my tenth year as the youth minister at Trinity. This is very unusual as the average for a youth minister is three to 5 years before moving on — or being moved out, as they say. I have never seen more generous people than the members and friends of Trinity. You help support my family financially, spiritually, and emotionally. As my wife Tammie and I were returning home from a meal that

we enjoyed courtesy of a gift card given to us by a generous Trinity gesture, we were humbled by yet another blessing that the people of Trinity have bestowed upon us. I told her the most important gift to me was being sure that God's people at Trinity loved me. They loved me when I was scared to answer God's call. They loved me as I was learning to preach, teach and minister. The people of Trinity were very patient with me and disciplined me into becoming a good pastor, able to do all phases of ministry. I think I am a good pastor. I know you have heard it before, but a pastor becomes a good pastor by working under a great pastor. I have been blessed to work and learn under a great pastor and a great people.

Most of all, thank you for loving me. I can feel it — some days I can see it. To know you are loved by the people you serve is the best feeling in the world. Thank you again for all you have done for myself and Tammie. But thank you most of all for loving us!

We love you also, as we serve **Pastor Donnie**

The Giving Tree



The
Annual
Giving Tree,
sponsored by the
Church and Society
Committee, is in the
narthex, waiting for you to
pluck its ornaments and take
them home! Here's how it works:

Written on each ornament is a gift idea
for our friends at the Lumbee Center (abuse
shelter). Buy what is on the ornament: girl's pajamas,
boy's shirt, doll, stuffed animal, lady's bathrobe, etc.
and bring it to put under the tree UNWRAPPED. This
is a wonderful and loving way to show God's love
to women and children with broken hearts, homes and
spirits because they are victims of abuse. It won't
make us mad if
you take two or
more ornaments,
as long as you replace it with a gift! Presents can be
brought in until Sunday evening, December 18. Let's
remember those who need our help this holy season.

Merry Christmas!