



Trinity Times

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 1809 North Main Street
 Anderson, South Carolina

Ramblings from Rev. Roy

Everyone knows that Valentine’s Day is February 14th. It is the day for love. But did you know that one of our main purposes as a church is “to watch over one another in love?”

In the preface to the General Rules (do no harm, do good, stay in love with God), John Wesley, founder of Methodism, described the Methodist societies:

“Such a society is no other than ‘a company of [persons] having the form and seeking the power of godliness, united in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and **to watch over one another in love.....**”

Wesley believed the Christian life is a pilgrimage or journey toward holiness of heart and life. While deeply personal, the pilgrims never make the journey alone. We travel together.

From our Sunday School classes, LifeGroups, youth group, choir, band, visitation team, card ministry team, prayer group, bible studies, women’s group, and others - we travel together and are “to watch over one another in love”. I know that we do not do this perfectly but I have witnessed many cases at Trinity that it is done well. And I give thanks for the opportunity to travel with you.

In our current study, “*Knowing Who We Are: The Wesleyan Way of Grace*”, it lists two scriptures that Wesley often used in connection with “watching over one another in love.” I wanted to share them with you (for those who have not been able to be in our study).

Ephesians 4: 32 *Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ.*

Colossians 3: 12 *Therefore, as God’s choice, holy and loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Be tolerant with each other and, if someone has a complaint against anyone, forgive each other. As the Lord forgave you, so also forgive each other.*

February 14th may be Valentine’s Day - a day for love. But as United Methodists, every single day is a day to “watch over one another in love” as we journey toward holiness of heart and life. Thanks be to God for the journey, and that we travel together.

Grace and peace,

FEBRUARY 2025
 VOLUME 20, ISSUE 2

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Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
 8:30 am—2:30 pm
 Friday—Closed

WORSHIP AT TRINITY UMC - 2025

February - Imagine If:

Imagine a world where faith unites rather than divides, where every person finds genuine belonging in worship. We'll be looking at what it means to forge authentic connections with God and each other, igniting change within ourselves, our churches, and our communities. We'll examine how empowering younger generations with hope and purpose can reshape our future. Together, we'll reimagine and actively pursue a life where personal growth, inclusive faith, and societal impact intersect.

February 2

- **Traditions: "Jesus and the Children"** - Rev. Kathryn Bariou
- **Oasis: "Good Church, Great Living"** - Rev. Roy Mitchell

February 9

- Traditions: "Good Church, Great Living"** - Rev. Roy Mitchell
- Oasis: "Jesus and the Children"** - Rev. Kathryn Bariou

February 16

- Traditions: "Jesus and the Power of Community"** - Rev. Kathryn
- Oasis: "Jesus and the Next Generation"** - Rev. Roy Mitchell

February 23

- Traditions: "Jesus and the Next Generation"** - Rev. Roy Mitchell
- Oasis: "Jesus and the Power of Community"** - Rev. Kathryn Bariou

March/April - Steadfast Love for Lent

March 2: Transfiguration Sunday: "Astounded at the Greatness"

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 3: 12-4:2 and Luke 9: 28-43
Rev. Roy Mitchell

March 5: Ash Wednesday (Beginning of Lent) - Steve Compton

March 9: "Rescue Me" - Rev. Roy Mitchell

Scriptures: Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16 and Luke 4: 1-13

March 16: "Conceal Me" - Rev. Kathryn Bariou

Scriptures: Psalm 27 and Luke 13: 31-35

March 23: "My Soul Clings" - Rev. Roy Mitchell

Scriptures: Psalm 63: 1-8 and Luke 13: 1-9

March 30: "Steadfast Love" - Rev. Roy Mitchell

Scriptures: Psalm 32 and Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

April 6: "Fill Me with Laughter" - Rev. Roy Mitchell

Scriptures: Psalm 126 and John 12: 1-8

April 13: "Open the Gates"

Scriptures: Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 and Luke 19: 28-40

April 17: Maundy Thursday

Scriptures: Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19 and John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

April 20: Easter Sunday

Scripture: John 20: 1-18

The Oasis Service @ 9:00am and 11:00am in our Fellowship Hall - our version of a modern, laid-back service with a praise band, family tables, community prayer, holy communion, and message.

The Traditions Service - @ 11am in our sanctuary - Traditions have a place here: choirs, handbells, hymns, liturgy, and sermon.

The 9:00 am Oasis and 11:00 am Traditions services are live streamed so you can join us online from anywhere ...when you can't be here!

Red Shoe Reflections with Rev. Kathryn



I have seen a lot of things on my trip to Costa Rica. I have seen the amazing beauty of God's creation, more shades of green than I knew existed. I have seen a level of poverty that I could not have even imagined. I have seen an equal level of gratitude for a bag of food that only held the barest essentials. I have watched friendships bloom even when they struggled with the language barrier. I have seen the Spirit move through unexpected paths to bring God glory.

I have felt many things as well. I felt the warm sun and enjoyed a cool drink. I have felt the rain and the humidity. I felt a welcomed breeze on a hot day. Saturday, I got to feel the waves of the ocean. More than anything I have felt God's love through hugs, food, and time with friends, new and old.

I have felt and seen God's love in very powerful ways. To worship and not understand the words but fully feel the Spirit. Time to fully worship and not worry about anything else. To communicate God's love without words, but through actions, smiles and laughs. I know very little Spanish, most of those we met in Costa Rica know more English than I do Spanish yet we shared God's love. We shared it in many varied and powerful ways.

It can be easy to share stories from trips like these, but I find that the best parts are so hard to describe. One of the verses that was shared in a devotion with the women in the afternoon has really stuck with me. Ephesians 4:1-6 says: "I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." Our differences do not matter, we worship one God, we are all of one body and Spirit, we share one faith and one baptism.

As I adjust to living in Anderson again, my prayer for myself is that I make every effort to continue to live that way. That my actions and words continue to say, "we are all part of one body, one Spirit and one Lord. We love each other because we are one in Christ. May we work together in that way in all we do."

Kathryn

Online Giving

You may give online at www.trinityanderson.org/giving-2/. Create your own account by visiting the website and clicking on give and following the instructions there. Creating your own account lets you monitor your giving at any time during the year. For those who wish to give one-time gifts, you may also do that by clicking on "click here to give now." You do not have to create an account to give one time. **There is an option to contribute an additional 3% to help cover fees for your online transaction.**

Certain funds are already listed. If you do not see a fund to which you wish to give or make a payment, choose one that is closely related and make a note in the comment section or send an email to trinityadm1809@gmail.com with the details of the transaction. Thank you!

Thank You for Your Gifts!

Ways to Give:

Sunday offering—place in designated offering boxes

In Person—drop off at the church office

Online—trinityanderson.org/giving-2/
Choose the fund to which you wish to give (please include 3% fee)

Mail—

Trinity United
Methodist Church
1809 N. Main Street
Anderson, SC 29621



Trinity Financial Update

The General Fund is our non-designated fund from which our operational expenses are paid.

<u>General Fund (Budget)</u>	<u>December</u>
Beginning Balance	\$ 471.79
Income/Transfers	\$ 89,997.88
Expenses	
Personnel	\$ 39,033.48
Administration, Building, Maintenance	\$ 5,486.99
Programs/Ministries	\$ 1,596.65
2024 Apportionments Paid	\$ 15,127.60
Ending Balance	\$ 29,224.95
Monthly Mission - December + various products	\$ 705.00

Gifts

Endowment Fund

In memory of Doris Norris by
Steve & Pat Graham

Note to Trinity

THANK YOU Trinity Family! ...for all the cards, gifts, baked goodies, and love shared with us during the Christmas and holiday season. Thank you for your prayers for healing and wholeness as well (I seem to always get "Christmas crude"). We appreciate your kindness and loving support.

Peace and love,
Roy Mitchell and Family



Monthly Mission News February

As we partner with Rebuild Upstate again this month, we are also focusing on them as the recipient of our Monthly Mission offering. These funds will help cover costs in all areas of the organization. We gave \$310 to support Rebuild last year, can we make it \$500? We will also have Trinity Rebuild days February 20-22, 2025. Be on the lookout for sign-ups.

Rebuild Upstate's approach to affordable housing differs slightly from other affordable housing organizations, in that they don't offer total new home construction or provide affordable rental housing. Instead, they focus solely on home preservation and repair as means to keep residents in their own homes.

By understanding the needs of the people inside a home, they gain a better insight to the repairs that will help them the most. Whether addressing safe entry and exit by building a new wheelchair ramp or ensuring that a family is healthy and dry under a new roof, the goal of every home repair is to make sure the residents may remain comfortably in place for years to come. That's why Rebuild Upstate takes a holistic approach to affordable housing by partnering with other fantastic community organizations to help address the symptoms of subpar housing and empower individuals to break the cycle of poverty.

Sympathy

The Trinity Congregation expresses Christian love and sympathy to

- James Morrison and family upon the death of his wife, Phyllis Morrison



ATTENTION PICKLEBALLERS

We have had such a big interest in the Pickleball at Trinity, we want to keep it going. We play MOST Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. However, sometimes we have to cancel and we need to be able to let you know. If you are interested and want to get the Pickleball news/information, you need to download and use an APP called GroupMe. Just send a text message to Sherryl Laing at 864-934-1251 and she will send you the link to join GroupMe. You can also call or text her if you have any questions. Get joined up so you don't miss any pickleball information.

Facilities / Campus Report January 2025

We've now reached the mid-point of winter season, dealing with obstacles and hurdles resulting from weeks of very cold weather in our region. While many are waiting for warmer days to come in the next few months, some are still enjoying events this season offers such as Valentine's Day, Super Bowl, Black History Month, and Groundhog Day just to name a few.

We are excited to announce the recent hire of our new Church Sexton, Timothy Oxford, to our Staff. Timothy has already become a hit with the children as they love the nickname; he prefers to be called ...Turtle!

Let's all welcome Timothy/Turtle to our Trinity family as he adjusts to his new role of cleaning, preparing, and maintaining our facilities for worship and events.

Let's also welcome our 2025 Trinity UMC Board of Trustees
Dan Kessler – Chairman, Pat Graham – Vice Chair, Amanda Greene – Secretary,
Vernon DeHerrera & Renee Lafy

Sunday Safety Teams

Feb. 2 nd	Rob Spencer 8:45am	David Miller 10:15am
Feb. 9 th	Marvin McLin 8:45am	David Ford 10:15am
Feb. 16 th	David Ford 8:45am	Steve Compton 10:15am
Feb. 23 rd	Rob Spencer 8:45am	David Ford 10:15am

*We are needing more volunteers in order to keep this ministry going!
Reach out to myself, other team members, or the pastors if interested in joining.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart".

Peace,

David Ford

Business & Facilities Manager



Interested in Joining Trinity United Methodist Church?

You may join by baptism and profession of faith, or by transfer from another United Methodist Church or another denomination if previously baptized. If you would like to learn more or discuss with a pastor, please contact Rev. Roy or Rev. Kathryn at the church office.

As members of this congregation (Trinity United Methodist Church - Anderson), we vow to faithfully participate in its ministries by our **prayers**, our **presence**, our **gifts**, our **service** and our **witness**

New Trinity UMC Church Pictorial Directory

It's been 3 years since the last church directory and we need an update. Mark your calendars and be watching for emails with signups to come. We will be using the gym this year for the pictures, so it is easy in and out. You will pull up to the gym doors (#17) from Anderson Avenue. We hope to have all pictures completed by the end of February.

These dates and times are currently scheduled with the photographer:

Monday, Feb. 10th - 12pm - 5pm; 6-8pm

Tuesday, Feb. 11th - 12pm - 5pm; 6 - 8pm

Saturday, Feb. 15th - 1pm - 6pm

Tuesday, Feb. 18th - 12pm -5pm; 6-8pm

Thursday, Feb 20th - 12pm -5pm; 6-8pm



February Edition



What's Happening in a Glance

Hello, friends. This month, our KIDS ministry will be looking at the parable of the lost sheep. Of all the fluffy animals that we could be compared to, Jesus uses the sheep. They are not the smartest animals on the planet and they tend to get in trouble if they do not have a shepherd watching over them. So, maybe the metaphor tracks pretty well. We do not always make the best decisions, do the right thing, go the right direction or trust the right people. But God is never far from us. If we follow the Shepherd and trust that He is looking out for our best interests, we will be okay. He will help navigate us home when we are lost. In keeping with our candy theme this year, our kids will be doing experiments with candy canes (the shepherd's crook). They will be making lost sheep I-Spy bottles. They will make some fluffy sheep snacks and learn a little fluffy sheep science, too. Although this story is a very familiar one, every time we talk about it with the kids, we notice something new or learn something new about each other. Sheep know the voice of the shepherd. Do we? If God speaks to me, do I recognize His voice above the noise of life? Do I respond to His voice the way the sheep respond to the shepherd? My family recently went



to an animal safari place in Georgia. Those animals knew the voice of the tour guide who drove us through the enclosure. They responded when he spoke but not when our family did. They knew *his* voice. I hope that I can also get to a place that when God speaks, I recognize Him without question and immediately respond. Some days, I get it right; other days, I do not. But, I keep getting new opportunities to learn and listen to Jesus as He walks with us (His sheep).

Words to Ponder:

"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way."

- John C. Maxwell

Lessons for February

Sunday School

10:00 AM - 10:55 AM

The Lost Sheep

Week One - Story

Week Two - Science

Week Three - Craft

Week Four - Snack

JAM Session

3rd - 5th Grade JAMS

Feb. 21st 4:00—5:00 PM

(McDs @ 1651 Greenville St.)

Bring your Bible and
\$\$ for a drink or snack.

Key Passage:

"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?"

- Luke 15:4 NIV

As always, if you are interested in lending a hand in any part of our children's ministry, there is a place for you, too; please email childrentumc@gmail.com or call or text me at (864) 518-9322. Blessings and peace - Dawn McLin

Midweek Wednesday Night Meals: 1st - 5th Graders meet on all Wednesdays that coincide with our Wednesday night meals. They eat supper with their families at 5:30 PM (donation requested to cover cost, as able). Then, at 6:30 PM they head upstairs for lessons and activities until 7:15 PM. They can get picked up from the children's wing classrooms at 7:15 PM or hang out with their friends until 7:30 PM in the gym for dismissal directly to parents' cars at the gym door. **NOTE: The drive beside the gym is a one way drive. Please use caution.**

The Well Youth Ministry

FEBRUARY 2025

2/2 5:30-7:30 PM - The Well
2/5 5:30-7:30 PM - Midweek Well
2/7-2/8 Valentine's Social Prep and Event
2/9 5:30-7:30 PM - The Well
2/12 5:30-7:30 PM - Midweek Well
2/16 5:30-7:30 PM - The Well
2/19 5:30-7:30 PM - Midweek Well
2/23 5:30-7:30 PM - The Well
2/26 5:30-7:30 PM - Midweek Well

February 21st - 22nd

Rebuild Upstate Project

Youth—you are not too young to help with this incredible ministry. You do not need to already have a skill in construction to assist with this either. If you would like to assist in helping rebuild someone's home (which fyi, also transforms their lives) please contact Dawn McLin or Nick Kulick to get plugged in.

Service Opportunities:

Sunday Morning/Wednesday Night KIDS Ministry/Nursery - Youth are welcome to join us in the KIDS' wing from 9:55 - 10:55 AM on Sunday Morning to assist in science, craft, snack or story lessons. We also would love to see youth helping in nursery, children's moments and the Pre-k Wednesday Night group. This could be a once a month, once a quarter or even weekly way to serve. Contact Dawn McLin if you want to plug into any of these opportunities.

Fortson Tutoring - During the school year, Fortson offers tutoring and snacks with our friends on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 PM – 5:15 PM. If you are able and would like to plug into serve, even if just once a month, please contact Dawn McLin, Michelle Lynch or Kathryn Bariou.

Our regular weekly youth (The Well) meets on Sunday (and Wednesday nights that coincide with Wednesday Night Suppers) from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. We also have our youth Sunday School from 10:00 am - 10:55 am in our youth room above the gym. If you are a youth or have a youth interested in plugging in, come check us out. We are also actively seeking adults willing to invest in our young people and if you have thought about helping occasionally or regularly with our youth, we have lots of opportunities to serve. Our church and the future of the church depends on our continued efforts to make disciples who make disciples. We have room for you at the table. Come and see what is happening at Trinity with our youth. Disciple making is hard work but important work. We grow as we serve together.

Valentine's Dinner Fundraiser

February 8th (5:00 - 7:00 PM)

Lasagna, Salad, Garlic Bread and Dessert

Youth can assist with set up, decorating and food prep on February 7th from 4-6 pm and serve on February 8th from 3-8 pm. Youth are asked to dress in white and black or a nice outfit as wait staff and casual attire if helping in the kitchen. Lasagna is messy. Tickets are \$25 and youth are encouraged to sell to folks outside of the church, too. It is not a "couples" Valentine Dinner, so if you know anyone who would love a meal with a fun bunch of folks, invite them to come enjoy a great evening out. We are God's Valentines. We will celebrate the love of a heavenly Father this night and share Christ's love at the table.

Spread a Little Love

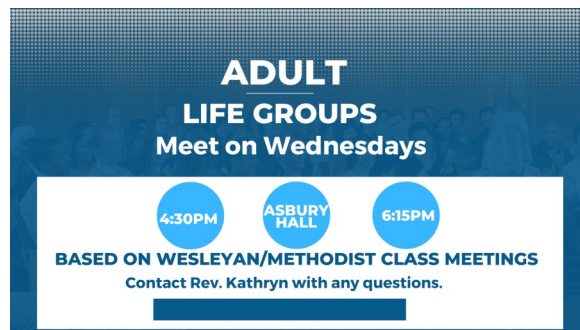
Valentine's Day cards will be delivered to our love persons (homebound) during the week of February 9. The love person list is available at the church office or at the family card box. Homemade or the small classroom Valentine's are fine. This is a great mission for our children to share in. Seal your cards with a prayer and deliver them to the church office or the basket at the family mailbox no later than **noon on February 9**. Thank you!



Casting Purls
THURSDAY
February 6,20
1:00-3:00pm
Asbury Hall



**YAH
GAME
DAY**
Thursday
February 6th & 20th @ 1pm
in the Family Room



**ADULT
LIFE GROUPS**
Meet on Wednesdays

4:30PM ASBURY HALL 6:15PM

BASED ON WESLEYAN/METHODIST CLASS MEETINGS
Contact Rev. Kathryn with any questions.



Stephen Ministers aka The *After* People

- after** the phone call you hoped you'd never get. . . .
- after** the funeral, when everyone has left. . . .
- after** the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life. . . .
- after** the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do." . . .
- after** the nursing home director says, "Welcome to your new home." . . .
- after** your child honks the horn, waves, and begins their new life. . . .
- after** the gavel bangs, the handcuffs click, and your loved one is led away. . . .
- after** the baby arrives, needing more of you than you think you can give. . . .
- after** you find a pink slip in your final pay envelope.....

Trinity UMC is blessed to have a team of "After People aka Stephen Ministers", ready to listen and bring comfort to you as you face a difficulties in your journey.

Please contact, Rev. Kathryn Bariou, Trinity's staff Stephen Leader, at Knbariou@umcsc.org or Rev. Roy Mitchell at rmitchell@umcsc.org. They will guide you on the next steps of connecting with Trinity's Stephen Ministry team.

Wednesday Night Dinner

- To sign up call the church office at 864-224-2531 or watch for the link in Trending @ Trinity
- If you wish to be on a standing list, contact Dava House at 803-917-0599.
- Our guide for payment to cover our costs is: \$7 for adults, \$5 for ages 8-17, and \$3 for children age 8 & under. (family of 4 - \$20; family of 5 - \$25)
- Place cash or check in basket on dining tables or pay online through our website at www.trinityanderson.org.

Menus for February are (and will include beverage and dessert):

- 5 — Chili (regular and white chicken chili), cornbread, salad or nuggets
- 12 — Italian chicken pasta, veggie, salad, bread or pizza
- 19 — Meatballs and gravy, mashed potatoes, broccoli, salad and bread or nuggets
- 26 — Breakfast casserole, biscuits, sausage gravy, cinnamon rolls or pizza

Marriage and Relationships Workshop

Wednesday, February 26, 6:30-7:30pm

Dr. Susanne Thurber, the Director of the Epworth Counseling Center - Upstate (on our campus in the "Trinity House"), will be with us to discuss "marriage and relationships". It may be after Valentine's Day, but it's never too late to learn and grow in our relationships and marriage. Everyone is invited to attend this workshop.

And if you, or someone you know, needs counseling for their emotional wellness - Dr. Thurber's contact is below:

Dr. Susanne Thurber, LPCS
Director of Counseling Center-Upstate
Epworth Children's Home
108 Anderson Avenue
Anderson, SC 29625
864-642-1269



**PUBLIC WELCOME
FREE ADMISSION!!**

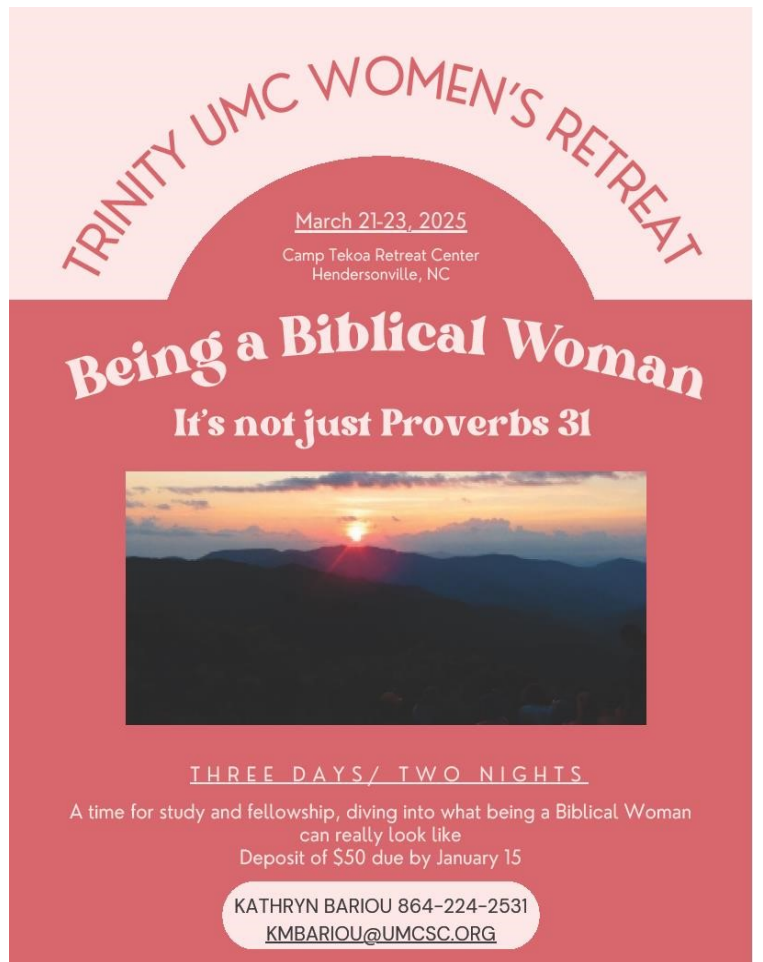
**SAVE the Date
May 3, 2025**

BAKE SALE

**SPRING
FESTIVAL**

AUCTION


The banner features a purple background with a church steeple in the background. On the left, there are cookies with 'BAKE SALE' written on them. On the right, there is a sandwich. A red circular stamp with 'AUCTION' is in the top right corner.



TRINITY UMC WOMEN'S RETREAT

March 21-23, 2025
Camp Tekoa Retreat Center
Hendersonville, NC

Being a Biblical Woman
It's not just Proverbs 31



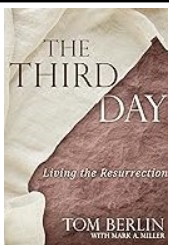
THREE DAYS / TWO NIGHTS

A time for study and fellowship, diving into what being a Biblical Woman can really look like
Deposit of \$50 due by January 15

KATHRYN BARIOU 864-224-2531
KMBARIOU@UMCSC.ORG

The banner has a pink background. At the top, the text 'TRINITY UMC WOMEN'S RETREAT' is written in a semi-circle. Below that, the dates and location are listed. The main title 'Being a Biblical Woman' is in a large, white, serif font, with the subtitle 'It's not just Proverbs 31' below it. A central image shows a sunset over mountains. Below the image, the text 'THREE DAYS / TWO NIGHTS' is written in a decorative font. At the bottom, there is a description of the event and contact information for Kathryn Bariou.

Lenten Study



Please join us for our Lenten Study beginning March 2 at 3 pm in Asbury Hall.

This six-week study will be based on Tom Berlin's book, *The Third Day; Living the Resurrection*. The book and study will be centered around the resurrection of Christ and how it affected the lives of those who followed him. Books will be made available; they are \$18.

To sign up go to <https://forms.gle/PhFYcSn2dX38cFRF6> or call the church office at 864-224-2531.

Trinity Transformation Tales

There are so many things that come to mind when I hear the word Transformation. To choose one thing or one experience with Trinity that resonates transformation is too difficult.

I wondered, should I talk about the transformation of my family in 2006 when we attended Trinity as new transplants to Anderson and it felt like we were home? We started attending when Pastor Frey started here and I had just lost my father. I was in a new town, at a new church and yet, somehow, Trinity felt so warm and comfortable. I watched my kids experience youth retreats that I never experienced growing up. My youngest son found a crew to hang out with and he loved going to youth. He struggled when we moved here and with the loss of my dad, more than my other kids did. What was so special about Trinity that he felt comfortable here?

Should I talk about the laughs and friends I made going on women's retreats and having lunch with ladies who were not too uptight to laugh at themselves? This was different kind of "church folk" to me. Church had been more serious growing up and it was really nice to feel the joy of the Lord in stories about kids and spouses and life. We bonded over struggles with laughter.

Should I talk about the Salkehatchie retreats that my youngest daughter loved going on and how much the experience with our youth group there gave her confidence in her ability to do anything? She and Eva Welborn have some stories. She wanted to go back every year and watch her friends (and new friends) change a home and a life with love, sweat, and a hammer.

Should I talk about the support that I felt when I mourned the loss of a marriage and found my footing as a single mom trying to navigate a new role at an older age? I had never felt so loved by a church body in my life. Cards, hugs, smiles and casseroles shouted "I love you" from a God who knew I needed Trinity before I even got to that chapter in my life. I am so grateful He did.

Should I talk about the welcoming hearts that embraced my new love and greeted him with handshakes and hugs and coffee? We dressed in costumes for the Journey and he stepped out of his comfort zone because this congregation made him feel just as comfortable in theirs. I married that amazing man in the Sanctuary surrounded by love. Trinity watched us step down the aisle and then we watched my husband step down into Lake Hartwell to get baptized at one of our church picnics. I felt the peace of God and the love of our community surrounding us that day, too.

Should I talk about the excitement of my granddaughter, Anslee, as she has started to feel the same way about Trinity that I do - welcomed and at home. She talks too much and moves too fast and she loves everybody she meets. She has grown from a place of "I am not sure about God" to "When can I get baptized? Can I pray at Wednesday night supper? Are you picking me up to spend the night on Saturday so I can see my friends and go to church on Sunday?" She loves it here. Her little brother is starting to, too.

Should I talk about the Trinity Preschool and how three of my grandkids learn about community and ABC's while feeling at home in the 3's class with amazing teachers and tons of friends? They cried the first day they attended preschool here not because they were ready to go home, but because they were sad at the end of the day that it was over. In the midst of a move and a few other major changes, they felt safe and happy here in this space. They felt loved.

Should I talk about the incredible support that my family has experienced over the last year? Most recently, during Hurricane Helene, my family ran here. We literally rode out the storm in our church. We were safe and dry and home, even if not in our house on River Street. The encouragement that has poured over us since that night has made the aftermath bearable. We cannot put into words the overwhelming feeling of love and support that we have had from this amazing group of Christians. Transformation. It did not occur in just one moment. God used Trinity in transforming me and my family and He still is one wonderful moment at a time. - Dawn McLin

2024 Financial Update

		<u>Missional Giving</u>	
Beginning Balances			
General Fund	\$ 23,306.70	Monthly Mission Offerings:	
Designated Funds	\$ 135,497.25	Good Neighbor Cupboard	\$ 60.00
Total Beginning Balances	\$ 158,803.95	ReBuild Upstate	\$ 310.00
		Safe Harbor	\$ 365.00
Income/Transfers Received			
General Fund	\$ 597,597.35	Anderson Emergency Kitchen	\$ 340.00
Designated Funds	\$ 312,462.18	Epworth Children's Home	\$ 1,305.00
Total Income Received	\$ 910,059.53	South Main Chapel & Mercy Center	\$ 170.00
		TUMC Youth Scholarship	\$ 2,240.00
Expenses			
General Fund	\$ 591,679.10	Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry	\$ 535.00
Designated Funds	\$ 175,105.38	Epworth Children's Home	\$ 1,265.00
Total Expenses	\$ 766,784.48	UMCOR	\$ 4,430.00
		Connectional Ministries (College Scholarships)	\$ 225.00
		Angel Tree (Clean Start, LOT Project, Anderson Pregnancy Center) With various products	\$ 705.00
Ending Balances			
General Fund	\$ 29,224.95	Total Monetary Donations	\$ 11,950.00
Designated Funds	\$ 272,854.05	Pumpkin Patch	\$ 19,430.37
Total Ending Balances	\$ 302,079.00	2024 Apportionments (included in General Fund Expenses)	\$ 15,127.60

This report includes paying off our loan in January.

\$65,485.92

We are 100% DEBT FREE!!

Thank you! For your support through your time, talents, and treasures.

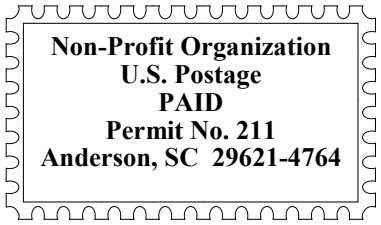
Costa Rica Mission Trip News

As the time came to submit this article, Trinity mission team members had been commissioned to short-term mission service on Sunday, January 12 in both 11 am services. The team is thankful to the congregation for sending us forth in the name of Christ; with the knowledge that we will be held in prayer by the church family during our mission trip.

In the few days before departure to Costa Rica on January 18, the team leaders will be confirming travel arrangements, verifying arrangements with our host, and finalizing (as best as we can) specific details of the trip. Months of planning, and especially the last week of preparations, bring us closer to being "Christian love in action." The team looks forward to what lies ahead; opportunities to grow spiritually and nurture Christian fellowship; to gain knowledge and understanding, compassion and empathy for our faraway neighbors, and build up the kingdom of God. May God's name be glorified in all the earth.



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Trinity United
 Methodist Church
 Volume 20, Issue 2
 February 2025

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**Submit articles for the
 March 2025 issue
 by February 12 to
trinityadm1809@gmail.com**