

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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MARCH 2021

John's Jottings

Humor

I don't know if they still run it but one of my favorite articles in *Reader's Digest* magazine was *Laughter the Best Medicine*. It was a page or two of jokes and anecdotes which made you laugh.

This past year has been one that has been all too serious. We all need some medicine to lift our spirit and dispel, even briefly, the gloom that has been hanging over us. I believe God has a sense of humor and created humor as a gift to us in times like these. I mean, look at some of the things God created, like the duckbilled platypus. Was that made out of leftover parts of a beaver and duck? Only a God that has a sense of humor created such a funny looking creature.

The Bible is replete with humorous stories. In some cases, the humor may have gotten lost in translation as Hebrew and Greek idioms may have been translated too seriously. For example, 1 Kings 18: 27, which is in the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal, reads "At noon Elijah mocked them, saying 'Cry aloud! Surely he is a god; either he is meditating, has wandered away, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.'" The word translated as meditating could have been an idiom for being in the Men's room.

One of my favorite portrayals of Jesus is the "Laughing Jesus". It depicts Jesus laughing. Some of Jesus' sayings are quite humorous. Consider a camel trying to go through the eye of a needle, or in Matthew when talking about things that defile as the Pharisees and Scribes confronted him about eating with unwashed hands. He says in 15:17 "Do you not see that what comes out of the mouth enters in the stomach and goes out into the sewer?" Think on that one a second.

One of the funniest incidents in the Bible occurs in Acts Chapter 12. Peter has been arrested. Then at night he is freed by an angel. He makes his way to the house of Mary the Mother of John Mark, where he knew many of the followers were gathered. He knocks at the outer gate. A maid named Rhoda goes to answer. She sees it is Peter and runs back in to tell everyone that it was Peter. Everyone tells her she is out of her mind. Meanwhile Peter is standing out on the street pounding at the gate. Finally they open the gate and let Peter in.

There are many other humorous stories throughout the Bible. I think many of the stories in the Bible we do tend to take too seriously and fail to see the humor in them. This does not trivialize the stories. In fact, looking for the humor may enhance the impact of the story.

Speaking of taking things too seriously, I think too often we take ourselves too seriously. I will admit that one of my greatest fears is climbing up the steps to the pulpit to deliver the sermon (or worse a eulogy), stepping on my robe and falling flat on my face in front of the congregation and now, everybody online. I have had many embarrassing moments in

my life, such as my robe catching on fire during communion, forgetting the order of worship, forgetting the words to the Lord's Prayer and Apostle's Creed, even serving communion to Kay and not recognizing her. I can choose to think about how terrible these events were or I can laugh at them along with everyone else. I prefer to laugh.

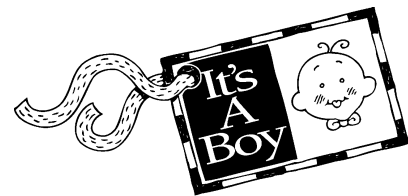
One of my favorite quotes is from G. K. Chesterton, "Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly." Angels can fly because they don't take things or themselves too seriously. So even during this time, take things and yourself lightly. Watch a silly sitcom or movie on television. Read a funny book. Tell each other jokes and share funny stories. Hang out with some little children. Above all take life and yourself lightly so you may fly with angels.

How many Methodist does it take to change a light bulb?
We don't know, we still haven't gotten the report from the committee.

Shalom and laughter,
John



Congratulations to **Matthew Skipper** for being named to the President's List for the Fall Semester at Francis Marion University.



Congratulations to **Taylor and Emmaline Lewis** on the birth of their son, **Wallace Olaf Lewis**, on Sunday, February 28. He weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. and was 21 ½" long. **Wallace Olaf** is the grandson of **Mark and Mary Sue Lewis** and the great-grandson of **Charles and Jackie McNeill**.



Join us live or online for our weekly Lenten Devotional at noon on Wednesdays.

(continued on next column)

memorials & gifts

Sara Efron

John & Sue Ballentine
Linda Maloch
Kim Stewart
Flo Johnson
Harry & Linda Ott
Mr. & Mrs. Theo Williams
Jan Stamps
SC Farm Bureau Federation
Edwa Meek
Jeanette Hornsby
Boots Morgan

Jerry Branton

Jim & Marie Stiles
Bonnie Ramsey
Jo Ann Heiting

Maurice Robinson

John & Sue Ballentine
Bob & Doris Hayes
Rev. Joe Alley
Steve & Darlene Cox
Jan Stamps
Fred & Deborah Brock
Edwa Meek
Jeanette Hornsby

C. J. Gallegos

Bonnie Ramsey
Jo Ann Heiting

Linda Dickerson

Jo Ann Heiting
Bonnie Ramsey

Charles Von Glahn

John & Sue Ballentine
Linda Maloch
Edwa Meek
Jeanette Hornsby

Ed Chambers

Jan Stamps

Doris Todd

Bonnie Ramsey
Jo Ann Heiting

Billy Newton

Ray & Gale Frady
Jo Ann Heiting
Jeanette Hornsby
Bonnie Ramsey
Charles & Jackie McNeill
John & Patsy Zeigler
English & Jewel Pearcy

Grover Shuler

Linda Maloch
Lee & Jean Hook
Jim & Marie Stiles
O. J. & Joyce Hatchell
Mr. & Mrs. Reginald Shuler
Rev. Joe Alley
Joyce Robinson
Jan Stamps
Thomas Ott
Gary Berry
Joy Sunday School Class
Edwa Meek
Jeanette Hornsby
Lonnie & Hazel Shull
John & Sue Ballentine
Marty Johnson



Each month we will highlight the birthdays of those who are turning 85 or older. There are none for the month of March.



To my Trinity Family,

It is such a blessing to be a part of such a caring church. The cards brightened my days and the prayers helped with my healing and rehab.

With my thanks and love,
Pam Hook



Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you for all of the cards, calls, and special well wishes that I received on my birthday. They were much appreciated and made the day extra special.

Love,
Linda Maloch



Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you so much for all your concern and support during this time. We have appreciated all the many acts of kindness – the calls, texts, food, cards, and memorials. All of these have helped so much during Maurice's illness and passing.

It is wonderful to be a part of such a caring church. Thanks again for all your thoughts and prayers.

Love,
Joyce Robinson and Family



Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you for all of the many ways you showed your love and concern following Grover's passing. Our family has appreciated the prayers, cards, calls, food and memorials. They all have helped us as we have gone through this difficult time.

Thank you for all you have done. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Love,
Patsy Shuler and Family




WE EXPRESS OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY to:

Nancy Whitehead and family on the death of her aunt, *Linda Dickerson*, February 6.

Mary Kamoroff and family on the death of her brother, *Billy Newton*, on February 14.



I am glad to hear that many of you are getting vaccinated for COVID-19. While I can't speak for all, I do feel that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. However, we need to continue to maintain cautions, wearing masks and social distancing for the time being. Thus far only 7% of the U.S. population has been vaccinated so there is a long way to go before enough are vaccinated to drop all precautions. So, stay diligent and stay safe.

HOLY WEEK

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

There will be no in-person Holy Week services again this year. There may be virtual or live stream services. We will update this information later in the month by email and on the Trinity Facebook page.



We will not be purchasing Easter Lilies this year. In lieu of a lily you can give an honorarium or memorial for a loved one, with all money given going to God's Helping Hands. We will list all of the honorariums and memorials and include it with the Easter Sunday bulletin. We will also print them in the GLIA.



Please make the following changes to your directory:

Brandon Jones

1310 Oakcrest Drive, Apt. 512

Columbia, SC 29223

Dean & Peggy Jo Nadler

38 Whale Branch Drive

Seabrook, SC 29940

Kelsey Tolliver

1310 Oakcrest Drive, Apt. 512

Columbia, SC 29223

The email address for the following has changed. The new email address is:

Wayne and Charlie Hooker awaynehooker@outlook.com