

# **THE TRINITY** **Messenger**

Trinity United Methodist Church  
2724 Whiskey Road, Aiken, SC 29803

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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.

**January** 2012

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# The Trinity **Messenger**

Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

January 2012

Those of you who know me well know that I am a rabid Arminian... that is, like the theology presented by Jacobus Arminius many years ago, I believe in free will. I believe God paid humanity a supreme compliment by creating us with a free will—the ability to choose—and it was that ability that enabled Adam and Eve, unfortunately, to mess up!

I've never been bitter toward our fore parents. I figure that if someone along the way hadn't made the wrong choices, I would have!

And that's why I also believe in the universal availability of the grace of God. Ernest Rogers said it best when he penned: *Down on my trembling knees I fall / Though others may look askance / And say a prayer to the Lord of all / To the God of another chance....*

2011 has been a wonderful year in many ways... but it hasn't been perfect! In all my 54 years so far—by the grace of God—I've made some good choices... and I've made some a good bit less than good! But when I look back I realize that I most often didn't intentionally choose badly, *I just didn't intentionally choose well....*

So I invite you to join me! This year I am going to be more intentional about the choices I make. I'm not going to float along reacting to whatever comes my way. By the grace of God I am going to intentionally choose the better, nobler path. Following Paul's advice to the Philippian Church, I'm going to focus on *whatever is true... noble... right... pure... lovely... admirable... excellent... and praiseworthy.* (Phil 4:8)

There's a passage in Max Lucado's book *When God Whispers Your Name* I challenge you to read. His words are inspiring, challenging us all at the beginning of 2012. He writes:

*"It's quiet. It's early. My coffee is hot. The sky is still black. The world is still asleep. The day is coming.*

*In a few minutes the day will arrive. It will roar down the track*

*with the rising of the sun. The stillness of the dawn will be exchanged for the noise of the day. The calm of the solitude will be replaced by the pounding of the human race. The refuge of the early morning will be invaded by decisions to be made and deadlines to be met.*

*For the next twelve hours I will be exposed to the day's demands. It is now that I must make a choice. Because of Calvary, I'm free to choose. And so I choose.*

*I choose love.*

*No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today I will love God and what God loves.*

*I choose joy.*

*I will invite my God to be the God of circumstances. I will refuse the temptation to be cynical...the tool of the lazy thinker. I will refuse to see people as anything less than human beings, created by God. I will refuse to see any problem as anything less than an opportunity to see God.*

*I choose peace.*

*I will live forgiven. I will forgive so that I may live.*

*I choose patience.*

*I will overlook the inconveniences of the world. Instead of cursing the one who takes my place, I'll invite him to do so. Rather than complain that the wait is too long, I will thank God for a moment to pray. Instead of clenching my fist at new assignments, I will face them with joy and courage.*

*I choose kindness.*

*I will be kind to the poor, for they are alone. Kind to the rich, for they are afraid. And kind to the unkind, for such is how God has treated me.*

*I choose goodness.*

*I will go without a dollar before I take a dishonest one. I will be over-looked before I will boast. I will confess before I will accuse. I choose goodness.*

*I choose faithfulness.*

*Today I will keep my promises. My debtors will not regret their trust. My associates will not question my word. My wife will not question my love. And my children will never fear that their father will not come home.*

*I choose gentleness.*

*Nothing is won by force. I choose to be gentle. If I raise my voice may it be only in praise. If I clench my fist, may it only be in prayer. If I make a demand, may it be only of myself.*

*I choose self-control.*

*I am a spiritual being. After this body is dead, my spirit will soar. I refuse to let what will rot rule the eternal. I choose self-control. I will be drunk only by joy. I will be impassioned only by my faith. I will be influenced only by God. I will be taught only by Christ. I choose self-control.*

*Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. To these I commit my day. If I succeed, I will give thanks. If I fail, I will seek his grace. And then, when this day is done, I will place my head on my pillow and rest.” (Published by Thomas Nelson, June 2009)*

By your grace, O God, let it be so... for Max... for me... for your church... for always!

See you in church!

Pastor Rodney

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**The Friendship Circle** is selling commemorative ornaments in celebration of Trinity's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is a 2-1/2" ceramic ornament with the 50<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

**A Theological Seminary Fund** has been established to help

support the education of those in our church family who are following their call to the ministry of the United Methodist Church. Dane Wood is Trinity's first candidate as he has begun studies at Candler School of Theology at Emory. Contributions to this fund may be placed in the offering plate or dropped off at the church office. Please mark all donations, payable to TUMC, for proper credit.

**Former Trinity member**, Brad Harris, passed away December 1, in Utah. His wife, Virginia, [REDACTED].

**Lost & Found.** If you are missing small items (gloves, sweaters, etc.) that you may have left behind at church, check the basket in the narthex hallway.

**Poinsettias.** A total of \$310 from the poinsettias was donated to the Backpack Program, which provides food for hungry schoolchildren over the weekend. Three good things were accomplished — the sanctuary was beautiful, loved ones were honored and remembered, and those in need were helped.

**HAF Note Cards.** Available in the narthex hallway are note cards painted by a student that has made several trips to Honduras with Aiken's Honduras Agape Foundation. The cards are 5 for \$5, and support the work of HAF in Honduras.

## **Notes of Thanks**

Special thanks to all who have brought goodies and remembered us in any way during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.  
*Minnie & George Hipp*

Thank you for the many gifts you bring to ACTS. Your commitment and love to this ministry along with God's blessings, are reasons ACTS has been successful and we are able to continue to serve the people most in need. The staff of ACTS thank you for all you do to help us do our work. *The staff of ACTS*

# Stewardship Report for December 2011

## Our Presence

Average Church School attendance 90  
Average Worship attendance 237

## Our Gifts

Received year-to-date..... \$421,035.84  
Needed to meet budget to date .....\$425,516.00  
Total Special offerings year-to-date.....\$92,571.54  
Non-gift reimbursements to date..... \$19,324.80

## Our Prayers

[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

[REDACTED]

Donna Fowler, Dave Smith, Denise Barnhart, Terry Gossard,  
Nancy Dragone, Hal Muma, Shirley Bowers, George Fowler,  
Thelma Pocek, 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.

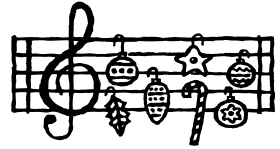
# PARENTING CLASSES

A new Sunday School class will be offered at Trinity starting on January 15th . Kathryn Wade will be teaching "Born to Be a Blessing." Scriptures tell us that we are to

train our children in the ways of the Lord. This study will not only give you helpful parenting tips but will also equip you to raise your children to be Godly young men and women. We hope that you will join us for this exciting and informative new study. If you have questions please feel free to contact Diane Kingery or Jean Kling.

## Choir Notes

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. Our first practice of the new year will be Wednesday, January 4, at 7:30 PM. While our soprano section is awesome, we really could use a few more. If you are a lady and like singing melody, please join us!



**The Circle of Hope** would like to thank everyone who supported our Golden Kernel pecan fundraiser and extend a special thank you to David and Karen Erickson, who drove to Cameron to pick up the order, saving us shipping costs.

The proceeds of the pecan sale were used to donate gifts for two families through the Angel Tree program. Additionally, the Circle plans to support Helping Hands, Epworth Children's Home and other charities. Your generosity is appreciated by these organizations in need!



**The Family Ministry Committee,** along with the Worship Committee , will "un-decorate" the church on Saturday, January 7. Everyone is welcome to give a hand. Many hands make light work!

A Very Happy Birthday to...



- |    |                   |    |                   |
|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1  | Kathy Cook        | 22 | Corey Klein       |
| 1  | Ashley McCall     | 23 | Betty Clark       |
| 3  | Kent Kigar        | 25 | Kayla Woody       |
| 3  | Garrett Nix       | 25 | Joe Zimmerman Jr. |
| 4  | Kathryn Wade      | 26 | Dayna Barnhart    |
| 5  | Grace Brantley    | 26 | Willie Culler     |
| 5  | Emily Workman     | 26 | Evelyn Jackson    |
| 7  | Bob Bankston      | 26 | James Kahl        |
| 7  | Bob Hatfield      | 26 | Ashley Rice       |
| 10 | Larry Cooper      | 27 | Leah Etheredge    |
| 10 | Jeri Wesner       | 27 | Cynthia Johnson   |
| 11 | Taylor Glass      | 28 | Janice Bewley     |
| 11 | Louise Hryniewich | 28 | Maggie Bosley     |
| 12 | Becky Carter      | 28 | Barbara Calkins   |
| 12 | Joe Carter        | 29 | Mary Adams        |
| 13 | Mary Ann May      | 29 | Christina McNeely |
| 16 | Kathy Long        | 29 | Betty Pifer       |
| 17 | Jean Kling        | 29 | Patti Pittman     |
| 17 | Louise Mitcham    | 30 | Ann Bishop        |
| 17 | Matthew Paparella | 31 | Bonnie Coffey     |
| 20 | Philip Futer      |    |                   |
| 22 | Stan Gossard      |    |                   |

**January**

# 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, January 22, from 11:30 AM to 12 noon. We welcome all to come and worship with the residents there.

The next Eagles luncheon is scheduled for Monday, January 23, at 11:30 AM. Elliot Levy with the Aiken County historical museum will be our guest speaker. He is always very entertaining and informative. A special treat for lunch will be lasagna prepared by Jim Kannenburg. Reservation forms will be available in the church bulletin beginning Sunday, January 8.

The "South Carolina's Capital City" trip is coming up on Tuesday, April 24. Eagles (or other Trinity folks) who are interested in going can begin making reservations, with payment of \$89, on Sunday, January 8. Please see Joyce Ross or Ann Bishop to make your reservation.

Eagles Council will meet on Wednesday, January 11, at 4 PM.

### *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 a member of Trinity to attend.*



January 1	Ella Morton
January 8	Madison McNeely
January 15	Seth Wade
January 22	Sadie Morton
January 29	Elizabeth Morlan

## Children's Church Volunteers

Linda Clarke is looking for people to help out with Children's Church. If you are able to serve God and the church by providing help with Children's Church once in a while, please talk to Linda Clarke (648-4053) for more information.

## The altar flowers for **January** are given by:

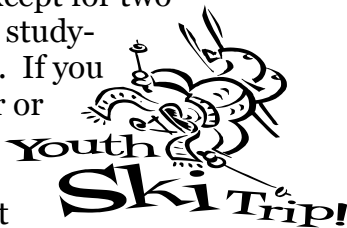
- 1 Jenny McRae in loving memory of her son,  
Robert Shane Culbreath
- 8 Jeri Wesner in loving memory of Bob & Bernie Wesner
- 15
- 22
- 29

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. As you can see there are openings for the month of January.

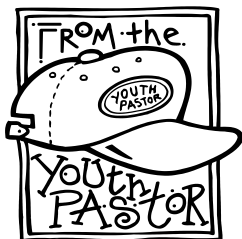


**Youth Council** will be held on Sunday, January 8, at 4:30 PM.

**Youth Ski Trip.** The cost for the trip, January 12-14, 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. If you need any information about what to wear or things you need to bring, or if you need information about our schedule, please talk to Pastor Donnie. Information about the trip is posted on the youth bulletin board outside of Pastor Donnie's office.



**Sunday evening snacks for MYF.** If you would like to provide snacks for the youth, you can sign up on the sheet on the youth bulletin board. Your support is such a help to the youth ministry.



Well, as the weather is beginning to get colder, I find myself rummaging through my closet to find clothes for the winter season. We go through many seasons in life, and going through life without the proper attire can be life-threatening. We need the right clothes for every season to be comfortable, content and to survive.

We cannot control the changes of seasons, or the changes that occur in our lives. But we can work hard at equipping ourselves with the right clothes, as stated in Colossians 3:12, "Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

Of all the new clothes we may receive as gifts this Christmas, or will buy for ourselves, let us try to clothe ourselves with spiritual clothes that will never fade or wear out and that are always in style. They are free to the taker, or maybe I should say a free gift to those who love, serve and obey God. Let's ask ourselves, "What's in my closet?" Maybe we all need a new wardrobe. Thank God for his grace and his patience with us!

Peace be with you .... **Pastor Donnie**

# 17 Ideas for the New Year

From your Church & Society Committee

1. Adopt a child in the Food Bank's Backpack Program for hungry children in Aiken County.
2. Do not use your cell phone when driving. Pull over to text and talk.
3. Buy local produce and foods. It supports our neighbors and makes a lesser imprint on the environment.
4. Volunteer at Helping Hands.
5. Bring a friend to Sunday School.
6. Drop off pet food, old towels and blankets, and bleach at the County Animal Shelter. They are struggling.
7. Make a donation to an organization that helps endangered species.
8. Call the Cumbee Center for Abused Persons and ask how you can help.
9. Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.
10. Shop at thrift stores this year. You'll save money and help with #9 above.
11. Plant a tree this spring.
12. Visit a church of a different ethnic culture.
13. Make fewer trips in your car/truck and double up when you can.
14. Share your smile wherever you go.
15. When waiting in line, strike up a conversation with someone.
16. Volunteer to eat lunch with an at-risk child at school once a week.
17. Sit less. New studies show the more we sit, the more we are at risk for heart disease and cancer.

