

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.

May 2011

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Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

May 2011

In a recent episode of The History Channel's *Pawn Stars*, a man walks into the store with a violin case. He explains that he had recently bought a piece of property that included an old house and barn and, in the barn, he found the old dusty instrument. He was quite excited upon opening the case because he found the word "Stradivarius" clearly inscribed on the violin. He came into the store with high hopes that his "Stradivarius" would be worth millions!

But.... after the pawn store owners examined the instrument and then also had it appraised by an expert, they told the man it wasn't a genuine Stradivarius. Instead it was a cheap imitation produced in the early part of the 20th century, worth around \$500. The appraiser told the crestfallen violin owner, "Just because something has a label doesn't mean it's real."

I was stunned by the statement! "*Just because something has a label doesn't mean it's real....*"

What are some of the labels we wear...? "Mother" or "Father"? Are we real, genuine parents? "Husband" or "Wife"? Are we committed life partners? How about "Christian"? Are we truly counted as followers of Christ?

In a recent article in *Leadership* entitled "Going Deep", Gordon MacDonald defined "deep people" as "those whose lives are organized around Jesus, his character, his call to a serving life, and his death on the cross for their sins." I wondered: who are the deep people I've known through the years? Then, even more poignantly I wondered, am I a deep person?!? Are our lives *organized around Jesus*? Sometimes, yes! Always? Probably not....

We've just celebrated Easter—the high water mark of the church calendar. But every year I'm curious about the same thing: what difference has the risen Christ really made in our day-to-day living? Are our lives truly organized around Christ and his character and call in our lives?

I'm not offering quick fixes—only a challenge. Please ask yourself these

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questions:

- Is my life organized around Christ... or not?
- Is the fact that I believe in a risen Christ making a day-to-day difference in who I am and how I relate to my world... or not?
- What do I need to do to go deeper in my relationship with Christ?
- Am I truly “loyal to Trinity and support the church with my prayers, my presence, my gifts, my service, and my witness”?

The longing for a deeper relationship with Christ and our neighbor can be met in his Word and in our communal life together. Please, go deeper! Let Christ work his special work of love and grace in all of us as we continue to proclaim the Easter faith: *Christ is risen... Christ is risen in deed!*

See you in church!

Pastor Rodney

NEWS & Notes

Welcome...to new member **Theresa Menze**, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] She is transferring to Trinity from First United Methodist Church in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Have you noticed? Joe Smith, and his lovely assistant Ginny Smith, installed grab bars in the ladies' bathroom across from the office recently. A job well done!

Blood Drive held at Trinity.

A Mothers Memorial Blood Drive will be held at Trinity on Saturday, May 21, from 10 AM to 4 PM in the Youth Fellowship Hall.

continued

This is an organization of mothers who have lost children to leukemia — they hold this blood drive to honor the memory of their children. Come out and support them and give the gift of life.

Upper Room devotional booklets. Our shipment of regular edition May/June booklets was never received. They have been re-ordered and will be made available as soon as they come in.

Coupon Collection. Coupons that you generously collected and donated to the shoebox in the basket in the narthex hallway, have been sent — *259 Labels for Education* to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky, and *137 Box Tops for Education* to Wallace Family Life Center in South Carolina. Please continue to keep the coupons coming. Remember the part to collect is the bar code part. Locate the bar code on the can or box and cut along the dotted lines. This coupon is an inch or so in size. Thanks for your help!

National Day of Prayer. “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” is the timely and appropriate theme of this year’s National Day of Prayer. Aiken’s observance will be held on Thursday, May 5, at 6:45 p.m. in the sanctuary of St. Johns Methodist Church. Music, scripture and prayer will be featured.

A New Visitor Badge Policy during preschool hours is being implemented. If you will be at the church and need access to the preschool areas while classes are in session, please stop by the church office first for a badge to identify you as an authorized visitor.

Epworth Offering. Remember to give generously to the annual Mother’s Day Offering on Sunday, May 8. Epworth relies heavily on the offering received to provide care to the more than 75 children who call Epworth home.

FaceBookPage. We're almost to 140 fans on our "Trinity UMC Aiken" FaceBook page! Spread the news and invite all your friends to "like" us today.

Church Library. Remember 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. See Jean Kling if you want to donate books or if you have any questions.

Save the date. Plans are in the making for our second UMW Tea on Saturday, August 27. Please call UMW President, Betty Fent [REDACTED] if you can help with planning, decorations, etc.

Re-Keying of Exterior Doors. The Trustees have decided to re-key all exterior doors. This will be accomplished by May 15. New keys will be ready to be picked up the week of May 9.

Sign up for Youth Snacks. You can help support the youth at Trinity by providing snacks for Sunday evening activities. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the youth bulletin board outside Donnie's office. Thanks for your support!

UMW Quarterly Meeting

Ladies, please join us on Thursday, May 19, at 7:00 PM for the quarterly UMW meeting.

Hostesses for this event will be the Susanna Wesley Circle and the program consists of a short video on the history of tea and the Charleston Tea Plantation. This will be a forerunner of the annual tea to be held in August.

We will be serving tea (hot and iced) with cookies and fruit. All women of the church are invited to attend.



Stewardship Report For April 2011

Our Presence

Average Church School attendance	87
Average Worship attendance	283

Our Gifts

Received year-to-date	\$143,201.42
Needed to meet budget to date	\$139,111.00
Special offerings year-to-date	\$44,045.47
Non-gift reimbursements to date	\$10,247.10

(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]

Buddy and Harriet Murray [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Van and Betty Haynes, George Hipp, and Al Lewis

Intercession

David Rick, 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 [REDACTED] or Jim Kannen-
nenberg [REDACTED]

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, **May 1**, and place them in the ACTS wagon located in the narthex.



Soaring Eagles Luncheon

The next luncheon will be Monday, May 23, at 11:30 AM. Elizabeth Laney, Park Interpreter at Redcliffe Plantation, will present a program on the history of flowers on tombstones. Lunch of turkey wrap, spinach salad with poppy seed dressing and chocolate chip cookie for dessert will be 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 of 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 AM so we ask that you be at the church ready to leave at 9:45 AM or meet at Redcliffe by 10:15 AM.

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, May 22.

May Birthdays

1 Steven Fitzgerald

3 Bill Calkins

3 Mitch Green

3 Don Studebaker

3 Cindy Woody

4 Beth Howell

5 Barney Eagerton

6 Jocelyn Buczek

6 Joe Driver

7 Kathleen Dufresne

7 Ezra Sadsad-Cister

8 Lois Counts

8 John Morlan

9 Ashley Kahl

9 Amanda Lewis

9 Debbie Wallace

11 Josh Gray

12 Nick Chipman

13 David Dick

13 Jenna Barton

13 Judy Rodgers

15 Alison Cunningham

15 Dorie Garwood

16 Debbie Francis

16 Charles Lewis

18 Gracen Bradford

18 John Paparella

18 Steve Timmerman

19 Peyton Nix

20 Mary Lou Wright

21 Matthew Rogers

21 Kathy Wood

22 Bette Roth

23 Meredith Fowler

26 Drew Greene

27 Larry David

30 Eilene Rick



Summer Choir

It's hard to believe that winter choir will finish up on Sunday, May 29. Time flies when you're having fun! Summer choir will begin practicing on Wednesday, June 1, and will begin singing for Sunday services on June 12. There will be a sign up sheet on the choir room starting on May 1. We will be singing once again from a collection that is yet to be determined. If you would like to hear

some examples from each collection and help me decide, please come by Sunday evening, May 15, at 6:00 PM to the choir room and we'll listen together.

On Mother's Day, May 8, we will enjoy a **special men's choir** — you won't want to miss it!

Denise Barnhart



From the Worship Committee

Recently, due to a business closing, we have had a change of florist providing flowers for the altar. We are now using Hite Floral, and the flowers are more beautiful than ever! We would like to remind you that if you signed up for flowers in memory of, or in honor of someone, they are yours to take after service. If they are not taken immediately after the service on Sunday, they will be removed. They do not fare well without water or light during the week. If you would like to take the flowers to someone that would enjoy them please contact Ray Gilbert or the church office. The cost to place flowers on the altar remains \$45.

Also, we would like to thank those who volunteer to help with getting the sanctuary ready for service and especially communion. Occasionally, those volunteers need to be absent. If you would like to add your name to the list to help with preparation, contact the church office or Ray Gilbert.

We would also like to remind you that if you do not take your bulletins home, please place them in the small basket near the entrance to the sanctuary so they can be recycled. Thank you!

Sonshine Choir

- Sunday, May 1 Practice at 5 PM., followed by SKIP at 6 PM
 Sunday, May 8 Call to Worship, "I Could Sing of Your Love Forever"
 Sunday, May 15 Practice at 5 PM, followed by SKIP at 6 PM
 Sunday, May 22 Call to Worship, "I Will Not Be Afraid", sing at Anchor Health & Rehab following church

Also on May 22, we will be having an **end of the school year party** from 5-6 PM. Sonshine Choir parents, keep an eye on your email or the Facebook group for more information.

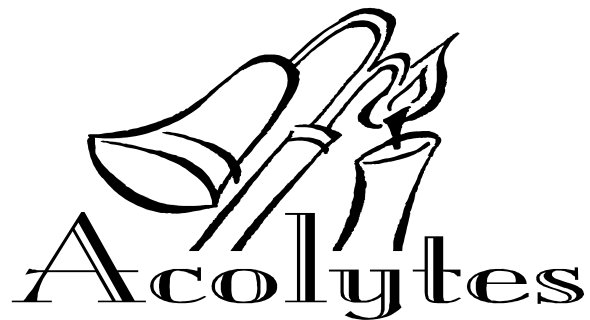
Children's Church Schedule

- May 1 Communion, no Children's Church
 May 8 **need a volunteer**

- May 15 Karen Johnson
 May 22 Nick Chipman
 May 29 Mary Jo Herring
 If you can help out with Children's Church, please call Linda Clarke at 648-4053.

May

- May 1 Daniel Kingery
 May 8 Elizabeth Morlan
 May 15 Ella Morton
 May 22 Madison McNeely
 May 29 Seth Wade



Altar Flowers for May

- May 1** Don S., Cindy W., Brenda W. in celebration of birthdays
May 8 Louise & Fred Hryniewich in celebration of their 59th wedding anniversary
May 15 Ann Bishop in loving memory of Jim Bishop
May 22 Tom & Laurie Rupsis in celebration of their 41st anniversary
May 29 —

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

2011 Graduates. On May 22 please plan to join us for a Graduation Recognition Service followed by the Graduation Recognition Luncheon, hosted by the Family Ministry Committee. We would like to include *all* of our graduates, so please email or call the church office with your graduate's information (trinityunited119@bellsouth.net or 648-4990), or place the tear-off in the offering plate.



Name _____

School graduating from _____

Degree received _____

Future plans _____

Are You Ready for Caring Hearts, Touching Lives?

United Hospice Volunteers are the heart of our agency. They work hand in hand with the members of the hospice team to provide valuable care to our patients. If you have a few hours each month to give and the desire to make a difference in the life of another, you could be a United Hospice volunteer.



United Hospice invites you to become a patient volunteer, an office volunteer, or a bereavement volunteer. We provide a comprehensive training program to ensure you will understand our hospice mission and goals and will have all the knowledge you need to be equipped to do a great job! Call Susan Selden at 641-0060 to learn how you can make a difference in someone's life.

From the Church & Society Committee

In May the Church & Society Committee will be focusing on and asking for your contributions for two organizations that respond to the needs of suffering people. Look for our display where you can step up and assist those who need your help. Thank you kindly for your caring support!!

Women for Women International, www.womenforwomen.org.

This organization provides survivors of war, civil strife and other conflicts with the tools and resources to move from crisis and poverty to stability and self-sufficiency, thereby promoting viable civil societies. They work with socially excluded women in 8 countries where war and conflict have devastated lives and communities. Each woman has her own story of loved ones murdered, and others of physical and emotional trauma. Most have endured a struggle for survival.



Women enrolled in the one-year program learn job skills and receive business training so they can earn a living. They come to understand their rights and how to fight for those rights in their homes, their communities and their nations and to become leaders. Women for Women International believes that lasting change can only be achieved when women have access to both knowledge and resources.

Heifer Project International, www.heifer.org, works with communities and individuals to end hunger and poverty. Families given a hand-up, not just a hand-out are empowered to turn lives of hunger and poverty into self-reliance and hope. With gifts of livestock and training, families improve their nutrition and generate income in sustainable ways. Animals are “living loans” because in exchange for their livestock and training, families agree to give one of its animal’s offspring to another family in need. It’s called “Passing on the Gift”, a cornerstone of this mission that creates an ever-expanding network of hope and peace.

After immediate needs for food, shelter, fresh water, clothing and other necessities have been met, Heifer works within communities to empower disaster survivors with the economic means — such as livestock, training and other resources — to rebuild their families, their neighborhoods, and their hope for sustainable futures.