

# God's Love In Action

GLIA: the essential element, or glue,  
which connects the tissue found in the nerve centers of the body

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Trinity United Methodist Church, 1201 Mohawk Drive, West Columbia, SC 29169

Pastor: *Phil Lavender*

Organist: *Christopher McCroskey*

Music Director: *Jackie McNeill*

Office Manager: *Jackie Eitel*

Office Hours: 8:30 - 4:30 M-F

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

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

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JUNE 2013

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I can't believe June is here, or it will be by the time you read this. I can't believe this is the last GLIA article I will write... the last church newsletter I will write. I can't believe I'll retire. When I was younger I thought retirement was for 'them', the old guys. Now, I'm the old guy, or so they tell me. In my mind, I'm 30. When I look in the mirror, I'm 50. When I see a photo of myself, I'm 66.

I have been preaching since I was 16. I would often fill in for ministers who would be away on vacation. I had been preaching in that religious tradition until I was 28. I had an epiphany and here I am after all these years. It has been a good journey. I've learned a lot.

I've been looking back on my time as a pastor. In every church I've attempted to: take care of the people; do what I thought best for the church; always wanting what was best for the people; be a person of integrity; be faithful to the one who called me in the beginning; to interpret the scriptures so people could see how it applied to their lives, while being faithful to the scriptures.

There are some things I will miss, other things I won't. I will miss you the most. I will miss laughing with you. I will miss preaching and teaching. I'll miss watching the children and youth grow up. Some things I won't miss. I won't miss wondering, when I plan a vacation, if I'll be able to go, or if I'll have to return in the midst of it. I won't miss funerals. When you get to know and love someone, it's hard to say goodbye. And, I won't miss Charge Conferences.

I will be praying for you and your new pastor, Robert Reeves. I'll be praying for him, his family, and the ministry here at Trinity. I'll be stepping back in retirement as Robert leads you into the future.

I look forward to sitting out in some congregation and listening to what another's take on the scriptures are. I look forward to a bit of fishing, perhaps even golfing. I look forward to smoking a few more good cigars (life if too short to smoke 'Swisher Sweets'). I really look forward to spending more time with Linda, having the opportunity to travel more, seeing my children more.

I know life will be good for Linda and me. I know it will be good for you. I'll be around a bit longer.... we'll laugh some more!

Phil



Say Goodbye to  
Our Pastor and Family

We will have a Farewell Reception for *Phil and Linda*

*Lavender* on Saturday, June 22, from 6 – 8 p.m. Sunday,

June 23, will be Phil's last Sunday at Trinity.



Starting June 30, our new pastor will be **Mr. Robert Reeves**. Robert comes to us from Boiling Springs United Methodist Church in Lexington, where he was their pastor for seven years, making him their longest-serving pastor. His wife is **Melanie**, a special education instructional assistant in Lexington School District Two. They have three children: **Emily**, who is a Music Education Major at Charleston Southern University; **Josh**, who will be in the eleventh grade; and **Suzi**, who will be in the seventh grade. Let us all joyously welcome Robert and his beautiful family into our special Trinity Family this June 30!



The light is streaming through our window as I sit thinking about the gift of love on this Mother's Day afternoon and what love means to me in the context of our giving. The Choir sang the song the "Gift of Love". This of course is inspired from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13. The lines that stuck in my mind as I thought about what I might write as the Stewardship Chair was the second and third verses: "Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but be given by love within, the profit soon turn strangely thin, Come, Spirit come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed, by this we worship and are freed."

You see love is a verb and as such it calls us to action. The act of tithing is one of the ways we show our love for God. He does not need our money but he wants us to show our love by doing his work. Jesus was sent to teach us what to do and how to do. I am so grateful to each of you in whatever way you are able to contribute to our church. As of the end of April we have met most of our pledges and in some cases more. We do this out of love.

God's Blessings on each of you,  
**Bonnie Ramsey**, Chair of the Stewardship Committee



**WE EXPRESS OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** to **Diane Muszynski and family** on the death of her son, **Stephen**, on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>,

**Laurie Knapp and family** on the death of her great-nephew, **Dylan Knapp**, on Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, and to

**Dot Johnson and family** on the death of her stepfather, **Robert Gerrald**, on Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>.



**Stephen Muszynski**

George Taylor, Sr.  
Arnold & Jo Ann Heiting  
Oren, Hilda & Carlis Edwards  
Peggy Smith



**Jewel Pearcy**

Pauline Wenner



To My Church Family,

Thank you so very much for your prayers, food, visits and cards. Continue to pray for me.

In Christ's Love,  
Hilda Edwards



Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you so much for all of your many expressions of love and kindness – your calls, cards, food and especially your prayers – during this difficult time. Your care and concern mean so much to me and to all of the family. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

In Christ's Love,  
Diane Muszynski



The United Methodist Women will prepare breakfast in honor of Father's Day on Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, at 9 a.m. Everyone is invited to start this Sunday off with great food and fellowship.



Women's Fellowship

The United Methodist Women will meet on Thursday, June 13, at 10 a.m. in the Conference Room.



The United Methodist Men will meet on Tuesday, June 11, at 6 p.m. All men are invited to bring their favorite meat to grill. All of the sides are provided.



Dear Trinity,

Thank you for the exam basket. It really helped through the treachery of exams. I especially enjoyed the M & M's. They say chocolate can make you a better student by calming your nerves.

Thank you again,  
Nathan Robinson



Dear Trinity family,

Thank you for the cards, prayers, meals and visits before, during, and after my recent hip surgery. I know they helped me through some very tough days.

Being able to attend Josh and Beth's wedding near Charleston without being in a wheelchair was truly a miracle. Tom was my rock. Sue was radiant; John was handsome; she and John were so proud of their son. It was a happy day.

Thanks again for your caring and thoughtfulness. I've missed you all and look forward to being with you again!

With love,  
Marilyn



If you have a dish in the kitchen, please remember to pick it up and take it home. They are by the microwave.



The first Sunday for our new pastor, Robert Reeves, will be June 30<sup>th</sup>. Please remember to wear your name tags so that he can put names and faces together.