

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: *John Jordan*

Music Director: *Jackie McNeill*

Organist: *Christopher A. McCroskey*

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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JANUARY 2020

John's Jottings

I can't.

These are words we don't want to say. We want to think that we can do anything at any time. We think we can still do at 63 what we could do at 36. We quickly refer to Philippians 4: 13, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (NRSV) as proof that as we rely on God, we can do any and every thing. We tend to read this verse as saying no matter what I want to do, I can do it because God strengthens me to do it.

Those of my generation will remember Julius Erving, Dr. J, The Doctor of the Dunk. Julius Erving was the first really spectacular dunker in the National Basketball Association. He was the first to take off away from the basket, rise high above the rim and slam the ball through the hoop. He was the precursor to Michael Jordan and all the others we see in the slam dunk competitions today. I dreamed of dunking a basketball like Dr. J.

But I am 5' 11" and the best vertical leap I ever had was maybe 12". I could get up about 2 inches onto the backboard of the goal on the courts and Valdosta State in my college days. I never got close to the rim much less above the rim. Now if I tried to dunk a basketball now; let's just say it would not be pretty and someone would need to be on hand to call 911.

No matter how much I may believe that I can do all things because God strengthens me, I can't and never could dunk a basketball. It was not a matter of lack of faith but a lack of physical ability. The idea that we can do all things through God who strengthens us is a misreading of this verse. What Paul is saying to the church in Philippi is that everything he does is because God strengthens him to do what God wants him to do. God does not strengthen us to do what we want to do, like dunk a basketball, but God strengthens us to do what God wants us to do, like preach a sermon.

God gives us all different abilities to accomplish our role in bringing God's kingdom to fruition. Our ability to accomplish certain tasks may change as we go through the seasons of our lives. We may not have the emotional energy to serve as a church leader as we have in the past after a loved one dies. Sometimes our physical and mental capacities may diminish as we grow older. Things like climbing a ladder to change a light bulb may become a high-risk proposition because we don't have the strength and balance that we once had.

My point in all this is that there is no shame in saying "I can't". When the thought that I can't do something comes into our minds, there are certain questions we need to ask ourselves. One, is it safe for me to do this? What is the potential for injury and are there others around to assist? Do I have adequate time to do this? One reason I did not pass my ordination was that I pushed myself to turn in inadequate paperwork as I was running out of time even though I had the thought that I could not finish in time. Do I have adequate resources to do this? Do I have the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual tools necessary to do the task?

Finally, we need to ask is this something that God wants me to do right now? If it is something that God wants you to do then the strength to do it will be given. If the strength does not come, God may well be saying this is not what I want you to do.

Article XI of our United Methodist Articles of Religion is "Of Works of Supererogation." This is probably the most violated of all the Articles for it says that voluntary works above what God commands are arrogant and impious. What Wesley is basically saying is that we are to do what God commands us to do, no less or no more.

So, do not be ashamed to say I can't, even if it is something you may have done in the past. The thought that "I can't" may be God saying, "I don't want you to."

Shalom,
John



John and Kay would like to invite the congregation to an open house at the parsonage, 1512 Cardinal Drive, West Columbia, on Sunday, January 5, from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. We just want to extend our thanks for the welcome and hospitality we have received from you since we have been back in the Trinity Family.



Volunteers are needed to help take down the Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 4, from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. A sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Area.



Trinity Food Co-op
Tuesday, January 28

Our next co-op date is **Tuesday, January 28**. It's an easy way to add fresh fruit and vegetables to your meals. Invite and encourage your friends and neighbors to participate. Plan now to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity.

Bags are only \$5.00 each and need to be paid in cash. They can be picked up between 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. from the Fellowship Hall on the day of the co-op. Please remember to pay in advance so that I know who wants bags each month and also how much money I have to spend. Please let me know by **Sunday, January 26**, if you would like a bag. Thank you for your help. **Becky**



Lisa Butler

Grover & Patsy Shuler
Chuck & Lynn Martin

Mike Steele

Bonnie Ramsey

Gary Ware

Bonnie Ramsey

Melody Hughes

Grover & Patsy Shuler
Chuck & Lynn Martin

Carol Frye

Grover & Patsy Shuler
Chuck & Lynn Martin

Harold Palmer

Ray & Gale Frady

Tessie Guichard

Bonnie Ramsey
Grover & Patsy Shuler
Chuck & Lynn Martin

Brian Ramsey

Boots Morgan
Grover & Patsy Shuler

Vernon Holladay, Sr.

Bonnie Ramsey

James G. Lloyd

John & Sue Ballentine
Jo Ann Heiting
Bonnie Ramsey
Chuck & Lynn Martin

Tyrone Gray

Jo Ann Heiting
Bonnie Ramsey

Sally Barber

Ray & Gale Frady

Marvin Efron

Jo Ann Heiting
Boots Morgan
Bonnie Ramsey
Joe Alley
Grover & Patsy Shuler
Chuck & Lynn Martin

Lisa Taylor Powell

Edwa Meek
Jo Ann Heiting
Bonnie Ramsey
Jim & Marie Stiles
Grover & Patsy Shuler
Chuck & Lynn Martin

Arnold Heiting

Grover & Patsy Shuler

Margaret Lankford

Mary Kamoroff
Jo Ann Heiting
Bonnie Ramsey
English & Jewel Percy

James Vanderpool

Jo Ann Heiting
Bonnie Ramsey
Chuck & Lynn Martin

Mary Ellen Moose

Wayne & Charlie Hooker

Andy & Fran Jones

Richard & Elizabeth Jones



WE EXPRESS OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO:

Sara Efron and family on the death of her sister, **Margaret Lankford**, on December 3, 2019.



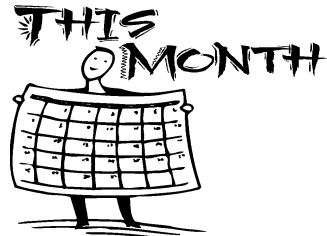
Dear Trinity,

We appreciate your partnership. We hope you have a Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,
Jim LeBlanc
Saluda River Family
Laura Clark



Monica Johnston
51F. 25 Ngan Mok Street
Causeway Bay, Hong Kong



Lunch Bunch will be held on Sunday, January 5. Plan to bring a covered dish and join this informal time of food and fellowship.

The Exercise Class will resume on Monday, January 6, at 11 a.m.

Bible Study will not resume until the start of Wonderful Wednesdays.

The Planning Retreat scheduled for the second weekend in January has been canceled. It will be rescheduled.

The United Methodist Men's Breakfast will be held on Sunday, January 12, at 9 a.m.

Church Council will be held on Sunday, January 19, at 6:30 p.m.

GLIA Articles are due on Thursday, January 23.

The Sunday School Breakfast will be held on Sunday, January 26, at 9 a.m.