

TRINITY IN TOUCH

Trinity United Methodist Church
22 E. Liberty Street - PO Box 376
York, SC 29745

Telephone: (803) 684-4100

Website: www.trinityofyork.org

Pastor e-mail: tumcpast@bellsouth.net

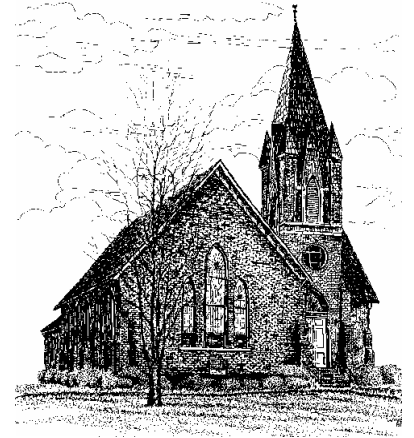
Secretary e-mail: tumcyork@bellsouth.net

Program Director: tumcprog@bellsouth.net

Church School: 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship: 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30am – 1:30pm (Closed Fridays)



December 15, 2009

From the Pastor

When we moved to York, Anna and I went to the cell phone place to get our phone numbers changed to local numbers, rather than the Columbia area numbers that we had before moving here. They couldn't give us numbers that were sequential, but I got one ending in 2165 and Anna's ends in 2565. Shortly after we got the phone numbers changed, I started getting calls for a man whom I'll call Michael T. At first live human beings were calling. There were text messages often of a humorous nature. I kept telling them that Michael no longer had the number, and asking them to take me off of speed dial. Then I started getting Michael's business calls. It seems that he worked at Carowinds and had a lot of folks trying to get in touch with him. Lately I have been getting calls for Michael that begin with a recording saying, "This is an important message for Michael T. If you are not Michael T. please hang up..." Of course, the message goes on and I haven't listened too far—but it seems that there are a lot of financial institutions trying to get in touch with him. On the rare occasions in which I have spoken to a live human being I have firmly but politely asked them to take the number off of their contact list. After almost four years one would expect these numbers to have been changed. Of course, we still get mail addressed to Rev. Larry Rodeffer at our PO Box and he's been gone from Trinity for much longer than that. I'm glad it isn't personal mail but "church stuff."

Now, you may be wondering why I would take the time and space to tell you about my struggles with a cell phone number when this is the last issue of Trinity IN Touch for 2009. After all, I could be wishing you a Merry Christmas and reminding you to join us at our **ONE WORSHIP SERVICE** on Sunday when the choir shares Christmas music and at our Christmas Eve services at 6 & 9. I look back over 2009 and talk about our successes—Homecoming, Bible School, Mission Trips, NESEI necklaces and crèches. I could even nag one more time about getting your pledge cards in, or finding someone to lead the Education Team in 2010. We have a lot to be proud of as we look back over the year, and we have a lot to look forward to and a lot of work to do in 2010. So, why am I talking about Michael T?

I guess it's because he has come to symbolize a real need to me. I don't mean because I keep getting those annoying calls meant for him. I don't mean because of the financial institutions who are probably seeking to help him catch up on his obligations to them so that they can repay their TARP money. I don't even think Michael symbolizes a real need to me because of the friends or clients who are still trying to find him. In my mind he is a symbol of the people who seem to simply get lost in our world and in our lives. Maybe he is also a symbol of our own places where we simply blend into the background and seek to disappear and escape some of the obligations and troubles of life.

As we move into 2010, think about the folks who worshipped near you in 2009 who have more or less disappeared. Think of the folks who sat across from you in Church School or who ate across from you at Wednesday night suppers and who haven't been there lately. How hard have we tried to get in contact with them and let them know we miss them? If we were as persistent as these financial institutions that keep calling and leaving messages, how many could we find? I try very hard to keep up with folks, and I know that you do, too, but who have we missed?

I ought to ask if there are some who feel like Michael in that everybody and his brother seems to be trying to get something out of them, but I don't want to look in that direction. I know that there are times when we feel that way and there are times when it seems that every contact we receive is one that seems to expect something out of us. This is a hazard of working with the church—people who can and will work find themselves asked to take on more and more and there can be a temptation to hide away from some of the requests/demands that we have pointed our way.

Now, where are you trying to get lost? Where have you been trying to blend into the woodwork rather than letting your talents be used and your views be appreciated? I don't think we have any who have obligated themselves like Michael and then are running from those obligations, but I know that every one of us has talents we aren't using and a witness we aren't sharing.

Oops! I can't write more, my cell phone is ringing. Hope it's not for Michael!

God bless each one. Have a Merry Christmas and a blessed 2010.

Gene Feagin, Pastor

Sunday, December 20, 2009
Chancel Choir Program

Passionate Spirituality

You know the routine by now. Here's the statement to read and respond to: "I believe the Bible is God's Word and provides his instructions for life." How do we know what God asks of us if we don't read his Word? Of course, we are careful to pay close attention to the words of Jesus—"Love the Lord your God with heart and soul and mind and strength and your neighbor as yourself." "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age." The list could be longer. We can remember the words of the prophets. See Micah 6:8 and then think about your own list.

SUNDAY, December 20

NO 9:00 am Worship Service.....
Fellowship Time 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Chancel Choir Program 11:00 a.m.
Church Wide Lunch..... 12:00 noon
Christmas Caroling 4:00 p.m.
College Students Social @ The Heltons 6:00 p.m.
Flower Ministry: Poinsettias
Nursery Infants: Kim & Emily Jones
Toddler Church: Meg & Jason Munn
NO Children's Church:
Acolyte: Sarah Grace Garner

MONDAY 21

Mite Girls Basketball Practice 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY 22

Adult Basketball 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY 24 –Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Services 6:00 & 9:00 p.m.

FRIDAY 25 – Christmas Day

SUNDAY, December 27

Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
Fellowship Time 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Biddy (5-9)Basketball Practice 3:00 p.m.
Biddy (5-7)Basketball Practice 4:30 p.m.

USHERS FOR DECEMBER: *Kenny Cloniger, Kevin Smiley, Lee Alford, Basil Childers, Johnny Eite, Kelly Pursley, Bud Jones.

TRUSTEES/DECEMBER: Steve Boyd & Jamie Patterson

ALTAR GUILD/DECEMBER: Britt Snelling, Liz Brown, Debbie Black

WELCOME VISITORS/DECEMBER: Jack Benfield Class

VISITOR CARDS/DECEMBER:

PATH FOOD OF THE MONTH: Grits! Oatmeal! Any hot cereal!

Sunday School Attendance Dec.13: 126
Worship Attendance (9:00 am) Dec.13: 45
Worship Attendance (11:00 am) Dec.13: 171
Operating Fund received on December 13 \$3,562.75
Operating Fund received up to December 13 \$280,605.50
Budget goal up to December 13 (\$6,500 x 50)..... \$325,000.00

MEMORIALS

To the Operating Fund:

Acoree Bostic by The Chancel Choir.

Bob Johnsey by Ray & Mary Sue Burns; Jerry & Brenda Dover; Joe & Terri Versen; Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Whitesides; Col. & Mrs. Allen Livingston.

Henry Wright by Reid & Karen Smith; The Bible Study Class;

Ernie Payne by Curtis & Peggy Sigmon.

To the Mississippi/Katrina Fund in memory of Henry Wright by Kenny & Ellen Jones.

To the UMCOR Fund in memory of Bob Johnsey & Acoree Bostic by John & Margaret Bailey.

To the Playground Fund in memory of Acoree Bostic by Kevin & Marsha Smiley.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our prayers are with Isem Pennington, Harriette Childers, Louise Smith, John Smith, Geneva Warren, Havern & Helen Brindle, Lois Crolley, Ernie Ulbricht, Bebe Benfield, and Jimmie Pridmore.

Also, we remember Jean Chason, friend of Ellen Jones; Christopher Hodges, brother of David Hodges; Steve Smith, friend of Eddie Jones; Debbie Lowe, niece of Susan Jones; Rena Walden, former Trinity member; Jean Whittington, friend of Renee Barker; Landon Pertuset, friend of Edgar Hardin; Mary Emma Dickson, aunt of Carrie Hodges; Harold Wilson, father of Alicia Breakfield; Jewel Stackley, mother of Johanna Sipe; Betty Beck, sister of Bunny Whitesides; Virginia Baker, sister of Jo

Hammond; Dot Caldwell, sister of Anne Hipp; Kinsley James, and Mackenzie Decuir.

Our sympathy is with Ernie Wright and family, following the death of his brother, Henry Wright.

Please join us on Sunday, December 20 for a Special Christmas Luncheon. The UMM will be serving lunch after the 11:00 Service in the Trinity Center. The menu will be baked ham, grilled chicken, mac & cheese, green beans, bread, and desserts. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. They will be sold in the hallway before and after Sunday School. Proceeds will go to The Church for any end-of-year expenses.

The family of Bob Johnsey wishes to express our sincere appreciation to our wonderful Trinity family for your outpouring of love and support shown to us as we said goodbye to our beloved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

The Johnsey family

Thanks: Anna and Travis and I would like to thank each member of the Trinity family for your generous Christmas gifts, for the cards and other expressions of the season. We are delighted to be a part of God's work here at Trinity and appreciate each one of you and your hard work. God bless each one. Anna, Gene and Travis

Help Wanted: The Lay Leadership Team is still seeking someone to serve as Chairperson of the Education Team. We need someone with enthusiasm, eagerness to learn, ability to work with the education program of Trinity for all ages, and the willingness to delegate. We have an enthusiastic team in search of a leader. Contact Gene Feagin or David Breakfield if you have any suggestions.

We also need someone to keep the nursery during Church School hours. Anyone interested is asked to contact Gene Feagin, Alicia Breakfield or Kathy Sandifer. This important ministry says volumes to our visitors as well as to our members with infants.

Several Trinity members have recently asked about our Sudanese/American friend, Justus A. Chol. Justus now lives in Archdale, NC and is currently looking for a job. He is willing to relocate if anyone has any "leads" on any kind of work. Please let Gene or Jill know about job information. Christmas cards may be sent to Justus A Chol, 10413 F South Main Street, Archdale, NC 27263.

THANK YOU TRINITY!!!

You've done it again! You've turned the NESEI craft projects into a success. The necklace and nativity booth at the Lake Junaluska Craft Show sold and took orders for \$1000 of merchandise. To date, these items have brought in over \$7500 with a profit of \$6500 after expenses. This has been designated for girl's education at the NESEI School in Yei, Sudan. **A very big THANK YOU goes out to The Gluers, The Cutters, The Crocheters, and The Measurers and to those who donated wood, those who helped sell and especially those who PURCHASED items.** May you enjoy a blessed Christmas Season! The NESEI Craft Crew

The office will be **only open as needed** over the Christmas holidays to take care of the business of the church, but will not be operating on a specific schedule. In case of pastoral emergency while the office is closed, you may leave a message on the parsonage answering machine (684-9146), or call Gene's cell phone (803-981-2165). Please don't hesitate to call in case of an emergency need.

This will be the last newsletter for this year. The first newsletter for 2010 will be mailed out on January 5.

Gene Feagin



Offerings for 2009 must be received in the church office, or postmarked, by December 31, in order for you to receive credit on your 2009 contribution record. Thanks for helping our financial officers comply with this IRS regulation.

The First Wednesday Fellowship Supper List for 2010 has been posted outside the Pastor's Study. Please check it out and sign up your group to host one of the dinners. Plenty of dates, *including January*, are still free!!

The Flower Calendar for 2010 is now posted on the bulletin board outside the pastor's study. Please take time now to designate the Sunday on which you wish to place flowers in the sanctuary, in order to insure that you get the Sunday you want.

ALICE'S CORNER

- God gave us a special gift on Christmas! The gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. I was reminded once again at our Children's Christmas play of all the gifts God continues to give us. The talents, abilities, love and energy within our church family are endless. God has given us lots of children to nurture, instruct, teach and be an example. Our children and parents did a marvelous job with "Christmas Morning Live". Many thanks to each of them for their dedication, commitment and the opportunity for me to be a part of their lives. Have a Wonderful and Merry Christmas.
- Don't forget the opportunity to go Church Christmas Caroling Sunday afternoon at 4:00 pm and the college Christmas social this Sunday at 6:00 pm at the Heltons.
- Let's start the month of January with a movie (hopefully "The Blind Side) and supper. Time will be announced later. Tell Alice to reserve a seat on the bus.



Offerings for 2009 must be received in the church office, or postmarked, by December 31, in order for you to receive credit on your 2009 contribution record. Thanks for helping our financial officers comply with this IRS regulation.

The First Wednesday Fellowship Supper List for 2010 has been posted outside the Pastor's Study. Please check it out and sign up your group to host one of the dinners. Plenty of dates, *including January*, are still free!!

The Flower Calendar for 2010 is now posted on the bulletin board outside the pastor's study. Please take time now to designate the Sunday on which you wish to place flowers in the sanctuary, in order to insure that you get the Sunday you want.

ALICE'S CORNER

- God gave us a special gift on Christmas! The gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. I was reminded once again at our Children's Christmas play of all the gifts God continues to give us. The talents, abilities, love and energy within our church family are endless. God has given us lots of children to nurture, instruct, teach and be an example. Our children and parents did a marvelous job with "Christmas Morning Live". Many thanks to each of them for their dedication, commitment and the opportunity for me to be a part of their lives. Have a Wonderful and Merry Christmas.
- Don't forget the opportunity to go Church Christmas Caroling Sunday afternoon at 4:00 pm and the college Christmas social this Sunday at 6:00 pm at the Heltons.
- Let's start the month of January with a movie (hopefully "The Blind Side) and supper. Time will be announced later. Tell Alice to reserve a seat on the bus.



Offerings for 2009 must be received in the church office, or postmarked, by December 31, in order for you to receive credit on your 2009 contribution record. Thanks for helping our financial officers comply with this IRS regulation.

The First Wednesday Fellowship Supper List for 2010 has been posted outside the Pastor's Study. Please check it out and sign up your group to host one of the dinners. Plenty of dates, *including January*, are still free!!

The Flower Calendar for 2010 is now posted on the bulletin board outside the pastor's study. Please take time now to designate the Sunday on which you wish to place flowers in the sanctuary, in order to insure that you get the Sunday you want.

ALICE'S CORNER

- God gave us a special gift on Christmas! The gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. I was reminded once again at our Children's Christmas play of all the gifts God continues to give us. The talents, abilities, love and energy within our church family are endless. God has given us lots of children to nurture, instruct, teach and be an example. Our children and parents did a marvelous job with "Christmas Morning Live". Many thanks to each of them for their dedication, commitment and the opportunity for me to be a part of their lives. Have a Wonderful and Merry Christmas.
- Don't forget the opportunity to go Church Christmas Caroling Sunday afternoon at 4:00 pm and the college Christmas social this Sunday at 6:00 pm at the Heltons.
- Let's start the month of January with a movie (hopefully "The Blind Side) and supper. Time will be announced later. Tell Alice to reserve a seat on the bus.

