



The Good Word

A monthly newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

Volume 26, Issue 1

January, 2026

Come & See ...

Thoughts from Bill

A Word from Mike

The Splendor of Christmas

Happy New Year!

UMM Meeting

UMW

Altar Guild & Acolytes

Welcome New Members!

Thank You Notes

January Flower Calendar

Memorials & Gifts

Sympathy Notification

Angel Tree Thank you

Charge Conference

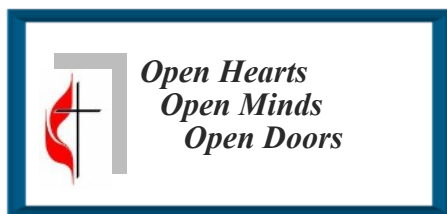
Camellia Garden Club

Poinsettias

Prayer List

Price Increase for Altar Flowers

Birthdays & Anniversaries



EPIPHANY



... they bowed
down and
worshiped
him.
Then they
opened their
treasures and
presented
him
with gifts
of gold,
frankincense
and myrrh.

MATTHEW 2:11, NIV



INKLINGS

In an English pub, I hear you could often see them gather, “The Inklings.” J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis are the most famous, but the others in this unusual group also contributed. For example, Hugo Dyson joined Tolkien in bringing C.S. Lewis into the Christian faith. Answering his questions and sharing what they knew and being there when needed, C.S. Lewis named them as helpers as he began a personal journey with Christ.

At an academic level, this group wrote about sharing their faith, i.e. evangelism. Many of the “Inklings” and their work remain unknown to the typical American. Though I prefer Tolkien’s stories to the stories of C.S. Lewis, Lewis’ writings have played a larger role in my development as a Christian.

In “Mere Christianity” Lewis lays out how Christianity supplies meaning for his life. He provided analogies to help me get my mind around words like “faith.” Like a train needs an engine our spiritual life is powered by the gift of “faith.” It helps us remove the consequences of sin like a dragon peeling off its scales. Painful and time-consuming, the process empowers us to make room for the activities God desires for us instead.

In this short book C.S. Lewis greatly influenced me.

This shows the power of a small group. Each member of the “Inklings” has shared how much support the group provided. The flow of ideas, the camaraderie, the faith stories, and the good times created a special place for them. In some ways it became a Sunday school for Oxford professors. Challenging their preconceived notions, they discovered the grace needed to move them in the necessary new directions.

In one generation, the skeptical view of Christianity had become more favorable thanks to these Christians. Their efforts coincided with the likes of T.S. Eliot, Dorothy Sayers, Madeleine L’Engle, G.K. Chesterton, and many others.

Often, we think of higher education as being opposed to Christian faith. It does not have to be. These examples show high academic excellence in their fields of study while also producing powerful faith material. The Evangelical Revival in England began similarly with John Wesley and his friends. Small groups can do big things.

Bill





With cultural shifts, financial uncertainty, and so much change in the air, it might feel like now is the worst time to try something new on the edges of your current mission and ministry. But it may be the best time. Here are some reasons why. People are spiritually hungry.

If you're in church every week, it can feel like the only people who care about God are the ones already there—the faithful few who show up, serve on committees, and keep things running. From inside the walls, it may seem like no one else is interested. But step outside, and you'll see a different picture.

Spiritual hunger is everywhere. It's the young professional who scrolls through mindfulness podcasts late at night, desperate for peace. It's the neighbor who keeps a crystal on his desk because he's looking for healing and energy. It's the retiree who spends hours on ancestry sites because he's searching for connection and meaning. It's the college student asking, "What's my purpose?" while nursing anxiety over the future.

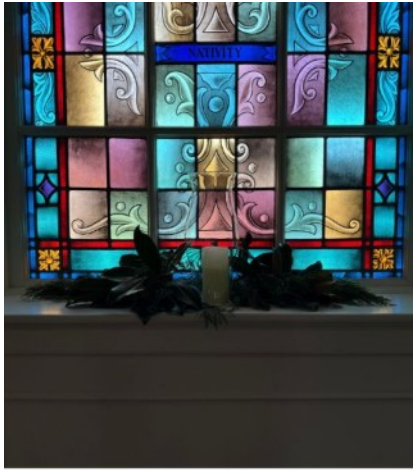
These are people longing for hope, belonging, and something deeper than what they're finding. They may not be coming to church—but that doesn't mean they aren't hungry for God. Good conversation changes lives. This is what we do at our Fresh Expression in Aynor. If our world needs anything right now, it's honest, hopeful conversation. I've heard it said, too often, that people only encounter church as a one-way monologue—someone speaking from a pulpit. But what many are longing for is dialogue. They want a safe space to wrestle with questions, share their stories, and make sense of a changing world. I have witnessed that around a table, with a cup of coffee or a shared meal, conversations can open doors that sermons alone can't. Fresh Expressions create those spaces for dialogue—where the gospel can be shared not just in words, but in relationships and mutual conversation.

And here is where the gospel speaks with surprising urgency. An encounter with the living God cuts through the world of noise and confusion in a way nothing else can. Fresh Expressions arrive not with easy answers or trite slogans, but encounters with the disruptive, healing presence of Jesus. I'm so grateful that Trinity prayerfully embraced the opportunity to launch a Fresh Expression. The last few months, we have fellowshiped and had meaningful conversations about faith and life. If you are interested in joining this team, let me know. Thank you, Trinity, for your prayers, gifts and support. To God be the glory.

Blessings,

Pastor Mike







January Altar Guild:

Nancy Winiarski
Sandra D'Attilio

Acolytes:

January 4 Ailey Covington
January 11 Whitley Gainey
January 18 Kirby McCown
January 25 Hailey Patterson



United Methodist Men— Monday January 19th at 6:30 pm in the Cordie Page



Sunshine Circle—Sunday January 11th at 12:00 pm in the Cordie Page

Betty Goldfinch Circle—Monday January 5th at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall



The Trinity Family

Dr. Lori Thalheimer and Sandra (Sandi) D'Attilio



Thank you, church family for all your prayers, calls, cards, and love. God bless you all! I love Trinity! Your thoughtfulness comes through in all you do.

Love to all,
Lynn Spires



Dear Trinity United Methodist Church,
Thank you for your donation of \$300.00 on 11/12/2025 and \$300.00 on 12/10/2025. Your support is essential in helping us continue our mission to fight hunger in S.C. by helping people in Conway and surrounding areas. Your donation

is greatly appreciated and will have a significant impact on the lives of those we serve. Once again, thank you for your kindness and generosity. May God bless you!

On behalf of The Shepherd's Table, its Board of Directors, and our neighbors served.

Dane Hanna
Director The Shepherd's Table

A heartfelt thanks for all you have done.

Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you for providing the football team with a pre-game meal this season. Thanks especially to the Hopkins for preparing the food. Conway Tigers football appreciates your generosity.

Sincerely,
Garrett Thomas



Dear Friends

Thank you for your gift of \$510.00 to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Christmas will be different for many Jamaicans this year after Hurricane Melissa ravaged their island, killing dozens and leveling homes, churches and hospitals. Within days of the storm's landfall, Samaritan's Purse airlifted emergency supplies including water filtration units, shelter material and our Emergency Field Hospital to provide critical care to those suffering in its wake.

Your gifts and prayers equip us to "give knowledge of salvation to His people... **[and] light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death**" (Luke 1:77,79) Thank you for partnering with us in this eternal work. God bless you.

Sincerely,
Franklin Graham
President





Given in Memory of...

Mr. & Mrs. Henry C. Cannon

Craig & Lane Huggins

Given in Honor of...

All December Birthdays

Merilyn Holcombe

Merilyn Holcombe

Craig & Lane Huggins



Rev. McCown and the entire T.U.M.C. family and staff join in expressing sympathy and Christian love to:

Anne Woodle and extended family following the death of her husband, Larry



Flower Schedule

- January 4 In loving memory of Jenny Gantt on her 95th birthday by her husband, Bobby Gantt & their family
- January 11 In memory of Steve Robertson by Cheryl Robertson and children
- January 19 In honor of our parent's anniversary, Johnny & LaVerne Creel, by the Epps and Creel families
- January 25 To the glory of God and in memory of her son, Robert, by Nancy Winiarski

Thank you to
The Camellia
Garden Club
for inviting us
to hear the
bagpiper.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY, TRINITY FAMILY!
THERE WILL BE SOME HAPPY CHILDREN ON CHRISTMAS MORNING.

**Charge Conference will take place
Sunday, January 4 at 11:30 AM
in our Sanctuary.**





Given to the Glory of God and in Memory of...

James McKeefery, Jr. by Melanie and James McKeefery, III

Emma Lou Johnson by Jimmy Johnson

Sudie Payne Daves by Sudie Daves Thomas

Sudie Smith Payne by Sudie Daves Thomas

My loving husband, Bill, by Sandi D'Attilio

Rev. Gene Norris by Carolyn Norris and family

Bill and Yvonne Miller by Kip and Mary Louise Miller

Rod and Ruth Hobart by Kip and Mary Louise Miller

Their mother, Emma Lou Johnson, by her daughters, Judy, Jenny, Joy and Jan

My husband Daniel, and my son, Robert, by Nancy Winiarski

My husband Frank Spires by Lynn spires

Given to the Glory of God and in Honor of...

Trinity United Methodist Church by Nancy Winiarski

Our children, Erica and Norris, by Donna and Glenn Cartrette

Whitley Gainey by Linda and Boyd Gainey

The Trinity Staff by Chap and Nila Hutchinson

The Faith Sunday School Class by Milton and Cynthia Gantt

The Joy Class teachers by Bill and Alta Fox

Jimmy Johnson by his girls, Judy, Jenny, Joy, and Jan

Music Ministry by Joe and Jerri Woodle

Solan David Woodle by Joe and Jerri Woodle

Merilyn Holcombe by Barry and Libby Cates

Mission Donations

Given to the Glory of God & in Honor of...

Luther Lowery by Roy Lowery

We Care for One Another



MEMBERS EMERITUS

Claiborne at W. Lake

557 Furs Ferry Rd, Martinez, Georgia 30907
Janet Mayers

Arbor Landing

3105 Dick Pond Rd., Myrtle Beach, SC 29588
Carrie Raymor (Apt. 101)

Mullins Nursing Center

2829 E. Hwy. 76, Mullins, SC 29574
Ruby Pittman (Rm. 355)

Spring Oak Assisted Living

2310 US-378 Conway, SC 29527
Dorothy Deitrich (Rm. 515)

Barbara Thompson

7523 Misty Wood Rd, Knoxville, TN 37938

Pat Rose

1011 Moore Lane, Conway, SC 29526

Pete & Lettie Byrdic

3025 Chesbrough Blvd, (Apt. 316)
Rock Hill, SC 29732

Robert & Irene Booth

3840 Wilmot Ave. Columbia, SC 29205

Russ Nixon

114 Jessica Lakes Dr. Conway, SC 29526
(843) 333-1020

Ed & Gail McNew

Apt. 331-Maple Brook Terrace
150 Verdin Rd, Greenville, SC 29607

Sandra Parler

4178 Bradford Dr
Conway, SC 29526

Pete & Martha Johnson

833 Shaftesbury Ln
Conway, SC 29526
(843) 365-1668

B.G. Gantt

16 Holly Cr.
Greenville, SC 29607

Members

Marie Skipper
Lynn Spires
Rich & Phyllis Eisenman
Cheryl Robertson
Mark Blackwelder
Mary Miller
Martha Cross
Vance & Jennifer Donkle
Kathy Gray
Pat & Eddie Gerosa
Beth Brinson
Merrell Floyd

Tina Hubbard
Phyllis Koch
Linda Hendrick
Jason Owens
Sharon Black
Tamara Tindal
Burnett Owens
Susan Wiseman
Dr. Dick Rush
Art & Sandy O'Brien
John Wright
Lana Fortson
Donna Cartrette
Anne Woodle & Family
Helen Emmons

MEMBERS' PARENTS

Gene Keller (Jennifer Donkle's father)
Fred Thomas (Father of Amy Price)
Shaula Richardson (Mother of Tamara Tindal)

MEMBERS' FRIENDS & FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

Janice & Danny Elmer (Jerri Woodle's friends)
Harmony Fields (daughter of Ralph Fields)
Ralph Fields
Mike & Chris Cloderfelter (friends of Gene & Cookie Johnson)
Rev. Carl Hunsucker

MEMBERS' FAMILY

Bret & Bryn Ginn (son-in-law & daughter of Lana Fortson)
Cynthia Inman (Donna Cartrette's sister)
Pam Brounion (sister of Beth Suggs)
Ruth Ellen Coffey (sister of Mary Miller)
Betty Coggeshall (sister of Linda Hendrick)
Frankie Collins (sister of Pat Gregory)
Charles Johnson IV (son of Pete & Martha Johnson)

Ellen Wright (cousin of Cynthia Gantt)
Eddie Garrison (Brother of Helen Emmons)

Armed Forces

Eliza Edge
Samuel Weitzman (nephew of Marti Hubbard)

College Students

Hayes Blackwelder
614 Elgin Ct
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579-3332

Ellie Howle
USC, 1615 Rice St
Columbia, SC 29205

Luke Skipper
566 J.P. Stevens Rd
Seneca, SC 29678

Austin Suggs
1100 Bluff Rd, Unit 507
Columbia, SC 29201

John (J.D.) Murdock
Attn: FMU Housing
51430 East Palmetto St
Florence, SC 29506



All information that is to be included in the next month's **Good Word** needs to be in the church office by the 20th of each month. Thank you!



Youth Christmas Bowling Event



January birthdays and anniversaries

Birthdays

- 1 Will Guyton
Chandler Hughes
- 2 Geraldine Owens
Karen McCully
Braden Hughes
- 3 Carrie Raymor
Harriett Floyd
Amber Wall
- 4 Jerri Woodle
Eric Covington
Nate Todd
- 5 Beth Brinson
- 6 Frank Chesla
- 7 George Oliver
Jenny Southerland
Emily Johnson
Sondra Ray
- 8 Boyd Gainey
Cyndi McCown
- 9 Martha Johnson
- 11 Reggie Daves
Billie Hallman
Abigail Peters
Louie Welch
Scott Demko
- 12 Alan Edwards
Ann Long
Erica Tyler
Cassie Brown
- 13 Alex Hyman
Joey Vereen
Amy Horner
June Liebrand

- 14 Craig Anderson
Gunner Hucks
Megan Bond
- 15 Fred Richardson
Burnett Owens
Cheryl Robertson
- 16 Ken Jordan
- 18 Amy Henry
- 19 Matti Hooks
- 22 Carol Bunn
- 23 Athene Long
Shawn Campbell
Brantley Hucks
- 24 Martha Cross
Sherry Graham
- 25 Robert Floyd
- 26 Clay Branyon
- 27 Lynn Spires
Nick Webster
Pat Rose
Melanie Custon
- 28 Sophie Horner
Dolly Updegraff
- 29 Danny Reynolds

Anniversaries

- 17 Bill & Alta Fox
- 21 Danny & Pearl
Reynolds
- 26 Red & Billie Hallman



Altar Flowers

The price of the altar flowers has
been increased to \$97.20.



Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Psalm 139:14, NIV



**TRINITY
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

...a Stephen Ministry Congregation
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bmccown@trinityconway.com
JENNIFER DONKLE, Program Director
704-219-1899 or jdonkle@trinityconway.com
REV. MICHAEL D. BYRD, Associate Pastor
215-859-8409 or mdbyrd@umcsc.org
DR. ANDREW FOWLER, Director of Music
843-457-9686 or andrewfowlermusic@gmail.com
CAROLYN CAUSEY, Business Administrator
843-907-0030 or ccausey@trinityconway.com
JAN BITTING, Financial Administrator/Internal Auditor
RALPH FIELDS, Facilities Maintenance