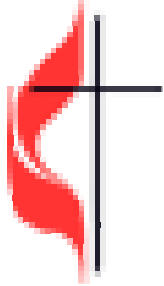


# THE TIDINGS

Vol.8 Issue 4  
May 2010



## Trinity United Methodist Church

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

### Fifty and Counting

Do you ever get nostalgic for the way things used to be? This bittersweet longing for the past can be so enticing at times. However, a stroll down memory lane can be a tricky thing to negotiate. Before you know it, you can find yourself wistfully wishing for those days gone by. Things in the past have the ability of taking on a “larger than life” perspective. If you’ve ever sorted through an old box of family photos, you know how easy it is to lose yourself in the memories. There is a part of reminiscing that is absolutely wonderful ... but another part of it that is difficult. As time stands still, you treasure the people, places and events that have marked your life.

The past several months here at Trinity have been filled with preparations for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary / Homecoming celebration. It has been a great time of sharing memories and reflecting on the history of our growth as a congregation. There are a few charter members who have been here since day one, and others who have been a part of this congregation’s journey for most of the 50 years. There are those who remember gathering - rain or shine - for worship under the big tent that hot summer of 1960. Some will remember moving worship just up the road into the bowling alley as the fall weather began to turn cool. Others will remember the milestones of our buildings that began to mark our claiming this location as home ...the original Sanctuary and educational wing, the Activities Building, the Children’s Building, the new Sanctuary, the Family Life Center, and the Christian Learning Center. Each of these has housed beautiful ministries that have developed over the course of the years. All along this

path, God has been present guiding us.

Just recently, the lettered sign on our front lawn has simply announced “We are blessed!” Don’t you feel a deep sense of gratitude for what God has done here through Trinity United Methodist Church. In these five decades God has done so much for which we can be thankful! And, God continues to bless this community of faith! I like the words of Elizabeth O’Connor who wrote in her book The New Community:

“The primary purpose of the disciplines, structures of accountability and mission of the Church is to build life together, to create liberating communities of caring.”

Our vision statement here at Trinity points us toward this kind of understanding of church...

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

As we reflect on our history, we treasure our past, but we also look with expectation to what God is doing now and in our future. We are not just fifty years old ...we are fifty and counting!

Let me thank everyone who has worked so hard to pull the details of our Homecoming celebration together. Elaine Pritchard (alias: “Louise”) has helped to direct an army of very willing and creative volunteers who have offered their time and talents as a labor of love. Thanks to all of you!

Blessings,  
Bill

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# Trinity Happenings

## Alpha Update

Trinity has completed its first Sunday morning Alpha Study. Over 100 people have visited the study with the average attendance around 57 each week. Special thanks to all the Sunday school classes at Trinity that provided breakfast each and every week. Your kindness was appreciated by all! Watch for more details of the next Alpha Study to take place in the fall. If you would like to participate in the next class, please contact Margaret Mathews or Marty McLeod.



## Sleep Out Becomes SLEEP IN to END MALARIA

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, Trinity participated in the *Change the World Weekend* with the United Methodist Church. Methodist churches all over the world joined together to fight Malaria. The rainy Saturday prevented the outside campout, but not the *inside one!* Trinity families and youth participated by spending the night in the church. The evening was spent playing volleyball, basketball, and watching a film about Malaria. Of course every camping event must have hotdogs and s'mores! The children around the church collected *Change to Change the World!* Over \$700 was collected. This money will be used to purchase mosquito netting to help prevent the spread of malaria.



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## *Trinity's 50th Anniversary*

# TRINITY UMC 50TH ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING

MAY 21-23, 2010

*Trinity will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year! What a wonderful history we share together. Don't miss out on all the excitement. Plan to be a part of these special days!*

**SAVE THE DATES!**  
Trinity's 50th Anniversary Celebration

 **Family Sock Hop - Friday, May 21**  
6:30 pm in our Family Life Center

**Bowling - Saturday, May 22**  
2-4 pm, Gold Cup Bowling Center  
1041 Russell Parkway

 **Homecoming Service**  
Sunday, May 23, in the sanctuary 10:30 am  
followed by dinner in the FLC. One service only  
No Sunday school. For info call 478-923-3797

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# Finance Forum

-Mike Hatcher  
mksrocket@cox.net

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

	<u>MAR</u>	<u>YTD</u>
General Fund Mo Budget Need:	\$ 70,788	\$ 283,152
General Fund Receipts:	\$ 63,824	\$ 266,638
General Fund Expenses;	\$ 65,477	\$ 277,414
Net Result	\$ ( 1,653)	\$ (10,776)

Our threshold for reacting to the continued shortfall in our budget has been breached. The Finance Committee spent a large portion of our meeting this month discussing what action(s) we need to take to address the problem. In simple terms, we will seek actions on both sides of the equation – receipts and expenses.

Since our budget is established on historical levels of giving to the “general fund”, there is always the prospect that contributions may fall short. Historically, this has been true, but only in recent times have the fluctuations been large enough and consistently negative to the point that we have needed to react with such actions. Additionally, the small reserve we retained from last year is almost depleted. That means we are very close to stopping all expenditures except those we can afford once the “must-pays” (utilities, staff salaries, mortgage, etc) are covered. These constitute such a large part of the monthly budget that even if we curtailed all ministries of nurture, ministries of outreach, and the media ministry we would still not offset the current \$5,000 to \$8,000 shortfall trend we've seen each month this year (except March which was only \$2,000 above our monthly budget need).

What further concerns us is the fact that last year we were relatively balanced until the May – July time frame when a significant cumulative shortfall grew. It was eliminated only after a direct plea to the

congregation in the fall and their response in December coupled with a good bit of belt-tightening by all the departments and staff.

We have already begun to work with the Church Council, the church staff, and the Trustees to investigate ways to cut expenses in our utilities and other administrative areas. These would be the near term efforts which can produce the most immediate impact albeit not equal to the shortfalls. A few longer term ideas with greater dollar impact are being explored to see if they have merit or are feasible. There are some duties and responsibilities within the paid staff which might be shifted to lay volunteers and as attrition occurs other duties may be reallocated or, if necessary, eliminated. We have small teams from various committees looking into all ideas on possible cost cutting. We will be soliciting involvement from all the congregation via emails, in the Sunday services and through the committees.

While I am very concerned about our situation I am also encouraged and inspired by the real support and determination I have seen expressed by all those who have heard our problem and responded not with hand wringing and despair or doubt but with “what can I do to help?”. I am confident that we will meet this challenge and, quite possibly, become a stronger, more effective voice for Christ in the process.

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# Children's Department

-Angela Gilbert

childrenareloved@trinity-methodist.org



## Preschool Happenings

As the last day of school approaches, Trinity Preschool has been busy with lots of fun events. Muffins for Moms, Doughnuts for Dads, Field Trips and Field Days are just a few of the special treats enjoyed by the children.

Registration has already begun for next year. We still have some openings in several of our classes. Be sure and complete your registration form! We have classes for ages 6 months through Kindergarten.

## Upcoming Children's Events

**Parent's Night Out** – May 28th

**Vacation Bible School** – June 1st, 2nd & 3rd

**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))



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## ***Jamaica Mission Team***

-Carolyn Schomer  
schomerc@bellsouth.net



### **Bibles Needed for Jamaica Mission**

We are collecting Bibles to take to St. Ann's Province as part of our eighteenth work team trip this June. Although many of the people we work with enjoy the small New Testament, KJV, we often have requests for newer translations and entire Bibles. If you have Bibles you would like to donate or if you would like to contribute funds so they may be purchased, both would be welcome. They may be given to any team member, placed in a Jamaica box in the hall outside the church office, or checks can be written to Trinity United Methodist Church Jamaica Mission with "Bibles" written in the "for" section.

Thank you, 2010 Jamaica Mission Team

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**

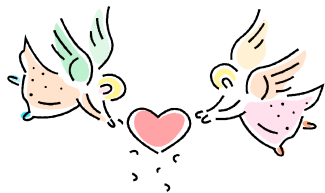
608 Kimberly Road ~ 31088

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***

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...

 <p><b><u>May Birthdays</u></b></p>	<p>Dave Nakayama Mary Sheridan Kristi Slavik</p> <p>28th George Brannen Jack Shope Al Stewart</p> <p>29th Mark Elliott</p> <p>30th Rusty Blair Cecil Robertson</p> <p>31st Donna Pallini</p>	<p>9<sup>th</sup> Mason Benoit Luke Burkes</p> <p>10<sup>th</sup> Brenda Benoit</p> <p>11<sup>th</sup> Lauren Edenfield Haven Hancock Grace Harmon Jean Posey</p> <p>12<sup>th</sup> Roy Jardin Kevin Logan</p> <p>13<sup>th</sup> Vera Newsome Scott Warren</p> <p>14<sup>th</sup> Melanie Brooks Mary Edenfield-Gibbs Brent Sappe</p> <p>15<sup>th</sup> Cheryl Minor Sheryl Shoman George Stefano</p>
<p>16th Michelle Elliott Pam Piper</p> <p>18th Ashley Johnson Carrol Rose Evelyn Sheffield</p> <p>19<sup>th</sup> Chris Chaloult</p> <p>20th Sean Preston Ward Wilson Randy Wyatt</p> <p>21st Jo Betsy Kinser Elaine Romich</p> <p>22<sup>nd</sup> Savanna Gary</p> <p>23rd Scott Brin Carolyn Wyatt</p> <p>24th Nicholas Ayers Barry Brooks Phil Crowe George Lumpkin Trevor Pennycuff</p> <p>25th Andrew Decker Karen Smith</p> <p>26th Denise Andrews Marty Lambert Christopher Nobles</p> <p>27th Kim Hatcher</p>	 <p><b><u>June Birthdays</u></b></p>	
	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Nancy Birdsell Marie Hitchcock Patrick Nakayama</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Keith Barnett Jacob Benoit Julie Luschen</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> EC Warnock</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> Duncan Brown Don Farris</p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> Loren Clifford Crystal O'Leary-Davidson</p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> Jessica Applegate Zella Bradsher</p> <p>8<sup>th</sup> John Palmer</p>	



 <p><b><u>May Anniversaries</u></b></p>	 <p><b><u>June Anniversaries</u></b></p>
<p>18th Greg &amp; Karen Pennycuff</p> <p>20th Mike &amp; Christin Eader</p> <p>23rd Denise &amp; Todd Sappe</p> <p>24th Roy &amp; Bronwyn Jardin</p> <p>26th Art &amp; Paula Howard</p> <p>27th Ken &amp; Elaine Pritchard John &amp; Billie Trussell</p> <p>28th Greg &amp; Susan Edenfield</p>	<p>16<sup>th</sup> Ken &amp; June Kelly</p> <p>21<sup>st</sup> Bud &amp; Pauline Abbott John &amp; Shirley Hurst</p> <p>25<sup>th</sup> Hubert &amp; Tris Myers Sharon &amp; Bruce Radebaugh Lea &amp; Victor Volskay</p> <p>26<sup>th</sup> Sam &amp; Jean Henry Frank &amp; Virginia Huff</p> <p>30<sup>th</sup> Ken &amp; Connie Adkins Brian &amp; Nancy Getzin Gene &amp; Melinda Gordon</p>

