

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

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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.

September 2011

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The Trinity MESSENGER

Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church September 2011

I ran across a blog several years ago called “Juggling Sheep”. Jay Perry describes himself as being on a “journey toward becoming a more effective and efficient pastor”. The imagery he used appealed to me because *juggling* describes a large portion of my energy and time!



But I still have some hesitation referring to myself as *shepherd*... Let me explain.

In his book *The Voice That Calls Us to Follow*, John Pavelko states: “...if I had to nominate one animal to represent the word *mediocre*, a sheep would easily be in the top five. Sheep are not independent. They cannot defend themselves like cattle. They are not strong, creative, brave nor will they initiate. They cannot even work up a good stampede. Normally, they just sort of meander. Also, sheep will not be driven like cattle. They will scatter in a thousand different directions. This type of behavior did not earn the animal any respect on the open range so the ranchers assumed that the animal was dumb. However, a sheep is actually smarter than a cow...

Sheep have one particularly admirable quality. They will follow their shepherd wherever he leads them. They have learned to know him and trust him. They are not easily distracted by another shepherd. Move three flocks into a field, place three shepherds at three strategic points and have each of them issue a call. The sheep will sort themselves. You will not need brands to recognize which sheep belongs to which shepherd. Every animal will only follow his/her shepherd.

The people of God have been placed in a very large field that is often called the world. Many voices are calling us to come and join them. The voice of materialism wants us to deny our faith in the supernatural and believe only in the physical world. The voice of consumerism calls us to fulfill our envy by overspending on vacations, cars, clothing and a home. The voice of entertainment

wants to fill our lives with media driven flashes that grab our attention, isolate us from our family and friends and then leave us with nothing but an oversized bill....” But, the voice of the Good Shepherd sounds through the clamor and noise, “Come, follow me....”

So, to be honest, I'm more comfortable with the imagery of a sheep dog.... In some communities they're even called *pastoral dogs*!

Have you ever seen a sheep dog work? Constantly working the edges to keep the flock together, the sheep dog's primary concern is to keep them from harm and move them in the direction the Shepherd desires. To that end it's imperative for the dog to keep his eyes on the Shepherd AND the flock. The pastoral dog has to *know* and *do*.... The sheep have to *know* and *do*.... **The Shepherd reveals and enables!** See you in church... I've gotta' get out to the pen!



Pastor Rodney

NEWS

& Notes

Welcome to New Members!

On August 7, Trinity welcomed the following into our church family.

Matthew Gordon and Tiffany Spivey, 120 North Street, Aiken SC 29803, and **Stephanie DiFranco**, 6 Erskine Lane, Aiken SC 29803.

On August 21, old friend **Danny Herring**, but now new member, joined our church fellowship.

Blessings on all the above as we worship and fellowship together!

Our Charge Conference meeting will be held at Trinity on Sunday, October 2, at 2 PM. Anyone that is interested is welcome to attend.

Keep in touch. **Meegian Gossard** has moved back to Clemson. If you would like to contact her, her mailing address is 2758 University Station, Clemson SC 29632. Watch for her in the clarinet section of the Tiger band at the football games! Her email address is mgossar@g.clemson.edu.

The Disciple Study Group will start up again on Monday, September 19, at 6:45 PM. This fall we will be looking at the Old Testament and Israel's history — what makes their history ours. Topics will include the making of the Hebrew Bible, Creation and the Exodus, promises and problems in the Promised Land, Israel's kings and prophets, their exile and their restoration. Study books will cost approximately \$11 and will be ordered soon. The study will run for 8 weeks and we will be finished before Thanksgiving week. A new study will begin after the first of the year. For more information, please see Jean Kling or Becky Carter. You may sign up with them or in the church office.

Cookies for Kairos. Kairos prison ministry uses cookies to tell residents that someone who doesn't even know them still cares enough to give a part of their life — the time it takes to bake the cookies — without wanting something in return. Someone has said that these cookies are "seeds of love" being sown in the hearts of those who know little of the love God's children are commanded to show forth to the world. You can be a part of this powerful ministry by baking cookies for the next Kairos weekend which begins September 15. Cookies should be turned in to the church office by September 10. For more information, check the bulletin board in the narthex hallway, where you can also sign up for the Prayer Vigil which supports the weekend by the prayers of God's people.

Trinity on Facebook. Trinity UMC Aiken (our Facebook page) has 150 fans! If you haven't "liked" us yet, please do. You'll stay up-to-date on all church events and news.

Our Craft & Chat group is making scarves for the children at the Red Bird Mission. If you are helping out with this project, please have completed scarves turned in to Patti Pittman, Barbara Fent, or Diane Wagner by Thursday, October 6. You may also deliver them to the October 6 Craft & Chat. Thank you for your support!

Yard Sale. As you do your fall cleaning, don't forget to set aside items for the UMW & UMM combined Yard Sale to be held on Saturday, October 8.

Trinity Window Clings. You can still purchase window clings to place on your car — or wherever your imagination tells you — to show the community that you are proud of being a part of Trinity UMC. They are available in the narthex hallway.

Stewardship Report For August 2011

Our Presence

Average Church School attendance	88
Average Worship attendance	240

Our Gifts

Received year-to-date	\$287,283.58
Needed to meet budget to date	\$286,405.00
Total Special offerings year-to-date.....	\$77,021.04
Non-gift reimbursements to date	\$13,824.18
Mortgage Reduction Fund to date.....	\$32,261.95
Theological Seminary Fund to date	\$1,597.00

Our Prayers

Homebound

Sylvia Westerdahl at Trinity on Laurens
Barbara Johnson at Cumberland Village
Sabella Gray at Unihealth Aiken
Maude Pinson at Elmcroft in Martinez GA
Bessie Whatley at Pepper Hill
George Brooks at We Care Residential in Aiken
Buddy and Harriet Murray at Harborchase
At home: George Hipp, Gene Sinclair and Al Lewis

Intercession

John Anderson, Ron Coffey, Jean Peterson, Hal Muma, Lew Hoy, Shirley Bowers, 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.

Children's Ministry

VBS. This year's Vacation Bible School was a huge success! Each night, we had at least 100 kids attend, with a total of about 130 who came for at least one night. With over 50 adults and youth helpers, the age groups moved from room to room and enjoyed Bible story time, crafts, music, games and food. The giant inflatable slide was one of the highlights of the week. VBS was a wonderful time of learning about God and fellowshiping with others. A great big thank you goes out to all of the volunteers and everyone who donated funds, snacks, school supplies, etc. This event is an important



ministry to our community, as well as our own children, and we couldn't do it without your help!

SKIP is coming back! Our SKIP (Super Kids In Praise) program takes place during the school year on the 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings from 6-7 PM (after Sonshine Choir). We will resume SKIP on Sunday, September 18. Linda

Gracey and Michelle Hooper will be leading this fun time that includes a light supper and Bible lesson, along with crafts, games, and other activities. All kids ages 5- 5th grade are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Our nursery has some new enhancements that are improving the quality of care for our infants and toddlers. We have new sign-in sheets and information sheets for each child, which help us contact parents if needed and also notify the caregivers of any allergies or special medical needs. Also, a small refrigerator was recently donated to the nursery. This allows snacks and cups of juice or milk to stay cold, without nursery staff having to walk to the kitchen. We now have 2 hired nursery caregivers for both Sunday morning worship as well as Wednesday evening Bible study. This coverage ensures we follow the adult to child ratio of our child safety policy and offers better protection for the staff as well as the children. Karen Bradford has volunteered to be our new Nursery Coordinator to oversee the nursery and support the caregivers. We are diligent about providing a safe, clean, and loving environment for child care!

Fall Festival. Mark your calendars for the annual Fall Festival on Sunday, October 16. Inflatables, games, hay rides, food and prizes are all part of

this exciting family event. All ages are welcome to come and enjoy the festivities. The Fall Festival is also a great time to invite friends or neighbors who are looking for a church home. Be sure to save the date — you won't want to miss it!

Children's Activities Totes are in the narthex for kids to use during the worship service. The Circle of Hope has created and filled these bags with books, crayons, and papers to give our youngest worshipers something at their level to do during church. The totes are labeled for a variety of ages up to 5th grade. Special children's bulletins are available separately for those able to read; they include Scripture fill-ins and Bible puzzles.

The newly formed **Children's Ministry Committee** is off and running! A great group of volunteers has gotten together and discussed ways to grow our children's ministry and started making plans for future events. If you want to participate, it's not too late — contact Tracy Greene, Diane Kingery, or the church office.

The next meeting of the Children's Ministry Committee is Sunday, September 11, at 4 PM in Room 16.

Family Ministry Committee

The committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, September 13, at 6PM in Fellowship Hall.

Committee members are asked to help out on Saturday morning, September 17, to prepare for the New Members Luncheon on Sunday, September 18.



New Member Lunch

The Family Ministry Committee is sponsoring a luncheon to welcome new members who have joined Trinity since September 2010. The luncheon will be held after church on Sunday, September 18. The committee will provide the meat and drinks. We encourage everyone in our church family to join us in welcoming our newest members. Please bring two side dishes and a dessert to share. New members will be our honored guests and will not need to bring any food.

September Birthdays



BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY

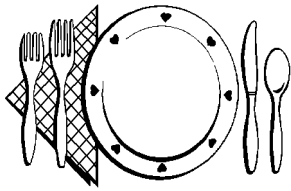
- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-------------------|
| 2 | Gene Holman | 12 | Melissa Johnson |
| 2 | Diane Kingery | 12 | Jonathan Kingery |
| 2 | Brock Woody | 12 | Janice Sligh |
| 3 | Caylin DiFranco | 13 | Patricia Darrell |
| 4 | Barbara Burger | 13 | George Rogers |
| 5 | Jonathan Barr | 14 | David Wallace |
| 5 | Quinn Taylor | 15 | Donna Fowler |
| 6 | Kevin Chipman | 15 | Woody Gilmer |
| 7 | Landon Driver | 16 | Jamie Glass |
| 7 | Steve Engelman | 18 | Mike Counts |
| 8 | Alex Coleman | 18 | Dick Fent |
| 9 | Dale Brantley | 18 | Courtney Futer |
| 9 | Margie Crapse | 18 | Ginger Glass |
| 9 | Terry Halupa | 18 | J.M. McCarley |
| 9 | Scott Muma | 18 | Maude Pinson |
| 9 | Taylor Riley | 19 | Kelli Barrows |
| 9 | Bill Bengtson | 19 | Jeremy Greene |
| 10 | Renee Chipman | 20 | Don Bewley |
| | | 20 | Cindy Brockman |
| | | 20 | Jessica Glass |
| | | 22 | Heidi DiFranco |
| | | 22 | Jesse Morton |
| | | 24 | Alix Green |
| | | 25 | Barbara Johnson |
| | | 27 | Brad Harris |
| | | 28 | Denice Augsburger |
| | | 28 | Kathy Brantley |
| | | 28 | Harvey Campbell |

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, September 25, from 11:30 AM to 12 noon. We welcome all to come and worship with the residents there. Special music will be provided by Carol Smith, and the worship leader is Joyce Ross.

Soaring Eagles Luncheon. The next luncheon will be Monday, September 26, at 11:30 AM. The guest speaker will be Leonard Todd, author of "Carolina Clay", who will talk to us about the history of pottery in this area. Lunch will be beefy cheese ravioli, citrus salad, and surprise dessert. Please sign up on the sheets provided in the bulletins on Sundays prior to the luncheon date.



Rising Eagles Bus Tour. The next Eagles bus tour will be October 25. This trip is sold out, but if you would like to be put on a waiting list, please contact Joyce Ross.

Choir

Wow! Is summer almost over already? That must mean that it's time for Fall Choir. Fall Choir begins Wednesday, August 31, at 7:30 PM and will start singing for the worship service on Sunday, September 4. We won't start singing Christmas music just yet, but will have to do so soon as the highlight of Fall Choir is the Christmas Cantata which will be on Sunday, December 11. Looking forward to seeing you and singing with you!



Join the Choir...
You'll Be Glad
You Did!

Acolytes

Children's Church Volunteers

Sept. 4	Sadie Morton	No Children's Church/communion
Sept. 11	Madison McNeely	Linda Clarke
Sept. 18	Ella Morton	Meredith Fowler
Sept. 25	Elizabeth Morlan	Karen Bradford

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers for September are given by:

4

11 **Ann & Don Robinson** in celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary

18 **David & Brenda Dick** in loving memory of Bobbie Dick

25 **Walt & Mary Adams** in loving memory of Keith

The cost of flowers for the altar is \$45.

Sonshine Choir

School has started and so has the Sonshine Choir! All children 5 years to 5th grade are invited to join. New music has been purchased and it's going to be fantastic year! We practice the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, September 4 and 18, from 5-6 PM, with practice for the Christmas Program beginning in late October. It's going to be an exciting year and we hope you can be a part of it.

Cherub Choir

The Cherub Choir is being revived for children under age 5. They will learn traditional Bible songs along with new songs and will also participate in the Christmas Program. We've made the practice schedule easy for parents — all you have to do is bring them to their Sunday School class and Mary Jo and Linda will take it from there. The children will practice the first 10 minutes of Sunday School beginning September 4, then every Sunday after that. We hope all pre-school children and parents will be a part of this exciting new ministry!



Youth News

Youth Council meets on Sunday, September 4, at 4:30 PM.

MYF Snacks. The MYF would appreciate your help in supplying snacks for Sunday evening. There is a sign up sheet in the youth hallway. Thanks for helping out!

As our children start school we see that they are maturing in so many ways. We strive in our time together to teach them what part they play in their family unit, teaching them it is their responsibility to learn to be a positive influence and a joy to live within the family. This is a constant work in progress — for them and for all of us.

It's hard for our youth to cope with all of the pressure they experience — to do well in school, to learn things quickly, and to never make a mistake. How many times have I heard from parents, "I just don't want my children to make the same mistakes I made." Sometimes we have to remember that we made mistakes at their age, and realize that our youth will make their own mistakes. How we react to those mistakes will mold and define our relationships with our youth forever. Will we be harsh, closed-minded, not remembering we have made our own share of mistakes? It is our responsibility to teach our youth obedience and to administer a good dose of discipline at times, but we must also seek to balance it with a good dose of love and understanding.

Let us pray for our parents as well as our youth as we grow in Christ together.

Praying for your family,

Pastor Donnie

"Love always protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres.

Love never fails."

1 Corinthians 13:7,8

Starving Students:

Focus of Church & Society... and You

Golden Harvest Food Bank is working to rescue Aiken area children that go hungry each weekend. The Backpack Program typically provides 2 cereals, 2 shelf-stable milks, 2 fruits like applesauce or fresh if available, pop-top mini meals like Macaroni-Os, and 2 juice boxes in a Ziploc bag that is slipped inside by an aide, teacher or PTO volunteer. The initial list of children in need is gotten from kids on free and reduced lunches. Golden Harvest Food Bank ships the "Backpacks" at no cost to the school. They call monthly to make sure there is no surplus and inspect how the program is run.

Parents of these children may have suffered sudden job loss, illness or homelessness. They may be adults locked in poverty. No matter what the situation at home is, there is no good reason for children to go hungry. If you want to be a part of stopping the tragedy of hunger in Aiken County, contact Kay Benitez at Golden Harvest Food Bank (803 640-6793) to make a donation or sponsor a child. Each Backpack (Ziploc) costs only \$5 each for the 32 week school year. Paid monthly or annually, you make an impact on a child's life for \$160. Lead a fund raiser. Donate or sponsor. But for the sake of a famished child, don't do nothing.

Honduras Agape Foundation

Plans are coming together for the Honduras Agape Foundation's mission trips for 2012, as the Aiken-based ministry continues work with churches in northwestern Honduras to offer spiritual and physical support.

The current proposal is to have HAF volunteers "in country" January 7-17, February 1-11, February 28 to March 10, March 31 to April 7, June 4-15, and July 7-17. Interested? Details are available from Bill Bengtson, Tommy or Mandy Thompson, and also at www.hondurasagape.com.

Epworth Work Day Offering

The more than 70 children who live at Epworth Children's home have not been embraced by CARE during their short lives. Instead they have experienced pain and disappointment. We can be a part of showing them something different. We can show them how God intends for them to be loved and cared for by supporting the ministry of Epworth by giving to the Work Day Offering on Sunday, September 11.