

50 Years
of Faithful Service



February 6, 2011
2724 Whiskey Road, Aiken, SC
www.trinityaiken.org



Test Your Trinity Knowledge

1. What was the original name of Trinity?
2. Who won the contest to rename South Aiken Methodist Church?
3. Who was the first full-time pastor of Trinity?
4. What member has served as church school superintendent or assistant superintendent for the life of Trinity?
5. Which Trinity minister was instrumental in starting the Salkehatchie Summer Service?
6. What was the previous use of the building where Trinity began meeting?
7. What year was our church founded?
8. Which minister saw the need and hired the first church secretary?
9. What was the date of the consecration of the current sanctuary?
10. Who decorated the first crismons for the Christmas tree in the sanctuary?
11. When was the preschool at Trinity begun and what was the original name?
12. Which Trinity minister was elected as president of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Council on Aging?
13. What year was the building addition housing the present church offices and youth fellowship hall completed?
14. Who was the minister during the construction of the present sanctuary?
15. Which other Aiken church was at one time on the charge with Trinity?
16. Who was the church member who crafted several of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary?
17. Who was the first infant baptized at Trinity?
18. Where was the first parsonage for Trinity located?
19. Has Trinity always been a part of the Orangeburg District of the United Methodist Church?
20. What year was the addition begun that housed a fellowship hall, kitchen, pastor's office and Sunday school room?



Answers found on page 13



Pastors of Trinity United Methodist Church

listed with their current locations

1961-1962 — Rev. C. B. Word, San Diego CA

On February 5, 1961, the first meeting of what was to be Trinity United Methodist Church was held in a store building adjacent to Herschel's gas station, some distance south of the current location.

1962-1964 — Rev. Charles Brockwell, Jr.

Property was purchased, with a ground-breaking service on June 10, 1962. The first service in the new building was held December 11, 1962.

1964-1965 — Rev. D. Lamar Gamble, Greenwood SC

1965-1969 — Rev. Louis M. Adams, Greenwood SC

1969-1972 — Rev. J. David Myers, Charleston SC

1972-1974 — Rev. Elbert Lee Johnson, Deceased

A two-point charge was formed with Charles Wesley Methodist Church.

1974-1977 — Rev. John M. Williams, Georgetown SC

The charge became known as Aiken Suburban Ministry. Trinity United Methodist Church paid its mortgage in full.

1977-1980 — Rev. Samuel K. Harmon, Lexington SC

The church was enlarged by adding a fellowship hall, kitchen, Sunday School room, and a pastor's study. The altar area

was upgraded by adding altar furniture and hanging a dorsal curtain behind the altar.

1980-1987 — Rev. John W. Culp, Columbia SC

The church became a station church and decided to take responsibility for a full-time pastor. Arrangements were made for the purchase of a parsonage.

1987-1993 — Rev. J. Austin Watson, Columbia SC

Rev. Austin Watson and his family became the first residents of the newly acquired parsonage. Efforts were made to improve the facilities and the landscape of the church yard. Renewed emphasis was placed on the youth ministry at Trinity, and the preschool was first established.

1993-1999 — Rev. Harry R. Workman, Greenville SC

On February 9, 1997, a ground-breaking ceremony was held for the new building, with a consecration service in the new sanctuary on December 7, 1997.

1999-Present — Rev. Rodney K. Powell, Aiken SC

In January 2000 Trinity's first director of children and youth ministry was hired. A building program was planned, and in 2005 the church completed a new youth activity space, new classrooms, a new choir room and new offices. An older adult ministry, The Eagles, was established in 2006.

A complete Trinity history is available in a separate brochure in the narthex.

Charter Member Interviews

Woody Gilmer played a key role in the formation of Trinity. He was part of a team that canvassed Southside Aiken neighborhoods, looking for people interested in starting a new church. He was also instrumental in the construction of the first church building at Trinity's current location.

Woody had some interesting things to share about that early construction project when he was interviewed recently:

"I'm the one who built it. I was the contractor... I had a lot of help, now.

"I was involved in everything that's over there. I was the treasurer there for a long time. As long as I went to church,

I was involved in everything that was going on.

"I had to go through a lot of stuff to get that church [built], but I was young then, you know, and it was lots of fun, because I knew how to build all kinds of buildings. All that other stuff, I didn't know I'd have to do," he said, recalling an assortment of challenges involving financing ("Six acres for \$6,000" and construction for \$98,000), engineering, government requirements, insurance, carpentry, electrical work and masonry.

"We'd work every Saturday, and all that kind of stuff, until we got it put up, but it never would have been there if not for 'old Woodrow.' Here he is... We had a hard time, you know, doing it, but we had a lot of fun putting it up."

Billy and Shirley Bowers shared some of their favorite memories at Trinity United Methodist Church:

"In the fall of 1960, Bill Cline and Woody Gilmer visited our home. They came to discuss the plans to start a new Methodist church on the Southside of Aiken. Billy and I were excited about this idea, because we had never been involved in anything so great. We were searching for a church family. Our third daughter (Sherlyn Bowers Chapman) was born on February 5, 1961, the first Sunday of the first church service for what was to be our home church. Everyone was so friendly and loving, and this made it easy to join in and feel welcomed. A few years later, we had our fourth daughter. Our girls have fond memories of the early years at Trinity. We are thankful that our children had the opportunity to grow spiritually during the formative years of their young lives. We have received many blessings in our Christian life.

"Billy and I have served on many different committees. He has been the Head Usher for 12 years. He served on Pastor-Parish Relations, Trustees, and Nominations Committees. He has also been very involved in planting flowers around the church building. He and Fred Feekart planted many shrubs after the new sanctuary was completed.

"I was a Sunday School teacher for 10 years, along with directing Vacation Bible School. I served as President of the UMW for three different terms of two years each. I also served on the Committee on Nominations, Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, Building Committee, Trustees, and Parsonage Committee. I have been a member of the Adult Choir for 40+ years.

"Our children joined the church at Trinity, each one as they were 12 years of age. Sherlyn was in the first group to be baptized while we were still meeting at the service station,

Charter Members of Trinity United Methodist Church

March 1961

The Jerry Adams Family
The Chester Arthur Family
The Edgar Bennett Family
The Jacob Bowers Family
The Charles Brewer Family
The James Carroll Family
The William Cline Family
The John Cogdill Family
The Woodrow Gilmer Family
Mrs. Estelle Hall & Children
The Van Haynes Family
The George Hipp Family
The Chris Hucks Family
Miss Madie Joyner
Mrs. Flossie Lawson & Children
Joel Livingston
Jack and Carrie Moore
The John Olcott Family
The Paul Pinson Family
Don and Ann Robinson
Mrs. Joyce Quinn
The Julius Risher Family
The Charles Spivey Family
The Raymond Stewart Family
The M. L. Sullivan Family
The Coke Thacker Family
The Howard Vaughn Family
The Everette Willes Family
The L. A. Zachry Family
The Joseph Zimmerman Family

and three of our daughters were married at Trinity.

George and Minnie Hipp have many fond memories of their involvement during the early years of Trinity.

“George and I moved the nursery items from the filling station where we met to begin this church on a cold December Saturday afternoon. This consisted of a baby bed, small rocker, walker, and a few toys. The first service for Trinity was held the next day, and I kept the nursery at that time. Due to health problems, I had to resign in December 2009.”

Their son Mike used to cut the grass for \$10, which included gas. It took him 7 hours to complete the job. Minnie and George served as volunteer janitors for the old sanctuary and old Sunday School rooms. Other families, such as the Dave Nix family and Bob and Eloise Causey, helped as well.

Minnie also recalls typing the bulletins on old stencils produced on an old crank-style mimeograph machine.

Jim Carroll is another Charter Member who recalls what it was like getting Trinity started and the first building constructed, and he had these comments about those memories:

“Mr. (Woody) Gilmer did a lot of getting it done. The men of the church poured the whole floor of the original building, dragging the concrete around with rakes. We wore work boots or old shoes and had a good time. We dumped the concrete through the window frames, because we put up the walls and roof before doing the floor. Mr. Zachry did electrical work.

“South Aiken Methodist first met at Herschel’s Shell Station. (Because there were so many other churches with ‘South Aiken’ in their name, it was later decided to change the name.) Some little building behind the filling station held some of the Sunday School classes. A little dirt path led the way to the building. I have been Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Sunday School ever since I was Superintendent at the Shell Station.

“Four acres were purchased, and we had to get a zoning variance to build the church at its current location. Bonds were sold to raise funds, and the bonds had coupons on them. A thousand dollars would give \$30 every six months. I went to St. George to sell bonds to a man, and he bought all the rest!

“A church picnic was held on the empty grounds before any construction began. Mr. Chester Arthur invited Mr. Julian Elliot (DuPont Plant Manager) to come to the picnic, and he came. C.B. Word was the first pastor; he preached at Bath and South Aiken Methodist.

“I was also the Treasurer for 25 years after Mr. Jackson. I



retired as Treasurer when I was 75.”

Patti (Carroll) Pittman was just a girl when Trinity started, but she shares some tidbits from her early years here.

“Sunday School was held on a piece of plywood over the grease pit [at the service station]. Seats were old theater seats that were connected. I started playing piano at church when I was 13, and I was really nervous.

“I participated in lay witness mission when I was in middle school. In high school, I shared the pianist responsibility with Sammy Cline and Nancy Smith.”

Current Trinity Members Who have been on the Membership Rolls more than 40 Years

Tammie (Bowers) Bates
Billy and Shirley Bowers
Joye Brotherton
Jim Carroll
Sherlyn (Bowers) Chapman
George and Lois Counts
Mike Counts
Liz (Counts) Darrow
Woody Gilmer
Van and Betty Haynes
George and Minnie Hipp
Jim Peterson
Maude Pinson
Doreen (Pinson) Paschal
Patti (Carroll) Pittman
Don and Ann Robinson
Rosina Zimmerman
Ruth Zimmerman

As Trinity celebrates “Fifty Years of Faithful Service,” we have compiled a list of many of the missions and ministries that church members are involved with. Our caring church family reaches people in our immediate community as well as many areas around the world. A comprehensive list of service or volunteers is impossible. At the risk of omitting areas of interest and many who have given of their time, resources, and talents, we list the following as a reminder of Trinity’s love and care for all God’s children — those in our church whom we know, as well as many we never will.

ACTS

ACTS (Area Churches Together Serving) was formed in 1986 to reach out, in Christ’s name, to those among us who need temporary, emergency help with groceries, clothing, prescriptions, household goods or utility bills. ACTS is supported by its member churches (about 70), individual contributions, and grants. Trinity is one of the original member churches.

ACTS works with other agencies in the area to secure appropriate services for its clients. The validity of clients’ need is ensured through interviews and extensive record keeping.

Volunteer service is the only way ACTS can operate. Volunteers are used as food workers, clothing workers, interviewers, office assistants and computer programmers - a wide variety of skills are needed to fill the constantly changing variety of jobs. There is something for anyone interested.

The community can help ACTS by donating food, clothing, housewares and furniture to keep the warehouse stocked; providing financial support (tax deductible); and praying that their work, gifts, and presence will reflect the love that Christ called us to give our neighbors. Over the



years, Trinity has continually collected food and monetary donations for ACTS on the first Sunday of the month.

Adult Choir



The adult choir is made up of about 50 dedicated people who meet in 3 different groups throughout the year. Some participate year-round, some sing only in the summer choir, and some sing in the fall and winter choir. While the main purpose of the choir is to lead the congregational singing and to sing special music each Sunday, there are also several special presentations during the year, including an annual Christmas cantata and Summer Choir Celebration. The choir meets weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7:30. The current director is Denise Barnhart and the pianist is Terry Gossard.

The choir has had a number of other choir directors over the years, including Frankie Cain, Sally Tice, Wayne Hodges, Barb Rollins, Charles Raum, Alex Henderson, Sharon Johnson, Kathy Cook and Don Studebaker. Pianists for the church have included Kathy Cook, Chris Wechsler, Pauline Whitesall, Linda Clarke, Lisa Shepard, Lisa Bumpus, Nancy Smith, Sammy Cline, Patti Pittman, Diane Burnside, and Ann Harmon. Chuck Sligh and Jim Carroll (tenors) were Mrs. Pauline’s “boy sopranos.”

Children’s Choir

For about 20 years, Trinity has had a children’s choir to teach kids, ages 5 to 5th grade, about God through music



and plays while witnessing and ministering to others. Currently, Carol Smith is the Director of the Sonshine Choir, which meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. The average attendance at choir practice is 10. Past leaders of children's choirs at Trinity have included Linda Clarke and Patti Pittman.

The Sonshine Choir sings the Call to Worship during Sunday morning service at least once a month. Every December, they perform a Christmas Program for the church, and all children, toddlers to 5th grade, are invited to participate in the always-entertaining play.



Children's Ministries

Children's Ministries is a program to gather children together and teach them about God while having fun spiritually. The current Coordinator is Christina McNeely; past Coordinators have included Carol Smith and Michelle Rice.

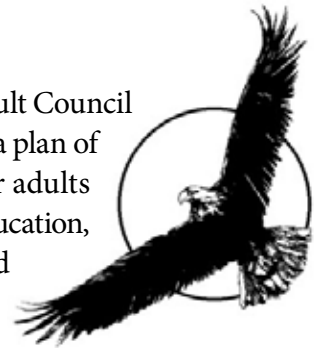
Events held include Wednesday night activities, SKIP (Super Kids in Praise) on the 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings of the month, Vacation Bible School (VBS) in the summer, children's choir on scheduled Sunday evenings, Children's Church during Sunday morning service, and annual holiday get-togethers, such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Boo at the Zoo, and the Christmas party. Attendance on Wednesday evenings has grown from 4 to 11, and Children's Ministries has implemented more programs like SKIP and is doing more events throughout the year to get children involved.

Many volunteers have made the Children's Ministries activities possible, including — among many others — Donnie and Tammie Bates, Jamie Bosley, Sherlyn Chapman, Linda Clarke, Sheri Fulghum, Tracy Greene, Linda Gulick, Mary Jo Herring, Karen Johnson, Diane Kingery, Phyllis Maclay, Joanne Morton, John Paparella, Angela Powell, Carol Smith, Vicki Snow, Mandy Thompson, Kelsey Turner, Susan Tutak, and Rosina Zimmerman.



Eagles

On May 24, 2006, a Senior Adult Council met for the first time to develop a plan of ministry by, with, and for older adults that includes spiritual growth, education, training, mission and service, and fellowship. Thereafter, it was decided that this group should be named the Eagles.



The Rev. Jay Pifer was instrumental in organizing the Eagles Council, the various groups within the Eagles, the monthly luncheons, and the travel groups. Presently the Eagles Council, made up of 15 members, is under the direction of Bonnie Nowak and Vi Satre.

The Eagles are comprised of four groups. The Soaring Eagles plan monthly luncheons that provide fellowship, education and inspiration. The luncheons, which average 60 attendees, are held on the 4th Monday of each month (11:30 to 1:00), except those months when bus trips are planned by the Rising Eagles. These trips are usually one-day tours but can be overnight, such as the older adult retreat at Lake Junaluska.

The Helping Eagles is a ministry to assist others. They promote food collection for ACTS the first Sunday of each



2011 Eagles Council — Front row (l-r): Nobie Sinclair, Sandy Holman, Harvey Campbell, and Shirley Bowers. Standing: Vi Satre, Barbara Burger, Jim Kanenberg, Ray Gilbert, Eleanor Hatfield, Ann Bishop, Barbara Fent, and Bonnie Nowak.

month at Trinity. A religious service is held at Carriage Hills Living Center the 4th Sunday of each month (11:30 to 12:00 noon), and bird feeders are provided and stocked outside each room at Carriage Hills. Medical equipment, such as walkers, wheelchairs, etc., is available to those church members in need. A call to the church office can bring the necessary equipment.

The Growing Eagles conduct a morning worship service at Trinity (usually held the 3rd Sunday in March). Adult Sunday School study is also available.

All four groups of the Eagles Ministry provide spiritual growth to our church family at Trinity United Methodist Church as well as the Aiken community. The Eagles are people who are retired, semi-retired, planning to retire, hoping someday to retire, or anyone of any age who is available on activity dates. You do not need to be a member of Trinity to join. All are welcome.

Emmaus

The purpose of Emmaus is to renew the church as the body of Christ in the world through development of leaders and renewal of Christians as faithful, committed disciples of Jesus Christ. The Emmaus of the Midlands Community is run by a board elected by the community each year. They have monthly gatherings on the 4th Friday, and they also hold a men's walk and a women's walk twice a year.



The Rev. Harry Workman encouraged Trinity members to attend an Emmaus walk beginning in 1993. Since then, over 100 members and friends and family of members have

attended. Several members of Trinity have been elected to the Board, served as lay directors of a walk, and held other leadership positions. Wanda Barr is the leader of the Trinity group, which does not currently meet on a regular basis.

Trinity has also had members very involved in Chrysalis youth weekends, which is a similar program for teens and young adults.

Epiphany Ministry

The Epiphany Ministry is a three-day ministry (a weekend) for 14 to 18-year-old boys and girls that are locked up in the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) System. It is a ministry sanctioned by the Upper Room of the United Methodist Church.

The ministry is conducted by a group of adults who have attended one of the three-day ministries such as the Walk to Emmaus, Tres Dias, or Happening. There are several ecumenical ministries that are allowed to participate.

These Christians go into the DJJ facility and do a series of talks by clergy and lay people designed to teach these kids all about Jesus, what He did for them, and how He wants to help them in their life today. The weekend ensures that all the kids are fed, nurtured with music, skits and fun-time, along with being loved by those there and being shown that they are loved by God himself.

Several people from Trinity have participated in this ministry, including the following who served as Lay Directors for a particular Epiphany: Donnie Bates, Joye Brotherton, Mark Turner, and Bob Kelly. Trinity members have served this ministry for a number of years, starting in Greenville then moving to Columbia. Bill Bengtson has been a regular at the Epiphany Ministries in Columbia.

The ministry does not just leave the kids with nothing when the weekend is over but does a monthly meeting for the kids that features Bible Study, music, games and — of course — food. The people who participate in this ministry love the Lord but also have a heart for these children who have been broken and in some way broke the law to wind up in a DJJ facility.

Family Ministry

Trinity's Family Ministry Committee has three primary goals — to address the concerns of families in our church so that we may grow in our understanding of our Christian faith and ourselves, to provide programs for fellowship opportunities for our church family, and to nurture the specific age-level groups within our church.

Lila Crotwell and Sandy Sparks currently serve as Committee Co-Chairs, and previously, Darlene and Larry David served as Chairpersons. The committee meets quarterly, with an attendance of 15 to 18 committee members.

The Family Ministry Committee hosts the following annual events: the Homecoming Luncheon, the Eagles/Senior Member Celebration Luncheon, Graduation Sunday, the New Members Luncheon, the Fall Festival, the Hanging of the Greens, and the Christmas Luncheon. The Family Ministry Committee also organizes, stocks, and cleans the Fellowship Hall and kitchen quarterly and oversees the publication of the Trinity directory of members. The committee also serves as the coordinating point for Trinity's response in times of bereavement. For many years, Minnie Hipp and Ruth Zimmerman served as Church Hostesses and were responsible for the primary tasks that the Family Ministry Committee now does.



Each year, five to six mission trips to the area are held to build homes, kitchens, schoolrooms, latrines, fuel-efficient stoves, and bio-sand filters, which provide safe drinking water. HAF also holds Bible school events, dental clinics, medical brigades and eye clinics. They feed hungry kids, attend worship services, and share the love of Christ with those they help. Since its inception, more than 16 Trinity members have participated in one or more HAF mission trips.

At any given time, 45-50 children are sponsored through HAF in the "Agape Promises" program, which provides the children with school uniforms, books, food, medical and dental care, and weekly Bible study classes. There is also a higher education scholarship program funded equally by HAF and the local community.

HAF frequently works with or hires local labor, and these workers train each other in new tasks, such as building fuel-efficient stoves (even going to the next village and training them), leading them toward the goal of self-sufficiency. When they already have the knowledge to do work needed by their village, HAF provides funds to purchase materials such as PVC piping and tin, so that they can repair their own roof, or run a new water line. HAF is funded solely by donations and periodic fundraisers.



Homecoming Luncheon, 1981



Honduras Agape Foundation

The Honduras Agape Foundation (HAF) is a foreign mission ministry to Quimistan, Honduras and surrounding villages. It was started in response to Hurricane Mitch in 1999 by South Aiken Presbyterian, and was soon joined by Trinity and two additional Aiken churches.

Kairos Prison Ministry

Kairos is an international Christian ministry whose purpose is to establish a strong



Christian community among the residents of correctional institutions. Started in 1976, Kairos is currently active in 350 prisons in 31 states and 8 additional countries.

Trinity has been involved with Kairos since 1996. Monthly behind-bars fellowship opportunities are held, with an attendance of 100-150 inmates. A typical prison might have two full-scale weekends per year, followed by monthly reunions. Inmates are strongly encouraged to seek frequent “prayer and share” fellowship.

Bill Bengtson, Ruth Gordy, and Steve Gordy have attended these prison ministry events. Many church members have participated in other ways too – choosing time slots to pray during Kairos weekends so that all involved are lifted in prayer around the clock, making monetary donations, and baking. Kairos is sometimes known as the “cookie ministry,” because cookies – in large quantities – are used in some prisons as a tool for communicating unconditional love. Trinity has been a part of that effort, helping change the lives of many who are otherwise forgotten by most of society.

Salkehatchie Summer Service

Salkehatchie is a unique summer program with the main purpose of helping poverty-stricken families who need home repair and maintenance. It was founded by the Rev. John Culp in 1978, shortly before he became pastor at Trinity. The youth who attend are given leadership and growth opportunities that they could never find anywhere else. There are a number of one-week camps held in South Carolina each summer. Trinity sends an average of 14 youth, 3 college students and 4 adults to Salkehatchie every year.

Donnie Bates, Scott Bosley, Ken Clarke, Charlie Fulghum, Erik Kling, Tommy and Mandy Thompson, Chuck Woody, and Harry Workman are among the adults from Trinity who have participated over the years.

The week-long mission experience teaches our youth that

poverty does exist, and that they can help by using their time and talents. God often helps them grow spiritually through this program. Salkehatchie changes the lives of both the receiver and the giver.

Sunday School

Trinity’s Sunday School program has been in place since the first members began meeting, and it continues to be a place for people to gather to worship God and study Scripture. About 100 children, youth, and adults meet every Sunday before worship for this time of Bible study. Currently, Jean Kling serves as Superintendent. Previously, Alan Maclay, Dale Brantley, Phyllis Maclay, and Bob Kelly have served as Superintendent. Jim Carroll has been Trinity’s Sunday School Assistant Superintendent for decades. Before that, he served as Superintendent. Jim has just retired his position with the Sunday School after fifty years of service.

Many faithful teachers have volunteered their time and talents to lead Sunday School classes. For decades, Minnie Hipp and Ruth Zimmerman kept the nursery during Sunday School. Mary Jo Herring, Linda Clarke, and Sarah Kirk-





Mary Jo Herring

development in a warm, loving, Christian environment. The current Preschool Director is Lila Crotwell. Past Directors were Jamie Bosley, Sherlyn Chapman, and Elaine Drenton. About 80 children enjoy attending Trinity Preschool. Special events during the year include the Thanksgiving feast, the Christmas program, field trips, Fun and Fellowship, music classes, and the Graduation program.

United Methodist Men

The primary goal of the United Methodist Men (UMM) is to promote a fellowship of men within Trinity by building their faith in God through mission work projects and each other's support. Current officers are Larry David, President; Tommy Thompson, Treasurer; and Randy Haupfear, Secretary. Past Presidents include Don Studebaker, Tommy Thompson, and Erik Kling.

On the 3rd Sunday of each month, the UMM meet at 8:00

land have taught children's classes for many years. Meredith Fowler also teaches children, and other dedicated volunteers teach and lead discussions for the five adult classes. Ryan Bunnage and Donnie Bates currently teach the middle and high school grades.

Besides the weekly classes, the Sunday School Department holds a First Sunday Celebration each month. All are invited to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and other special events before dividing up into individual classes. It is a fun gathering with songs and refreshments.

Trinity Preschool

About 15 years ago, Trinity started a Mother's Day Out and Preschool program to provide an atmosphere that encourages social, emotional, physical, and intellectual growth and



Trinity Preschool, 2009 Graduation Program



a.m. for a light breakfast, devotion, fellowship, and a short business meeting.

They also work with the United Methodist Women on the Trinity yard sale as an annual money-maker for missions. As a quarterly work project, the UMM supply the labor to work on homes in the surrounding community through United Way's Project Vision. In addition, Trinity's UMM supports a child through the Honduras Agape Foundation.

United Methodist Women

The Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) of Trinity United Methodist Church was organized during the early days of the church's history. Beulah Cline, Sue Gilmer, Edna Ruth Zachry, and several other ladies worked very diligently to get the WSCS organized. The WSCS later was changed to the United Methodist Women (UMW). The adopted purpose of the UMW is: The organized unit of the United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as a whole person through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. The primary



goal is to support missions at the local level, district level, conference level, and global level.

One of the group's first projects was to work toward the purchase of a computer for the church office. The UMW has grown and appreciates the service of four circles, each of which provides a vital part in the growth of the church through different projects. Trinity's UMW has met all the criteria for a Five Star UMW.

In addition to the circles' activities and quarterly UMW meetings, the UMW and UMM have a yard sale each fall to raise money for mission projects.

The Wysongs

Dai and Neva Wysong are missionaries who serve in Kiev, Ukraine, through The Mission Society with their children, Kayla, Kasey, Nick and Kerah. Dai serves as the headmaster of Kiev Christian Academy (KCA). Neva teaches at KCA and coaches girls' basketball. Dai also serves as chairman of the board for Safe Haven International, a transition home for orphanage graduates. Neva was one of the developers of the Life Skills Training Manual, which is being used widely by training educators in Ukraine and Russia.



Mandy Thompson (l-r), Ruth Zimmerman, Maurine Rolader, Barbara Johnson, and Barbara Fent in 2007



Rev. Rodney Powell and Dai and Neva Wysong

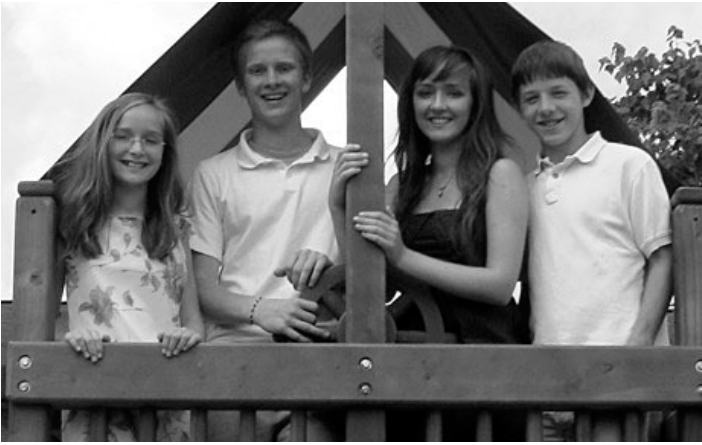
Neva described their association with Trinity in the following note:

"Trinity was one of the first churches to support our family coming to Kiev, Ukraine in 1999. Our children were 1, 3 and 5 years old at the time. Trinity has always been more than just a financial backer. We have always felt your warmth and prayers and real desire to make a difference in this world!!!

"I remember with fondness the first few years when Trinity would send us a Christmas box....many large boxes would arrive, full of all kinds of fun things from America...candy, toys, hot chocolate, movies, books.....I would cry as we



UMW 2010 High Tea and Fashion Show



Kerah (l-r), Kasey, Kayla, and Nick Wysong

opened them, as a waft of love and care and “home” drifted out....That was crucial for us and our kids at that time in our lives. Now, we are used to life here and there are grocery stores and lots of good things available, so we don’t need those boxes, but we always feel a special connection to you all because of your special care for us in that way.

“Our kids also love the tradition of Tommy and Mandy Thompson taking their picture on the playground every visit. We are able to come back to the States every other year, so those pictures have marked the growth of our kids and are a symbol to us of your personal care for us. We are so grateful to you all for your faithful and generous support of our lives here and we treasure you as friends and coworkers in the work of the Lord!”

Youth

Trinity has had an organized youth program since 1980 with the purpose of spending time with youth to help them learn Christian fundamentals. A number of adults have led the Youth over the years, including Joye Brotherton, Patti Pittman, Tammie Bates, Kathy Haupfear, and Ben Haupfear. Currently, the Rev. Donnie Bates serves as Youth Pastor for this thriving group.



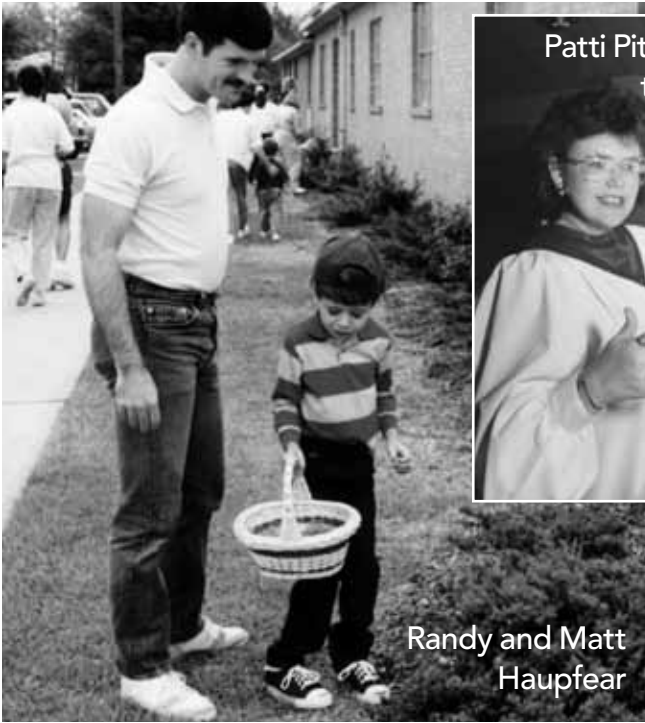
The Youth meet on Wednesday and Sunday evenings for Bible study and games, with an average attendance of 26. The group also participates in a variety of events during the year, such as a ski trip, white water rafting, a beach trip, bowling, and a zoo trip.

The group’s primary goals are to learn to read and understand Scripture, apply it to their lives, fellowship together, and be active church members.



Trinity History Answers

1. South Aiken Methodist Church
2. Maude Pinson
3. Charles Brockwell, Jr.
4. James Carroll
5. John Culp
6. Service station
7. 1961
8. John Williams
9. December 7, 1997
10. The children and youth Sunday school classes
11. 1986 — Small World of Wonders
12. Rodney Powell
13. 2005
14. Harry Workman
15. Charles Wesley United Methodist Church
16. Nancy Kelly
17. Sherlyn Bowers Chapman
18. Taylor Street
19. No — originally we were part of the Greenwood District
20. 1978



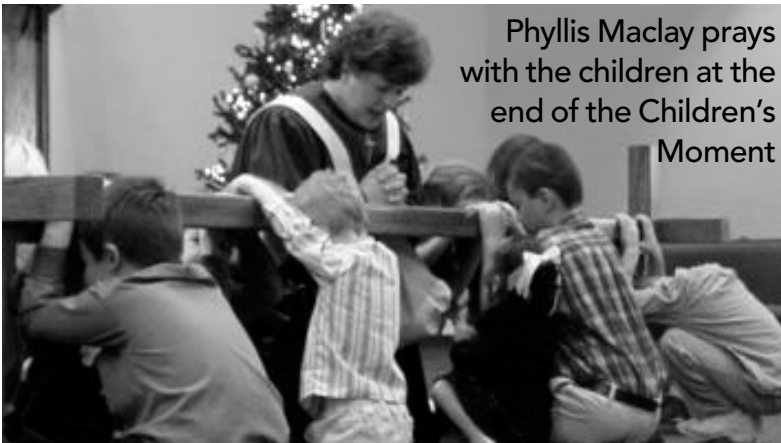
Randy and Matt
Hauptfear



Patti Pitman directing
the adult choir



UMM install new flooring
at the parsonage



Phyllis Maclay prays
with the children at the
end of the Children's
Moment



Linda Gracey, Lea Ann McGlothlin, and Lila
Crotwell with the preschool kids at the 2008
Thanksgiving Feast.

Thank You!

A special thank you goes to the **History Committee**, who compiled the information for this booklet, and to Carol Smith, who did the layout.

History Committee members:

- Bill Bengtson
- Ann Bishop
- Shirley Bowers
- Louise Hryniewich
- Diane Kingery
- Lois Michelsen
- Patti Pittman
- Mary Lou Wingard



Christina McNeely leads a
game at the Easter Egg Hunt

My favorite memory of Trinity is...



“...my mother parading the four of us (Dad worked shifts) to the front pew so she could keep an eye on us from the choir loft! Yes, she did come out of the choir to ‘tend’ to us if we were misbehaving!” — *Tammie (Bowers) Bates*

“...Bobbie Dick greeting me so warmly as a visitor. I’ll always remember her welcoming me, a stranger. What a lovely, Christian lady she was.” — *Vi Satre*

“...the last two years helping with Vacation Bible School. The children were just the best to pay attention and to talk about the lessons and activities. Trinity and Methodism are winners!” — *Mary Lou Wingard*

“...when my four children were baptized. I was so blessed to see them accept the Lord as their Savior.” — *Chuck Woody*

“...the great people of Trinity that I can relate to through God in a special way.” — *Brock Woody*

“I don’t really have a favorite memory. Every Sunday, new memories are made. I enjoy every minute I spend at Trinity.” — *Kayla Woody*

“...playing the piano with my grandson Cameron in my lap. He was such a good baby!” — *Kathy Cook*

“...when Ms. Millie Carroll was always there to greet us and welcome us to Sunday School.” — *Anonymous*

“...each of the Sundays my children were baptized. The Sunday we, as a family, joined Trinity United Methodist Church. Easter Sundays, candlelight services, Bible School, Youth Sunday, all of the wonderful luncheons, Sunday School, Bible Study on Wednesday night, Sonshine Choir, special music, each time Alan sings and makes me cry... goodness, each and every time I am blessed to be in God’s house surrounded by my Christian family at Trinity creates a special memory for me. There are so many I can hardly name just one.” — *Cindy Woody*

“...the Christmas program when Seth Wade and Daniel were two-year-olds dressed as sheep, tossing hay at each other. Then, while they were standing up front singing, Seth kept picking pieces of hay from Daniel’s fluffy costume. And having David and Jonathan baptized at Trinity.” — *Diane Kingery*

“...getting married in the same church as my parents did 30 years prior. Also, confirmation class, acolyting, and proudly serving as ‘Mary’ in the Christmas play 22 years ago while wearing teal, Converse All Star hightops!” — *Ashlee (Bates) Young*

“I visited Trinity when there were chairs in the sanctuary, then later when there were pews. I took refresher square dance lessons in the new Fellowship Hall, which is now part of the Sunday School/Preschool wing. When the UMW hosted a District Officers’ Training, I toured the new sanctuary that was partially finished. Since we joined, we have seen the addition of the new Youth Wing. It’s great to be a part of a growing community of faith.” — *Mandy Thompson*

“When I look back over my 11 years at Trinity, the one thing that sticks out the most is, ‘This is home and this is my family.’ On my first visit in the late ‘90s with my family (before I moved to Aiken), I knew this was where I belonged and that God would find a way to get me here, and He did! In 2008, my little miracle came along, 2 months premature. Everyone has welcomed William with open arms and I am so grateful for all his adopted grandparents, aunts and uncles and the nurturing they provide him. This is home.” — *Carol Smith*

