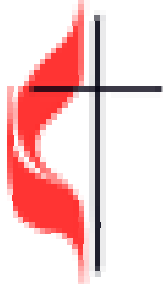


# THE TIDINGS

Vol.9 Issue 7  
August 2011



## Trinity United Methodist Church

-Called by God—Creating Hope— Connecting People—Changing Lives

### *Making Sense of God's Will*

Why does God allow pain and suffering?

Why do my prayers go unanswered?

Why can't I see God's will for my life?

Why should I trust God when nothing seems to make sense?

We all wrestle with these and similar questions. When we go through tough times – or unexpected joy – it's natural to wonder how (or if) God's will is at work in our world. Even people who are deeply committed to their faith struggle to answer and re-answer these perplexing questions.

*Why? Making Sense of God's Will* is a book/video study by Adam Hamilton, pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. A master at explaining difficult questions of faith in a down-to-earth fashion, he is the author of a number of books that have been discussed in various small groups here at Trinity. Perhaps you have read one of the following: *Confronting the Controversies*, *24 Hours that Changed the World*, *Christianity and World Religions*, *Enough*, *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White*, *When Christians Get It Wrong*.

This particular book, *Why?*, is intended to help us make sense of some of the questions we often ask in the face of suffering. It encourages us to be willing to question some of the common assumptions we have about God's will and to consider the ways in which God is at work in our world. The study is not meant to answer all of our questions but to encourage and

equip us as we seek to make sense of God's will.

I will be leading a four week study group on *Why?* at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings beginning August 11<sup>th</sup>. We will be meeting in the CLC room # 104. If you are interested in exploring some of these questions within a loving and supportive setting I encourage you to register for this class by calling the church office. (participants book \$10)

In addition, as we look forward into the fall, I will be leading another study based on the book, *If the Church Were Christian*, by minister and author Philip Gulley. Philip, like Adam, also provides good food for thought in his writings. In this ten week study group, we will consider what Church might be like...

...if Jesus were a model for living rather than an object of worship

...if we affirmed our potential more than we condemned our brokenness

...if reconciliation was valued over judgment

...if gracious behavior was valued over right belief

...if inviting questions was valued more than supplying answers

This group will also meet in CLC room #104 at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings and will begin on September 8<sup>th</sup>. I hope you will consider joining.

Grace and Peace,

*Bill*

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### “How Is The Attitude?”

In a life which is complex and challenging, the Christian can feel like one is on a roller coaster ride impacted by the ups and downs of everyday life. Truly one’s pilgrimage of faith brings everyday encounters—some quite mundane and others significantly stressful. Indeed the Christian life is in the journey and in the struggle—not the destination. One’s attitude enhances that journey (pilgrimage of faith) or can detract from it. Even though life consists of mountain tops of joy and valleys of deep, desolate despair at times, a healthy, spiritual attitude can determine fulfillment in life regardless of stressful situations or contrary circumstances.

A good positive attitude focuses on one’s relationship with Christ and with others. Bishop Reuben Job (author of Three Simple Rules, A Wesleyan Way of Living) says that one’s personal and intimate relationship with God should be one of humble trust and obedient adoration.

In Paul’s great hymn of Christology in Philippians 2, he gives this admonition: “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to

the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 2:3-5 NIV)

The attitude of Christ was centered on servanthood ministry to others, obedient loyalty to God, and ultimate sacrifice to cleanse and pay for human sin. Indeed, Jesus came among us as one who serves.

So how is your attitude? And how is my attitude? As we joyfully engage in the myriad of ministries available through Trinity Church, may our attitudes testify to a servanthood personality that helps others and glorifies Christ.

God’s word through his prophet Isaiah is one that continues to be relevant today: “Forget the former things; do not dwell in the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?”  
(Isaiah 43:18-19, NIV)

God desires to do a new thing in you. Do you not perceive a new attitude springing up in you this summer? Can it be the mind and attitude of Christ in you? in me? O Lord, let it be the attitude of Christ permeating our lives in servanthood ministry to others. And as Pauline Abbott has stated, “Let us be gratefully humbled and not hatefully grumbled.”



Volunteers are needed for two great projects. On August 20th Trinity is hosting the entire South Georgia Conference for Pathways to a Healthy church. On September 24th, Trinity is holding our missions fundraiser—Craft and Hobby Fair. If you would like to help with either of these projects, please call the church office.

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## Church Council Corner

-Shirley Siegel  
siegelsas@aol.com

Trinity's Church Council met Sunday evening, June 26. Hugh Davis, our new Associate Pastor and George Whidden, our new Youth Director were welcomed to Trinity and to the Church Council.

**Angela Gilbert** reported on the success of **Summer Fun** and reminded the Council of the upcoming **Bible School** weekend event starting July 8. Volunteers are needed.

**George Whidden** talked about some of the events being planned for the **Youth** this summer and fall. There are many exciting things in the works.

A report written by **Carolyn Schomer** summarizing the **Jamaica Mission** was read. The sewing ministry had 56 participants in classes and donated 12 sewing machines and 2 sergers to various churches. The construction ministry was able to complete their planned work on a second story vestry addition, despite being hampered by rain. The medical team treated 544 patients over 4 days! Two hundred pairs of glasses were distributed by the eye clinic. And the children's team worked with schools next to the churches, providing crafts, stories and music as well as distributing toothbrushes and tooth paste. Many Bibles were distributed to children as well as adults.

The **Hinton Team** will be leaving soon. **Ann Amis** told the council that they will welcome the donation

of tools to take with them and leave at Hinton.

**Roger Boan** reported on the upcoming **Craft Fair** in September. This is going to be quite a large event so lots of volunteers are needed. Anyone willing to help with any part of this even, including planning, is encouraged to contact Roger.

The council voted to commit to being a **Host Church** for the **Family Promise of Greater Hous-ton County Interfaith Hospitality Network**. **Shirley Boan** informed us that this program is still in the forming stages so it might be a year before we host the first families.

Trinity will again be hosting **Pathways to a Healthy Church** on August 20. **Angela Gilbert** is organizing the volunteers.

**Hugh Davis** commented to the Council that he was happy to be serving Trinity. **Bill Bagwell** told the Council how pleased he was to have both Hugh and George on staff and looked forward to working with them both.

The next meeting of the Church Council will be **Sunday, August 28, at 7pm**. Meetings are open to all in the congregation. Please join us.



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## Trinity's 2011 Graduates

Tristan Bryan Warner Robins High School  
 Grant Franklin Busbee Houston County High School  
 Lauren DeJeet Warner Robins High School  
 Travis Denning Warner Robins High School  
 Emory Kate Dotson Houston County High School  
 Tyler Allen Durden Northside High School  
 Maisy Elizabeth French Houston County High School  
 Danielle Courtney Kemp Mount De Sales Academy  
 James Palmer Houston County High School  
 Heather Nicole Pennycuff Warner Robins High School  
 Kaitlyn Joy Pugh Northside High School  
 Hillary Paige Thompson The Westfield School

Lee Charles Townsend The Westfield School  
 Emily Brianna Watson Houston County High School  
 Nancy Marie Weeks Warner Robins High School

Higher Education Graduates  
 Kelsey Alligood University of Georgia  
 Andrew Brin Mercer University  
 Brittany Cook Georgia College & State University  
 Bethany Anne Crenshaw Georgia Southern University  
 Jason Farris Georgia State University  
 Jeffrey Nakayama Air Force Academy  
 Linda Pallini Georgia Southern University



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# Message from Les Arent

javelin73@cox.net

The following is a summary of a presentation I made at Trinity to the three services on Pentecost Sunday (June 12th, 2011). I believe it is very important for all of our members to understand the message I am attempting to impart.

Pentecost: A Greek word meaning "Fiftieth Day", or in Jewish: "Feast of Weeks". It is also known as the "Feast of Harvest", or "The Day of First Fruits". It was the 50th day after Passover.

The events set forth in the 2nd Chapter of Acts transformed the Jewish Festival into a Christian Celebration. Now we celebrate Pentecost on the Seventh Sunday after Easter.

As stated in Acts, the early Christians "sold their possessions and goods and gave them to those that had need".

An example of "First Fruits" was demonstrated a few days ago to Charline and me. Our neighbors are avid gardeners and brought to us a

large bag of green beans and onions. These were fresh from their "first harvest". To me this is an example of sharing, just as the early Christians did.

As we remember our Christian heritage, and Pentecost, I don't suggest we sell everything we have, but I do suggest we remember the good works this Trinity Family does. These can only be done with our gifts.

As in the past, the summer months allow us to take vacations and enjoy our families. However, the obligations of Trinity continue. The bills must be paid. Please remember Trinity and continue your habit of giving. If you have not quite reached your goal of TITHING - Now is the time to make that commitment!

For our Tidings readers: If you have an idea as to how we can get this message of giving to everyone who loves our Trinity Family of Faith, please contact me.

**PARABLE OF THE OLD DEAD DOGWOOD TREE**  
By Donnie Powell Mar 2011

For years the old dead dogwood tree lay in our backyard to be used for firewood. A friend, Glenn Watson, shared his woodworking talents with our Sunday School class. I cut the old dogwood tree into sections hoping to find a suitable piece for Glenn to use. He graciously agreed to work on it, thus saving it from the fire.

When he presented his finished piece, I was stunned by its beauty and his artistic ability. Glenn took an old, rejected, ready-for-the-fire, bug-chewed, gnarled, slightly rotted, worthless piece of dogwood and turned it into a mantle-worthy piece of beautiful art, which also honored Jesus. He made a wonderful

cross on its own base. The cross showed the natural grain of the dogwood and its irregular growth rings showing years of struggle and difficulty. (Note: One legend says Jesus was crucified on a dogwood tree.)

Glenn changed the old worthless wood into a thing of worth and beauty. Jesus changes lives into things of worth and beauty.

Thank you Glenn and thank you Jesus.

NOTE: Glenn makes the crosses to sell and to give to people who are in the hospital. His woodworking ministry with these crosses and other items has reached a number of people outside the immediate circle of Trinity United Methodist Church. My wife and I are privileged to have two original "Glenn Watson Art Crosses".

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# Finance Forum

-Mike Hatcher  
mksrocket@cox.net

Our financial results as of the end of June 2011 were as follows:

	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
General Fund Month Budget Need:	\$ 66,232	\$ 397,392
General Fund Receipts:	\$ 52,120	\$ 359,917
General Fund Expenses:	\$ 61,582	\$ 361,034
Net Result	\$ (9,462)	\$ (1,117)

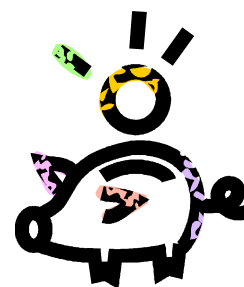
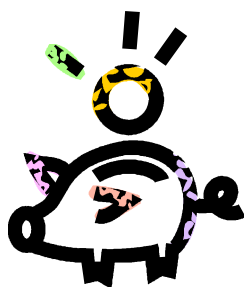
Our financial results as of the end of June 2011 continue the trend of receipts running behind the budgeted need. We did have some “reserve” last month due to the expenses running less than the budget would have allowed but as the summer cooling expenses have increased and receipts drop this was depleted.

Marsha Denning and Fran Botkin along with other members of the finance committee have completed the review of all the audit write-up/suggestions documenting the actions we have taken. Once that is approved by the full committee we can have a representative of the audit firm review and evaluate them. This should be ready by the August Finance Committee meeting and, subsequent to acceptance by the committee, will become a part of the formal documentation for the church. Our intent is to have this for any future audits or reviews as well as for church membership understanding of these processes.

We will soon begin the planning process for establishing the church budget for 2012. The call for in-

puts for the various ministries and church budgeting needs will go out in the September time frame. Already many increases and new opportunities have been put forward. There are many who feel strongly that we need to make meeting 100% of the conference apportionment a higher priority. The children's ministries have grown significantly. The enthusiasm, dedication and energy of its leaders has made this one of the fastest growing parts of Trinity's ministry. With more financial support, they could reach and affect more children. I am equally certain that our new youth director, George Whiddon, will be working very hard to re-invigorate the Trinity youth as well as expand the program to reach more new candidates.

Thank you again for your continued support and faithfulness to Trinity and to the work to promote and expand God's kingdom. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments or suggestions.



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## ***Our Church Family at Home***

-Uplift these friends in your prayers and with cards and phone calls

### **Church Home for the Aged**

2470 Hwy 41 North  
Fort Valley, GA 31030

Gladys Rissmann  
Jewel McGarity

### **Summer's Landing**

608 Kimberly Road ~ 31088

Margaret Poole, Apt. 1B  
Jean and Sam Hendry, Apt 66

### **Summerhill Assisted Living Community**

500 Stanley Drive, Perry 31069

Nell Posey ~ Veranda East Room 703

### **Antebellum Grove**

1010 S. Houston Lake Rd. 31088

Lois Turner ~ Rm 132

Continue to update this list by emailing [theunderwoods1@cox.net](mailto:theunderwoods1@cox.net)

### **Carlyle Place**

5300 Zebulon Road  
Macon, GA 31210

Roger Fulling

### **Homebound**

Billie Curry  
320 Bernard Drive ~ 31093

Shirley Matthews  
421 Woodland Drive ~ 31088

Mae Kincaid  
319 Oakview Square ~ 31093  
Jim Kincaid—Dublin VA Hospital

Ruth Wehrmeyer  
111 Pearce Drive ~ 31093

Billie Meaders  
109 Ginny Drive ~ 31093

## ***Deployed Active Duty Military***

Ryan Hall (Saudi Arabia) son of Ron and Donna Hall  
James Easterling—(Afghanistan)  
Jeff Dorsey (Afghanistan) nephew of June and Eddie Underwood  
Troy Maskell - grandson of Nancy and Bill Birdsell  
Stephen Kelly (Afghanistan) son of Connie and Ken Adkins  
Jason Thaggard (Iraq) nephew of Shelby Snow  
MSGT Carey Rissmann—son of Ken and Kathy Rissmann  
Brandon Smith (Afghanistan) Grandson of Pat Smith  
Phillip Price Lewis—Grandson of Grace Harmon

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# So Many Reasons to Celebrate...

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1st	J. B. Mason	10th	Charles Farmer Frank Huff	24th	Bill Vaught Ken Alligood
2nd	Charline Arent Macie Flescher Bronwyn Jardin Karen McCall Mike Simpson	12th	Franklin Holland Chuck Sparks Joshua Stewart	25th	Herschel Vandiver Emily Brown David Gilbert
3rd	Vikki Arnold Frank Dejeet, Jr.	13th	Kim Bryan Jean Hendry K.W. Thomas	26th	Pam McCollough Chuck Rawls Kelsey Alligood
4th	Bill Macer	14th	Krystal Sanderson Janice Stewart	27th	Lori Chaloult Jim Kling Mark Zeuner
5th	Claudia Butterick Gene Miller Carolyn Stonehouse	15th	Leslie Lorenz David Sams Kate Sayers	28th	Amanda Wagner Neal Thompson
6th	Paula Howard Elizabeth Sanders Eve Shope	16th	Les Arent Brock Dunn	29th	Nathan Andrews Pamela Ivey Ashley Loudin
7th	Joel Applegate Andy Davidson Kathy Rissmann Ruth Van Dusen Alishia Verhage	17th	Bud Abbott Shirley Mathews Luci Powell	30th	Rhonda Moulder Dale Newberry Rachel Walker Morgan Weeks
8th	John Hickcok Kimberly Peck Charles Singleton	18th	Pam Winge	31st	Bob Day Jennifer Kitchens Logan Lorenz
9th	Joyce Thompson	19th	Stephen Farr Barbara Macer Conner Sams Beth Ann Warnock		Chris Ealer Heather Pennycuff
		22nd	Paula Brannen P. L. Clearman Toby Hill Doris Richey		
		23rd	Kevin Benoit Daniel Brown		



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1 <sup>st</sup>	Chris & Lori Chaloult Doyle & Peggy Pratt George & Nancy Stephano	14 <sup>th</sup>	Dick & Judy Bexton Dave & Maxine Hopper Donnie & Delores Powell Bill & Pat Sutton
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Perkins & Christy Nobles	17 <sup>th</sup>	Jim & Vicki Grove George & Dawn Reddick
4 <sup>th</sup>	Ryan & Tabitha Pugh John & Kathi Shawhan	19 <sup>th</sup>	Bill & Kim O'Daniel
5 <sup>th</sup>	Paula & Vince Brannen Joel & Marian Dampier	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Barry & Grace Bilbro
6 <sup>th</sup>	Richard & Linda Turk	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Stan & Lisa Ward
8 <sup>th</sup>	Roger & Kay Darnell	25 <sup>th</sup>	Allen & Becky Tatman Mark & Melissa Zeuner
9 <sup>th</sup>	Bill & Sue Bagwell	26 <sup>th</sup>	George Brannen & Karen McDonald Ed & Suzy Varner
11 <sup>th</sup>	Franklin & Wanda Holland Jeff & Molly Townsend	27 <sup>th</sup>	John & Shannon Hickcok Joe & Irene Hofshash Phillip & Lori Johnson Jim & Becky Kling
12 <sup>th</sup>	Allen & Luci Powell Mike Threadgill & Judy Ross	28 <sup>th</sup>	Charles & Mary Singleton
		29 <sup>th</sup>	Terrell & Helen McCord Jerold & Jean Smith
		30 <sup>th</sup>	Donna & Rick Pallini