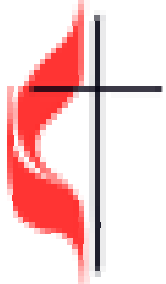


THE TIDINGS

Vol.9 Issue 6
July 2011



Trinity United Methodist Church

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

How Affluent Are You?

The conversation I was having with a certain fellow turned to religious commitment when he found out that I was a preacher. I guess he wanted to make me aware of his Christian training, so he said to me, “I’m pretty affluent with scripture”. I think the word he was searching for was “fluent” – but that’s okay, I really like his substitute. Both words are rooted in French; fluent literally means “to flow” and affluent means “to flow with abundance”. As Christians – but especially as Methodists – we should have a desire to flow abundantly with scripture.

An interesting little fact about John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, is that he was a voracious reader of both classical and popular literature. Certainly he was one of the best read persons of his day. In fact, not wanting to waste time, he would regularly read while traveling either on foot or horseback. In addition, he encouraged the early Methodist preachers to invest a good portion of their time in reading. But, with all of that reading, it is particularly interesting that Wesley referred to himself as “a man of one book”. Of course, you know what that book was for him don’t you ...the Bible! The scriptures alone were truly the source of direction for his life and ministry.

If Wesley were alive today, I believe he would be amazed at the publishing industry, how much there is to read and how accessible good books have become. I say “good books” because Wesley had strong opinions about certain literature being a waste of time and ink. Many of you have discovered that Kindles, i-Pads and the like have made it possible to carry your entire library with you. Wesley would be fascinated with the technology, but no doubt, he would also give us a prophetic reminder that we must carve out time daily to allow God through scripture to redeem our souls and mold our lives. He would encourage us to read broadly, ...but be a people of one book!

So, what are you reading this summer? Is the Bible flowing abundantly through you?

Grace and Peace

Bill

P.S.

During July and August, Hugh and I will be preaching a sermon series entitled, “Lessons from Our Family Tree”. Be in worship as often as possible and follow along with us as we read and reflect on some great stories of our faith from the book of Genesis.

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Jamaica Mission Team

-Carolyn Schomer
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What a privilege to share in ministry with our brothers and sisters in Christ in St. Ann's Parish Jamaica. The 5-church Watsonville circuit led by Pastor Pauline McCatty was our host for the week. Rev. McCatty had a full schedule planned beginning with worship in four churches on Sunday morning [we split into two teams]. That afternoon we again visited the Infirmary for what is a favorite part of each year's trip. The patients are so delightful and responsive you want to stay and sing all afternoon.

Our 25-member team was divided into various work teams with different tasks but one purpose – to support the local churches in their endeavors and outreach. One of our newest projects began last year with the start of a sewing ministry that flourished this year to include classes in four of the churches. Fifty-six persons attended classes, including 24 students from two near-by schools [and according to their instructor, the boys did shine!]. Five women from last year worked each day in Educators-in-Training classes and are now prepared to conduct classes on an on-going basis. They have also been trained in basic sewing machine maintenance and in operation of two sergers. Three churches were assigned four sewing machines each, and two will keep a serger. All machines, plus one for the Manse, were new and purchased with donations from church and community supporters during the past two years. Via the technologies of email, skype, and photographs, their Sewing Clubs will stay in communication all year, sharing ideas and progress. Rev. McCatty has utilized several work teams this past year to prepare a previously unused building behind Wesley Methodist Church in Monique to be a new Community Sewing Center. The dream of one day supporting a cottage industry to provide economic opportunities in rural areas is becoming a reality.

Our second task team continued a construction project begun last year – adding the second story walls to a vestry addition for one of the five churches, Jeffreyville. In spite of several days of rain, our five-man team, working with three local men, constructed forms, mixed and poured concrete, and laid cement block—all done the old fashioned way—by hand, carried by bucket. They accomplished what the church had hoped could be done that week, but even more, strengthened bonds with their co-workers.

This was the 19th year the medical team offered medical screening, treatment, and medication in rural, mountain underserved communities. Each clinic was held in one of the churches that had prepared “physician’s offices” partitioned off with sheets in their sanctuaries. We had been told on Sunday when church attendance was “down” that Jamaicans do not get out in the rain because they have to walk wherever they go. So Monday when we arrived at the first church in the rain we prepared for a slow day.



To our surprise and delight, they came that day and every other rainy day! Our two adult physicians, PA, and pediatrician saw 126 patients that day, 136 the next, then 101 and 181.

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Jamaica Mission Team

-Carolyn Schomer
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As diabetes and HBP are major health issues in Jamaica, every adult received a blood sugar and blood pressure screening in addition to health history by our team of nurses. Approximately 1800 medications or prescriptions were provided. This was also our second year to provide an “eye glass” clinic. Two hundred pair of reading glasses along with donated prescription glasses were “fit” by our two-person eye-glass team. Nothing beats the smile on someone’s face when they can finally read their Bi-



ble or school books!

Our two-person children’s team was definitely multi-talented. They worked with children in schools next to the churches, did crafts, stories, and music throughout the day at the clinic sites, and were responsible for distributing toothbrushes, toothpaste, and Bibles. During Trinity’s “Change the World” week, our children held a Trike-a-thon to raise money to buy Bibles specifically for the children in Jamaica. What a treat to see the eyes of the children light up to receive their own pink, red, purple, or blue covered Bible. Bibles are the most re-

quested item at our clinics and we were glad we had a number donated for adults as well.

This represents the “facts”, but each team member will have many personal stories to share—things that amused, touched, changed them. However, all will agree the trip affirms the wideness and love of the Body of Christ. The team consisted of 12 “first timers” and represented 13 congregations. Thank you Trinity for your nineteen years of support from the 2011 Team: Joe & Joyce Miller, Scott Edenfield, MD, Anera Harrell, Gary Myrthil, MD, Traci Clifford, Leigh Atkins, Brandi Black, Brian Van Horne, Salie & Jim Bersey, Elena Larrauri, Rachael Exley, Perry Beaver, Minlee Kim, MD, Michael Cox, PA, Debbie & Bethany Crenshaw, Bob Atkinson, Elaine Pope, Garrett Wilder, Craig Lawson, Jacob Olson, Dave & Carolyn Schomer. And special thanks to Toby Hill who provided the leader-



ship for the entire advance planning to make the trip possible.

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Lay Delegates' Report - South Georgia UMC Annual Conference - 2011

"Bud" & Pauline Abbott
Trinity UMC 2011 Lay Delegates

We had the privilege to serve as your lay delegates to this year's conference held on the University of Georgia campus, Tifton, GA, June 5 - 9. Along with Chuck and Donna Rawls, as alternate delegates, plus pastors Bill and Marty, we were part of over 1200 lay and clergy attendees.

The theme was "Never Alone." This is Christ's promise and assurance to always be with us no matter what the circumstance. In the words of our Bishop James King: "In God's Kingdom, no one is alone ... everyone deserves to be loved."

This conference will be remembered as "The Night the Lights Went Out in Georgia!" The conference center lost electricity due to a severe thunder storm during the Ordination Ceremony Monday evening. But in true Methodist fashion, "the show must go on" and it did. Candles and flashlights provided illumination for this unforgettable, powerful service.

Finances were a major item of business. Churches across the conference echoed the same message: "tough economic times have seriously affected giving." Leadership listened! The Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) made painful, difficult budget cuts affecting real ministry programs and personnel. The 2011 Budget was reduced by nearly \$324,000 and the proposed 2012 Budget has been revised downward by almost \$1,079,000 to stand at \$11,742,085.

The problem is that apportionments received from the nine districts were only 80% of projected revenue. Apportionments is the Methodist system of assigning local churches their share of amounts to be provided to the conference to fund ministry and mission programs. The Macon District, of which Trinity is a member, although giving the highest dollar

amount (nearly \$1,383,000) of all the districts, only realized 65% of its apportionments.

The conference cannot keep dipping into reserve funds to make up the shortfall in apportionment giving. The CFA will continue to look for ways to reduce costs. We can also do our part with a renewed commitment to stewardship based on God's many blessings to each of us. Pastor Bill's goal is that Trinity return to paying 100% of its apportionments.

(For detailed, comprehensive coverage of the financial issues, please go to the South Georgia Conference website: www.sgaumc.org)

On a personal item of interest for those of you who remember Mike Ricker, a former associate pastor at Trinity. His son Adam is following in his dad's footsteps being ordained as a provisional elder to serve in the Savannah District.

We mentioned last year plans to build a new Conference Office in Macon on the Wesleyan campus. This will provide much-needed office space for the bishop and administrative personnel as well as conference room facilities. Funds will not come from apportionments but through private donations only.

Currently, \$1.3 million of the required \$2.9 million has been raised. Construction will begin when funded.

Dr. Charles Adams, our former senior pastor at Trinity, and now serving as Superintendent of Epworth By the Sea, gave a presentation on the "Epworth Ambassador Program." Each local church is being asked to select at least one "ambassador" who will be Epworth's guest to attend a training session, then return home to promote and publicize the opportunities available at Epworth. For those of you who have been there, you know it truly is hallowed ground and "a great place to be!" Watch for more information on this opportunity.

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Lay Delegates' Report - South Georgia UMC Annual Conference - 2011

"Bud" & Pauline Abbott

Trinity UMC 2011 Lay Delegates

(continued)

Another major item of business was the election of clergy and laity delegates to attend the 2012 General Conference and Southeast Jurisdictional Conference. Rev. Robert Beckum, our former senior pastor, will lead the clergy delegation, and Larry Price, from Albany, will lead the laity. For a complete list of those elected, I again refer you to www.sgaumc.org.

A special conference offering, "Imagine No Malaria," took in more than \$75,000. Trinity's "Changing Our World" contribution for this effort was in excess of \$1700.

Special recognition for Trinity:

1. "Evangelistically Fruitful Congregation" with a net membership gain in 2010.
2. In top 10 of Macon District for financial support of Magnolia Manor's ministry for senior adults.
3. Will again host "Pathways to a Healthy Church" on August 20. Look for more details and an opportunity to serve.

The final item of business was Appointments and Sending Forth. Rev. Bill Bagwell is returning as our senior pastor and we welcome Dr. Hugh Davis as our

associate. It is sad to say farewell to the McLeod's but we do send our blessings with Marty and Kathy (Jessica and Roderick too!) as they go to serve together at Epworth UMC in Jessup, GA. There is a new Superintendent for the Macon District. Rev. Tommy Martin was a former senior pastor at Christ UMC in Warner Robins.

The 2012 Annual Conference will be held in Macon, GA, June 3 - 6. Chuck and Donna Rawls will be Trinity's lay delegates. Since this will be close to home, there will be plenty of opportunities to volunteer and see the workings of the conference in action.

Bishop King provided some closing remarks to the attendees: Be "engaged" with fellow church members; recognize and know them; help make disciples.

As one speaker said: "As a Christian, your baptism was your ordination to ministry."

Two excellent sources for total coverage of the conference, including worship services, business sessions, elections, and appointments, are the previously mentioned South Georgia Conference website (www.sgaumc.org) and the June 17, 2011 edition of the "South Georgia Advocate."



Hinton: July 10-15

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Finance Forum

-Mike Hatcher
mksrocket@cox.net

Our financial results as of the end of June 2011 are not yet completed. While I do not have the final numbers the trend of receipts running behind the budgeted need continues. 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 increase this will not last very long.

The Finance Committee has continued to work toward getting our designated funds and auditing processes complete. We have one final step in the designated funds area and that should be ready for presentation to the Church Council at its next meeting in August. This final piece will connect each of the designated funds execution to a church committee or a church staff member. This will answer the question raised by the auditors of accountability and connectivity to the church leadership for all the funding sources.

Marsha Denning and Fran Botkin are completing the review of all the audit write-up/suggestions documenting the actions we have taken so that 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 estab-

lishing the church budget for 2012. The call for inputs 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 reinvigorate the Trinity youth as well as expand the program to reach more new candidates.

Lastly, our SPLOST campaign has delivered well on its promise of deflecting the effects of some of Trinity's aging buildings and systems. The Trustees have been great stewards of the moneys donated such that more of the projects have been completed for less money than was originally required. We still have a few more needs on the SPLOST list and we need to continue to build the contingency fund to mitigate other infrastructure needs across the church.

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

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

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

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

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So Many Reasons to Celebrate...

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1st	John Hurst Hayleigh Loudin	14th	Jon Jossart Lori Campbell Brian Decker Reece Hickok Paige Thompson	24th	Hugh Womack Sandra French Brenda Munda Laura Pallini Lee Townsend
2nd	Tim Luschen Brandon Munda	15th	Dawyn Borders Ian Burkes	25th	Ken Kelly
3rd	Eddie Watson	16th	Gladys Rissmann Grant Busbee Doug Decker	26th	Shanyn Humphry Denny Warnock
4th	James Bryan	17th	Marsha Denning Joseph Hofsash Carolyn McIntosh Frank Youngblood	27th	Tristan Bryan Adam McDonald Angie Sams
6 th	Hubert Myers	18th	Scott Blair	28th	Greg Edenfield Newell Ledbetter Sue Warren Mary Winters
7th	Alycia Giedd Guy Moulder	19th	Katie Pugh	29th	Terrell McCord Ruth Peck Tami Winge
8th	Andrew Brin Sean Brooks Judge Ivey	20th	Jerrold Smith Mickey Stephens Jennye Ward	30th	Joy Brown Tommy Hancock Tyler Oxyer Jesse Tribble
10th	Luke Burkes Susan Davenport Ron Dobson Dale Lorenz Rhea Phillips	21st	Mike Eader	31st	Kathy Stephens
11th	Phillip Dunn	23rd	Claude Payton Yvette Jossart Carolyn Pike Jacob Rhonemus		
12th	Judy Bruce Kelly Dempsey Marty McLeod		Ned Sanders		
13th	Margaret Crowe Nathan Dempsey		Jay Elliott Michael Verhage		



Birthdays & Anniversaries

★★☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ ★ <u>July Anniversaries</u> ★ ★★☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆			
1 st	Tom & Lona Dills	18 th	Stape & Jean Marriott
2 nd	Loren & Tracy Clifford	20 th	Richard & Shirley Evans
6 th	Rob & Ruth Langlois	21 st	Gene & Marge Zelinski
7 th	Wes & Anne Walker	23 rd	Lee & Debbie Crenshaw
12 th	Chris & Lori Overcash	24 th	Todd & Paula Oxyer Dave & Carolyn Schomer
13 th	Andy Davidson & Crystal O'Leary Davidson	25 th	Billy & Deana Griggers
17 th	Steve & Toni Simmons	26 th	Ben & Laurie Pate Danis & Doris Richey
	Don & Katie Farris	28 th	Everett & Ann Gilbreath
		31 st	George & Mary Jo Fox, Jr. Kirby & Orrasa Neal