

THE TRINITY Messenger

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

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Rev. Donnie Bates, Director of Youth Ministries

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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.

July 2011



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The Trinity MESSENGER

Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

July 2011



You may accuse me of being a moralist. That's OK; it wouldn't be the first time! I'm just convinced that true faith consists of doing the right thing. If I were to mention the date *July 4, 1776*, you would automatically know the reference. The colonies had actually been fighting for their independence from the British Empire for over a year but they realized what they had to do. The rubber had already hit the road and the idea had to become a reality. By signing for their—our—*independence*, what had been theory became a reality!

Let there be no doubt about it: Christianity is about **doing** what's right and good. I don't think any rational student of the New Testament can argue otherwise. Jesus himself said that not everyone who *says* the right thing is a part of the Kingdom but those who *do* the right thing! (See Mat. 7:21-22) When Jesus described what Judgment Day would be like, the basic question was simply had or had not a person been kind. (See Mat. 25:31-46)

"Kind?" you may ask. Yes, kind! The King James Version utilizes the word "charity" and most scholars agree the best English equivalent is "kindness." The mark of a Christian is kindness—kindness in our judg-

ments, kindness in our conversation, kindness in our actions. Society is all too often marked as biting and cruel, but that kind of demeanor should never be characterized as “Christian.”

The epistle writer James gave two directions for anyone who would want to be pure before God. He said “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” (James 1:27)

So, as we remember and celebrate the courage of those men and women who made independence a reality, let’s make our relationship with God and one another a reality—BE SWEET!

See you in church!

Pastor Rodney



Helping Hands Eagles. One of the Eagles’ ministries is providing **bird feeders and bird food** for the residents of Anchor Health & Rehab. They are currently providing and maintaining 20 bird feeders which are very much appreciated by the residents.

In the past, donations to support this effort have been collected at Eagle luncheons. However, after nearly 4 1/2 years, some of the bird feeders need replacing, the cost of food has increased greatly, and they also hope to add a few more feeders so each resident can have the pleasure of watching the birds.

The Eagles would like to ask the Trinity congregation to join them in this endeavor and become a part of this ministry. If you feel so inclined, please leave donations in the basket near the Eagle in the narthex. Many thanks for your support!

Festival of Wisdom and Grace, August 8-11, at Lake Junaluska NC, sponsored by the Southeastern Jurisdiction Association of Older Adults. The theme is “One in the Spirit: Age to Age Conversations.” Gather with other older adults from throughout the Southeast at beautiful Lake Junaluska to attend worship and workshops and enjoy

the music of the Junaluska Singers. Brochures with registration forms are available in the narthex. It will be the highlight of your summer!

To “retire” your worn American flag, you can drop it off in the church office. Former marine Jim Peterson will ensure that it is disposed of with the proper respect and honor.

OOPS! In last month’s list of recent graduates, one name was left out. I regret the error, and wanted to give all of you the opportunity to send notes and cards of congratulations to one of Trinity’s deserving graduates. Congratulations, Jenna! Lois

Jenna Barton (formerly Francis) graduated in December 2010 from the University of South Carolina with a major in international studies. [REDACTED]

In Iraq. Matthew McDaniel is currently deployed with the 2nd Cavalry Division in Iraq. If you would like to send a note of support and encouragement, his current address is: Matthew McDaniel, A Co 2 STB, FOB Warhorse, APO AE 09336. Please also keep him in your prayers.

Benefit Bank Services now available at ACTS. Applying for public programs such as food stamps (SNAP) or Medicaid can be a confusing and intimidating process. The Benefit Bank is a free web-based service that simplifies the application process for these programs. ACTS volunteers are trained in the use of the Benefit Bank and would like to offer this service to the community. Call ACTS a 642-5919 (11 AM to 3 PM) to schedule an appointment.

Journal Project. *Journal to Change Your Life* is looking for donations of blank journals to give away to women, men, and children who need a jump start on a new life. The goal is to collect 2011 journals, with the purpose of encouraging people to spread their wings, giving voice to what is inside them and inspiring them to tell their stories by journaling. Charities that have benefitted from this program include Cancer Care Institute, Children’s Place and the Cumbee Center. You can drop off unused journals in the church office work room.



Report on Annual Conference 2011

This year's Methodist Annual Conference, which Barb and I attended as your delegates, was held in Florence SC as it has been for the past several years. This year was special because elections for the General and Jurisdictional Conference were held, which meant that the business took a day longer than usual. These Conferences meet every 5 years and make decisions for the larger Methodist Church. For more detailed information on General and Jurisdictional Conference, go to [www.http://www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org) OR <http://www.umcsc.org>. These sites give valuable information on the structure and organization of the Methodist Church as a whole, as well as what went on at Annual, General and Jurisdictional Conference.

Beyond the elections, the theme of the Conference was "The Wesleyan Way". Being from Trinity, we all know something about John Wesley, the founder of our denomination. We found ourselves nodding knowingly at the John Wesley stories and quotes contained in the many fine sermons and leadership talks. There were the usual Memorial, Retirement and Ordination ceremonies, which are always inspiring.

There was also an overriding theme of inclusiveness, which some feel is missing in our churches. We enjoyed some rousing sermons that included singing, and even one punctuated with drumbeats for emphasis. Gospel groups and a "Christian rock" group were different from what we are accustomed, but brought the Holy Spirit in that place, nonetheless. We all have different forms of worship, even within Methodism, but we all have one thing in common — a desire to grow disciples for Christ and serve others.

One other important change in the SC Conference was structural. For several years now we have had access to people who are called Congregational Specialists who are valuable resources to the local church. They can help with organization of anything from Bible School to building projects. If by chance there is something they can't solve, they surely know some resource that can! Collectively, they are known as Connectional Ministries. Again, [www.http://umcsc.org](http://umcsc.org) will give you more detailed information on this topic.

We should all be proud to be Methodists. Our roots are from a man who worshipped daily. He worshipped ceremonially, but most of all he worshipped God through the way he lived his life. We are encouraged to get back to the spirit of John Wesley — "Do no harm, do good, and be in love with God."

Ray and Barbara Gilbert

Stewardship Report For June 2011

Our Presence

Average Church School attendance	92
Average Worship attendance	224

Our Gifts

Received year-to-date	\$220,519.99
Needed to meet budget to date	\$212,758.00
Special offerings year-to-date	\$52,116.47
Non-gift reimbursements to date	\$12,845.18

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

Our Prayers

Homebound

Sabella Gray [REDACTED]
Maude Pinson [REDACTED]
Bessie Whatley [REDACTED]
George Brooks [REDACTED]
Buddy and Harriet Murray [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] George Hipp, Van Haynes and Al Lewis

Intercession

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 Kannenberg at 649-5407.

From the Eagles' Nest

Wagon Load of Food for ACTS

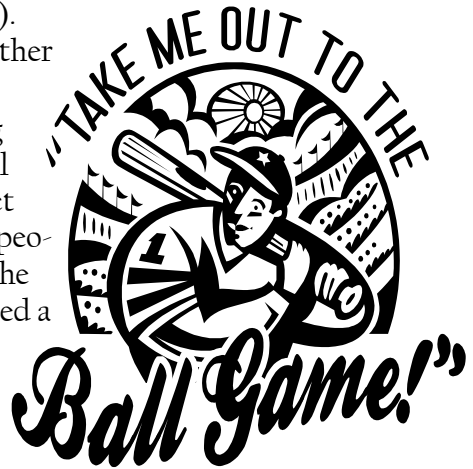
Don't forget ACTS Sunday at Trinity! Bring your food items on Sunday, July 3, and place them in the ACTS wagon located in the narthex.

Eagles Worship at Anchor Health on Sunday, July 24. The worship leader is Diane Wagner, and special music will be provided by Joyful Noise. Everyone is welcome to enjoy this time with the residents at Anchor Health. You and they will be truly blessed.

Our Annual Bible Baseball Game will be held on Wednesday, July 27, when the Eagles (everyone 55 years and older) will play against the Turkeys (those 54 years and younger). Spouses of different ages may be together on the same team.

The pitcher will ask the opposing team Bible questions, and players will get on base and score based on correct answers. A batter will consist of six people at a table collectively answering the questions. No *individual* will be asked a question, only the group. The game will last six innings or a maximum of 60 minutes.

Charlie Fulghum will be the chef and a donation will be received, the same as the regular Wednesday night supper.



Fellowship Hall

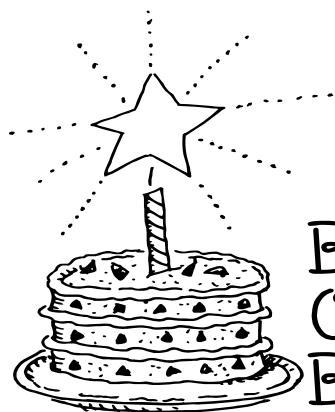
Picnic Supper at 6 PM, Bible Baseball at 6:45 PM

The picnic and Bible Baseball Game is open to everyone, so invite your friends to come and join the fun !

The October Fall Foliage Trip to Asheville and the Smoky Mountains is now fully booked. If you are still interested, talk to Joyce Ross or Ann Bishop about placing your name on a waiting list in case there is an opening later on.

July Birthdays

2	Bethany Raines	17	Heath Bates
4	William McCarley	18	Virginia Harris
5	James McDaniel	18	Brian McDaniel
6	Jason Brewer	20	Jeff Callis
6	Rob Brewer	20	Chris McNeely
6	Tommy Thompson	21	Ted Wienke
6	Diane Wagner	22	Fred Herold
6	Jennifer Zimmerman	23	Kevin Tempel
7	Linda Clarke	23	Karson Welty
9	Tom Rupsis	25	Barbara Fent
11	Morgan Cantrell	27	Leigh Brown
11	Kay Payne	29	Ashley McAnly
12	Kathy Haupfear	29	Nobie Sinclair
14	David Kingery	29	Angela Watkins
14	Keith Rice	30	Linda Brown
15	Vern Jones	30	Tanya Maier
16	Ira King	31	Thelma Richards
16	Drew Murphy		



BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY

Schedule for Thursday Bible Study

June 30	Start “Cast of Characters” by Max Lucado (Chap. 1)
July 7	Chap. 2 of “Cast of Characters”
July 14 & 21	No Class
July 28	Chap. 3 of “Cast of Characters”
Aug. 4	Chap. 4 of “Cast of Characters”
Aug. 11	Chap. 5 of “Cast of Characters”
Aug. 18 & 25, Sept. 1	No Class

Each week we meet at 2:30 PM in the classroom across from the office.
There is always room for one more!



UMW High Tea

Saturday, August 27, at 3 PM in Fellowship Hall
For all women of the church, please save the date.
You won't want to miss it!

SonSurf

Beach Bash VBS

Sunday, July 31 through Wednesday, August 3 from 5:30—8 PM
Supper will be served at 5:30 PM
For children ages 3 and up
Registration forms are in the narthex

We are looking for volunteers in many areas, which include:
music, Bible teaching, crafts, snacks, decorating and more. Forms to indicate your interest are available in the narthex, or check with Christina McNeely at c_mcneel@bellsouth.net.

If anyone has props for our **beach theme** this year, please drop them off in the church office work room.

All of Trinity is welcome to our closing program on Wednesday, August 3, which includes an ice cream social.

July Acolytes

July 3	Seth Wade
July 10	Madison McNeely
July 17	Sadie Morton
July 24	Elizabeth Morlan
July 31	Ali Maclay



Children's Church Volunteers

July 3	no Children's Church, communion
July 10	Angela Powell
July 17	Judy Rodgers
July 24	Karen Bradford
July 31	Carol Smith

Altar Flowers for July

July 3	—
July 10	Fred & Gail Herold in celebration of their 50th anniversary
July 17	—
July 24	The Kingery family in loving memory of Kevin's dad
July 31	Donna & Hank Ford in celebration of their 62nd anniversary

The cost of flowers for the altar is \$45. You can sign up on the flower chart in the narthex. Please note that there are two openings on the chart for July.



SKIP Volunteers

There is a need for volunteers for our SKIP program in the fall. If you are interested, or have any questions, please talk to Christina McNeely.

SKIP — **Super Kids in Praise** — meets on the 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings for ages 5 through 5th grade.

Many thanks to **Karen Johnson**, who has been such a great help with our SKIP program. God's blessings in your new job in Gaffney — you'll be missed!

Youth News

Car Wash

The Youth will be having a car wash on Saturday, July 23, to help raise funds to offset the cost of our Carowinds trip. Come and let us shine up your car as you support our Youth.



Carowinds

On Tuesday, July 26, the Youth will be traveling to Carowinds to have a day of fun and fellowship. The cost is \$40 which includes a ticket and transportation. The money we raise from the car wash will be used to cut this cost.

Youth Group Car Wash

Beach trip

The Youth will be on the road to Hunting Island State Park on Saturday, August 6, leaving the church at 7:30 AM. Please bring money for dinner at Burger King on the way home. Lunch will be provided.

White Water Rafting Trip

On Thursday and Friday, August 11 & 12, the Senior High Youth will be on a white water rafting retreat. We will be rafting on the Chatooga River where the film "Deliverance" was filmed. The cost is \$100 per person which covers all expenses except 2 fast food meals.

Thanks for your support of our **Salkehatchie** service this year. Amazing things happen when God's people come together!

"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be willing to share." Timothy 6:18 (NIV). Thank you for being obedient to God's Word.

Praying for you, *Pastor Donnie*

From the Church & Society Committee

Hello? Anybody listening?

It causes almost 25% of all car crashes and this number is rising. Cell phones, our wonderful invention we've come to think we can't live without. Ironically, it can be the death of us.

Talking

You might think the brain can juggle two simple tasks like driving and talking on the phone. Think again. It's weird, but language and visual tasks don't mix. We humans can deal with talking to someone who is in the same visual field (like someone in the car) but if the person we're talking to is not present (but on the phone), it's a different matter. Our mind struggles to conjure images of our conversation while processing images of cars, traffic lights, turning signals, and pedestrians. The result? Accidents, injury, even loss of life.

Texting

Now from the frying pan into the fire. You are 23 — that's twenty-three — times more likely to be in an accident if you text and drive. Texting takes a driver's focus away from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds — enough time to travel the length of a football field at 55 mph. Texting while driving is about 6 times more likely to result in an accident than driving while drunk. If you cause a terrible car accident due to texting, it will be discovered. Accident lawyers regularly ask for and get cell phone records from defendants who cause serious car accidents.

You cannot do it. You can't text and drive safely. It's worse than being intoxicated. Don't think you can overcome the statistics unless you wear a cape and can fly, or you can walk on water. If you text while driving, what are the results? Accidents, injury, even death.

It can wait. Don't text and drive.

It's a complicated, busy world we live in. Our responsibility as Christians is to be good stewards of all that God has provided us — to be wise and careful, and always be attuned to how God would have us live. It's not about having the best and biggest toys. It's about loving and glorifying God, and serving one another in love and humility.