

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

## **Trinity United Methodist Church**

2724 Whiskey Road, Aiken, SC 29803

Rev. Rodney K. Powell, Pastor

Rev. Donnie Bates, Director of Youth Ministries

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[www.trinityaiken.org](http://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.

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## **March 2011**

# THE TRINITY

# Messenger

Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

March 2011

Timothy J. Carroll, in a 1997 issue of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, states that all they wanted to know was: "Was the fish dead?" That's all.

During the 1993 NCAA Women's Golf Championship in Athens, Georgia, a hubbub was caused when University of Kansas golfer Holly Reynolds hit her tee shot on the 13th hole into the edge of a pond. Attempting to play her ball out of the water, her swing struck an unsuspecting fish. Fish and ball splashed skyward and landed next to each other on the bank, only a few feet away. Holly's compassionate instinct was to pick the fish up and toss it back. She did.

That's what caused the ruckus. "Foul!" her opponents cried. "You're breaking the rules. You aren't allowed to touch that fish. You must play your ball where it lies fish and all!"

True enough, golf's rule 13-4 says it's illegal to "touch or move a loose impediment lying in or touching" a hazard. So the question was, is a fish a "loose impediment?"

Kendra Graham, USGA's Director of Women's Competition, was the highest ranking official on the scene. Kendra had but one question. "Was the fish dead?"

"No" Holly assured her. "The fish was flopping." Nobody disputed Holly's statement. Everybody agreed that the fish had been very much alive.

"No penalty!" declared Mrs. Graham, with all the authority of the USGA behind her. The ruling was that, since the fish was alive, it could not be considered a "loose impediment." Instead, the fish was an "outside agency."

"No foul! No penalty! Continue play!" So, with everybody convinced that the rule had been appropriately applied, all was right in the world of golf.

Rules, rules, rules. Sometimes, as my father-in-law used to say, "That's all we study." We are about to enter a season of the church year when all too many people believe that it's only about rules and how we've broken them. I vividly re-



*(Continued from page 2)*

member the passion and emotion the pastor of my home church had when he led us in that classic confession of faith: "...we have erred and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep..." and we had.

And we have—all of us.

But I don't understand Lent as a time when we beat up on ourselves. The word "Lent" is derived from the Old English "lencten" meaning "Spring." The Season of Lent is the forty days before Easter, which is a reminder of Jesus' forty-day fast and temptation in the wilderness. Why did Jesus venture into the wilderness? Some have suggested that maybe he needed some time with God to sort through the major changes happening in his life. Maybe he was searching for direction and answers. Maybe he needed to get away from family, friends and the familiar routine in order to see God, and himself, more clearly. For whatever reason, Jesus retreated into the wilderness for forty days to fast and pray. While he was there, he was tempted by Satan and found the strength to make some tough decisions. He also found clarity about God and what kind of person God wanted him to be.

The earliest reference to Lent was at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. It's a time of soul-searching, penitence, and fasting but does not include Sundays because Sundays are always considered "Feast Days" in reference to the Resurrection.

Have we "...erred and strayed from [His] ways like lost sheep...."?

Yes.

Have we "...followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts...."?

Yes.

But I would suggest to you that we use this lovely season to get closer to the One who said: "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more." (John 8:11) In your own devotions meditate on John 3:16 & 17 and consider how you might best observe Lent this year.

See you in church!

***Pastor Rodney***

# NEWS & Notes

**Dane Wood** was unanimously recommended as a ministerial candidate for ministry at the special charge conference held on Sunday, February 13. Best wishes and blessings, Dane, in your future studies!

## Thanks to our Volunteers!

- \* **Jean Kling** has agreed to help in our library to keep it organized. Remember to use it as a resource if you are looking for a Bible study or other reference material.
- \* **Ryan Bunnage** and **Ben Hauptfear** have agreed to take care of our sign out front.
- \* Did you know that **Leigh Brown** is our resident banner expert? She made the stunning banner commemorating Trinity's 50th anniversary, as well as many of the other banners that beautify Trinity.
- \* **Karen Erickson** and **Lois Michelsen** made the 2 new wall hangings in the Fellowship Hall. They were given in celebration of Trinity's 50th anniversary.

**Volunteer Opportunity.** 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.

## Notes of Thanks

Dear members of Trinity,

Our visit to Trinity for the fiftieth year celebration was a happy experience which we will not forget. Your thoughtfulness, generosity, and warm spirit reflects a lively and dedicated congregation. The growth of the church and its wide mission must reassure the charter and founding membership that Trinity was the right choice at the right time and at the right place, and the struggle to get it established was a holy effort.

May God continue to pour his grace and blessings upon you. *Rev. Bill and Mrs. Mary Jean Word*

Dear Trinity, Thank you for the donation of 23 Bibles and New Testaments. It is greatly appreciated. I will be taking a load of books to Waynesboro soon. Hope you all have a blessed new year. Best wishes, *Marilyn Blanchard*

**Note:** Marilyn collects Bibles and Christian books for Operation Mobilization which then distributes them in Africa and India. There is a container under the mailboxes outside of the kitchen where you can drop off donations of books and Bibles.

Dear Trinity, We would like to express our utmost gratitude for everything that has been contributed to our family since Leif joined us in November. Everything was greatly appreciated — the thoughts and prayers, flowers, baby gifts and items, as well as monetary gifts. We felt so loved upon receiving the outpouring of help, affection and concern that all of you sent our way!

Thanks again, *Rachel, Karson & Leif*

I am so humbled by the many generous acts of kindness I have received from my Trinity family. There are not enough words to say “thank you” for all the cards, visits, calls, food, transportation and gifts from everyone involved. The people who donated their blood gave me one of the most precious gifts I could have received. I want to thank Denise and Lila for covering my piano duties while I was away. I have missed all of you so much and I love you all dearly. Thank you for all the prayers and blessings sent my way.

*Terry Gossard*

Thank you, dear church family, for all of the prayers that were lifted up during Beverly’s stay in the hospital. Prayers DO work! It is really good to know that we have such a praying and caring church family. Also, many thanks to Barnabas for loving expressions of care and concern.

Sincerely, *Karen Johnson and Lefty Joiner*

## Altar Flowers for March

- March 6** Mary Lou Wingard
- March 13** Dot and Charlie Fiveash
- March 20** Renee Hamlet in celebration of Sean Hamlet’s 14th birthday
- March 27** Rod Powell in celebration of Angela’s birthday



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

# Stewardship Report For March 2011

## Our Presence

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Average Church School attendance | 93  |
| Average Worship Attendance       | 235 |

## Our Gifts

|                                 |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Received year-to-date           | \$418,034.88 |
| Needed to meet budget to date   | \$415,636.00 |
| Special offerings year-to-date  | \$44,500.62  |
| Non-gift reimbursements to date | \$31,488.82  |

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

## Our Prayers

### Homebound

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

### Intercession

Pastor Rodney, Tina Kranenburg, 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**

The first Sunday of each month is ACTS (Area Churches Together Serving) Sunday at Trinity. Bring your food items on Sunday, **March 6**, and place them in the ACTS wagon located in the narthex. Much help is needed so let's fill the ACTS wagon to overflowing.



## **Soaring Eagles Luncheon**

The next luncheon will be Monday, March 28, at 11:30 a.m. Our guest speaker will be Pam Glogowski, Master Gardener, who will speak on spring planting. Lunch will be rosemary chicken salad on crusty roll, macaroni salad, and brownie prepared by Karen Tempel.

Please sign up on the sheets provided in the bulletins on Sundays prior to the luncheon dates.

## **Eagles Sunday, March 20**

On Sunday, March 20, the Eagles will be in charge of all aspects of the worship service and will be honored with a luncheon following the service.

As part of this service, there will be a special Eagles choir. Rehearsal for the Eagles choir will be Wednesday, March 9, at 5:30 p.m.

## **The Family Ministry Committee** will be

sponsoring a lunch after church on March 20

in **recognition of the Eagles**

and their ministry at Trinity.

The committee will provide the meat and drinks.

We encourage everyone in our church family to participate in this special luncheon.

Trinity families are asked to provide two side dishes and a dessert to share.



# March Birthdays



|   |    |                 |    |                 |
|---|----|-----------------|----|-----------------|
|   | 9  | Susan Tutak     | 19 | Carolyn Caswell |
|   | 10 | Robbie Bradford | 19 | John Crawford   |
|   | 10 | Larry Murphy    | 19 | Gene Sinclair   |
|   | 11 | Bob Nowak       | 20 | Darren Barnhart |
|   | 11 | Kay Timmerman   | 24 | Joe Smith       |
|   | 11 | Stephen Vasser  | 25 | Randy Graham    |
|   | 12 | Karen Tempel    | 26 | Angela Powell   |
|   | 12 | Stewart Wood    | 27 | Denise Barnhart |
|   | 13 | Joanne Morton   | 28 | Brent Cooper    |
|   | 14 | Gail Boatwright | 29 | Seth Wade       |
|   | 14 | David Rodgers   | 30 | Lois Michelsen  |
|   | 15 | Brian Morton    | 31 | Craig Gulick    |
|   | 16 | Tony Dragone    | 31 | Missy Turpin    |
|   | 16 | Tracy Greene    |    |                 |
|   | 18 | Marc Cantrell   |    |                 |
|   | 18 | Robert Wade     |    |                 |
| 1 |    | Brittany Klein  |    |                 |
| 2 |    | Donnie Bates    |    |                 |
| 2 |    | Shirley Bowers  |    |                 |
| 4 |    | Donna Johnson   |    |                 |
| 6 |    | Steve Bethurem  |    |                 |
| 6 |    | John McAllister |    |                 |
| 8 |    | James Powell    |    |                 |
| 9 |    | Rachel Brantley |    |                 |



Mark your calendars for the **UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat** at Lake Junaluska, April 29-May 1. For more information, see Vicki Snow.

The season is fast approaching for weddings and showers, graduations, and other gift giving opportunities. Remember the **Susanna Wesley Circle** has knife sets, individual knives (tomato, cheese, grapefruit, etc.), and other utensil sets that make wonderful gifts. If you would like to purchase any of these, or want to look over a catalog, please call Ann Bishop at 648-410.

The **Youth Ministry** would like to thank you for your donations to our ministry during our February spaghetti supper. You helped us to raise \$1,173. This is the most we have ever raised in one night. We are so fortunate to have Karen Tempel share her talents in the kitchen. Thank you to all of the volunteers and especially all who came out to support us. "Great things happen when God's people come together."

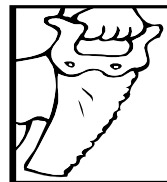


The youth are going to provide **special music at Anchor Health & Rehab** on Sunday, March 27, when the Eagles hold their monthly worship service.

**Youth Council** will be Sunday, March 6, at 4:30 p.m.

All youth who want to attend **Salkehatchie** this summer — now is the time to send in your application. You must be at least 14 years old. Please contact me for an application, or you can go online to [www.salkehatchie.org](http://www.salkehatchie.org).

Praying for you and your family, *Pastor Donnie*



## UMMen Work Project

The men's group will have their quarterly work project on Saturday, March 12, for Mrs. Brown. The work on her house consists of the re-installation of washer and dryer, repair/replace doors, and strengthen some areas of the floor. All Trinity men are welcome to help with this project. Assemble on Saturday morning about 8:00 a.m. at the church to proceed to the work site.

# Sonshine Choir Schedule

Sunday, March 6 Practice at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 13 Call to Worship, "Today Is the Day"

Sunday, March 20 Practice at 5:00 p.m.

## Children's Ministry

- The children's **Easter Egg Hunt** will be held on Saturday, April 23. More details coming in the April newsletter.
- **Nursery Volunteers.** Volunteers are needed to help with the nursery on Sundays. A sign-up sheet is available outside the nursery. Parents with children who stay in the nursery are encouraged to sign up at least one Sunday every 8 weeks to help Ms. Yvette.

## Acolytes for March

|       |                |
|-------|----------------|
| 03/06 | Daniel Kingery |
| 03/13 | Ella Morton    |
| 03/20 | Ali Maclay     |
| 03/27 | Sadie Morton   |



## Children's Church Volunteers

|       |                                 |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| 03/06 | Communion, No Children's Church |
| 03/13 | Judy Rodgers                    |
| 03/20 | Carol Smith                     |
| 03/27 | Karen Bradford                  |

Linda Clarke, Children's Church Coordinator, is always looking for volunteers. If you could help out on a Sunday morning, or would like more information, please contact her at 648-4053.

# Lenten Challenge

Consider *taking on* something for Lent, rather than *giving up* something. For those six weeks of Lent at least take on regular attendance in a Sunday School class. You may have to give up one hour of sleep on Sunday morning, but what you get will be far more beneficial than giving up chocolate. Children, young people, adults — find out what that structured 45 minutes of Bible study will mean to you. (It will work better if you're on time!)

**Jean Kling**, Church School Superintendent

## From the Choir Director

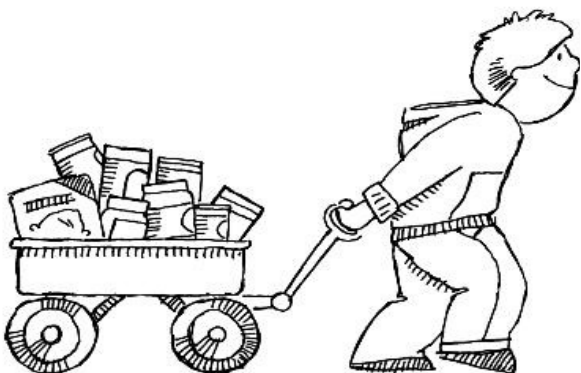
The choir is busy getting ready for Easter and Lent with some new pieces including some contemporary arrangements of old favorites like “Amazing Grace” and “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.” We'll also be singing “Because He Lives.” Come and be a part of singing these wonderful songs.

**Denise Barnhart**, Music Director

## ACTS (Area Churches Together Serving)

2011 marks the 25th year that Area Churches Together Serving (ACTS) has served the Aiken community. In those years ACTS has been able to provide food for over 2 million meals, provided clothing for more than 60,000 individuals and house wares for almost 6,000 families, utility assistance for more than 11,000 homes and furniture for 3,500 homes. The 25th anniversary celebration will continue throughout the year with special events honoring our history, volunteers, clients and ministries.

Thanks for what you do to support the important ACTS ministry.



# From the Church & Society Committee

Don't forget to purchase your **window clings** to let people know where you attend church. 1 for \$3.00    2 for \$5.00    5 for \$10.00

They are near the Church & Society's **Seek Board** (in the narthex hallway across from the water fountain). This is a space where you can tell others about you — what you need, what you do or sell, things to give away or sell, services offered, etc. Be sure to check it out and read about your church family!

It's fair for all of us to ask, "What does health reform mean to me?" — particularly if you already have insurance you like.

Without the health care law, we would return to the days when insurance companies could deny, limit or cap your care. Insurance companies could continue to place lifetime limits on coverage even if you need it, increase premiums without any accountability or recourse for consumers, and deny children health care due to pre-existing conditions.

Under the law, families will pay less for insurance premiums than they would if the law is repealed. An insurance company that tries to implement an unreasonable premium increase will be forced to publicly justify it. Your premium dollars will go further because the law requires insurance companies to spend at least 80% of your premium dollars on your health care, rather than executive compensation and advertising.

Health reform is about much more than protecting American consumers — it also boosts the American economy, lowering costs and creating jobs.

Harvard economist David Cutler estimates repeal would cost us between 250,000 – 400,000 jobs per year, which means millions of new jobs lost over the next decade.

