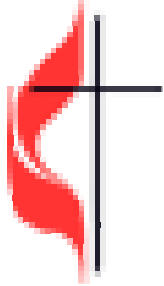


# THE TIDINGS

Vol.8 Issue 5  
June 2010



## Trinity United Methodist Church

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

### *A Simple Way*

I want to live more simply. There is something that pulls my spirit constantly in that direction. Part of this desire I think is driven by images that reside deep within me of what I witnessed of simple living as a child. Both sets of my grandparents lived in little wood frame houses here in Georgia, one in Adrian and the other in Cartersville. When we would go to visit, I remember there was always time for folk to sit in a rocker on the porch and visit. Time just seemed to move slower. Maybe this is just nostalgia doing a number on me, but I really do think life had a different pace back then. I don't think my grandparents had to be intentional about adopting a simple lifestyle. Most of what set the pattern for simplicity in their lives was the lack of money. They wouldn't have called it poverty, because most everyone around them was in the same fix. Doing without is a great simplifier!

The reality of my life however is that I continue to take on things that make my life more complex. Not that I own every gadget on the market, but I have my fair share. And, as I have observed over the years most of those things I acquire have a way of absorbing time and resources. I have heard it said that for everything you "own" there is a certain truth that it also owns you. So, as I stated above, I have reached a point where I want to live more simply.

Let me share with you from a booklet I came across the other day which suggested a number of things which would make life simpler...

- Learn the art of saying "no." When you exclude something, you invariably include something else even more fully.
- Celebrate the ordinary. Your heart knows the comfort and the beauty in common things. Let it tell your head.

- It is hard to know when you "have enough." Make the question "Do I really need more?" part of you life's work.
- Do not pretend to be anything you are not. That way you can always be consistent and truly free.
- Learn to value spiritual things over material things. They last longer, cost less, bring more.
- Be small and child-like. There is no simpler, better way to see the big picture.
- Silence is golden. Seek it and it will quietly enrich your life.
- Trust that God supplies you with unlimited good. There is grain left in the field even after the harvest.
- Don't let work and play be rivals. While each may have its separate place at times, both can also occupy the same space.
- Know your limits. There is nothing more freeing – or more motivating – than knowing what you can and cannot do well.
- Do only one thing at a time. Putting yourself wholeheartedly into what you are doing – no matter how mundane- honors it ...and you ...and your Creator. Rediscover the joy of a quiet conversation, a simple story or game, an honest expression of affection for another. These simple gifts and pleasures will help keep your life balanced.

Jesus lived simply and asked his disciples to do the same. (Mt. 6: 19–21) Would you join in this calling toward living more simply? I am convinced that by doing so, we free up our hearts, our minds, our spirits and our resources for God to use in greater ways.

Blessings,  
Bill

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## *Trinity Happenings*

### SPLOST Challenge

**Becomers** Sunday School class, finding a fair amount of money in its account not needed immediately for its ministries, voted to contribute \$200 to the church's General Fund. Can other classes or groups do better?

### Upcoming Children's Events

**Summer Fun** – June 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30  
July 1, 6, 7, 8

Registration Forms are located throughout the Children's Building. For more information, contact Laura Dills ([children@trinity-methodist.org](mailto:children@trinity-methodist.org)) or Angela Gilbert ([childrenareloved@trinity-methodist.org](mailto:childrenareloved@trinity-methodist.org))



**Trinity's 2010 Graduates:** (not in order) Jacob Benoit, Ian Burkes, Devyn Ehler, Logan Lorenz, Nathan Shoman, Zac Watson, Elizabeth Weber, Joel Applegate, Sean Bryan, Bobby Simonton, Max Burgess, Katie Hudson, Meghan Ward, and William Minor.

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## Church Council Corner

-Shirley Siegel  
siegelsas@aol.com

The Church Council meetings are open to everyone at Trinity and attending meetings can be very informative.

At the April Church Council meeting there were several reports given informing the council of the various ministries and activities of Trinity:

Brett Gallaher reported that the **Youth** enjoy their weekly Prayer Breakfasts so much that during the summer they will continue those, but they will transform into Prayer Suppers. The Hinton Mission Trip will be July 11-17. The recently formed Young Adult Praise Band play at the Contemporary Service the third Sunday of each month.

Maria Trenam reported the **Emmaus Table** is in its eleventh year of ministry. Volunteers from area churches join with Trinity in this ministry.

Angela Gilbert reported that there is an average of 50 people attending the **Alpha Class** each week.

There were also reports from the **Jamaica Team** and from the **Homecoming Committee**.

Kirby Neal reported that **Brenda Benoit** has resigned due to a health issue involving her foot. At the present time her responsibilities have been absorbed by other staff members and volunteers.

The Council accepted the proposed Funds Collection Process presented by Mike Hatcher on behalf of the **Finance Committee**. The purpose of this proposal was to put into place a collection and counting policy/process that will provide the necessary checks and balances. Until this proposal was accepted, there was no formal policy in place at Trinity. Also, the May 16 kick-off date for the **SPLOST** capital campaign was announced.

**Bill Bagwell** always has comments and wisdom to share with the Council as well. In April he shared about the experience of camping – “in” due to the stormy weather the night of the scheduled block party camp-out.

There is always a lot going on at Trinity. To find out more, I invite you to attend our next Church Council Meeting, Sunday, **June 27**, at **7pm**, in the Asbury Classroom. I look forward to seeing you there.

# Thank you, thank you

to all who helped make the first annual indoor yard sale a success. \$1,052 was raised for missions. A big thank you goes to Grace Harmon who organized this event.

Family Game Night  
July 7th.  
Dinner and games for everyone  
\$5 for adults  
\$3 for children  
Come enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship in the Family Life Center

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# Finance Forum

-Mike Hatcher  
mksrocket@cox.net

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

|                              | <u>MAY</u>  | <u>YTD</u>                          |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| General Fund Mo Budget Need: | \$ 70,788   | \$ 353,940                          |
| General Fund Receipts:       | \$ 67,497   | \$ 331,482 (\$ 22,458 below budget) |
| General Fund Expenses;       | \$ 68,751   | \$ 344,554                          |
| Net Result                   | \$ ( 1,254) | \$ (13,072)                         |

While our financial situation is still of concern, the SPLOST campaign donations and the fact that our deficit is not continuing to increase at its previous rate is encouraging. The SPLOST donations have almost reached the first level of need and I expect the Trustees to be moving out very soon on the first project under the program. More should be coming soon from them and Art Howard, the SPLOST leader, on that.

Please note that there is about a \$9,400 difference between the budgeted shortfall and the actual shortfall in the table above. This is due to conservatism on the part of the program leaders and the staff in spending their allocated funds this budget year. We also have some staff changes which reduced the amount of salary required. If our downward trend continues we will have to take that money to pay our the church's expenses. I am hopeful that we will not have to do that since it will impact the mission of the church.

The money saving actions taken so far promise to bring reduced expenses over the next few months. There are still some details to work out on the management of the CLC utility reductions but we are making progress. Angie Jones, the church treasurer has discovered several more things we can do to reduce expenses in other areas. The Trustees and the staff continue to work on scheduling more efficient usage of the buildings to control costs. By themselves many of these seem to be small but they are beginning to add up.

We have begun to use the new cash collection and counting process we developed to meet the audit standards set by our conference and the IRS. Since this will increase the need for lay volunteers. Tim Burkes, Sandra Watson and Kevin Benoit from the Finance Committee have put together a very good list of volunteers to make up the teams needed. Like any change it will take a few weeks for us to get the process running smoothly. Most of the congrega-

tion should not even notice that anything is different but it will resolve an important issue the auditors found last year. I expect that we will get a much more favorable report when they return later this year.

We are very near completion of our work on the purpose statements for the almost 30 designated funds used within the Church. Our primary goal is to get each of these statements as correct and clear as possible. We are also striving to make sure that these fund descriptions meet the legal (IRS) requirements for such funds. Each must clearly state how and by whom these funds are executed. Disposition of "left-over" or unused funds also needs to be addressed. All should be under church control with church driven guidance. Several funds are strictly used for book keeping purposes and may not be good candidates for this process. Some examples are those which are depositories for church trips or events where the moneys input are to be later drawn out to pay for individual participation or expenses. That will be resolved as we move forward.

While I continue to be concerned about our situation I am confident that we can turn the situation around and become stronger in the process. The reactions to my open request to the congregation for ideas and suggestions was inspiring and very educational. Almost without exception, each expressed their heartfelt desire to help. Negative comments or criticism was rare. One theme was consistent – keep us informed and we will come forward to help. I will continue to try to find better ways to keep the congregation informed and up to date. I hope you will all continue to share your ideas with me or any member of the Finance Committee, Church Council, Trustees, or church staff. Above all please continue to pray for us that we will do what Christ desires for Trinity.

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# South Georgia Annual Conference

-Bud Abbott

Pauline and I were privileged to represent Trinity as lay delegates to the 2010 conference. It was a joy to reconnect with long-time friends, including former Trinity pastors and members, make new ones, and be about the business of the United Methodist Church. We will mention some items of interest to Trinity which are not included in the "Conference Wrap-up" which follows our comments.

"South Georgia Advocate" - Bishop King made an appeal for more church members to subscribe to ensure it continues. This is the conference newspaper and it is an excellent, informative publication about local churches and conference activities. Subscriptions include "The Reporter" which provides national events and items of interest. Cost is \$25.00/year (\$23.00 for seniors) and is published twice a month. To subscribe, go to [www.sgaumc.org/advocate](http://www.sgaumc.org/advocate) or call 1 (877) 465-1685.

Apportionments - This system of giving is "a distinctive feature of United Methodism to underwrite United Methodist ministry and mission beyond the local church." Apportionments are determined for each church based upon a financial and membership formula ("Book of Recommendations" p.85, view at [www.sgaumc.org](http://www.sgaumc.org)) and are included in each local church's budget. Bishop King urged each church to meet 100% of its assigned apportionments. It was acknowledged that the economic downturn, loss of employment, and declining membership were factors that made it difficult for some churches to meet the 100% goal in 2009 and still pay expenditures of the local church.

The South Georgia Conference (with nine districts) paid 85% of its apportionments in 2009. The Dublin District was recognized for having paid 100% for six consecutive years. The Macon District paid 75% (34 of 61 churches paid 100%) with Trinity UMC contributing less than 100%. More information on the apportionments system is provided by the General Council on Finance and Administration at [www.gcfa.org](http://www.gcfa.org).

New Conference Center - Due to a woeful lack of office space, currently being rented, for the bishop and his admin-

istrative staff, a three-year project is in the works to build a permanent facility ("Book of Recommendations" p.68). The 10,600 sq. ft. facility is estimated to cost \$2.9 million and will be financed through private donations only and not through apportionments. It will be located on the Wesleyan campus in Macon.

Significant to Trinity:

Mark Reddick, attending Andrew College, received a scholarship from the Georgia United Methodist Commission on Higher Education. He will also receive one from the South Georgia Conference United Methodist Men. Mark is the son of Dawn and George Reddick and grandson of Rebecca Bullock.

Dan Underwood was commissioned as an elder and is being assigned as associate pastor to Vineville UMC in Macon. Dan's parents are June and Eddie Underwood.

## Among many other agenda items during the four-day event, conference members:

- learned more about The Advance and covenant relationships with missionaries from Ms. Rachael Barnett from The General Board of Global Ministries.
- were greeted by Mr. Charlie Coleman, an ambassador for the Black College Fund, who expressed appreciation for the support The United Methodist Church and the South Georgia Conference gives him and the 16,000 students through the Black College Fund.
- heard John Wesley moments by Rev. Dave Hanson throughout conference in which these concise and powerful mini-sermons reminded attendees of our Wesleyan roots.
- had the opportunity to spend time at the Georgia Agrirama for a time of food, fun, and fellowship. Agrirama is Georgia's Museum of Agriculture and Living History Museum.
- approved a \$12.4 million budget for mission and ministry for the next year.

**A complete appointment book as well as full**

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# Haiti

-Carolyn Schomer  
schomerc@bellsouth.net

## Haiti: Emergency School Tents

(UMCOR) Hundreds of school administrators and teachers and thousands of students perished in Haiti's Department l'Ouest during the January 12 earthquake. Schools in the province were damaged or completely destroyed, leaving surviving children with no class to go to, and teachers unable to teach.

UMCOR is responding by setting up emergency classroom tents for six primary schools in Tabarre Issa and one in Corail, which will benefit a total of 1,870 students and 52 teachers. UMCOR also will provide chairs, desks, and tables, as well as school kits from UMCOR Sager Brown relief depot.

Since the earthquake four months ago, generous donors have given more than \$33 million to UMCOR's relief and recovery work in Haiti. Much more will be needed as the Haitian people rebuild over the coming years. One hundred percent of your gift supports these efforts. Please give to Haiti Emergency, UMCOR Advance #418325. [Or take part in helping rebuild these schools by putting together school kits.](#)

## **Angel Food: A Bargain and a Blessing**

Through our Food Bank, we give away a lot of food to needy people. We also provide top quality food at wholesale prices to all who are interested through another program. Angel Food is administered by a small non-denominational church near Athens, but its scope is nation-wide.

The basic unit of Angel Food is a large grocery bag full of frozen meats, fruits and vegetables, some staples and/or fresh produce, a dozen eggs and a dessert item. The cost is only \$30, and the value is well over \$60. It is always top quality food, no damaged containers, expired shelf life, etc.

Gerald Peavy manages the program and our Youth Choir provides the labor under Ms. Vicki's guidance. The food arrives in bulk one Saturday a month; we pack it in bags and take it to the clients' cars when they arrive. Ordering is as convenient as we can make it: menus and order forms for the following month are packed in each bag; there is a drop box for orders paid by cash or check on the office wall; someone is in the entry the last Friday and Saturday to order, to accommodate any who wish to see a face when they do business, have questions or worries, or are ordering with Food Stamps. Some clients mail their orders to the church.

This is a wonderful ministry. Please spread the word so that we may serve still more people. The program pays for itself, so our ability to serve is not limited.

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

-Uplift these people 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**

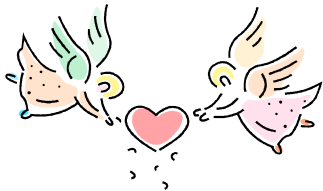
608 Kimberly Road ~ 31088

Alice Reece  
Margaret Poole  
Jean and Sam Hendry

### **Summerhill Assisted Living Community**

500 Stanley Drive, Perry 31069

Nell Posey ~ Veranda East Room 13



### **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](mailto:theunderwoods1@cox.net)

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

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

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)

Navy Commander Mark Sanders - (Baghdad) son of Ned Sanders

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

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



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# So Many Reasons to Celebrate...

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|--|--|---|
| <p>★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★</p> <p>★ <b>June Birthdays</b> ★</p> <p>★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★</p>   | <p>26<sup>th</sup> Dale Snyder<br/>Zane Cooper<br/>Ruth Davis<br/>Christopher Nobles</p> <p>29<sup>th</sup> Gail Grove</p> <p>30<sup>th</sup> Tristan Andrews<br/>June Kelly<br/>Charles Loudin<br/>Allen Powell<br/>Alfred Stephens</p>   | <p>8<sup>th</sup> Andrew Brin<br/>Sean Brooks<br/>Tyler Grubbs<br/>Judge Ivey</p> <p>9<sup>th</sup> Joe Cody<br/>Luke Burkes</p> <p>10<sup>th</sup> Susan Davenport<br/>Ron Dobson<br/>Dale Lorenz<br/>Rhea Phillips</p> <p>11<sup>th</sup> Phillip Dunn, Jr.</p> <p>12<sup>th</sup> Judy Bruce<br/>Kelly Dempsey<br/>Marty McLeod</p> <p>13<sup>th</sup> Margaret Crowe<br/>Nathan Dempsey<br/>Jon Jossart<br/>James Phillips</p> <p>14<sup>th</sup> Lori Campbell<br/>Brian Decker<br/>Reece Hickcok<br/>Paige Thompson</p> <p>15<sup>th</sup> Dawyn Borders<br/>Ian Burkes<br/>Gladys Rissmann</p> |
| <p>16<sup>th</sup> Cameron Kemp<br/>Jessica Yandell</p> <p>17<sup>th</sup> Kyler Richmond</p> <p>18<sup>th</sup> Lauren DeJeet<br/>Ed Dukes</p> <p>19<sup>th</sup> Sheila Boutselis<br/>Debi Brin<br/>Eli Gallaher<br/>Margaret Poole</p> <p>20<sup>th</sup> Homer Hobbs</p> <p>21 Kacy Rizer</p> <p>21<sup>st</sup> John Simonton</p> <p>22<sup>nd</sup> Lori Johnson<br/>Christy Preston<br/>Doug Pugh</p> <p>23<sup>rd</sup> Betty Ann Fenimore<br/>Todd Sappe</p> <p>24<sup>th</sup> Tim Burkes<br/>Joyce Miller</p> <p>25<sup>rd</sup> Dave Daniel<br/>Todd Oxyer</p> | <p>★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★</p> <p>★ <b>July Birthdays</b> ★</p> <p>★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★</p>   |   |
|  | <p>1<sup>st</sup> John Hurst</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Hayleigh Loudin<br/>Tim Luschen<br/>Brandon Munda</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Eddie Watson</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> Elizabeth Weber</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> Sarah Pospisil<br/>Carol Underwood</p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> Hubert Myers</p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> Alicia Giedd<br/>Guy Moulder</p> |   |

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p>★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★</p> <p>★ <b>June Anniversaries</b> ★</p> <p>★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★</p>  |   | <p>★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★</p> <p>★ <b>July Anniversaries</b> ★</p> <p>★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★</p>   |
| <p>16<sup>th</sup> Ken &amp; June Kelly</p> <p>21<sup>st</sup> Bud &amp; Pauline Abbott<br/>John &amp; Shirley Hurst</p> <p>25<sup>th</sup> Hubert &amp; Tris Myers<br/>Sharon &amp; Bruce Radebaugh<br/>Lea &amp; Victor Volskay</p> <p>26<sup>th</sup> Sam &amp; Jean Henry<br/>Frank &amp; Virginia Huff</p> <p>30<sup>th</sup> Ken &amp; Connie Adkins<br/>Brian &amp; Nancy Getzin<br/>Gene &amp; Melinda Gordon</p> |  | <p>1<sup>st</sup> Tom &amp; Lona Dills<br/>Loren &amp; Tracy Clifford</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Rob &amp; Ruth Langlois</p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> Wes &amp; Anne Walker</p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> Chris &amp; Lori Overcash</p> <p>12<sup>th</sup> Andy &amp; Crystal O'Leary Davidson</p> <p>13<sup>th</sup> Steve &amp; Toni Simmons</p> |
|   |  |  |