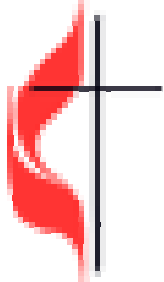


THE TIDINGS

Vol.10 Issue 2
February 2012



Trinity United Methodist Church

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

A Barefoot Wesley

Throughout his life, John Wesley was always engaged with the needs of the poor. There are countless stories of his going door to door to ask donations for those in need. However, it is clear that this was more than charity work for him. He was constantly seeking ways to rectify the long term damage poverty does to individuals and families. As a result of his efforts to provide food, housing, education, healthcare and legal guidance for the poor, his spirit was always attuned to the physical and emotional plight of those who could not provide for themselves. One of my favorite stories about John Wesley sounds almost like Methodist folklore. I would question its authenticity if it didn't come through reliable channels. Let me share it with you for your reflection.

While serving as the chaplain of Savannah, Wesley took on the responsibility of teaching at a boys school there in the city. Here is what he later recorded as an annotation in his journal...

"When I was in America, I taught one school in Savannah, and Mr. Delamott taught another. He told me one day, that part of the boys belonging to his school wore stockings and shoes, and the others did not; and that the former laughed at and ridiculed the latter, thereby discouraging them; and that, though he prevented their doing so when they were under his eye, they did it when out of school; so that, notwithstanding all the pains he had taken, it appeared to be a growing evil, and he did not know how to cure it. I told him I thought I could cure it; and added, 'If you will take care of my school next week, I will take care of yours, and try;' which he readily consented to do.

Accordingly, on Monday morning I went into his school without either stockings or shoes. The children looked with surprise, first at me, and then at each other. I took no notice, but kept them to their work. I soon observed, however, that those who were without stockings and shoes, began to gather courage, and look with an air of consequence, now they had the master on their side. I did the same every day during the week; before the end of which, several of those who used to wear stockings and shoes, came to school without them. Thus the evil was securely cured!"

The Apostle Paul describes the nature of Christ in the following way: "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross." (Philippians 2: 5 – 8) For one week, John Wesley chose to become like the boys who were not able to afford shoes and because of his actions, the whole culture of the school was changed.

How is it that you and I connect in better ways with the poor? Sometimes even our charity keeps us at a distance from the very ones we seek to assist. Perhaps we would do well to work a little harder at allowing "...the same mind to be in us that was in Christ Jesus." May God help us to put on the mind of Christ, and maybe even like Wesley ...take off our shoes.

Grace and Peace,
Bill

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“BLESSED AND VERY MUCH SO”

The above title quotes an expression which I learned during a revival in March, 2001. I was in my final year as pastor of Martha Bowman Memorial United Methodist Church in Macon, when Peter Lord came to lead us in a “Prayer Revival”. We had completed recently a comfortably furnished prayer room – staffed 24 hours a day by church volunteers to pray for all needs (local and worldwide). We needed a prayer revival to initiate that vital ministry.

In one of his morning sermons he said that the response to the greeting “How Are You” should be one that is intentional, upbeat and positive. One should not offer the usual cliché “I am good” or “Okay”. Rather, a Christian should claim the daily blessings God showers upon us “according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19) by re-

sponding “I am well and blessed and very much so!” Indeed that is a positive witness regardless of the circumstance or situation in which one dwells. Peter Lord (author of *Hearing God*) was 71 years of age at that time and used Power Point computer technology in his revival presentations. He was vibrant and vivacious, current and positive, encouraging and loving. He was the epitome of Paul’s admonition in I Thessalonians 5:16-18: “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

May we be found joyful and faithful and know fundamentally that we are “blessed and very much so,” in Christ Jesus.

Calling all Men! The United Methodist Men of Trinity are alive and well and want you to join us! We gather together every third Saturday morning of the month at our monthly United Methodist Men’s Prayer Breakfast. It begins at 8:30AM in a corner of the FLC (Gym) with a hot breakfast and good fellowship. We then gather into a circle to listen to scripture, prayer requests, and the needs of the church, community, nation, and our own spiritual path, and then we end in prayer. It is very informal and you can wear your “Saturday” clothes! There is no charge for the food, but a basket is passed to collect an offering. It always concludes by 10:00AM, so it is a great way to start your day! There is no pressure to speak....but all are welcome to participate. Join us and be blessed! It is also a great way to meet the men of Trinity.

We are also looking at growing the UMM into another ministry (The A-MEN) to help Trinity UMC serve the Lord by helping our neighbors. We are looking at ways to participate and reach out, like

helping a single Mom or a senior with yard work or a simple home repair, helping with a Trinity project, a community need, a mission or church fundraiser, etc.

We need ideas and MEN! What are you being called to do? So make plans to join us for the next United Methodist Men’s Prayer Breakfast and prayerfully consider joining the UMM A-MEN. Also, The United Methodist Men of the South Georgia Conference will host their annual Spring Retreat April 13-15 at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island. Let us know if you are interested.



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Trinity Happenings

What do you “Like”?

Face Book is currently one of the largest social media websites that connects old friends, family, and co-workers across the globe. This is a powerful tool that opens more doors for us as a church to spread the Love of Christ to those in need. If John Wesley had Face Book & Twitter, what could he have done? We want you to help us with Trinity’s Face Book page. An example of the reach and power of Face Book was revealed just this past December. The Walk to Bethlehem event was posted on Face Book, a member “Liked” it, then one of her friends out of state “Liked” it and eventually the event made its way to a reporter for the Macon Telegraph, who contacted Trinity and wrote an article. This article was picked up by another publication. All of that media coverage and exposure, beginning from a simple post on Trinity’s Face Book page, amazing! Another benefit of posting on Face Book is that it does not cost a penny! And with Trinity’s budget stretched tight, that is wonderful news!



What can you do to help? If you use Face Book, then make sure you “Like” Trinity. Then post, participate, and “Like” things on the Trinity page. Have a smart phone? “Check in” at events, Sunday school classes, and services on Face Book. Take photos of events at Trinity and upload them to your Face Book page and then “tag” Trinity United Methodist Church. Don’t have a Face Book page or smart phone? You don’t have to be left out! Take digital pictures of events you attend and email them so we can share the fellowship we have here at Trinity and invite all to join us! Contact any member of Trinity’s Social Media Task Force (Angela Gilbert, George Whiddon, Laura Dills, Angie Hill-Sams, Alesha Mathis, or Andy Mathis) for more information.

Visit us at: <http://www.facebook.com/TrinityUnitedMethodistChurch>

Email:

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George Whiddon- youth.tumc@gmail.com

Laura Dills- children@trinity-methodist.org

Angie Hill-Sams-

Alesha Mathis- Alesha.Mathis1@gmail.com

Andy Mathis- aamathis@cox.net

Submitted by Andy and Alesha Mathis

Epworth Ambassadors Program

We are privileged to serve as Trinity’s “Epworth Ambassadors” for this year. The program is a recent initiative by Bishop James R. King, Jr., South Georgia Conference, to make the local church more aware of, and encourage participation in, Connectional Ministries’ programs and other events at Epworth By The Sea. The role of the ambassadors is to provide that information to their congregations.

Epworth is our Conference and Retreat Center on beautiful St. Simons Island. According to Dr. Charles Adams, Superintendent, the strong purpose since the opening of Epworth in 1950 remains: “to provide a Christian place for worship, study, and fel-

lowship.” Those of you who have been to this hallowed ground know that “Epworth is a great place to be!”

We are attending the first annual Epworth Ambassadors’ Orientation Retreat, January 28 – 29. We will return to Trinity with material to help familiarize you with the many opportunities at Epworth. We are pleased that George Whiddon, Director, and our Trinity youth group will be there February 17 – 19 for the “Youth Led Retreat.”

Blessings, “Bud” and Pauline Abbott

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February Fun for Children

-Angela Gilbert
childrenareloved@trinity-methodist.org

The month of February is filled with lots of fun activities for children at Trinity! We are offering a **Parent's Night Out** on Friday, February 10th from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. The cost is \$15 per child or \$25 per family. All children ages 6 months through 5th grade are invited to attend. A mini soccer camp, *Just Kick It*, will be held during the Winter Break. The soccer camp will be opened to children ages 4 years old to 10 years old. The days are February 21st, 22nd, 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$40 for the camp.

Currently Lori Overcash is leading Grapple by shar-

ing John Wesley's Three Simple Rules. All children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to participate in Grapple on Sunday's at 9:45 a.m. Children, ages 2 to 4 years old have Sunday School in the nursery hall at 9:45 a.m.

Kids Club meets on Sunday afternoons at 3:30 a.m.

Trinity Preschool and Kindergarten is registering now for church & preschool members. Registration opens to the public on February 13th. For more information on any of the above programs, please contact Angela Gilbert or Laura Dills.

Back to the 60's Sunday— Combined 11:00 Services ~ January 29, 2012



Jamaica Mission Team

-Carolyn Schomer
-schomerc@gmail.com

Jamaica 2012 plans are moving ahead. One of our most prized ministries is fitting eye glasses for children and adults. YOU CAN HELP! We are collecting used eyeglasses of any type, especially for children. Also, most needed -- reading glasses with firm rims for all sizes and strengths. Those found at the Dollar Store work just fine. Boxes can be found around the church for donations."What a blessing to be able to read" [adult] "Happy to be able to see the blackboard", child.



Back to the 60's Sunday—Combined 11:00 Services ~ January 29, 2012



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Finance Forum

-Dave French
dcfsof@comsouth.net

Well, we are off and running on a new fiscal year for Trinity with many challenges ahead. Our final position in 2011 was \$5,491 in the black. While on the surface it's always good to be on the positive side of the ledger, unfortunately it took extraordinary giving combined with lower expenses in the last quarter to attain this position. This experience from the 2011 budget serves as the billboard for the challenges we will face in 2012.

While I am new as the Chairperson for the Finance Committee I did have an opportunity to participate in building the 2011 budget. Two key objectives were discussed in detail while building this year's budget:

1. Moving back toward 100% apportionment
2. Reducing the percentage of church budget spent on personnel related costs

Both objectives are noteworthy and related directly to furthering the mission of Trinity. I know that word "Apportionment" can mean different things to different folks and in the coming months I hope to shed some light on what our apportionment actually pays for. In regard to personnel costs, we currently spend approximately 55% of our budget on personnel related costs while the norm in many church's appears to be in the 40-45% range. Deliberate actions have been taken over the last year to decrease our overall personnel cost and place us more in norm with other churches.

Our current position through the month of January 2012 shows General Budget contributions of \$62,689.50 against a budget need of \$73,570.25 or a deficit of (\$10,880.75). I ask for your continued prayers for our church as we move forward this fiscal year and focus our hearts on our mission of "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 I hinted above regarding insight into apportionments, I would like to start an area in the Tidings's Finance Forum entitled "**Did You Know?**" For this edition I would like to focus on our mortgage for the Education Building. Did you know that Trinity carries a mortgage balance of \$759,210.49 and makes a monthly mortgage payment of \$9,922.67? If you are like me, you look forward to the day when you are mortgage free! Ah I can see myself now at that vacation home on the beach or that cabin in the mountains, hey maybe both! The reality check is none of our future goals are achievable while we carry a heavy mortgage burden so why not pay it off early. I ask for your prayerful consideration to contribute specifically to our mortgage by annotating on your check "Building Payment."

Thanks again for all you do to make Trinity an inviting community of God's faith. Please don't hesitate to contact me or other members of the Finance Committee with questions. The members for 2012 are Fran Botkin, Brad Bradsher, Chris Chaloult, Marsha Denning, Charles Farmer, Dale Lorenz, Don Tatman, and Ann Wright.



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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
Sam Hendry, Apt 66

Antebellum Grove

1010 S. Houston Lake Rd. 31088

Lois Turner ~ Rm 132

Carlyle Place

5300 Zebulon Road
Macon, GA 31210

Roger Fulling
David and Sunny Reed

Carlyle Place (cont)

Edith and Russell Moye

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

Deployed Active Duty Military

Phillip Ferris (Afghanistan—Fran and Jim Botkin's nephew)
Ryan Hall (Saudi Arabia) son of Ron and Donna Hall
James Easterling—(Afghanistan)
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
Phillip Price Lewis—Grandson of Grace Harmon

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