

God's Love In Action

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

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

Pastor: *Robert Reeves*

Organist: *Christopher A. 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 2015



Say Goodbye to
Our Pastor and Family

Sunday, June 14th, will be Pastor Reeves' last Sunday at Trinity. A reception honoring Pastor Reeves, Melanie, Susie, Josh and Emily will be held immediately following the service in the Gathering Area. Plan to stay following the service as we say farewell to Pastor Reeves and his family.



Father's Day Breakfast
Sunday, June 21

On Sunday, June 21st, the United Methodist Women will prepare a Father's Day Breakfast. Everyone is invited to join them at 9 a.m. for a time of food and fellowship.

Bridal Shower



Please join us for a Bridal Shower
Honoring Emily Reeves
On Sunday, June 7, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

The shower will be a Drop-In at Trinity UMC in the Fellowship Hall.



Women's Fellowship

The Afternoon Women's Group is going to make a trip to Ridgeway on Tuesday, June 9th. Please come join us for some shopping and lunch. We will meet in the Gunter Street parking lot at 10:00 a.m.

There are several shops to enjoy in Ridgeway including an antique/curiosity mall, a ladies retail shop called "Over The Top", an antique shop and Laura's Tea Room. We plan on shopping and having lunch at Laura's Tea Room. If you would like additional information about the Tea Room you can visit the web site: laurastearoom.com. If you have any questions, you can call Gale at 798-4809 or Ruth at 796-1592. Feel free to invite a friend to join us.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area. Please let us know if you are planning to join us so that we can make arrangements for transportation.

There will not be a regular meeting in June, July or August for the afternoon women's group. A movie afternoon is planned for Sunday, August 16th, at 4:00 p.m.



The UMW will meet on Wednesday, June 10th, at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room.



Congratulations to *Anjelica Johnston* on the birth of her son, *Peyton Cade*, on Friday, May 15th. He weighed 8 lbs. 3 oz. and was 20 ½ inches long. *Peyton* is the grandson of *Eddy and Tonya Johnston* and the great-grandson of *Eveline (Boots) Morgan and the late Roland Morgan*.

memorials & gifts

Charles Ellis Stafford, Sr.
Ray & Gale Frady



WE EXPRESS OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY to Rev. Donna Eidson and family on the death of her brother, **Calvin Stone**, on May 11, 2015.



Dear Trinity,

A great big THANK YOU to everyone that donated used eye glasses or parts of glasses to mission trips which aid those with eye problems in undeveloped areas.

The ophthalmologists do eye surgery and offer free eye glasses to the people in need. Their mission trips may take place several times a year; therefore, this is an ongoing need. Columbia Eye Clinic has been on this mission for years.

Thank you Trinity,
Bob and Libby Strickland



Raft-a-Rama Day at Canoeing for Kids

The Trinity youth had such a great time on the Raft-a-Rama trip in May; and, they wanted to share the thrill and experience with church members. To enjoy the adventure "second hand", stop by the educational hallway bulletin boards, near the gathering area, and "behold" the pictures along with comments.

Following is a summary of comments from the youth for you to get the feel of a rafting trip down the Saluda River, riding rapids, and jumping in 55 degree water:

" Soaking, Freezing, Fun, Scary, So Much Fun, So Wet, Coooollldddd Water, Good Food, Really Fun Experience, Freezing & Soaked Memories, HOPE TO SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!!!!!!"

Mark your calendars for the first Saturday after Mother's Day 2016, and join the youth, as they experience the next Raft-A-Rama held by Canoeing for Kids founded by our own Jay Alley. Thank you for sponsoring our trip!!

The Trinity Youth



Dear Rev. Reeves,

Though we have not met, your note in the May 10, 2015 bulletin certainly registered with me; for I, too, have been the recipient of Trinity's largesse. While a student at USC and organist-choirmaster at Trinity from 1971-1976, I received what cannot be described as simply support and encouragement but rather true love.

After many years away from Columbia, I had the opportunity last Sunday to visit. The warmth of Jewel and English's greeting, the smile of Shirley Butler (in whose house I spent countless meaningful hours discussing music with Bill), the very presence of Charles and Jackie in the choir loft, and the kind words of so many made for yet another day of my life made richer by Trinity members. Laughter with Mary and Nell, as well as banging out complex anthem rhythms, made for some of the best choir rehearsals. Those most treasured memories are forever with me.

Some forty years later, sitting on my desk is a mug holding pens and pencils with the admonition "Kindly Control Yourself!" It was given me by the Trinity Choir and is one of my most prized possessions.

For the laughter and for the love, I am profoundly grateful. Thank you.

John Ervin



To My Trinity Family,

Thank you for always thinking of me during exams and putting together such a wonderful bag of goodies and treats. I work at The South Area office at USC in Housing and shared my treats with my fellow student workers and staff with a nice note saying they were from you guys. They loved it! Your kindness and support warms my heart! One more semester to go!

Lots of love,
Allison Hallman



Jeff Portwood
P. O. Box 2164
West Columbia, SC 29171

Pastor's COLUMN

There are some sporting events that you really cannot tell who may win the event until the last moment. For example, some of those are golf, racing or fishing. The event can be led by the same person throughout the event and at the last moment they are surpassed by someone who, until the very end, never led. That can be surprising or disappointing, especially if you were pulling for the predominant leader throughout the event. In this year's Masters golf tournament many persons believed the leader for the first three days, Jordan Spieth, would crumble in the last 18 holes. They thought this because it had been witnessed so many times in prior golf tournaments. But Spieth didn't fall apart and he finished well, leading from the first round throughout the tournament. In a few weeks we will be crossing the finish line of our appointment at Trinity. In last month's article we looked at the fact that the LORD works in seasons and that our season together is coming to an end. With that in mind here are four truths we should consider as we complete our time together.

First, we must remember this time together has been a season in each of our lives. The reality is not just that the pastor is leaving, and we are staying here forever. If you look at this process that way, you'll miss most of the lessons GOD has for you to learn about following HIM through seasons. The reality is that all of our seasons are changing and the time comes to learn something new in a new phase of life and relationship development. When we learn and grow from each season we live through, we are prepared for the next season we enter and we continue to advance our lives into GOD's glorious purposes. When we don't learn and grow from each season we live through, we delay our possibilities and too often begin wondering why life isn't working that well anymore for us. Worse yet, we become resistant to unavoidable change and want to hold innocent parties responsible for our inability to accept that time moves on with us or without us. If GOD listened to me, it would be 72 degrees year round, my children would stay 7 years old forever, the cost of living would be somewhere between the 50's or 60's, all new cars would look like 60's models, John Wesley would still be living and would be the Arch Bishop of the UMC, and there would be no debates whatsoever at all about what Wesley longed to see in the church because he would still be here directing the Methodist church! I could go on about what I'd like to see not change but that would be foolish. It is just as foolish to resist unavoidable change! Seasons are times from GOD to prepare us for eternity. While they should be appreciated, they cannot be worshiped and held hostage by our will. Look at life through the process of going from one season to another and you'll be better off for having done so.

Secondly, because our GOD is a GOD of grace he forgives and HE teaches the teachable in every situation. Therefore, we must cling to this truth. The LORD looks at whether we resolve to finish strong or whether we just fall over, give up and quit. The Apostle Paul spoke of finishing his race strong. He didn't speak of being strong at the beginning only to give up later and that this was acceptable to him or the LORD. Nor did he justify any failures on his part in the process of his faith race, but he accepted the forgiving grace of GOD because he needed it, lived in it and forgave others as needed. So, we are invited to finish our race strong too! The only way to accomplish that is to focus on the forgiving grace of GOD rather than focusing on our failures or anyone else's. Persons who think this way miss the major point of grace and forgiveness. Living in grace and forgiveness means you give it to yourself first, and others who need it second because that is exactly what JESUS did for us. If the only people we appreciate are those just like us then how are we any different than persons who don't walk after JESUS? If we finish our race well we will practice the discipline of forgiveness. I ask your forgiveness for anything I've done that the LORD would consider wrong and that HE disapproves of. You have my forgiveness where it is needed, and as we part ways may none of us pack offenses, grudges & petty differences that only ruin our potential down the road.

The third truth we must cling to is the practice of thankfulness. In every season we journey through, do we practice the discipline of thankfulness for GOD's presence and grace through it all? If GOD only gets thanked for what we wanted and liked and understood, we've missed the point of thankfulness. Thankfulness is the LORD's way to protect us from the strain of this world that always brings bitterness if the gifts of GOD don't protect us from the woes and challenges of life. Thankfulness also keeps the door open for our ability to keep learning in every situation. If you can only learn from perfect circumstances, then you'll not be learning much the rest of your life. Thankfulness reminds us the LORD is present in all circumstances. Thankfulness helps us to see the many wonderful events, gifts, and benefits available to us as well. Thank you for having accepted our ministry, and your gifts and offered favors, food and other goodies while we have been here. We appreciate them and you too! We are thankful for others who have helped to keep Trinity open through the years. We remind all of you to keep Trinity open to GOD's Spirit, for without that constant invitation to the HOLY SPIRIT the local church cannot serve CHRIST's purpose and that purpose is the only one that counts for eternity.

The last priority we must practice and hold on to is prayer. Now that Trinity is a part of our experience, we will not cease praying for this church to become all things the LORD has for it in HIS plans. We ask for your prayers too in future years. While we may seldom see one another, please remember we will meet again in the LORD's Kingdom in HIS time. Until then, let us commit to learning from our season together, finishing strong by the

practice of forgiveness, giving thankfulness always and remembering one another in prayer that we all win this race moving toward the high calling of pursuing JESUS CHRIST! May HIS eternal purpose be completed in all of you at Trinity! May CHRIST be glorified at Trinity! May CHRIST be glorified everywhere! We bless you and love you in JESUS name! Blessings for the journey with CHRIST!

Pastor Robert & Melanie Reeves and family.

The following presentations were given on May 3rd for Trinity's 55th Family Reunion:

THE FINGER OF GOD
A Meditation on 7 Years of Ministry at Trinity UMC, West Columbia

“Where the finger of God points, the hand of God goes before to prepare the way.” Unknown

Sixty-five years ago, I first heard that statement – soon after announcing to my home church that I was called to preach. Now, at age 77, with all these years to test its veracity, I can affirm, without reservation, that the ‘hand of God’ does ‘prepare the way’ for every stage of an obedient life.

In these thoughts, I speak specifically of our seven years together as pastor and church. I said ‘speak’ – when I can no longer ‘speak’ – not in a way that’s fit for public hearing. So, I write – and providential friend Bob Strickland speaks for me. I use the word ‘providential’ deliberately. I believe, deeply, that the years 1978 through 1985 were prepared and directed by the ‘hand of God’ going before to “prepare the way”.

It would take a book – not a brief meditation – to describe all the ways the lives of the Alley family were shaped for future ministry by those years. For illustration: Jay’s spiritual journey – in depth – began here via the Men’s Club. He’s not reading these words because his ministry season – the heavy part – begins today. And the Rev. Dr. Lynne Alley-Grant is in her Virginia pulpit. Trinity was the ‘hand of God’ in her first formal entrance into ministry. Barbara’s Higher Education blossomed during those years, and her creative leadership since would fill a book.

So many Trinity members profoundly influenced my life, I hesitate to single out names, but you know who you are. There is one person – now in heaven – who rises above all, and I can hear her heavenly sounds deep in my soul. If you’ve studied my ministry after Trinity, and know that the past seven years have steadily taken speech from me, you know that angel of preparation was Diane Sineath – God’s speechless prophetess, who, with never a clear word, mentored me into ministry specifically shaped for those with neurological damage – the so called mentally ill (a term I detest) – “the handicapped”, the damaged or diseased – those Jesus so frequently turned to in order to help them and teach us. Whatever has caused their condition, they just cannot keep up in “the human race”.

Even before I left Trinity, initiatives born here took root and now flourish across the country, and the ‘hand of God’ clearing the way was via those gnarled hands of Diane. May God teach us the meaning of these words.

I love you all.

Joe Alley

5-03-2015

FROM SUE BALLENTINE

Trinity became my family’s church when we moved to West Columbia in 1969, and for the past 46 years the congregation of Trinity UMC has been involved in the development of my Christian life. Four years later when I was 13, I asked Jesus to come to fill my heart. Some of you may not know that our sanctuary used to be where our fellowship hall is today. It was in that room, on the chancel rail, just below where the stage is now, that I kneeled and prayed. Our MYF group was worshipping with another fellowship group from a visiting church. At the time, I wasn’t sure of how I was supposed to feel. It was not as if I felt the Holy Spirit entering my soul and everything was going to be different. It was more like everybody else is doing it, so why not. But, there must have been something special about it, THANKS BE TO GOD.

Other wonderful things happened in that place of worship where we had folding chairs to sit on, not pews. In 1979 or 1980, Joe Alley led a group of 10 to 15 people in the old sanctuary, where he was speaking about faith and how we trust GOD. Most, if not all of the chairs were folded and moved out of the way. This was around the start of the popular practice of having a person stand with their back to another, and trust that the person behind would catch them as they allowed their body to fall backwards. Jan and Mike Stamps were there. After Mike’s turn to fall backwards, we all encountered Mike having a life changing moment. This experience of watching him find ultimate understanding was somewhat confusing for me at the time, but has become more profound for my faith journey than the youth fellowship service at the age of 13.

In May 1981, I married the love of my life in the same room. The windows were an amber color which put a golden glow into all of our wedding pictures. John and I, for reasons unknown to me now, asked Joe if we could memorize our wedding vows. Of course, I was the one who got mixed up. The joke for a while was that we weren't really married since I missed a couple lines.

Prior to getting married, Sunday was church day for my family, but after moving to Blythewood, I wandered away from church for a while. I missed the construction of the new sanctuary which came months after our wedding. During this time though, the nurturing from my parents and my Trinity family came into play, allowing me to realize how important prayers could be.

We were still living in Blythewood when Daphne was born. While she was very young, she and I began coming to Columbia on church day. Not only did we get to visit with my parents, but we got to see my Trinity family again. I wanted Daphne to learn of God's love and grace as I had as a child. Before Daphne was two, our family moved to Cayce.

Sue Ballentine *(Continued)*

Within the next two years, Joshua was our second child to be baptized at Trinity. Through the loving arms of Trinity members, I knew my children would be encouraged to develop a sense of belonging to God, and I believe they did.

When Joshua was around 5 years old, he told me that an older friend down the street stated that his family were Christians. Josh wanted to know what we were. I explained him that we were also Christians. I remember thinking at the time that the word, "Christian" was not really discussed or used as an adjective for people at Trinity, at least not around me. We were **and** still are Methodists, but that is not where our identity stops.

As a member of a United Methodist church I have had the privilege of learning from many pastors. I have been able to gain insight through their faith and understanding which was shared with us as a congregation. Taking the time to converse with others in my Trinity family, other than on Sunday morning, gave me a better appreciation of the love and guidance I receive from God all the time. I would have missed out on many opportunities in my walk with Jesus if I had not been involved with small groups from Trinity, United Methodist events, and other events as well as over the years. Through lessons and conversations during Sunday School time, MYF, Bible studies, Beth Moore series, prayer seminars, prayer meetings, committee meetings, The Walk to Emmaus, and many others, my faith has been enhanced.

Over the years, I have engaged in wonderful discussions, some of which could be described as debates, in the Visions 101 Sunday School Class. Through these interactions, my perceptions of being a Christian have evolved. One of these is my concept of heaven which has changed from being a place where I will go to have a family reunion with those who have passed on before me, to a place where I will join others to **praise**, and **sing praises** to our Holy Almighty Father. I have had acquaintances tell me some 10, 15 years ago that the Bible states that, in heaven, we won't know our family, which truly bothered me the first time I heard this. If this is the case, I am reassured by many other scriptures that I will be in heaven to praise **GOD**, and all will be well with my soul. When we sing the Doxology, not only are we reminded now to praise the One from whom **all** blessings flow, but it reveals a prelude for what is to come.

Another reminder, our cross, has always been an important symbol for our church. After seeing Mel Gibson's movie, "The Passion", I often imagine Jesus on our cross. During one of Robert's sermons, he described our altar as a place similar to where Jesus could have been laid. These mental images make the awareness that Jesus died for me all the more intimate, and intensifies my need to be thankful everyday for his sacrifice.

So far I have talked about how Trinity, its congregation and its pastors have influenced my life. I have discussed seeing changes in others and how I have experienced their increase in the faith of Jesus, and I want to see more of it. Trinity is now challenged to take on the next generation, who are very different in their ways of thinking. This cannot be a stumbling block for us. They need Jesus in their lives, and we need to be willing to devote ourselves to Jesus in order to find the solutions necessary to continue to Connect, Nurture, Inspire and Transform.

We must be willing to update our thoughts and actions in order to follow our Lord's call for Trinity, and be successful at it. Any military must update its tactics in order to fight the enemy. The battle rages on against the evil one, and God wants more recruits. I know that I have missed many opportunities to show God's love over the years. As Christians, we must always strive to be better, and be determined to fulfill Jesus' call to feed his sheep. When we get that call, or when we see or hear something that interests or bothers us, we shouldn't immediately dismiss it because we don't have the time, or we don't want to do it. Say a prayer. Ask God for guidance. God will make time for us if it is what needs to be done. He will bring a blessing to all who are involved. I pray that Trinity will continue to be courageous and allow Jesus to guide us; whether it is through more small groups where others can find the peace and understanding of Jesus, or simply making sure that we pray often for one another, but even better that we pray more often **with** one another.

So how do we, as a church, continue to commit to Christ? Do we pick and choose who comes through our doors? Do we only allow Sunday to be God's time? How do we let ourselves, as well as others, know we are Christian? When we show God's love, are we passionate about it, are we energized by it, are others desirous of it? Bring on your warmth and compassion, your smiles and laughter. We know God has a sense of humor, and we can, too. We are all God's children and for some reason we have been drawn to Trinity. The awareness and appreciation for God's word that I, as well as others, have come to comprehend over the years cannot be kept for ourselves, but we must be ready to share.

One way to start is on Thursday, May 7th, the National Day of Prayer. We will be praying around our crosses at 7:30 am and 5:30 pm. If you can't come here, please say a prayer from your home or workplace for our members, our church, our nation, and the world. Your prayer may be for someone who has had a bad day, it may concern for those who have been subjected to violent weather or atrocities of war. In any case, prayers warriors are desperately needed, and countless others need our prayers. Let's not be afraid to take that next step of our journey in our walk with Jesus, as we, the people of Trinity endeavor to impact other's lives by sharing God's love for years to come.

Please know that I am eternally grateful to all of you who have impacted and enriched my walk with Jesus. I would not be who I am without you and the grace of God.



We have an enthusiastic group that meets each Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. to participate in activities to help keep our bodies balanced and less inclined to fall. We will continue to meet throughout the summer. You can join us at anytime! We are usually there for about 45 minutes.



We are still accepting donations for the new Sound System. We have received enough to cover the basic components of the new sound system. All additional money raised will help purchase other items, such as a newer computer, that are needed to go with it.

Pastor Donna Eidson's first Sunday at Trinity will be on June 28. The reception to welcome her will be held on Sunday, July 12, immediately following the service.

A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at Trinity on Tuesday, July 6, from 2 – 7 p.m. We will have more information on this during June.

The Summer Splash will be held on Saturday, July 11, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

VBS will be held Sunday, August 2, through Wednesday, August 5, from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. On Sunday, VBS will start with an Ice Cream Social. Don't forget to put this on your calendar!