

Volume 11 Issue 1

January 2021



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THE MESSENGER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK ... "Members of the Clean Slate Club"

"He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!' Then he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.'"
Revelation 21:5

Years ago, I had an aunt named Helen who lived in an assisted living facility in Easley, South Carolina. I used to stop by on my way home from seminary to visit with her. She was a lovely lady with beautiful deep blue eyes and snow-white hair. She was my grandmother's youngest sister; and, I thought she was gorgeous.

Aunt Helen was very prim and proper, articulate and quick-witted. She had been a career elementary school teacher in Greenville, SC. In fact, that was all she did until she retired. Her husband had passed away ten years earlier, her health began to decline; and, this led to her residence at an assisted care facility.

Each time she would see me, her face would glow, she'd clasp her hands together in joy and the greatest smile imaginable would crease her face. But usually, after five minutes or so, she would look at me with a puzzled expression on her face and ask, "Who are you again?"

The first time that happened, it burst my bubble. The joy of visiting her sort of vanished because it seemed all of our conversations were for naught. I would laugh and think, "Poor old Aunt Helen, she wouldn't know if I had come by our not!"

This pattern repeated itself each time I visited her. She always recognized me at first; and, then for five minutes or so, we'd have a blast! Apparently, five minutes was the extent of her short-term memory.

After the initial shock of her forgetting me, I began to find our visits to be enchanting. It was fantastic talking to a person who had no remorse, regrets, sadness or despair. She simply couldn't remember any.

In rare moments, I envied her. She was happy all the time and she could laugh at the same joke over and over again.

But more, I envied her because she'd forgotten how to hold grudges. She'd forgotten all past wrongs done to her and the grief associated with loss. Every moment she lived was one of pure joy.

Aunt Helen had the gift of making me feel like I was the most wonderful person in the world, just for stopping by. For five minutes, I was her hero. Those brief minutes were golden for me.

Maybe it was her innocence that I envied most. As far as Aunt Helen knew, nothing bad had ever happened to her.

And...here we are! A new year is facing us! How could 2021 be different if we were not damaged by our past? We all make resolutions. I think I'll lose some weight in 2021. Yeah right...that's going to happen...well maybe!

But we *can* decide that the past has no power over anyone, unless we choose to let it. Aunt Helen was proof of that! Today, we are different from the way we were yesterday. We are one day wiser and tomorrow we will be one more day wiser still.

The year facing us has never been lived. A clean slate awaits us. I suppose the only question facing us is what will we write on it?

Finally, we serve a Master of clean slates, second chances and do-overs. What an adventure we have ahead of us, once we join the Clean Slate Club.

In His Love,

Jimmy

For Church information visit:

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PASTORS DESK continued



SALT LIFE...aka Trinity Youth Group

Salt Life meets every Sunday evening from 6-8pm in the Family Life Center. All youth 6– 12th grades are invited and encouraged to come join in on the fun! For more information please see Preacher Jimmy!

Thank you Trinity United Methodist Church for your donations of over 30 filled Christmas Shoeboxes this year.



“FEED MY SHEEP”!



Trinity UMC Preschool

— 2020-2021 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! —

THE MESSENGER

Trinity United Methodist Church

6230 Beatties Ford Road
Charlotte, NC 28216



Church—704-399-1684

9am—Rise-Up Worship Service

10am—Sunday School (online)

11am—Traditions Worship Service

answering Jesus' call to:

“FEED MY SHEEP”

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Charlotte, NC
Permit No. 770

Worship Helpers and Prayer Request

TITHES and OFFERINGS

Needed Weekly—\$5,078.56

Received—\$4,725.04 (12/20)

\$3,325.10 (12/27)

PRAYER LIST

Kenneth Alexander, Curtis Buchanan, Chet Kidd, Mary Moore, Ken & Tommie Plummer

***In case of an emergency you can reach Rev. Howard by calling 704-458-8187, Ronna Privette @ 704-619-4647

RETIREMENT HOME RESIDENTS

Old Knox-David Todd
North Lake House— Mary Moore
Huntersville Rehab—

Tommie Plummer
Home—Ken Plummer, Ellana Deen
Homebound—Kenneth Alexander,
Curtis Buchanan

Contributions have been given to the **Church Budget** in memory of *Mr. Thad Reames, Sr.* by Janet Gordan, Charlie & Terry Phillips, John Moore, Jimmy & Cindy Hunter and Paul & Phyllis Merritt.

A contribution has been made to the **Church Budget** in memory of *Mr. Bain Sharar* by Alex & Lillian Barnett, Cindy & Jimmy Hunter and John Moore.

A contribution has been made to the **Church Budget** in memory of *Mrs. Nancy Brown* by Cindy Bisello.

A contribution has been made to the **Church Budget** in memory of *Mrs. Beth O'Shields* by John Moore.

UTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

This group will meet on Tuesday, January 12th at 6:30pm in the FLC to make plans for the new year.

If you are part of this group we hope that you can make plans to attend!

BBQ COMMITTEE MEETING

There will be a BBQ committee meeting Wednesday, January 13th at 6:30 in the Family Life Center. This will be to discuss our options for the 2021 BBQ. All committee members are asked to attend if possible. All Covid precautions will be in place, wearing masks and social distancing.



ATTENTION ALL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN EXEC-

