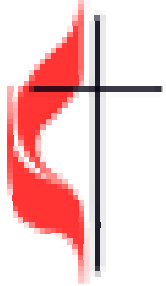


THE TIDINGS

Vol.8 Issue 6
July 2010



Trinity United Methodist Church

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

Warning: Rattlesnake Habitat

I was over at Andersonville recently in connection with the funeral of a precious lady who was laid to rest in that cemetery. While there I took a brief time to meander through this fascinating historic site. What now is a beautiful expanse of well maintained land and impressive monuments was during the Civil War a horrific place of overcrowding, starvation, violence, disease and death. Nearly everything is accessible by footpath – save for an area that is in a ravine cradling a small creek. I was curious to get a little closer to this patch of earth which has been left to “grow wild” – until I spotted a sign in the brush that said simply, “Warning: Rattlesnake Habitat”. I have no doubt that the sign had been placed there for good purpose and it effectively squelched my intention of venturing nearer to that thicket. Fascinating how paying attention to one little sign can change your whole perspective and even your direction!

I’ve observed that some folk just ignore warnings as if somehow they are immune from the dangers. Rattlesnakes all around, but for them ...not a worry in sight! Speed limits ...not to worry, I’m a good driver! Alcohol consumption ...I can handle it! Tobacco ... the little I use isn’t harming me! Texting while driving ...I’m good at multi-tasking! Tanning ...done it for years without a problem! Overeating ...everybody does it!

As recorded in Matthew 5 – 7, Jesus begins his ministry by teaching his disciples. His words are filled with encouragement as well as challenge. He sprinkles a few warnings into the mix just in case a hearer might be foolish enough to think that there are no consequences to the choices we make. Jesus saves his strongest warnings not for those things we do that can hurt us, but for those things we do that can hurt others.

“If you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment.”

“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.”

“For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

“Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

How are you with warnings? Are you being honest with yourself about choices you make which are personally destructive? And, have you considered the consequences of living in ways that bring damage others? All of this is worth greater reflection.

May God give us insight and wisdom to avoid the host of rattlesnakes that hide in the thickets of our lives!

Blessings,
Bill

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New Horizons and Bell Tour

Dear Leslie and all involved with the New Horizon's Youth Choir and Bell Choir,

Oh! The Concert was so wonderful!! The residents and staff were so impressed by the youth and their talents! It was so delightful to meet them as well as the adults. I can honestly say they were truly a blessing from the Lord for all of us. Thank you so much for arranging their schedule to come to Kelly Village. I was in a meeting just this morning and one of the residents said "I've heard good bell choirs, but none like this one. I heard sounds I didn't know were possible in a bell choir. They were incredible!" Also, one of our wheelchair bound gentlemen carried your bulletin around for a couple of days to show all he passed. So many were touched by your ministry and I am still hearing appreciative comments from our residents. Even our executive director told me she heard

the concert was really good by many of our residents. Truly, I feel the Spirit of God was present and working in all our hearts through your young people. That is why there was such a positive response from everyone here. I imagine your group has many places to visit, but please know they will always be welcome here, anytime. Thank you, again, for touching our lives and pointing us to a clearer vision of the Lord and His great love. We can't thank you all enough. And, when I tell the folks that your group did not want any payment nor donation, but rather the youth worked at raising their own support, it leaves us just wanting to praise God...that kind of love and gesture is such a blessing and a beautiful gift to Kelly Village.

Thank you so much, Leslie!

With Prayers,

~Jana Burgess



Youth Hand Bells and New Horizons on Tour

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Church Council Corner

-Shirley Siegel
siegelsas@aol.com

Trinity's Church Council met June 27 to discuss a variety of topics concerning the church. Here is a synopsis of what was discussed:

Angela Gilbert reported that **Vacation Bible School** was a success and between 150 and 160 children are attending **Summer Funtime** each day. **Preschool** registration is going well. **Kindergarten** will be part of preschool this year.

Shirley Boan talked about all the events **Prime Timers** participate in during the year and encouraged all who are over age 55 to join in their activities.

Joyce Miller reported on the successful **Jamaica Mission** trip. Besides the medical mission, the construction/repair mission and the cooking and sewing lessons were much appreciated by the Jamaicans.

Mike Hatcher discussed the financial status of Trinity. Receipts do not match the budget, so spending is being carefully monitored. He also responded to the congregational inputs regarding the financial shortfall.

Art Howard reported that enough **SPLOST** money has been received to roof the Activity Building. The

Trustees are gathering multiple bids for this project. The initial estimate for the roof was based on a reputable bid. Now that the money has been received, Trustees want to make sure it is the best bid for the project.

The Council decided to compile a notebook(s) of minutes of committee meetings in the church office. This is for the historical benefit of the church and to allow the congregation to read them. Due to the nature of the business it discusses, the minutes of the Staff Parrish Relations Committee will not be included in this compilation.

Bill Bagwell expressed his pleasure at being reappointed to Trinity. He reported a bit about Annual Conference and stated that Trinity was recognized for having the largest number of professions of faith in the conference. He also expressed his disappointment that Trinity is not able to pay full apportionments and articulated that this should be a priority in the next year's budget.

Remember, all Church Council meetings are open meeting. We meet the last Sunday every other month. The next meeting will be **August 29 at 7:00pm** in the Asbury Classroom.

Pathways to a Healthy Church

Pathways will be held at Trinity on Saturday, Aug.14th sponsored by the Connectional Ministries Council of the South Georgia Conference. It takes many "helping hands" to host this event - watch and listen for ways you can be of service & to volunteer! Or contact Shirley Siegel, George Fox, Margaret Mathews, Marty McLeod, or Angela Gilbert to be of service at this event.

Pathways Information Brochures

The brochures are available from the information racks located around the church. You will find a list and description of the classes available and registration information in the brochure. We are the host church—registration is thru the Connectional Ministries Office (www.sgaumc.org). Registration deadline is August 6th.

Finance Forum

-Mike Hatcher
mksrocket@cox.net

Our financial results as of the end of June 2010 are as follows:

	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>YTD</u>
General Fund Mo Budget Need:	\$ 70,788	\$ 424,728
General Fund Receipts:	\$ 70,253	\$ 401,735 (\$ 22,993 below budget)
General Fund Expenses;	\$ 62,963	\$ 407,517
Net Result	\$ 7,290	\$ (5,782)

Our financial results are improving. While we still have a deficit, the amount is decreasing. For this portion of the year we are much closer to solvency than we have been in the last few years. The effect of your prayers and contributions are being felt. The cost saving measures taken by the Trustees and the church staff are beginning to make a difference as well and I expect them to improve more in the near future. Couple this improvement with the great start we have with the SPLOST campaign and there is reason to feel more confident about meeting our goals.

Next week will mark the first use of the new cash counting team members. Thanks to Eddie Watson and Angie Jones, our treasurer, the procedures have been exercised and refined several times to help insure simplicity and accuracy. Best of all, I think it will easily meet the IRS criteria while significantly improving our documentation and financial controls. This was the "big rock" in our basket of "to dos" from the last audit and we have worked hard to get it done.

We are very near completing the review and refinement of Trinity's designated fund accounts. The next step is to get comments and feedback from the respective committees and/or chairs/leaders who direct them to be sure what we have is accurate. Once that is completed we will take our recommendations to the Church Council for approval.

I mentioned the SPLOST campaign earlier without stating the current results. We have reached the first goal of re-roofing the Activity Building and have about \$10K toward the second priority. It will require another \$26K to get it done. The Trustees are moving to firm up the bid and contract for the initial project. They had to wait to commit until the money was in hand to prevent the bid(s) from lapsing. We will keep you posted on the actual progress as the project gets underway.

Thanks again for your support, comments and prayers. Please keep them coming.

Trinity SPLOST (Special Purpose Love Offering Supporting Trinity) Update

Great news: \$18,566 is already in hand. The Trustees are getting bids to reroof the Activities Building — # 1 on our list!!! To date forty pledges (40) have been received for a total of \$52,365.96 pledged over the next 2 years.

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Children's Department

-Angela Gilbert
childrenareloved@trinity-methodist.org



Swimming pools, sprinklers, water slides, blueberry patches, movies, skating – It must be SUMMER FUN at Trinity! This year over 160 children attended Trinity's summer program. The best part is all the fun you get to share with your friends! Why does summer have to end?



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New Horizons Choir Tour

-Becky Tatman

The New Horizons 2010 Choir and Bell Tour started off with a bang this year as the fun began of loading the bus and the trailer. Fifty people and six octaves of bells require a lot of stuff for 9 days. Lamont, our faithful bus driver arrived bright eyed and bushy tailed around 5:00 AM. Lamont gets to sleep in because we all go to sleep the minute the wheels start turning. He does not get that luxury. We received our final instructions from our Captain, Vicki and Bill said a prayer and everyone kissed their momma and daddy good bye and loaded the bus. Seniors first and sixth graders last. Seniority does have its privileges.

If you've never been on choir tour many of the days are very similar. Painfully early wake up calls, a flurry to load the bus, get on the bus, roll call, go to sleep, wake up for a Flying J (Lamont's favorite place to stop), arrival at destination, flurry to unload, scurry to set up, quick change, concert. This is where the real beauty begins.

This year we had the blessing of sharing in seven concerts. This included our "going away concert" at Grace Community Church in Rincon, GA, where Wesley Corbitt is the associate pastor. Wesley is the son of J.D. and Lucy Corbitt who were serving at Trinity when Vicki was hired as a part time minister of music. Wesley is married to Pam Crenshaw who grew up at Trinity. Wesley and Pam were not in attendance because they had just had a grandbaby born out of town. However, J.D., Lucy and Jeff (son) were in attendance and J.D. announced to the packed house that hiring Vicki was one of the best decisions he had ever made. They served us an awesome covered dish lunch where the Youth from both churches got to mingle and visit together. Our second "church" concert was on Father's Day morning at Resurrection Lutheran church in Fredericksburg, VA. Our hosts were Hazel, Al and Fred Riedl who are family members of the Tatmans. We also spent two nights in their wonderful facility and they also fixed us a great pancake breakfast. Our third "church" concert was on Sunday night at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Yorktown, VA. Our host for this concert and lodging was Jessica McLeod's Aunt (and Kathy's sister), Suzi Robinson. They held a brownie and ice cream social for us where we were able to visit with the church members. Our fourth "church" concert was our own Homecoming Concert back at Trinity followed by a delicious BBQ meal that was prepared for us by the home crowd.

In addition to these four church concerts, we also performed three concerts this year in retirement communities to standing room only crowds. We performed at Croasdaile Village in Durham, NC, Chancellor's Village in Fredericksburg, VA, and The Village at Kelly Drive in York, PA. The church crowds were awesome but let me tell you, the senior citizen audiences were an astounding blessing as well. It was hard to tell who received a bigger blessing when all the visiting was over

and done. It just warms your heart to see these kids ministering to these senior citizens. We even had the opportunity to sing "Happy Birthday" to one of the residents. The look on her face was worth the whole trip.

But yes, there are other fun adventures along the way. We visited Kings Dominion and Hershey Amusement Parks. While we were in Pennsylvania we also took the opportunity to learn about the local Amish culture. We had a tour guide come on our bus and give us a personal tour of a local Amish farm and some local shopping. We also took advantage of the local cuisine and enjoyed a hearty Amish buffet. The concerts aren't always planned; we provided impromptu concerts at the outdoor shopping location as well as at the buffet. Everywhere we went the crowds were so appreciative. We also took the opportunity for an afternoon of horseback riding and a picnic. Then there are the other choir tour staples such as movies on the bus, Waffle House breakfast on the way to the church, Wal-Mart runs, roll calls, Flying Js, shower anxiety, ironing dilemmas, injuries, devotions, shopping, road side picnics, auction items, secret pal goodies, Ms. Michelle's awesome cooking, Ms. Melanie's interesting dancing moves, and of course, the all nighter (which really does last all night, the last night).

Every year, we also try and find something really special along the lines of a tacky tourist attraction to surprise the kids. However, this year instead we had the opportunity to tour the Schulmerich Hand Bell Factory. This was quite interesting with enough details to answer the most inquiring of minds. It's not just the singing that is appreciated. The hand bells are always a big hit. At several of the concerts we had bell ringers in the crowd who were just amazed at the talents of our bell ringers. They are an awesome group. We also continue to perform the drama "God is God" just because it always elicits such a awed response from the audience. At one of the concerts, there was a small child with her family who was enjoying the concert from the foyer of the church due to the rambunctiousness of the child. During "God is God" you could have heard a pin drop as the child watched intently through the glass. At the end, she whispered "It's Jesus" and she was right. He was there at every concert. We leave the completed portrait at the church. At one church our host asked what we were doing with it and was in tears when we told her we were leaving it for them.

Well, New Horizons 2010 Choir and Bell Tour is all over except for the chaperone party and the recuperation. It was a wonderful ministry to witness. I know they are our kids and we really want to pinch their heads off on some days. But the seeds have been planted in their lives and they are growing within them and they are spreading them to the world. Good Lord willing, we'll do it again next year.

Trinity United Methodist Church now has a direct link on Facebook. Stop by and check us out. Remember, you do NOT have to be a member to see our fan page.

<http://www.facebook.com/TrinityUnitedMethodistChurch>

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Trustees

-Roger Boan

The members of the Trustees Committee have received numerous questions about the type of work we do, how we do it, what the work costs, and how we determine what work needs to be done. Consider the following as our attempt to answer the questions.

The Trustees receive requests from other committees or individuals to create, modify, or repair some church property or equipment. Other tasks arrive because of a contract or safety requirement, unexpected damage to church property, or a need to meet an OSHA or ADA requirement. The first step is to place them on the Trustee wish list and categorize the item by urgency and importance. Step two is to place a cost to accomplish the task and identify a source for the work – contract, Glenn Watson, Boy Scouts, or other church-volunteers.

Each month new items are added and items are completed. For example, this month we added and accomplished the need to replace two large windows on the first floor of the CLC that had been damaged from the outside. The cost to replace the windows is \$600. This is our deductible portion of the insurance. We also needed to replace the dusk-to-dawn sensor for the parking lot lights that was struck by lightning - \$200. We are also working on the Statement of Work for the roof on the Activity Building –approximately \$16,000.

The following list should give you some idea of the work involved in supporting the church. This list covers items accomplished over the first six months of 2010.

1. Bales of Pine Straw spread on church grounds with the help of the Scouts - \$500.

2. Food Pantry walk-in freezer repaired. (The Food Pantry paid for the repairs)

3. Insurance and ownership of small truck – The church owns the truck and it was not road worthy. We had it disabled to preclude its use, the insurance was cancelled, and it will be used for storage by the Food Pantry.

4. The five-ton air conditioning compressor has

been replaced by a new unit for the FLC - \$5,900.

5. The parsonage roof (Pr. McLeod's home) has been inspected and there are a few shingles near the roof edge that should be replaced.

6. The FLC Fire Control Notification Box has been repaired several times. It was then beyond economical repair and had to be replaced - \$1,200.

7. The required sprinkler system test was accomplished - \$250.

8. The heat pump, a wall unit in the music area was not operating properly. Glenn Watson repaired the heat pump.

9. There was a diseased Bradford Pear tree in the south parking lot that could be a hazard. The tree has been removed by Glenn.

10. Trustees directed that the church thermostats be reprogrammed to 78 degrees. Reprogramming is complete. (Savings on the electric bill are expected.)

11. Trustees directed that the one and only water heater in the CLC be turned off as a measure to reduce the electric bill. This action does not affect the school area.

12. The front door of the sanctuary was painted by Glenn.

13. The Hollies were removed from the front of the sanctuary as part of an Eagle Scout project. (All Eagle Scout projects involving the church property must be approved by the Trustees.)

14. The prayer garden pump and timer are not working properly. The work was completed by Glenn as soon as the weather warmed up.

15. Several of the round dinner tables used in the FLC needed to be replaced because the legs could not lock into place. Billy Miller led a team to create a PVC fix to allow the legs to be locked. \$10

16. Water damage to Pr. McLead's house was repaired in February.

17. Sixteen new light bulbs installed in the FLC gym in June - \$608.

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Notes from the Congregation

-Mike Hatcher

In May you received a note about the financial shortfalls we are experiencing and asking for your ideas or thoughts on how we could reduce expenses. You were encouraged you to prayerfully consider your faithfulness to your Church.

We received feedback from many members with ideas and comments. We gathered these, considered them all and put together responses to them. We did not use the names of those who made inputs and we also consolidated those which were similar so the input may not read exactly as each person stated it but the intent should be correct.

Rather than try to reply to each person individually we decided to provide a composite reply to the congregation with our responses. We hope this will increase communication and better inform all of what is being done to address the financial issues. The answers were produced and reviewed by the Finance Committee which includes members of the church staff, Church Council, and Trustees. There is no attribution for the responses. If you have a follow up comment, suggestion or new input you can send that to me at my email address (mksrocket@cox.net) or call me (929-2327).

Thank you all for your patience and prayers.

1) On the idea to re-roof the church - have you or anyone else been in contact with our insurance agent to determine if we might be eligible for insurance coverage for the work due to hail damage? We have had several hail storms over the past few years that probably contributed to damage to our present church roof. It might be unknown when the damage occurred, but we owe it to the members to check this out and not settle for the first answer we get from the insurance agent. There is much past national precedent for insurance companies to pay for hail damage, either full or partial payment, that could save us a lot of money. Thanks for checking this out.

The trustees did look into this option but decided that there was not sufficient support for making a claim. They also received advice that even should they succeed in justifying some compensation it would not offset the increased cost of insurance.

2) I would not try to micromanage just give the committees a percentage to cut.

Great idea! Trinity has been down sizing the budget the last few years and has cut out most of the non-essential things so there is not a lot of room for additional

cuts. But we have begun to look at additional areas where we can cut back, and we will consider asking each committee to cut back by a specified percentage

3) Sunday School room (2nd floor) was very warm last week. Understand the idea of raising the temp to save \$, but we don't want that process to be counterproductive. Why not keep a/c high/off during week, but then make it comfortable on Sundays? We already have a very bad S/S attendance trend this year (to go along with lower receipts, church attendance, visitors, etc.

Your point is well made. There are several issues which have caused some confusion and also resulted in some of the thermostats being set too high or too low. First, we had too many folks making adjustments to the thermostats. Billy Miller, the head of the Trustee committee, has agreed to be the one who provides the guidance for setting the temperatures throughout the church for the entire week. Additionally, actions are being taken to limit access to the controls. Eventually, we hope to be able to centrally control all thermostats from one or two locations via computer. A second issue was how to allocate meeting areas while limiting the building spaces needing A/C. This was driven by the need to lower our utility costs and make better utilization of those spaces which would be made more comfortable. The thermal inertia of the building and greater needs during Sunday services required more flexibility and the need for pre-cooling for Sunday in order to maintain comfort. We are confident the situation will improve but it may require those who use the buildings during the rest of the week to be more flexible on meeting locations and times. Please let us know when you find areas that are too cool or too hot for the situation. Also, help us by turning out lights when no one is using them.

4) Might want to consider a review of all vehicles to see if we need them. If not, sell and put money in Gen Fund.

We agree and our church treasurer is currently in the process of doing just that. She is going back through the records and seeing how often each vehicle is used and how much it is costing us to keep them running. Then we will weigh whether or not it would be beneficial to look at other ways to meet these needs.

5) Establish and maintain a contingency fund for the maintenance and repairs of the internal and external needs of the facilities rather than "pass the bucket" every time something breaks. Trinity has been blessed with many resources. We

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Notes from the Congregation

(Continued)
-Mike Hatcher

need to manage them better.

You are correct. Trinity is very blessed. The church Finance Committee established a contingency fund for this purpose in the 2010 budget. The church budget puts \$1,500.00 per month into that contingency fund. But the current condition of the buildings is driving a high incidence of repair so it has been eating up the fund. SPLOST was started to help with some of the large projects such that the contingency fund will be able to cover the rest of the projects as the church is in need of repair. Thanks for your comments and for all you do here at Trinity.

6) Establish a “real” budget where everything is included as a line item and identified as “discretionary” and non-discretionary with appropriate priorities for each. That should include all unique missions and programs – like the food pantry. This will allow the Finance Committee to actually manage the church's finances. We need to end the habit of setting up of “special funds” for every new idea. It undermines the ability of those selected to manage the budget to do so. That way discretionary expenditures could be prioritized behind the “must pays”.

This is an interesting idea and it has many advantages. However, we did not get into our current situation arbitrarily nor overnight. It is likely that much thought was given each time one of these special funds was set up and the approach seemed right at the time. Today, many are truly obsolete or inappropriate and we are going through them systematically to determine if they should remain in the near term. For those that remain we are insuring that they are clearly defined and have documented descriptions that meet IRS guidelines for such funds as well as provide the church with better ways to manage the funds.

It is true that we currently can not use these funds in ways to mitigate a church financial crisis but the amounts involved are not very large anyway. The numbers indicate that, except for the “pass-thru” funds, the actual designated fund balances are relatively small (< 3-5% of the church budget). From an administrative point of view the idea is on target but it may take time and attrition of the need for the current funds to get to the goal.

7) Put a big sign on the elevator that says “For Handicapped and Elderly Only”.

Will do – thanks. (Note: someone did some investigating in the cost of elevator use and the rough estimate at today's power rates is that it costs about 35 cents per round trip.)

8) Close off the 3rd floor of the CLC to save energy. Use the 2nd floor with overflow to the 1st floor if needed. Shut down or limit heat & A/C during extended (>4 hrs) down periods. Concentrate usage to times and locations which produce the most energy savings. Change schedules where possible.

This is exactly what the Trustees have been working to accomplish over the past month or so – not just for the CLC but the entire church. It has not been easy and has been a learning experience every step of the way. Without repeating the response to #3 above, we can assure you we will continue to refine this idea because it will provide the largest and most persistent savings of all once we get it right. It will take everyone's attention and help.

9) There should be no designated or special funds or line items outside the general fund with the possible exception of a building fund. That would be the “rainy day” contingency only for facility maintenance and repair.

Please refer to the response to #6 above.

10) The minutes from the Finance Committee, Church Council, and Trustees meetings should be posted on the Trinity home page and published in each Tidings. In times of financial difficulties, the congregation should be “briefed” on the situation, the plan for correction and results at least once a month. Quarterly presentations should be presented otherwise. Our communications process needs work as this issue was a surprise to most of the congregation.

The idea of publishing the minutes from the Finance Committee, Church Council, and Trustees meetings is certainly possible. Inasmuch as the primary focus of each is the Church's business, each should be open to any and all. Whether this will prevent “surprises” would depend on the congregation accessing these through the Tidings online or by picking up one of the limited hard copy printings now available. Mass mailing is both impractical and costly. We have been discussing including a one page (max) synopsis of each in the Tidings as an initial try to achieve the goal. Additionally, the Church Council has just decided to keep a log book with minutes in a notebook in

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Notes from the Congregation

(Continued)

-Mike Hatcher

the Church office for anyone to review at any time the office is open.

The issue of frequent “briefings” on financial problems presents several dilemmas. First, the Sunday services should be reserved for worship and praise. Secondly, the

idea of monthly, church-wide meetings doesn't seem to resonate with any who hears the idea. It is important however that the congregation be informed regularly in a way which is easy to understand and access. Lastly, we have continuously worked on the weekly insertion in the church bulletin for each service to provide clear indication of the financial situation. Granted we have not achieved the outcome we seek and that you need. We will continue to work this issue because your point about communication is true. Even after four months of reporting deficits in the bulletin, many indicated they had no idea of the situation.

11) If stewardship is part of the problem, the pastors need to emphasize this on a regular basis – and in increasing intensity if the message isn't bearing fruit. We get mixed signals when this doesn't happen.

Those who study national trends in church contributions report that average giving is generally 2 – 3 % of a congregation's income. While it is impossible to know what Trinity's level of giving is, it is unlikely that we would be an exception to this statistical pattern. We see within this information great potential, in that there is certainly greater capacity for giving within our membership. We are bearing fruit, but perhaps there is much more fruit to bear! While some no doubt, are giving at or above the level of a full tithe (10%), others fall far short of this goal. With this in mind, we believe there is always room to improve the emphasis that we place on stewardship. The Finance Committee has embraced the idea that stewardship should be a year-round focus. While we have a particular emphasis on stewardship every fall encouraging members to complete an estimate of giving card, we believe that creating an ethos of tithing is something that must be fostered throughout the year by our pastors, program staff and all church leaders. We have many opportunities to increase congregational awareness of stewardship through sermons, publications, Sunday school classes, small groups, church committees and on-line at our website. As Paul encour-

aged the early Christians, “...and let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds.” (Hebrews 10: 24) It is our goal to continue to work on stewardship education blending it into every aspect of church life and every season of the year. All of us need to be challenged regularly to greater faithfulness in our giving.

12) The inclusion of the sign with roof leaks as a priority is confusing. Also, it is strange that all these roofs seem to need repair at the same time. With the scant information provided to the congregation so far, it is unclear that we are really in a crisis situation.

The final group of projects selected by the Trustees came from a much larger “wish list” which goes back over several years (and other Trustee Committees). Even from the beginning of the discussions for the SPLOST campaign the sign was questioned in terms of importance. Each time the Trustees came back and reassured the committee that it had been carefully considered with the other pressing items and should be included due to its importance in communicating and reaching the community (as well as members) and its rapidly deteriorating condition. It, like the roofs, is on the verge of failure.

There is no way to accurately predict the failure of the roofs on the SPLOST list. However, it is easy to see clear evidence of damage and deterioration. Also, the Trustees have had several assessments and estimates done on each over the recent years in anticipation of such a failure. As it turns out the accrued age of the ones included in the SPLOST are reasonably close. We will be providing better information to the congregation on this issue over the next month.

Finally, it may be too optimistic to expect that we will not have a new “emergency” over a two year span (or however long it takes to complete the projects). If that should happen, the Trustees have indicated that they would come back to the church with a new recommended priority list. The bottom line is that these projects will not change unless and until the Trustees decide and inform the congregation.

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Our Mission: Building a joyful community centered on Christ and fully committed to seeking the lost, serving the needy, feeding the hungry and healing the wounded.

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

Alice Reese
Margaret Poole
Jean and Sam Hendry

Summerhill Assisted Living Community

500 Stanley Drive, Perry 31069

Nell Posey ~ Veranda East Room 13

Willow Creek Assisted Living

Bldg.1 ~1900 Macon Road Perry, GA 31069

Linda Averett

Homebound

Billie Curry
320 Bernard Drive ~ 31088

Shirley Matthews
421 Woodland Drive ~ 31088

Jim and Mae Kincaid
319 Oakview Square ~ 31088

Bill Macer
107 Polly Ct ~ 31088

Ruth Wehrmeyer
111 Pearce Drive ~ 31093

Billie Meaders
109 Ginny Drive ~ 31093

Continue to update this list by emailing theunderwoods1@cox.net

Deployed Active Duty Military

Ryan Hall (serving in Iraq and Afghanistan) son of Ron and Donna Hall

Wayne Smith (Basic Training) Hammakers

Trey Thomas (Afghanistan) Thomas and Overcash Families

Major James B. Phillips, Jr. (Iraq) Mitt Team US Army

Jason Thaggard Iraq) nephew of Shelby Snow

Major Seana Jardin daughter of Roy and Bronwyn Jardin

Joshua Green (Iraq) nephew of Stacy Green (Trinity Preschool Teacher)

John Simonton (Afghanistan) wife, Lori. - 2 children, Bobby and Alexandria

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