



# The Good Word

A monthly newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

Volume 25, Issue 9

September, 2025

## Come & See ...

Thoughts from Bill

A Word from Mike

Fowler Fest

Fall Craft Fair & Car Show

Youth End of Summer Blast

Altar Guild & Acolytes

A Word From The Old To The Young  
By Marilyn Holcombe

Joy Class News

Tuesdays at Trinity

Thank You Notes

September Flower Calendar

Memorials & Gifts

Sympathies

Prayer List

Trinity/YMCA (After School Program)

Grand Strand Down Syndrome Society

Back to Church Sunday

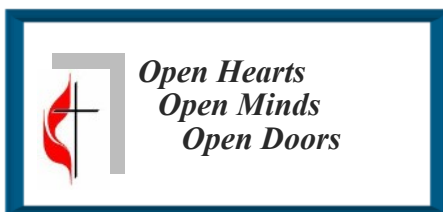
Birthdays & Anniversaries

Save the Date



I love the house where you live,  
O LORD, the place  
where your glory dwells.

PsalM 26:8, NIV





## The World of Chautauqua

Chautauqua.

I heard the word and swore I had never heard of it. Sitting in the living room at Gene and Carolyn Norris, “The Book Club” wandered into the subject. Out of the group of clergy and laity, only one person knew anything about it. With its Methodist roots Chautauqua had made an impression on this Jewish guy. As he spoke fondly of his time there, his face betrayed how he was holding back. I suspect he really enjoyed it.

What is it?

In the area around Lake Chautauqua in upstate New York, each year people gather from all over the world. For the price of a ticket, they attend an orchestra, or a lip-sync “battle of the bands.” There are ballets for some years. lectures by leading physicists and theologians. Lectures on writing sermons by some of our time’s greatest preachers. (Barbara Brown Taylor spoke there lots of times. It all began back in 1874.)

A Methodist bishop wanted the best quality teaching in Sunday schools. So, he and a local businessman began working out a training opportunity. What began as a long weekend has become a month-long series of activities. The vision sought to equip Christians with the best principles and learning processes of their day. They wanted to enlist the best of human ingenuity and put it to work for Jesus within the church.

This reminded me of the “Laith Convocation” held at Lake Junaluska. Living in Greenville we could get to Junaluska in a little over an hour. It’s the place where I learned about overseas mission opportunities for the first time. I heard the “Junaluska Singers.” All these were locals.

One year I went and heard the controversial preacher, Rev. Tony Campolo. He would be mild compared to some of the preachers in our day. He had a famous sermon, “Today is Friday But Sunday’s Coming.” I had read the sermon. I also listened to it on a cassette and wore the cassette out. This did not compare to hearing him deliver his message in person.

The room was packed. I stood in an unoccupied space in the back of the room. Standing room only. And then, he began.

Campolo told of an early Good Friday sermon he delivered. As a student he worked as an associate pastor at an inner-city back church. A little white, Italian boy working in a predominantly black congregation during the 1970s. When he finished his sermon, I cheered. For the first time in my life, I understood the power of the spoken word. It didn’t just come through the hymns and prayers. His sermon changed how I saw preaching.

Imagine what has happened through the years at the Chautauqua Institute.

*Bill*



I am sharing another example of Fresh Expression that really resonated with me. It's called Movies & Chat. This Fresh Expression is for people who enjoy watching movies in a communal setting. It creates a welcoming space for film lovers from diverse backgrounds to explore life's deeper questions through film and dialogue. Each film becomes a springboard for conversation—sparking reflections on life, hope, lament, and possibility. As participants share their insights, they also discover connections to the joys and challenges of their own lives, as well as deeper spiritual themes. Over time, these conversations have fostered a community of trust and friendship that grows richer with every gathering.

### **What do they do?**

Movies & Chats show how easy it can be to create community. Each month, people meet in a casual space, grab some snacks, and watch a film. Afterward, they circle up for honest conversation—sharing stories, exploring big questions, and discovering unexpected connections. Upcoming films are listed on Meetup, so new people can easily join in. What starts with popcorn and a movie leads to friendship, spiritual curiosity, and a deeper sense of community.

Here is an update on the progress of our Fresh Expression. We are ready to launch. Since last month, we have raised over \$5500.00. This wouldn't be possible without your gifts, and continued prayers. I'm excited to share that our first Fresh Expression is scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Aynor Senior Citizen Home. Our goal is to reach people outside the reach of our church. Jesus made the mission really simple: go make disciples. What we call a fresh expression is, in its simplest form, a pattern for believers to share their faith in their everyday lives. I believe it was a practice Jesus used with his disciples. It was a practice that the Church Fathers developed to reach and disciple believers across the ancient world. A meal, fellowship, music, and message.

I'm looking for some facilitators to assist serving food, greet and fellowship at the tables during the meals. We do it naturally in our church and homes, I'm asking to connect in the community what you already do. If you're interested in learning more, please don't hesitate to contact me. I'd love to have a cup of coffee or two and answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your encouragement and prayers.

Blessings,  
Pastor Mike





Department of Music

# FWLER FEST!

Sunday, Sept. 7, 2 p.m., 2025

Baritone Jeffrey Jones and pianist Philip Powell, both professors in CCU's Department of Music, present the music of composer Andrew Fowler, senior lecturer. The performance includes the world premiere of Fowler's new song cycle *The Ship*, featuring poems by Walt Whitman, paired with Fowler's acclaimed cycle *Songs of Travel*, which Jones and Powell have performed internationally.



Edwards Recital Hall, EHFA 152

Admission: \$10, with CCU discounts available



## **FALL CRAFT FAIR & CAR SHOW**



**Saturday, October 11, 2025  
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

**TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
198 Long Avenue—Conway, SC 29526**

**For more information, contact  
Brenda Plaughter — Craft Fair (703)-507-9029  
OR  
Bryan Hopkins — Car Show (843) 421-0049.**



End of summer “Lock-In” Our Youth had a blast camping out, swimming and being in fellowship with one another.







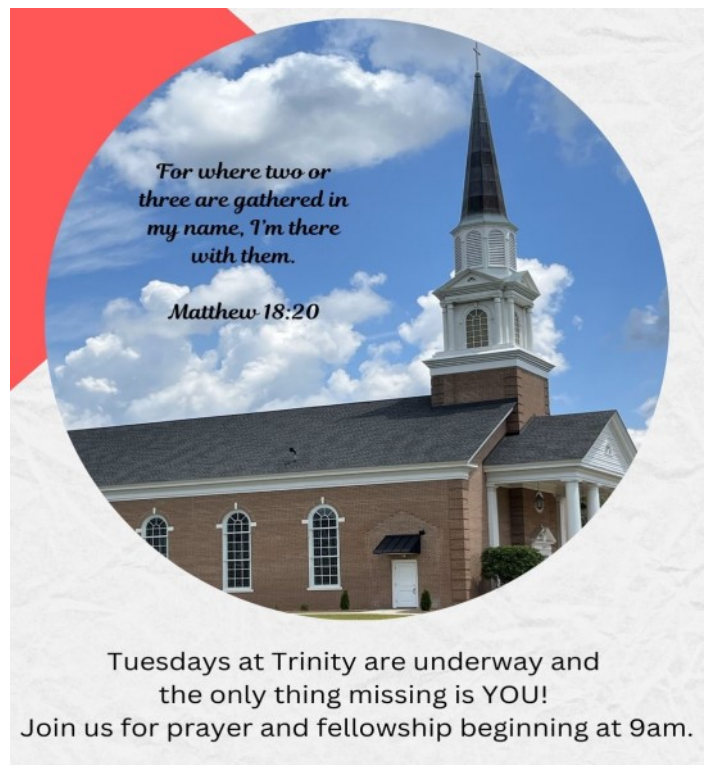
## Called to Serve

### September Altar Guild:

Harriet Hearl  
Milton & Cynthia Gantt

### Acolytes:

09/07/2025 Ailey Covington  
09/14/2025 Whitley Gainey  
09/21/2025 Kirby McCown  
09/28/2025 Hailey Patterson



*For where two or  
three are gathered in  
my name, I'm there  
with them.*

*Matthew 18:20*

Tuesdays at Trinity are underway and  
the only thing missing is YOU!  
Join us for prayer and fellowship beginning at 9am.



## Joy Class News

The Joy Class is excited to begin a new six-week Bible study titled *How We Got the Bible*. Have you ever wondered how many books are in the Bible? Who is considered the father of the English Bible? Or what do we call the original manuscripts of the Bible? If these questions spark your curiosity, we invite you to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the area behind the fellowship hall as we explore the fascinating history and divine preservation of God's Word.

We are more than just a class— we're a community that lives out our name: JOY. That means putting Jesus first, Others second, and Yourself last. Our goal is to grow in faith while sharing joy with everyone we meet. Whether you're new to Bible study or have been walking with the Lord for years, **everyone is welcome** to join us. Come be a part of a group that learns together, laughs together, and lifts each other up in Christ.

*"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." — Psalm 16:11*

## A Word from the Old to the Young

Merilyn Holcombe

The most precious time is time spent in family worship, prayer and Bible study. A child who begins family worship even before learning to talk will be much closer to God and to the family. There is an old saying,  
"The family that prays together stays together."



Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you for the blanket and the book. Thank you for keeping me in your prayers and thank you for supporting me and my future education.

Sincerely,  
Hayes Blackwelder



Dear Trinity United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$200.00. 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.

Dana Hanna  
Director  
The Shepherd's Table



Dear Trinity United Methodist Church,

This is your invitation to support us through a sponsorship for our "Harvest of Hope" gala to celebrate Churches Assisting People's 40th anniversary. This event will be held on Thursday September 24th, 2026, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Peanut Warehouse in Historic Downtown Conway.

We would love to discuss how we can partner with you to make this event a success! Please contact us at (843) 488-2277, [info@capconway.org](mailto:info@capconway.org), or [www.capconway.org](http://www.capconway.org). Together, we can harvest hope and fight hunger in our community. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,  
Donna Bodie, Executive Director

Dear Trinity,

Your thoughtfulness is a gift. Eddie and I would like to thank our Trinity family for all the prayers and cards for our healing time.

We love you all!  
Eddie & Pat Gerosa

Thank you to my Trinity family and friends for supporting me on my trip this summer to Salkehatchie! I appreciate your thoughts, prayers, and cards. I can't wait to go again next year. I am blessed!

Love,  
Holli Siena



The Grand Strand Amateur Radio Club members are very grateful to Trinity United Methodist Church and its parishioners for the use of their event area on June 28th and 29th, 2025 Field Day.

Sincerely,  
Todd Rush  
President GSARC





**Given in Memory of...**

**Patsy Smith**

Merilyn Holcombe  
Boyd & Linda Gainey

**Tom Gray**

Nancy Winiarski  
Boyd & Linda Gainey

**Given in Honor of...**

**All Who Are Celebrating September Birthdays**

Merilyn Holcombe



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

*Kathy Gray and family following the death of her husband,  
Tom Gray*

*Family of Patsy Smith, following her death.*



**September Flower Calendar**

September 7 In memory of his parents, Robert and Nettie Gidney, by Charles & Judy Gidney

September 14 In memory of Dan Winiarski by Nancy Winiarski

September 21 In honor of and in appreciation of Trinity staff by Chap & Nila Hutchinson

September 28 To the glory of God by Creola & Stoney Harrelson

# We Care for One Another



## MEMBERS EMERITUS

### Claiborne at W. Lake

557 Furrys 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  
Bob Brinson

Tina Hubbard  
Phyllis Koch  
Linda Hendrick  
Jason Owens  
Sharon Black  
Tamara Tindal  
Burnett Owens  
Susan Wiseman  
Dr. Dick Rush  
Art & Sandy O'Brien

## MEMBERS' PARENTS

Gene Keller (Jennifer Donkle's father)

## MEMBERS' FRIENDS & FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

Janice & Danny Elmer (Jerri Woodlee's friends)  
Harmony Fields (daughter of Ralph Fields)  
Ralph Fields  
Carol Horner (mother of Amy Horner)  
Mike & Chris Cloderfelter (friends of Gene & Cookie Johnson)  
Helen Emmons  
Rev. Carl Hunsucker

## MEMBERS' FAMILY

Bret & Bryn Ginn (son-in-law & daughter of Lana Fortson)  
Cynthia Inman (Donna Cartrette's sister)  
Pam Broun (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)  
Peggy Inman (sister of Athene Long)  
Bill McIlroy (Uncle of Harriet Hearl)

## 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

Please let us know if your phone number has changed and/or if you have dropped a land line. Please update your preferred phone numbers and emails. We want to stay connected!!

Summer is over and it is time to get back to church! Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, is 'Back to Church Sunday'. On this day we are asking you to come back and worship with your family, we have missed you! If you have been here over the summer, we are asking you to invite someone who hasn't been in a while or someone who is looking for a church home. We will worship together that morning and after the service we will have an opportunity to fellowship on the front lawn with lunch. Kurbside Katering and Mash Italian Ice will be here to help us continue our time together. Lunch is dutch, but dessert is on us. Don't miss out on this great time or reconnecting & meeting new people.

## LIFE IS BETTER TOGETHER



We want to keep in touch with our college students!



Parents, please send us your college student's address...especially if it is new, and even if it hasn't changed. We want to keep our records up to date. Please send the addresses to Jennifer. jdonkle@trinityconway.com



We are pleased to inform our Trinity family that we have partnered with the Grand Strand Down Syndrome Society. Their mission is to empower people with Down Syndrome and their families through support, information, and community connection. They celebrate the potential in every individual and promote acceptance and inclusion in the community and beyond. We are delighted to support them in all they endeavor to achieve.

All information that is to be included in the next month's **Good Word** needs to be in the church office by the 20th





### Birthdays

- 1 Scarlet Fowler
- 3 Pearl Reynolds  
Matthew Arel
- 4 Pete Byrdic
- 5 Kevin Covington  
Dylan Vaught  
Samantha Stonebraker  
Cheryl Michael
- 6 Linda Gainey  
Rich Wilson
- 7 Terry Hyman  
Linda Strogon
- 8 Carolyn Norris
- 9 D.J. Hucks  
Jill Feldner  
Kevin Tovornik
- 10 Seth Skipper  
Emmeline Cribb  
Luke McMeekin
- 11 Hayden Davis
- 14 Tina Hubbard  
Karen Long
- 15 Dorothy Dietrich  
Holli Siena  
Bailey Webster
- 17 Mary Miller  
Gentry Weatherwax  
Mandi Hewitt  
Britt Feldner  
Lakeley Cannon
- 18 Joshua Hudson
- 19 Ruby Pittman
- 21 Mike Smith
- 23 Pat Taylor  
Elizabeth Holden
- 24 Derek Strickland
- 25 Lana Fortson
- 26 Dee Nesbit
- 27 O'Maley Wright  
Jennifer Donkle
- 28 Jack Helms  
Eleanor Anderson
- 30 Dave Sweeney

### Anniversaries

- 8 Gene & Cookie Johnson  
Jimmy & Alanda McLain
- 13 Josh & Katie Brookshire
- 20 Pete & Lettie Byrdic
- 22 Rich & Denise Wilson
- 28 Joey & Pandra Johnston
- 29 Gordon & Sara Harris

We're thrilled to share that we have partnered with the YMCA. Their mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

Our partnership will provide them with the opportunity to offer an after-school program at Trinity.

### SAVE THE DATE




WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER, FELLOWSHIP, AND PROGRAMMING WILL BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>. WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

### Altar Flowers

The current cost of Altar Flowers is \$90.00.

Flowers are \$80 and delivery is \$10.00.





BE PATIENT, THEN,  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS,  
UNTIL THE LORD'S COMING.

JAMES 5:7, NIV

**TRINITY  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**

...a Stephen Ministry Congregation  
P.O. Box 1072, Conway, SC 29528-1072  
198 Long Avenue, Conway, SC  
843-248-2194 phone, 843-248-4445 fax  
[www.trinityconway.com](http://www.trinityconway.com)

**U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CONWAY, SC  
PERMIT NO. 136  
NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION**

***Change Service Requested***

REV. WILLIAM H. MCCOWN III, Pastor  
843-248-2343, (parsonage) 843-283-4320, (cell) or  
[bmccown@trinityconway.com](mailto:bmccown@trinityconway.com)  
JENNIFER DONKLE, Program Director  
704-219-1899 or [jdonkle@trinityconway.com](mailto:jdonkle@trinityconway.com)  
REV. MICHAEL D. BYRD, Associate Pastor  
215-859-8409 or [mdbyrd@umcsc.org](mailto:mdbyrd@umcsc.org)  
DR. ANDREW FOWLER, Director of Music  
843-457-9686 or [andrewfowlermusic@gmail.com](mailto:andrewfowlermusic@gmail.com)  
CAROLYN CAUSEY, Business Administrator  
843-907-0030 or [ccausey@trinityconway.com](mailto:ccausey@trinityconway.com)  
JAN BITTING, Financial Administrator/Internal Auditor  
RALPH FIELDS, Facilities Maintenance