

# 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.

Phone: (803)794-7777

Fax: (803) 939-9628

E-Mail Pastor - [jdjordan@umcsc.org](mailto:jdjordan@umcsc.org)

E-Mail Church - [trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com](mailto:trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com)

Website - [trinityumcwc.org](http://trinityumcwc.org)

JANUARY 2023



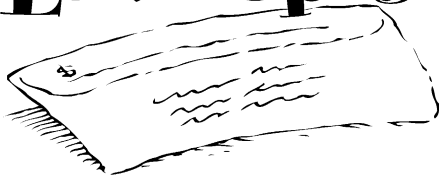
Saturday, January 7  
9 a.m.

Help is needed on Saturday, January 7, at 9 a.m. as the Advent/Christmas decorations are taken down and packed up.

## ADULT Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School Class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. Plan to join them as a new class starts on learning to pray effectively led by Marty Johnson. On January 8 they will have an introductory discussion of prayer in scripture and on January 15 will start an eight-session study from *The Battle Plan for Prayer* by Stephen Kendrick and Alex Kendrick with Travis Agnew. The books will be provided.

## Offering Envelopes



Offering Envelopes for 2023 are now available in the Gathering Area. If you would like to use offering envelopes, and do not see your name on those in the Gathering Area, please contact the Church Office.



Congratulations to *Matthew Skipper*, who graduated summa cum laude from Francis Marion University on December 17 with degrees in Sociology and Political Science. He will attend USC School of Law in the fall.



The 2023 Flower Calendar is now on the bulletin board beside the Church Office. If you would like to provide flowers or give a gift in honor or memory of someone in lieu of flowers for one of the Sundays in 2023, just place your name by the date or call the Church Office and I will record it for you.

If you would like to provide flowers, there are several options. Sightler's Florist will provide a seasonal arrangement for \$53.50. Special orders will cost more. Lynn Martin can place the order for those flowers. Jarrett's Jungle can also deliver flowers if you wish to contact them. You can also provide flowers that you have arranged or from other sources, but you would need to bring them to the church or arrange for them to be delivered.



Each month we highlight the birthdays of those who are turning 85 or older. The birthday for :

**January 28**

Linda Maloch

Brickmont of Roswell  
2560 Holcomb Bridge Road  
Roswell, GA 30022



Chuck Martin  
Richard & Elizabeth Jones

David Laughead  
Wayne & Charlie Hooker

Preston Cantrell  
Wayne & Charlie Hooker

Troy Robinson  
Wayne & Charlie Hooker

Mitch Kelly  
Wayne & Charlie Hooker

Jewel Pearcy

Diane Bishop  
Georgia Sherard  
McSwain-Evans FH  
Tommy & Joan Gleaton  
Rick & Marian Lindsey  
David & Sarah Burbach

Doris Wessinger  
Pete & Laura Horlbeck  
Ted & Henrietta Morton  
Jan Weaver  
Walter & Teresa Betsill



**WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY to *George Taylor, Sr. and family* on the death of his son, *George Taylor, Jr.* on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.**



Dear Trinity Members,

I was very touched on receiving your gift bag for Christmas. You all went through a lot of trouble to remember me. All the 18 cards and goodies cheered me up greatly. God bless all of you for your kindness. God bless the church for your spirit.

Love in Christ,  
Georgeann Pace



Dear Becky Derrick, Kay Johnston, Marilyn Lloyd, Erin Derrick, Sue Ballentine, Joyce Robinson, Hilda Edwards, Mary Louise Robinson and Lynn Martin,

Thank you for taking the time to arrange food for the family during this difficult time. It was so thoughtful and helpful of you and was much appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Bill Jr., Allan & Jill Smith



To My Church Family,

Thank you for the prayers, thoughts and cards sent during my battle with peritoneum cancer. They are greatly appreciated.

Have a blessed New Year.

Love,  
Patsy Zeigler



Thanks to all who brought cards and goodies for the shut-ins and the folks at Asbury Arms. Linda, the manager at Asbury Arms, relates that the cards the residents received from Trinity are the only cards they received. Please know that the cards and gifts brought much joy.

Thank you again,  
Kay Jordan



*Thank You Note for College Exam Card Gift*

To My Church Family,

I just want to thank you for the prayers and the money towards my college. I really appreciate it and I hope you are doing well.

Love,  
Ryan Edwards

# John's Jotting

## *Looking Back, Looking Forward*

Wow, a new year is upon us. A new year is a time for reflection, looking back at the previous year. I hope we reflect upon 2022 and the events that transformed our lives. As a church, the new year is a time to reflect upon the events of 2022. Let's look back and see what has happened at Trinity.

Twenty-twenty-two may well go down as the year of grief. We lost fifteen members of the Trinity family to death. Some of these were expected after a long illness. Some were unexpected but not surprising, given the person's age or health. Some were tragic, unexpected deaths that shook us to the core.

We may also grieve the loss of many of our activities. While we tried to get Lunch Bunch, Wonderful Wednesday, and movies restarted, the participation was not enough to sustain these activities. We may grieve over the number of empty pews we see on Sunday mornings. Our average in-person attendance has been 28. When the CoVid pandemic hit, we were averaging 63 per Sunday. We grieve that people are not coming back as we may have hoped.

However, there was also much joy. We baptized Everly and Lyla Faye Branham in March. Two new members joined Trinity by transfer of membership. Our online presence increased as we live-streamed Sunday morning services on YouTube. This enabled us to reach those unable to come in person. Also, people could participate later if they were not able Sunday Morning. We averaged 18 views on YouTube which, using the formula from the Conference, translates to about 32 participants per Sunday. When combined with in-person participants, we are close to pre-pandemic attendance.

Not only have we live-streamed services, but we have also live-streamed studies and funerals. This has enabled family members who were unable to attend to be at a loved one's funeral. Chuck Martin's aunt wrote about feeling she was at Chuck's service even though she was in Arizona. The grief discussion we held was attended by 14 people and had 41 views on YouTube. The Advent studies had as many as 32 views. Our live-stream capabilities have allowed us to get the message of Jesus Christ beyond the walls of the church.

In March we began a study of the Wesley Class Meetings which evolved into the first T.a.G. (Transformation and Growth) group. The members of the group will all attest that they have grown stronger in their faith and closer to God's perfect love through the group. Also, our financial situation remains good at present.

After looking back, we turn and look forward to 2023. We are starting an ongoing grief support in response to the grief discussion. Interest has been expressed in starting a second T.a.G. group which would meet during the day. We are beginning to explore changing to a simplified organizational structure. This new structure would help us to evaluate and be more effective in our ministries. We will begin a mentor-based confirmation program for our youth.

As we move forward, the church council concurred that our focus for 2023 will be on prayer. We will pray for the future of Trinity. The Sunday School class will study prayer and praying. There will be studies on different types of prayer. We may start small prayer groups and church-wide intercessory prayer. (More on this to come.)

The new year may bring on changes in the Church. Times of change provoke anxiety. Pray for God's guidance as we look forward to great things at Trinity in 2023.

Shalom,

John



Thanks to Christopher, Dan, and the Trinity Choir for the wonderful cantata we had on December 18 and for all the music throughout the year.