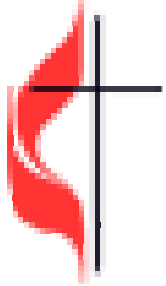


# THE TIDINGS



Vol.8 Issue 8  
September 2010

## Trinity United Methodist Church

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

### The Complications of Tithing

I believe there are a lot of good Christians who are trying to figure out what belongs to God. It's not that people talk a lot about this, but a comment here, a comment there, makes me believe that it's on folks' minds. Occasionally someone will come up to me and ask something like... "Do you believe we should tithe on the gross or the net - before tax or after tax income?" or "Should all charitable giving be considered as a part of the tithe or is the tithe just what you give to the church?" or "Do you think that a tithe of one's time can take the place of a tithe of one's money?" Interesting questions aren't they! I'm not as good as Jesus at handling this kind of stuff. I'll usually wade right into the thick of it and try to help a person figure out an answer to their dilemma. You remember Jesus' definitive statement don't you... "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." He just puts it right back on folk as if to say, it all has to do with the way in which you view the world.

I've lived long enough to learn that some people spend their lives trying to figure ways to keep God from having control of their resources, ... while a saintly few overflow with such generosity it is as if everything belonged to God in the first

place. Statistics show that members of mainline denominations, on the average give 2 - 3% of their income to the church. I don't know with that figure if we are talking before tax or after tax, but either way it's a pretty sobering little stat in my opinion. And, it occurs to me, if it weren't for the saints among us, that average might be a lot lower! Friends, the nicest way to put this is that we have a lot of "potential" here.

I want to encourage you to think about your giving - it is a good indication of where your heart is. During the month of September, we will circulate commitment cards to members and friends of Trinity UMC. This is not about trying to "raise the budget" - that's too low a goal. The whole purpose behind the fall stewardship emphasis is to help us become more attuned to how we can learn to "give God what is God's". For three Sundays, Marty and I will be focusing on this challenging statement in our sermons:

Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> - "Balance" - I Timothy 6: 10b

Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> - "Abundance" - Proverbs 21: 5

Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> - "Generosity" - 2 Corinthians 8: 1 - 7

I hope you will be in worship each week. May God bless all of us in this calling to be saints overflowing with generosity!

Blessings,  
Bill

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# Hinton Mission Team

-Logan Lorenz

## Together as a Community: Hinton Rural Life Center

*(Logan has been participating in the Hinton mission trip for 4 years. He is the oldest son of Leslie and Dale Lorenz, and big brother to Alyssa. Having graduated from Houston County High this spring, he is now starting his college career at Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville.)*

Hinton is my once a year trip that I go on to give back to the community. As I live 4 hours away from the Hinton Rural Life Center, many would wonder why we travel so far to help this community when there is so much to be done around our own city. Some would even criticize the fact that we do this. I was asked once, "Why not stay around town? There is so much to do around here." The answer seemed obvious, because we had always gone to Hinton and it just seemed natural to always keep going. Answers like this have always been met with criticism and I must agree with the masses, answers like "Because" and "That's just how it is" are unfulfilling and just leave people with even more questions. So I pondered how I would answer back the question of why we go so far away. The answer, it seemed, just jumped out at me the first day we had arrived at the Center. It was as bold as a neon sign at Times Square. Actually, it was the theme of the week, Community.

Community. A single word that brings up a variety of feelings. Community. The unified body of

a group of individuals. Community. The reason we send money to Haiti, missionaries to Africa, a pie to the new neighbors down the street, or a youth group to the Hinton Rural Life Center. A community can be as big as the entire population of the world to as small as 2 people. As a community we are obliged to help each other and care for each other. The community that I live in extends to the furthest reaches of the globe. It contains people from all the nations of the world from all different walks of life. It is the community of Christ. It is a wonderful community that aides the needy and helps the hungry. It offers care and comfort to all that need it. It is a community that strives to be a source of good in the world but realizes that it has its faults, which makes it only too human. As a member of this community I seek to help others in it, just as other members would seek to help me.

Hinton Rural Life Center is a wonderful community to work and mingle in. You meet wonderful people from all over the country and do wonderfully fulfilling work while getting to know the new people that surround you. The people that I meet are great and we have the best time together. You could say that we form yet another close knit community with in our greater community. It's a wonderful experience that everyone has at Hinton. As a community we build stronger relationships, faiths, and what else but communities. That is why we go to Hinton and why we shall keep going there.

\* \* \* \* \*  
 \* **Alpha Class Preparation** If you would like to assist with the planning or teaching of either Alpha \*  
 \* class this fall please join us after dinner this coming Wednesday. We will meet in the gym at 6:30 \*  
 \* for a short meeting. We need to assign tasks for the Thursday evening class and finalize plans for \*  
 \* the Sunday morning class. ~Roger Boan, coordinator \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*

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# Finance Forum

-Mike Hatcher  
mksrocket@cox.net

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

	<u>JULY</u>	<u>YTD</u>
General Fund Mo Budget Need:	\$ 70,788	\$ 495,016
General Fund Receipts:	\$ 57,543	\$ 459,278 (\$ 35,738 below budget)
General Fund Expenses:	\$ 64,964	\$ 472,481
Net Result	\$ ( 7,421)	\$ ( 13,203)

The good news is that our cost saving initiatives are having an impact. Between the almost \$500 we saved on electricity this month over the same month last year and the new arrangement with the phone which saves a bit over \$100, we are really making progress on cutting costs. We still have a few more ideas in progress toward this goal. The revenue side is still falling below expectations. In spite of the savings we spent more than was contributed again this month. If we follow the same trend as last year revenues should begin to improve in September and the last few months of the year. We will be watching this closely as we continue to walk a fine line with solvency. We are approaching the time in the year to start planning for next year's budget. Since the budget must be submitted to the Church Council and approved by the end of the year the Finance Committee will be getting inputs over the next two months from the staff and various leaders in the church for the services and programs planned for 2011. We have targeted a 10% cut in the budget for 2011 to reflect the revenue experience of this year. That may mean some difficult deci-

sions and trade offs in order to make that happen. It assumes that we will not have any large, unplanned expenses and that SPLOST will be successful in meeting its goals before those needs become emergencies. In other words, we have little room for contingencies. Our cash counting procedures and teams are working well and, I believe, are doing a great job of addressing the primary audit criticism of our financial processes. To validate that and many other changes put in place since the previous audit we are planning to do a follow up review with the same audit firm in the fall of this year. Depending on the result we will likely go to a three to five year cycle for future audits to insure compliance and that good financial practices are still in place and effective.

SPLOST contributions are still growing. The Trustees have indicated the first project should be completed by early to mid September. The second project appears to now be fully funded so it should follow rather soon after the first.

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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# Trinity Happenings

## SAVE THE DATE!

50 Years of Celebration  
Taste of Trinity  
Nov. 4th.

Outback Steakhouse will be preparing the meal. Table decorators contact Tracy Clifford (923-6780). Items for silent or live auctions (no yard sale items) contact Grace Harmon (922-6328).



## ITEMS STILL NEEDED FOR HAITI-DOMINICAN REPUBLIC UMVIM TRIP

- Light-weight shoes -- cros, flip-flops, sandals, etc, for kids and adults. {Light weight is important}
- small soft animal toys (e.g., beanie babies),
- new or gently used children's clothing (especially for boys)
- tote bags ~ They plan to load the food into cloth tote bags rather than plastic grocery bags, because the plastic bags tend to come apart. Goal: 300 bags to take food to both an orphanage and Camp Victory in Haiti. Some supporters are sewing cloth tote bags, but the pre-made ones -- like the ones they hand out at Conferences -- are also excellent. Also reusable grocery totes. After the food is gone, the cloth bags will still be useful to the recipients.



Items can be placed in bins in the FLC between now and Oct 3—the sooner the better.

Thanks, Carolyn Schomer, [schomerc@bellsouth.net](mailto:schomerc@bellsouth.net)  
922-2965 for questions.

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# Missions Committee

-June Underwood

The Missions Committee has met this year to disburse funds to Wesley Glen Ministries, Joyce Payne Ministries, Hinton Mission Team, Jamaica Mission Team, Scholarship Fund, Boy Scout Troup 566, Volunteer Medical Clinic, and World Harvest Mission (Jake Hunt Family in Prague).

The committee also developed the following criteria for disbursement of funds.

1. Complete an application
2. Meet at least one of the following criteria
  - Mission sponsored by Trinity such as Jamaica, Hinton, Choir Tour
  - Direct connection to Trinity such as church member, dependent of church member, deceased member
  - Seminary Student (church member, dependent of church member, grew up in Trinity UMC)
  - Missionary

Applications can be obtained from the church office and Gerald Peavy.

Our next project is the Handicraft Fair on September 18th from 9 am—3 pm in the FLC where homemade items will be sold. Boy Scouts will have a car wash as well on that day. If you would like to be part of this please contact Grace Harmon.

Taste of Trinity will be held this year on November 4th with a dinner catered by Outback Steakhouse, live auction and a silent auction. If you are willing to do a table, contact Tracy Clifford, 923-6780. Remember, we will also be having our regular and silent auction, so save those “treasures” [not yard sale items], and let Grace Harmon know, 922-6328. Be looking for more information on this in the near future. Contact Carolyn Schomer if you are willing to assist with this project.

Hi Toby,

You have brought some really nice people into my life and into the life of my church family. Debbie Jackson and Jim Bryan have been super great this week in helping me to acquire my charger for my lap top and the doors and windows for my little church in Faiths Pen. I am so overjoyed the tears are about to flow. I am really, really grateful. I don't have words enough to say thanks. The sewing machines are being used and even the young men in the church are helping themselves to mend their clothing instead of asking mommy to do it. So thanks again to Dian and all who helped to get those machines here.

Every Blessing,  
P. McCatty  
Jamaica

Saturday  
September 18  
**Crafters Sale**  
FLC 9-3 pm  
Boy Scout Car Wash  
Contact Grace Harmon  
for more information

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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

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

### **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

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

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

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

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

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# So Many Reasons to Celebrate...

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ ☆ <b>September Birthdays</b> ☆ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆				
1st	Charles Hill Karen McDonald	Erin Buehring Kathi Shawhan Mark Yandell	20th	Pat Shope Michael Hatcher Traci Kemp Glen McCall Trent Sappe
2nd	Debbie Crump	9th	20th	Cindi Thomas
3rd	Flossie Crenshaw Katie Townsend Cody Yandell	10th	21st	Taylor Blumberg Bill Jennings
4th	Dolly Brandt Michaela Heide Rob Langlois Sam O'Quinn	11th	22nd	Winton Cain Sam Smith Suzy Varner
5th	Suzanne Busbee Charlie Farmer Mies Miller Elaine Pritchard Al Jewell Todd Jewell Don Tatman Darla Warnock Dina Warnock	12th	23rd	Carleen Clearman Nathan Duke Donna Hall Sean McCann
6th	Stephanie Fiebiger Ryan Hall Billie Meadors Molly Townsend Ruth Wehrmeyer	13th	24th	Paula Gareau
7th	Robert Beers	14th	25 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Davenport Charlotte Terhune
8 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Ayers	15th	26th	Payton Johnson
		16th	27th	John Driver Jim Phillips
		17th	28th	Joyce Hale Logan Hitz Brett Johnson
		18th	29th	Ben Chaloult Frank Huff LeNelle Ivey
		19th	30th	David Collins Frances Griffeth Judy McKee



☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ ☆ <b>September Anniversaries</b> ☆ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆			
1	Dave & Marilu Daniel	18	Jim & Mae Kincaid
2	Charles & Joyce Farmer		Denny & Donna Warnock
	Doug & Michelle Pugh	19	Les & Charline Arent
4	Phillip & Janet Griner	20	Ken & Pam Alligood
	Toby & Anna Hill	21	Bob & Judy Day
10	Kevin & Brenda Benoit	22	Tommy & Mary Bowman
13	Bill & Nancy Birdsell	23	Glenn & Karen McCall
	Joe & Joyce Miller	24	David & Jennifer Collins
			Ken & Kathy Rissman
		26	Hugh & Gladys Womack
		28	James & Kim Bryan
			John & Lori Simonton