

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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AUGUST 2021

John's Jottings *Having Faith*

Henry was a man of strong faith. He was a Christian his whole life. He very rarely missed church. He read his Bible and prayed every day. Henry believed God would always keep him safe from any harm. God blessed Henry. He lived in a beautiful two-story home near the river. He lived a good life.

One day it began raining and rained for days. The river overflowed its banks. Water began rushing into Henry's house. Soon, the first floor was flooded but Henry wasn't worried. He knew God would save him. As Henry sat at an upstairs window, some people came by in a boat and called to Henry, "Get in the boat. We will take you to higher ground."

But Henry said, "No, that's Ok, save someone else, for the Lord will save me."

The floodwaters continued to rise. Henry climbed up onto the roof. Another boat came by and the people called to Henry, "Get in the boat. We will take you to higher ground."

Once again Henry said, "No, go save someone else, the Lord is going to save me."

The floodwaters continued to rise. Henry was standing on his chimney when the sheriff's rescue boat came by. The sheriff ordered Henry into the boat, but again Henry resisted saying, "The Lord is going to save me."

At that moment a surge of water came, sweeping Henry off the chimney. He was pulled down into the water and drowned.

Henry found himself at the gates of heaven with St. Peter. St Peter looked into the Book of Life and said, "Oh yes, here you are Henry, much sooner than expected. Everyone who comes here gets to ask the Lord one question so let's go."

St. Peter took a somewhat confused Henry to the Lord and introduced him. The Lord said, "Oh yes, Henry, You are here much sooner than expected, What is your question?"

Henry tearfully stammered. "Lord, I don't understand. I always went to church, I did everything I thought you asked of me, I had faith that you would save me from the flood, but you didn't, Why?"

The Lord replied, "I sent you THREE BOATS!"

We could say that Henry's faith was misguided. Henry thought God would somehow miraculously save him from the flood. Because of this misguided faith, Henry failed to see God responding to his faith by sending the boats to rescue him. Henry only saw the humans in the boat. He failed to perceive that God sent the boats. His rescue did not come in the way his faith led him to believe. He expected a miracle.

We could further say Henry demonstrated a lack of faith. Henry lacked the faith to see the people in the boats as being sent from God to rescue him.

This is very much like the story of Naaman in 2 Kings 5. Naaman expected Elisha to come out and at least place his hands on him to heal him of this skin disease. When Elisha sent word for him to wash in the Jordan River, Naaman became angry. That was not how he expected to be healed. He expected something big, not a simple washing in a muddy river.

Sometimes our faith may lead us to be like Henry and Naaman. We expect God to work in some powerful and miraculous way. We fail to see God working through humans, like sending people in a boat to rescue Henry, or through simple means, like washing in a river. We fail to see that God gave people the skill and knowledge to cure and prevent diseases. We fail to see that God gave people the skill and knowledge to develop medications to manage the symptoms of incurable diseases and mental illnesses so people with these conditions can function. We fail to see that God gave people the skills and knowledge to be able to help people walk by exercising and manipulating the body. God continues to perform miraculous healings by giving people knowledge and skills.

One of my clients at the Mental Health Clinic of Jacksonville told me of praying for God to heal her of her mental illness. Many times she would have the assurance she was being healed, so she would throw away her medicine. After several trips to the State Hospital, she realized God gave her the medicine and clinic to keep her well. Her faith led her to perceive how God was healing her though it was not the way she initially thought.

We truly have faith in God when we trust God is working through humans. We perceive that it is not random humans in the boat, but humans sent from God to rescue and protect us.

Shalom,
John



I continue to urge all to get vaccinated as soon as eligible. Remember that this is a public health issue. Getting vaccinated is not about protecting ourselves but also the people we come in contact with each day. You should continue to take whatever precautions you feel is necessary for your health, even if that means not coming to church. Let's continue to keep safe and do all we can to curtail the spread of this virus.

Special Guest
August 1

On August 1, we will have *Kathy James* from Epworth Children's Home with us. During the service, she will briefly tell us about new programs at Epworth. She will remain with us for Lunch Bunch and further discuss ways in which we can partner with Epworth to provide services to our community. Please come to hear what is happening at our children's home and how we can be of service to our community.



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



Iris Turlington

John & Sue Ballentine

Tommy Johnson

John & Sue Ballentine

Jared Greshel

John & Sue Ballentine
Chuck & Lynn Martin
Patsy Shuler

Kathleen Streetman

Wayne & Charlie Hooker
Mary Kamoroff
Bonnie Ramsey
Jo Ann Heiting

Margie Ogburn

English & Jewel Pearcy
Rhett & Pam Hook
Chuck & Lynn Martin

Dean Frye

Chuck & Lynn Martin
Patsy Shuler



Dear Trinity Family,

I would like to thank our family and friends who attended Grover's Memorial/Celebration of Life Service. My thanks to Pastor John and Jackie for guiding me and keeping me on the right path. Thanks to Christopher and Dan for their beautiful music, the Gideons for their participation, and Christopher and Mary Elizabeth (his grandchildren) for speaking. Thank you to Sightler's for the beautiful flowers.

A very special thank you to all of the dear ladies who helped with the reception and delicious spread of food. If you want good food, just ask a Methodist lady.

Thank you,
Patsy Shuler and Family



**Lunch Bunch
August 1, 2021**

On **Sunday, August 1**, we will have our first **Lunch Bunch** since March 1, 2020. Everyone is invited to bring a covered dish and join this informal time of food and fellowship immediately following the service. Lunch Bunch meets the first Sunday of each month.



COME ONE! COME ALL!

Having been present, providing music during the long span of virtual church services, let me say how wonderful it is to see people eagerly returning for services. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, it was not possible to have choir.

Beginning September 8, choir rehearsals will resume. Most of our former members tell us they're ready to return, however; we would greatly appreciate an injection of new voices to help with our weekly tasks. We'll start with simple hymn and anthem arrangements so please consider joining us.

By the way, Dan and I are currently writing and choosing music for the 2021 Christmas Cantata at Trinity!

All my best,
Christopher



Dear Trinity Family,

I cherish the birthday cards sent by my Church Family. Thank you! I have fond memories of sending cards when I was able to write much better.

Peace and Good Health.

Love in Christ,
Libby Strickland



Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you so much for the big box of goodies for my birthday. It was so nice of you all to think of me.

I miss you all!

Love,
Jean Raynor

CHANGE OF ADDRESS



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