

**First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2013**

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer

Prelude

(As the Prelude begins, prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

*Acolyte

Call to Worship

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*Hymn

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope

*Hymn

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

(Please register your attendance on the pew pads provided.)

“Let the Children Come!”

(Those 3 years of age through 5 years of age may go to Children’s Nursery.)

Sharing of the Joys & Concerns of the Church

*Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Prayers of Confession & Intercession

The Lord’s Prayer (*Unison*)

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory

*Doxology

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Special Music

Christopher McCroskey

*Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:6-7

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Sermon

“Rat Race or GOD’S Grace Holidays”

Rev. Robert Reeves

Holy Communion

Insert

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

(You are invited to come to the altar during the singing of the hymn to signify your commitment or re-commitment to Christ, or for prayer, confession, or comfort, in response to God’s Word)

*Hymn

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

203

*Acolyte

*Dismissal With Benediction

*Benediction Response

“Go Now In Peace”

Choir

*Postlude

Organist

*The Congregation May Stand

Leading in Worship Today

Pastor: *Robert D. B. Reeves*

Nursery: *Annette Watson*

Organist: *Christopher McCroskey*

Tellers: *John Ballentine; Becky Derrick*

Music Director: *Jackie McNeill*

Acolyte: *Brandon Edwards*

Time Together: *Jewel Percy; Pauline Wenner*

AV Assistant: *Marie Stiles*

Ushers: *Chris Derrick; Brady Derrick*

Greeter: *Margie Gay*

VISITORS ARE WELCOME in the service of worship! Please make use of the visitor’s tags (located in the pew backs) to help us better welcome you as a visitor to Trinity this morning. We ask that you also please fill in the pew pad as it passes to register your attendance with us. **Large print hymnals** are available from the ushers. An **INFANT AND TODDLER NURSERY** is provided during the worship hour. Parents: please ask an usher for assistance.

You may join as a member into the life and work of this congregation by Confession of Faith or by Transfer of Membership from another church. If you would be interested in becoming a member, please speak to the pastor.

Good Morning Brother and Sisters in Christ!!! Happy First Sunday in Advent to you!!! In last week’s message we continued looking into the topic of "A Deeper Look into Thanksgiving". Much was said. More was shared than I have space to put here but here’s the main thing we can look back on. We need to further define what the scripture is after and pointing us to when we are taught to give thanks to GOD. As children we were rightly so taught that we should be polite and thank people for whatever they do on our behalf. This is true and it is good manners and we should continue to do that. However, the Bible is not referring to thanksgiving in the sense of being polite to GOD, telling GOD thank you for what the LORD has done on our behalf, although that is not a bad idea. When we give thanks to GOD we are not just thanking the LORD for everything that went right, that was good, that was not bad, that went our way, that our prayers were answered the way we wanted them to be answered, that we liked the end result of an issue or challenge, that whatever went on or is going on that the circumstances are favorable to our understanding, etc. If that is all that thanksgiving is about then what do you do with what is not right, what went wrong, what makes no sense, what prayers are not answered, where justice, truth and righteousness are not currently prevailing and a whole host of other challenges? The scriptures do not teach us to only be thankful in the good, for the bad also happens and should not GOD be thanked even then? Our thankfulness to GOD is far more about learning that thankfulness is an attitude of trust toward GOD, and it opens to us further access into the LORD’s grace and provision for difficult times. Surely they do come our way. In conclusion, we should thank GOD for our blessings but that is only the beginning of thanksgiving and never the ending. We will be moved by nothing less than who JESUS is in our thanksgiving. When we only thank GOD for the wonderful blessings of life we are really allowing situations to dictate our thankfulness instead of responding to what GOD in CHRIST is continuously doing. Think about it this way. How often we’ve heard persons proclaim after an answered prayer "GOD is so Good!" This is true but beloved GOD is good all the time not just when we understand GOD’s goodness. This is a challenge to the human mind and character but may HOLY SPIRIT lead us all into a deeper level of the giving of thanks for the entire purpose of GOD that GOD wants us to know as to why we were instructed in the first place to give thanks to the LORD. Amen. Blessings for the journey in CHRIST!!!

TODAY’S LOVELY FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of his wife, **Cindy**, and his granddaughter, **Mackenzie Hallman**, by **Paul Almond**.

AS MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION, WE WILL FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE IN ITS MINISTRIES BY OUR PRAYERS ...

Irvin Wells	Steve Aiello	Julie Kamaroff	Jim Miller	Sara Efron
Arvan Derrick	Roland Morgan	Rusty Poole	Arnold Heiting	Miriam Simpson
Bonnie Ramsey	Barbara Pearson	Donnie Sox		

Shut-Ins: Mary Brewer; Mary Comolander; Nellie Hipp; Doris Ivey; LaCrecia Taylor; Terry Pitts; Ruby Schmotzer; Claudia Sineath; Bruce & Jean Raynor; David Roberts; Irene Ward

Family and Friends: **Kitty Sellers** (friend of John & Patsy Zeigler); **Mary Davis** (daughter of Bob & Libby Strickland); **Jan Hoover** (friend of Laurie Knapp); **Beth Ann Feimster** (sister of Christopher McCroskey); **Adam Davis** (grandson of Bob & Libby Strickland); **Matt Owen** (husband of Nell Cooke's granddaughter); **Michael Carter** (son of Esther Carter); **Ed & Lisa Barton** (Brandon Jones' coworker and his wife); **Garland Pearson** (brother of Bill Pearson); **Lyndsey Roberts** (daughter of WC Fire Marshall Danny Roberts); **Jon Kirby** (grandson of Nell Cooke); **Narcie McClendon Jeter** (daughter of Tim McClendon); **John Glaze** (brother-in-law of Shirley Butler); **Jeanne Crone** (neighbor of Jo Ann & Arnold Heiting); **Adam Lavender** (son of Phil Lavender); **Vickie Bright** (friend of Kaye Floyd); **Mike Rentz** (brother of Marty Johnson); **Walt Beck** (friend of Arnold & Jo Ann Heiting); **Linda Boatwright** (sister of George & Morris Taylor); **Vera Von Glahn** (sister-in-law of Jo Ann Heiting)

OUR PRESENCE ...

Attendance 11/24 Sunday School: 27 Morning Worship: 72

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 11/24 \$ 2,223

OUR SERVICE."

Church Calendar

TODAY Lunch Bunch

Witness, 1:30 p.m.

12/02 FH Reserved GS Troop 1279, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

12/04 Prayer Group, 7 a.m.

Choir, 7 p.m.

12/05 SPRC, 6 p.m.

12/06 Trip to Palmetto Master Singers Concert @ Harbison Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Serving in December

Serving On:

December 8

Ushers: Tom Geddens
Tellers: Mary Kamaroff; Jo Ann Heiting
Flowers: Irvin & Dale Wells
Acolyte: Cristen Hipp
Lay Reader: Tom Geddens
Time Together: Ruth Frady
AV Assistants: Jim Miller; Anna Kamaroff
Greeter: Becky Derrick; John Ballentine

December 15

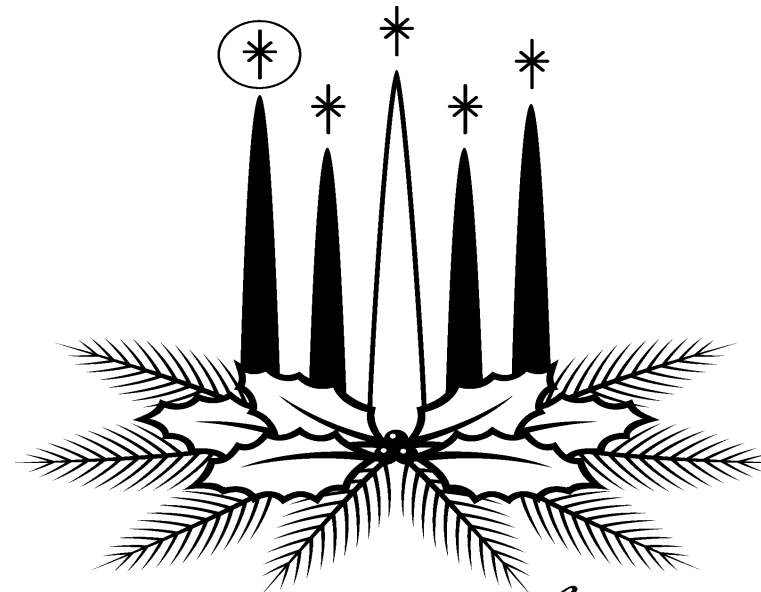
Tom Geddens
Ted Frady, Patsy Boggs
John & Patsy Zeigler
Matthew Skipper
Not Needed - Cantata
Mary Louise Robinson
Jim Miller; Marie Stiles
Ted Frady

*Trinity
United
Methodist
Church*



Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

The Congregation
Robert Reeves
Jonathan Holston
Rev. Dr. Timothy McClendon



1ST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

**The mission of Trinity United Methodist Church:
To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

Connect, Nurture, Inspire and Transform

**1201 Mohawk Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169
Telephone: 803.794.7777**

**E-mail: trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com
Website: www.trinityumcwc.org**



CHRISTMAS CAROLING
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
4 P.M.

Plan to join us on **Saturday, December 14** as we visit the shut-ins to deliver fruit baskets and sing Christmas Carols. We will leave Trinity at **4 p.m.** Add your voice to bring cheer this season.



The **Trinity UMC Choir** will be presenting their Christmas Cantata, *A Great and Mighty Wonder*, on **Sunday, December 15th**. There are cards located on the Gathering Area Table that can be handed out to friends, neighbors and family to invite them to this wonderful celebration in song. Be sure to pick some up to hand out in the coming weeks.



This year Trinity will have the following 'Angels' on our Angel Tree:

1. UMW for the Saluda River Kids (make checks out to Trinity UMW)
2. God's Helping Hands - Project Share: these funds go directly to helping with heating bills for the less fortunate
3. Canoeing for Kids

The envelopes will be on the tree and you can put your checks or cash in the envelope and put them in the offering plates or give them to Patsy Boggs or Jackie Eitel. If you place cash in the envelopes, please put your name on the outside. Please have all envelopes turned in by Dec 22, 2013. If you have any questions, please call Patsy Boggs at 606-3488.



**Pastor's
Office Hours**
Monday: By Appointment
Tuesday: Day Off
Wednesday: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Thursday: By Appointment
Friday: By Appointment

If you should need him when he is not in the office, please feel free to call him at home: 724-2403 or on his Cell: 603-8138. This information is also included on his business cards. He wants every parishioner to have one. If you don't have his card, please ask him for one this morning.

Prayer Request/Praise Report Slips

There are Prayer Request/Praise Report Slips in the bulletin for you to use to write down your prayer requests and/or praise report. The ushers will take them up and give them to Pastor Reeves to read during the Joys and Concerns portion of the service. By doing this, we will be able to make sure that we don't miss anyone and that everyone is able to hear them.

UMCOR DISASTER RELIEF FOR THE PHILIPPINES

If you would like to donate to disaster relief in the Philippines, make the check to Trinity and notate UMCOR Advance # 982450 on the memo line. If you would like to donate online, you can go to the Conference website www.umcsc.org (there is a link on their home page) or go to www.umcor.org.



A trip is planned for this Friday, December 6, to see the *Palmetto Master Singers* at Harbison Theatre. Charles McNeill sings with this group. A sign-up sheet is located on the Gathering Area table. The concert begins at 7:30. Someone will contact all of those that sign up about carpooling.

When the supper was over, He took the cup, gave thanks to You,

SHARING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love Him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(all pray in silence)

LEADER to people:

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, forgiveness is offered to us! Holy are You, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed Him to preach good news to the poor; to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when You would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of His suffering, death, and resurrection You gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit. On the night in which He gave himself up for us, He took bread, gave thanks to You, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ redeemed by His blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at His heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

THE PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Eternal God, we give You thanks for this Holy mystery in which You have given Yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.