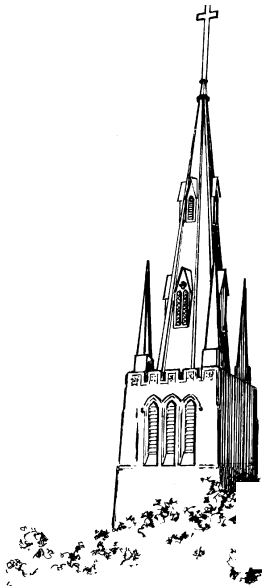


Trinity United Methodist Church
215 North Church Street
Durham, NC 27701

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The Steeple

January 2012 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

215 N. Church Street Durham, NC 27701 Phone: 919-683-1386 E-mail: church@trinitydurham.org

Serving Christ from the Heart of Downtown Durham: **Experiencing** the Love of God through Jesus Christ,
Sharing God's love in word & deed, **Inviting** others to faithful living in the Kingdom of God

FEATURE

Healthy Self-Awareness in a Church

Ever wonder what people think of you? I'm guilty of thinking about it too much sometimes. I know many other clergy who do too. Some degree of self-awareness is important, but we should not become too enamored with ourselves.

The same principle is true of churches. While we should not focus on ourselves in a vain way, we should listen to how others perceive us as a church. We should be aware of how our witness for Jesus Christ is being received by our visitors and by our wider community.

Here are some replies I've received from visitors when I've sent them notes of welcome:

- "Thanks for the welcome! It's been wonderful visiting Trinity. I hope to be back soon. After about 5 months in Durham, my girlfriend and I are still looking for a church home. We both really like Trinity and will be visiting again in the future."
- "Thank you very much for letting me worship with your church this past Sunday. I really enjoyed myself, and it felt like a very warm, comfortable environment. I must tell you that your church really felt like one of the most welcoming congregations that I have ever been to. It was really a joy to get to meet some of the members."
- "I really enjoyed worshipping with you on Sunday. I thank the Lord for leading me to the church and I hope to come there every week to experience His presence. I thank you and Trinity Church for welcoming me and extending your hand of friendship."

Of course, amongst our visitors some keep coming back and some don't. Feedback from those who do *not* return for a second and third visit is the hardest to acquire and sometimes the hardest to hear. Yet it is important for churches to garner that kind of feedback too.

Perhaps we can be asking ourselves (in a spirit of healthy self-awareness): If someone were to give us negative feedback – or constructive criticism – what would they probably say? In what ways might our church sometimes be less than faithful and effective in its witness and welcome?

When approached with the right frame-of-heart, these questions can build up the Body of Christ we call Trinity United Methodist Church. If you have any thoughts in response to these questions, please share them with me. Let us enter the new year with new perspectives and opportunities for conversation.

In Christ,

Rev. Taylor Mills
Rev. Taylor Mills

COMMUNITY LIFE

January

BIRTHDAYS

ALTAR GUILD

Priscilla Horvath
Kathleen Wilson

ACOLYTE

L.M. Fountain

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|--------------------------------------|
| 1/1 | Betsy Tally | 1/17 | JP Joyner |
| 1/2 | Wayne Beverly
Collins Clarkson
Jared Cook | 1/18 | Hazel Box |
| 1/6 | Carol Ayres | 1/19 | Michele Jones
Paul Joyner |
| 1/7 | Lyle Bass | 1/21 | Pam Guidry-Vollers
Jennie Kakalec |
| 1/10 | Scott Allred
James Best III
Josh Stout | 1/25 | Lib Rogers
Zachary Viana |
| 1/13 | Gwen Palmer | 1/26 | Emily Smith |
| 1/14 | Michael Vollers | 1/28 | Bob Gordon |
| 1/15 | Bob Stewart | 1/29 | William Epperson
Hannah McGiverin |
| 1/16 | Reggie Allred | | |

FLOWERS

- 1/1 Need Volunteer
1/8 Need Volunteer
1/15 Need Volunteer
1/22 Need Volunteer
1/29 Need Volunteer

COMMUNION

Josh & Mani Stout
Annette Morgan
Jane Morgan

Happy Birthday! *If you have a January birthday and it is not listed here, please contact the church office!*

GREETERS

- 1/1 Mary Beth Markham & Jane Mickey
1/8 Gwen & Ed Palmer
1/15 Sarah Parsons & James Robinson
1/22 Sarah Parsons & James Robinson
1/29 Sarah Parsons & James Robinson

BADGE TABLE

- 1/1 Annette Morgan, Lou McCutcheon
1/8 Annette Morgan, Jasmine Powell
1/15 Annette Morgan, Lou McCutcheon
1/22 Annette Morgan, Jasmine Powell
1/29 Annette Morgan, Lou McCutcheon

USHERS

Don Gladstone, Captain
Nita Gay Gladstone
Felix & Mary Beth Markham
Carolyn Hunter

NURSERY

- 1/1 Dougal & Angela Fountain
1/8 Steve Harris
1/15 Betsy Mills
1/22 Elaine McVey
1/29 Karen MacDonald

MISSIONS

Trinity's Connectional Mission Giving at 100%

You would probably like to know that when you give to Trinity UMC, a portion of your gift goes beyond our church to support our national and international ministries. As a part of the people called United Methodists, we are in covenant with other United Methodists to make disciples of Jesus Christ through shared ministries.

This hasn't always been the case, but for the last couple of years we at Trinity have been able to pass along *all* the money that has been asked of us by the denomination to support these shared ministries. Here's an example of where this connectional giving is making a difference:

Delbert Hancock and his family were truly proud when they moved into their own home on Upper Sand Mountain 18 years ago. "It wasn't a big mansion, but to us it was," he said. The Hancock family was able to purchase their own home, thanks to the Heart and Hand Housing program, a ministry of the Upper Sand Mountain Parish. The **World Service Fund** is "Changing Lives in the Name of Christ". With your generous donations the town of Pomona is engaging in ministry with the poor. Upper Sand Mountain Parish is a cooperative ministry encompassing eight area United Methodist churches in a 1,000-mile area of Jackson and DeKalb counties in the northeast corner of Alabama. Operating since 1969, the parish provides a long list of services to this rural area at the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. The poverty rate in the Sand Mountain Parish climbs as high as 70 percent in some of the rural towns, which range in size from about 3,000 residents to 400. "The Upper Sand Mountain is one of the poorest areas in Alabama," the pastor said. "Without the parish, there are a lot of folks that would go hungry. A lot wouldn't have housing." The Hancocks applied to receive a home through the Heart and Hand House program after Delbert lost his job. One day he showed up for work and the business was closed. Following the loss of that job, he was forced to get any work to help make ends meet. The first job he received only paid \$35 a day. He had been bringing home \$400 a week. Soon the family was forced to sell their home and move into a rental. Upper Sand Mountain Parish works in partnership with churches that volunteer to raise the money for the building supplies and build the houses. To date, 45 houses have been constructed. About 80 percent of the families placed into homes live at or below poverty, Rains said. Having his own home again gave Hancock "hope," he said. "It let me know that everything was going to be OK."

-- adapted from a UMNS story by Erin Edgemon, freelance writer

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**



NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

Trinity Family,

Your lay leadership and I have been putting together a plan to address some very important capital improvements over the next few years that we believe are vital to Trinity's present and future ministry.

The Administrative Council has approved a plan from the Trustees to address the facility needs of our congregation. The exciting plan focuses on Public area upgrades, bathrooms, Sanctuary upgrades, and Safety/Security upgrades – this and more to strengthen our mission, fellowship and outreach for the generations to come.

This is a plan that

- **Respects the Past**—Restores and renews our heritage by updating and repairing our historic facility.
- **Responds to the Present**—Adopts a model of good stewardship of the gifts God has given by creating efficiencies in facility and program operations.
- **Reaches to the Future**—Creates more efficient, effective and welcoming spaces for worship, fellowship, education and service, as we move into the future.

The next step is to determine our ability to successfully underwrite this plan, and if we can, to move forward with a capital campaign. The Administrative Council has asked capital campaign consultant John Bush to lead us through this process. John lives in Raleigh. He has served as pastor of two Presbyterian congregations and, for the last 25 years, has worked with churches across the state on capital campaigns.

He shares a welcome message with us. We believe you will enjoy coming to know him and benefit from his guidance.

In Christ,



Rev. Taylor Mills, Pastor

Ted Benson, Chair of Admin. Council

Carl Ross, Lay Leader

Annette Morgan, Finance Chair

Eve Stelzenmuller, S/PPRC Chair

Jeff Stewart, Trustee Chair

James Best, 2012 Trustee Chair

Statement from John Bush:

I am deeply grateful to have the opportunity to serve this historic church. It is exciting for me to be a part of an effort to build on the strengths of the past in ways that open new doors to the future.

My first order of business is to get to know you. I will collect data and track trends. More importantly, I will spend time talking with you. That will be accomplished by one-on-one conversations with 20-25 representative leaders and members of the church. Through this process I will better understand your strengths as a church, areas of concern you might have, your reactions to the proposed capital campaign, levels of interest in and support for this program, and other ideas that you have about how to best proceed. Based on this feedback, along with my experience working with 45 other congregations, I will meet with church leaders in February to recommend how to best proceed. If the way be clear, we will then prepare for and undertake the capital campaign.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to work with you in this capacity. I look forward to what awaits us.

Sincerely,
John Bush

Pastor Hospitalized, Church Supportive

My family joins me in thanking all of you at Trinity for the enormous response you gave us when I was hospitalized right after Thanksgiving. Doctors removed my gallbladder, which had become infected. I had never had problems with it before and am very thankful that I can live fine without it. So far, the recovery has gone perfectly.

As soon as it was discovered that I would be in the hospital, the people of our church poured out so many cards and calls and visits that I could not even list them all. Within a day, every responsibility for the following Sunday morning was covered by clergy, staff, and laity throughout the church. To a person, the people of Trinity have been encouraging me to take great care to recover well and not to let my work responsibilities interfere with that.

Thank you all for being so supportive. You should also be commended, however, on exemplifying exceptional clergy-care, something not every church is good at.

A special word of personal appreciation to Jenny Knott, our Office Manager, who serves in many ways as my assistant. Her work was exceptional under the stressful and unexpected circumstances. Thanks also to all those who covered various parts of our worship services on Dec. 8: Russ Odom, Geoffrey Wainwright, Tyler Williams, Jenny Copeland, Pam-Guidry Vollers, Betsy Taylor, and the Chancel Choir.

THANK YOU

Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you so much for your donations, support, and prayers over these last several months while I trained for my half marathon on November 6th. I did it! It never could've happened without the prayers and support of my "Trinity family". This gift to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society will do a lot of good for many with cancer and their families.

Peace be with you,
Karen Westervelt

Dear Trinity United Methodist,

I want to thank and commend you for the tremendous generosity and love in hosting our Thanksgiving lunch the Monday before Thanksgiving for International students. The students were genuinely touched by the efforts you all made. For many, that will be the only Thanksgiving-like experience while they are in the United States. Alex Crowell, Lauren, Ron and others did a fantastic job! We are truly blessed to have you and your church as lunch partners at Duke.

Sincerely,
Fletcher Maynard

Trinity United Methodist Women thank you all for participating in our yearly pecan project. I particularly want to thank each UMW member who sold at least one case (24 lbs). The Croasdaile group headed by Hilman Watkins sold the most cases. Liz Allred, Pres. UMW, Mary Pierce White, and Jackie Lane delivered the pecans to Croasdaile when Hilman had eye surgery. Ruth Jane Roycroft and Jane Brasier were second in sales followed by Jackie Epperson and Priscilla Horvath. Kathleen Wilson, Treasurer, and Jackie Lane, Asst. Treasurer, were in charge of bank deposits. The pecans arrived the first week in November and were sold or reserved by Thanksgiving. We appreciate your support and look forward to providing pecans for you next year.

Dot Shoaf

Treasurer's Report for the month ending November 2011

BUDGET

Contributions: \$319,000
Other Income: \$61,233
TOTAL: \$380,233

BUDGET

Apportionment: \$60,993
Utilities & Maintenance: \$93,775
Personnel: \$184,157
Other: \$41,708
TOTAL: \$380,634

DIFFERENCE: -401

The left side set of numbers is the budget year as of November 30, 2011.

The right side set of numbers is the actual income and expenses that we have had up to this point of the year.

The DIFFERENCE is the amount our expenses have exceeded our income.

ACTUAL INCOME

Contributions: \$286,454
Other Income: \$58,770
TOTAL: \$345,224

ACTUAL EXPENSE

Apportionment: \$49,904
Utilities & Maintenance: \$84,929
Personnel: \$183,024
Other: \$30,222
TOTAL: \$348,080

DIFFERENCE: (2,855)



OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & GROWTH

Worship Changes Start in January

You have previously read that there will be some slight rearrangements of just a few elements of our weekly worship services. We plan to start with the first Sunday of the New Year. Your feedback (around the congregation) has been extremely helpful and affirming of the proposals.

Along with the adjustments, we will begin ministry of Lay Liturgists. These will be persons from across our congregation who will go through a training process this month beginning January 14, 2012.

One liturgist per Sunday will take the place of the two volunteers who now read scripture and pray a Prayer of Thanksgiving. They will also assist in other parts of the service, that will already be written out for them. Many of these duties were previously carried out in worship by an Associate Pastor when that position was filled at Trinity.

Adult Bible Study, 7:00-8:00pm, A/V Room

Join us for a thirteen week study facilitated by Russell Odom on the book of Hebrews beginning Wednesday, January 18th. **Childcare is provided!**

- Hebrews 1: God's One and Only Son
- Hebrews 2: Jesus as the Truly Human Being
- Hebrews 3: Hold on Tight
- Hebrews 4: Getting Through to the Sabbath Rest
- Hebrews 5: The Son Becomes the Priest
- Hebrews 6: Keep Up the Good Work
- Hebrews 7: The Permanent Priesthood of Jesus
- Hebrews 8: The Promise of a New Covenant
- Hebrews 9: The Sacrifice of the Messiah
- Hebrews 10: Come to Worship
- Hebrews 11: What Faith Really Means
- Hebrews 12: Looking to Jesus
- Hebrews 13: The God of Peace Be with You

Altar Flowers

Each week, the altar flowers are given in honor or in memory of someone. On your way in or out you will find the 2012 Flower Calendar in the Narthex. If you would like, sign up for the date you would like to provide the flowers. This is a beautiful way to help the Flower Committee and make the Sanctuary even more beautiful!



Rev. Gray Southern

As you know, Gray Southern is a nominee from the North Carolina Conference for Bishop. The process for his consideration includes videos and brochures, the production of which has substantial cost. The conference delegation is asking the churches that Gray has previously served to make contributions to the funds. If you are interested in contributing, please send the check to Trinity Unite Methodist with Gray Southern in the memo line and we will forward the funds to the Conference. If you have questions regarding this process contact Russell Odom at (919) 493-6695 or russellpodom@yahoo.com

UMW Circle 10

The Circle 10 Group will be meeting on January 16, 2012 at noon at Jennie Kakalec's home. Dessert and beverages will be provided.

Middlers Group

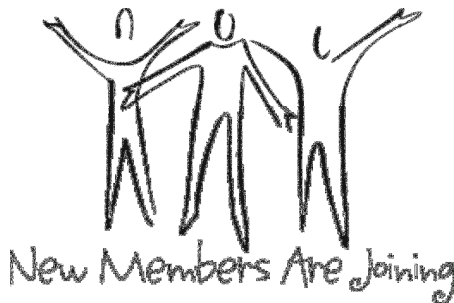
The Middlers Group meets monthly and would love to have any ladies that would like to come. This month they are meeting on Tuesday, January 17 at Bennett Pointe Grill at 6:30pm. This is a group of women mostly ages forty and up.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members!

On December 18th we had five new members join Trinity United Methodist. They include:

Mike Barrett
Gail Barrett
Charles Knott
Elizabeth Knott
Chandler Knott



We welcome you to the Trinity UMC Family!



June Benson
November 24, 1927-December 2, 2011

June Marie Benson, mother of Ted Benson, passed on December 2nd. There was a memorial service held on Thursday, December 8 at Trinity.

CHILDREN

Parent's Meeting & Potluck

Noon-1:00pm Sunday, January 8, 2012
Fellowship Hall

Parents, please join the Children's Ministry Team for a potluck lunch to discuss Trinity's 2012 children's ministries. Ideas are welcome! *Childcare will be provided.*

Thank you!

A huge thank you to Pam Guidry-Vollers, Karen MacDonald, and the 12 children that put on a wonderful Children's Christmas Pageant on December, 11!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Winter Sunday School (9:45-10:45am)

Looking for a Sunday school class? We'd love to have you!

- **Aldersgate, 1st floor Classroom**
Bible study and discussion following the International Lesson Series led by rotating in-class teachers.
- **Open Door Class, 2nd floor Parlor**
A study on the gospel of John led by Tyler Williams. Each lesson has discussion questions, background info, and suggestions for relating the text to our lives today.
- **Seekers, 2nd floor A/V Room**
Facilitated study and discussion from N.T. Wright's "For Everyone" Bible study series on Ephesians led by Ron Schooler.
- **Trinitarians, 1st floor Classroom**
Topical studies led by Rev. Dr. Amy Laura Hall.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Every Monday	Weekly Staff Meeting, 9:30am, Pastor's Office
Every Wednesday	Weekly Prayer Group, 9:45am, Parlor Contemplative Prayer Group, 12:15pm, AV Room Handbell Choir, 6:00pm, Pine Room Adult Bible Study, 6:30pm, AV Room Chancel Choir, 7:30pm, Pine Room
Every Thursday	Men's Prayer Group, 6:30am, Parlor
Every Sunday	Worship Service at 8:45am (Weekly Communion), Parlor Sunday School, 9:45am, Classrooms Worship Service at 11:00am, Sanctuary Knit Together, 4:00pm, Classroom 3
<hr/>	
Tuesday, January 3	S/PPRC Meeting, 6:30pm, Parlor
Wednesday, January 4	Mid-Week Prayer Group, 9:45am, Ron Schooler's Home
Saturday, January 7	Pam Guidry-Vollers's ChristCare Group, 10am, Parlor
Sunday, January 8	Parent's Meeting & Potluck, 12pm, Fellowship Hall Vision Team Meeting, 4:00pm, AV Room
Monday, January 9	Croasdaile ChristCare Group, 10:15am, Croasdaile
Tuesday, January 10	S/PPRC Meeting, 6:30pm, Parlor
Thursday, January 12	Spiritual Partners ChristCare Group, 7pm
Saturday, January 14	Liturgist Training, 9:30am, Sanctuary
Monday, January 16	Office Closed for Martin Luther King Jr's Day Allred/Shoaf ChristCare Meeting, 9:30am, Parlor UMW Circle 10 Meeting, 12pm, Jennie Kakalec's Home
Tuesday, January 17	Middlers Group, 6:30pm, Bennett Pointe Grill Trustees Meeting, 6pm, Parlor Finance Meeting, 7:15pm, Parlor
Saturday, January 21	Pam Guidry-Voller's ChristCare Group, 10am, Parlor
Sunday, January 22	Vision Team Meeting, 4pm, AV Room Administrative Council Meeting, 12:30pm, Fellowship Hall
Monday, January 23	Allred/Shoaf ChristCare Group, 9:30am, Parlor Croasdaile ChristCare Group, 10:15am, Croasdaile
Thursday, January 26	Spiritual Partners ChristCare Group, 7pm
Sunday, January 29	Children's Ministry Team, 8:45am, Blue Room