

The  
Season  
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Lent



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# THE MESSENGER

**For Church information visit:**

Visit us at— [www.trinityumcofcharlotte.com](http://www.trinityumcofcharlotte.com)

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## FROM THE PASTOR:

The year speeds by. March is just around the corner and spring won't be far behind. The big event at Trinity in March is our BBQ. Each year the entire church gathers to work and fellowship with their efforts culminating on the first Thursday of March. This year that date is March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

With all the activities leading up to the BBQ it might be easy to forget another season that begins on March 2. The first Thursday in March is also Ash Wednesday the beginning of Lent.

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday before Easter. It is a time of preparation to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. Lent began as a season of fasting and preparation for baptism for converts and then became a time for prayer by all Christians.

Each year the United Methodist Church observes the five Sundays in Lent as a time of allowing God to clear away the world's debris from the past year. It offers each of us an opportunity to reflect on our walk with Jesus during the past year and discover ways we could be closer to Christ.

Just as Advent is a time of expectation for the birth of Jesus celebrated at Christmas, Lent serves to focus our attention and our need for his death and resurrection. Because Jesus overcame death we, who profess a faith in him, can be assured that our death isn't the end but the beginning of an eternity spend with God.

Sadly, it seems that Lent has lost some of its importance in recent years. The days of Lent beg us to consider our mortality, our

sin, and our desperate need for a Savior. Many folks don't like to be faced with any of those. They like to believe they can live forever, are good folks, and can depend on themselves. Lent tells us the exact opposite. We will all die. As good as we try to be we're all still self-centered rather than God-centered. And we can't have restored relationships with God without Jesus' voluntary sacrifice on the cross. We have no hope of life after death without the Holy Spirit raising Jesus.

In the busyness of BBQ week I hope that we would all take some time to pause and consider the purpose of Lent. Perhaps there would be a time that each one of us would center ourselves on some things we don't usually want to think about.

These thoughts don't need to be negative. When we realize our human situation, we can have confidence in the work of Jesus and have joy in knowing we are part of the community of Christ.

Lent doesn't mean that we don't have hope. On the contrary, this season reminds us of the only hope we have...hope in Jesus. When we take time to consider our condition without Jesus and our joy because of him, Easter Sunday can be a renewed celebration of life...our life in Jesus and through Jesus.

Enjoy the work and fellowship of the BBQ, but remember the meaning of Lent as we begin the preparation for Easter.

*Grace and Peace*

*Wade*

# 58th TRINITY BAR-B-CUE

## 58th TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BAR-B-CUE

Thursday, March 2nd is the day for the 58th BBQ. BBQ week kicks off on Monday, February 27th Please look at the schedule below and see if any of these times fit your schedule to come help prepare for the BBQ.

**Monday, February 27th** (10am) - Make Slaw

**Tuesday, February 28th**—Making of the famous BBQ Sauce (FLC kitchen)

(3:00pm) - Begin cooking of the meat at pits

**Wednesday, March 1st** (10:00am) - begin taking off the meat at pits

(11:00am) - Seasoning of the meat at pits

(1:00pm) - Packing of the pounds (FLC kitchen)

(2:00pm) - Set up tables and chairs in FLC

**Thursday, March 2nd**

(7:00am) - Begin browning of meat

(11:00am—until) - 58th Annual BBQ

(7:00pm) - Clean-up

## A FEW REMINDERS...

If you have items stored in the FLC kitchen areas please remove them asap. All items left in there after this date, that are not marked will be donated to Goodwill to help make room for BBQ day at Trinity on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Don't forget** all workers on BBQ day are asked to park behind the church and to please be mindful of the cemetery in that area.



To all the Trinity cooks ... We need you to help fill the dessert tables on BBQ day with your favorite dessert. We hope that you will plan to make something to donate to this table. Please drop your desserts off early on BBQ day for lunch time or in the early afternoon for dinner time.



**LOAF Sunday** will be Sunday, March 19th Please bring a loaf of bread to donate.

This bread will be made into sandwiches on Monday, March 20th at **8:30am** in the FLC kitchen.

In February Trinity's Sandwich Ministry celebrated its 10th year anniversary of making sandwiches and "Feeding My Sheep". Thank you to all who have supported this ministry and who continue to support it with your donations of food and time.

## March Scripture

March 5—Matthew 5:13-16

March 12—Matthew 5: 21-26

March 19—Matthew 6: 1-4

March 26—Matthew 6: 19-34



**SUNDAY, MARCH 12th**



**FOOD PANTRY** assisting those in need each Friday night from 6:30-8:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Donations of food or monetary donations are always needed and appreciated!

## ATTENTION ALL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW will have a joint meeting on Monday, March 13th beginning at 6:00pm in the FLC. This is a time when all three circles meet together for a special program and then break into individual circles for their business meeting and to make plans for upcoming events. Ladies mark your calendars and make plans to attend. If you are not a member of an individual circle but have been thinking about joining this is a wonderful time to come check them out.

**THE TRINITY UNITED METHODIST MEN** will meet on Tuesday, March 28th at 7:00pm for dinner and a business meeting. Any man of the church and community is invited to come be a part of this group. Just show up and enjoy a good meal, devotions and learn what is the next scheduled adventure for these men. They are always working to help someone, the community or the church.

Looking Ahead... **...Mark your calendars!!!**  
 Graduation Sunday will be June 4th  
 Vacation Bible School will be June 25—29th

# Devotions for Lent

In 2006 Trinity members were asked to write a Lent Devotion on sacrifices (much like the Choir devotional for Advent that was shared over Christmas). *Oh the treasures you can find when clean out a closet...*

We will be sharing some of these during Lent. If you would like a copy of the whole book that was published stop in the church office. We will be glad to share the few we have left.

## Self-denial & Self discipline

To begin a devotion on self-denial and self-discipline it may be helpful to examine the definition of the terms.

**self-de ni al** (*n*) - Sacrifice of one's own desires or interests.

**self-dis ci pline** (*n*) - Training and control of oneself and one's conduct.

*"If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."* -

**Matthew 16:24.**

These words spoken from Jesus Christ to His disciples. So what does it mean to "deny himself", or have self-denial? Yes we have the definition above to guide us, but what we're really thinking is: "Ok, so what do I do?" The first step is to surrender your will and let God's will take over. We have to relinquish the reigns from our own grip (*which is often tighter than we might have thought*) and hand the reigns over to God. Our own pleasures and happiness have to be moved to the back seat and we must think of pleasing God first and foremost. After all, He is the reason we can experience such happiness and pleasure in the first place.

When Jesus called His disciples to take up their cross and follow Him, He is asking them to crucify the flesh (see Galatians 5:24). Not necessarily to be a martyr, but to have self-denial. We must have the ability to give up our wants and needs to grow closer to our Father. We must realize that we are not alive in our bodies, but in our spirit.

So how can we make ourselves have self-denial? Self-discipline? With practice and execution of self-discipline we can teach ourselves to become more obedient to God's will. A lack of self-discipline is a major pitfall to becoming closer to God. We must understand that self-discipline is not instant gratification, but more of a journey towards a beautiful destination.

*"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity but one of power, love, and self-discipline". II Timothy 1:7*

**Justin Stroupe**

**Psalm 18:49**— *"Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name"*.

As I sit here trying to think of something to write, I cannot get February 4 off my mind. On this day in 1986 I lost my best friend, my father. I thank God so much for Christian parents who gave up much so I could have it better than they did. So during this Lenten season, I look back and see how much they sacrificed. Again, thank God for Godly parents. They are worth their weight in gold.

**Butch Hough**

*"I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure lives in you."* **2 Timothy 1:5**

Easter was just around the corner and I heard those words... "we need to go find you an Easter outfit". Oh boy I loved that time of year. It sure wasn't because I was lacking in STUFF, it was just a special time for me and 3 of my favorite people in the world. We were going to uptown Charlotte. I am sure the Easter Bunny was not in uptown Charlotte in the 60's but that was not what this shopping trip was about. It was about 1 little girl and 3 ladies on a very special trip. Those ladies, Mama Nell, Aunt Mary and Aunt Minnie and I would head uptown to find that special dress. Sometimes it would be found in the first store, but most of the time we had to visit many stores and then go back to the first store. Once the dress was found, then there were shoes that had to be bought and accessories to match the dress and shoes. It was a day long trip. As I got into the teens I am sure those trips could be rather frustrating for those 3 ladies (I know, because I have shopped with teenage girls-it can be a bit stressful), but I never heard a complaint and we always came home with a dress, or material for a dress and what ever was needed to make it a complete Easter outfit.

Was it the dress, shoes and accessories that I remember so well—NO it was the time spent with 3 ladies that I loved and knew loved me unconditionally. I will never know, but I suspect there were sacrifices made some years to be able to buy or make me that special outfit. As a child did I recognize those sacrifices-no probably not, but I did feel very special and it makes me feel warm and fuzzy when I remember those special shopping trips.

We each have the ability to create warm fuzzy moments in someone's life. They can be as simple as spending time with a little girl and making her feel like it IS all about her.

**Ronna Privette**

# THE MESSENGER

Trinity United Methodist Church

answering Jesus' call to:

**“FEED MY SHEEP”**



Church—704-399-1684

Pastor's—704-655-2841 704-456-8251

9:00am—Rise-Up Worship Service

10:00am—Small Groups

11:00am—Traditions Worship Service

Trinity United Methodist Church

6230 Beatties Ford Road

Charlotte, NC 28216

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## Worship Helpers and Retirement Residents

### RISE-UP NURSERY

March 5—Cheryl Howard  
March 12—Ronna Privette  
March 19—Brenda Raynor  
March 26—Donna Stroupe

### TRADITIONS NURSERY

March 5—James & Erin Morgan  
March 12—Justin & Kristen Stroupe  
March 19—Shelly & Daniel Black  
March 26—Kevin & Jessica Mullins

### USHERS FOR MARCH

Tom & Marlene Campbell  
Wayne & Ronna Privette

### STREAMING

#### Rise Up Service

March 5—Bill McLemore  
March 12—Bill McLemore  
March 19—Cindy Hough  
March 26—Cindy Hough

### Traditions Service

March 5—David Stroupe  
March 12—David Stroupe  
March 19—David Stroupe  
March 26—Cindy Hough

### COMMUNION STEWARDS

3 Ushers

### FINANCE STEWARDS

Lynne Bruce & Wayne Privette

### HOMEBOUND

Naomi Lee, Mary Moore,  
Calvin Nance, Fred Ward,  
Kenneth Alexander

### TITHES and OFFERINGS

Needed Weekly: - \$4,919.64

### PRAYER LIST

Alaska Bible College, Kenneth Alexander, Lynne Bruce, Randy Bruce, Marie Chesser, Patricia Darnell, Carl Edwards, Karen Elliott, Shannon Freeman, Wayne Flowe, Heritage Bible College, Austin Houser, Naomi Lee, Kat McClure, John McLemore, Margaret Merritt, Calvin Nance, Beth O'Shields, Nancy Pace, Jeff Reid, David Todd, Fred Ward, David Wilson.

### RETIREMENT RESIDENTS

The Oaks—Margaret Merritt  
The Laurels-David Todd  
Carrillon (Lincolnton)-Mary Frances  
Hunt

Home—John McLemore  
Huntersville Health & Rehab.—Beth  
O'Shields



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### BANNER FUND

A contribution has been made to the Outside Banner Fund in memory and honor of the *Founders and Workers* of the Hot Dog Ministry by The Hot Dog Committee.



# March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 10-2-Hot Dogs 10am-Take Meat off 11am-Season Meat 1pm-Pack pounds 2pm-Set up tables 7pm-Choir	2 11:00am—until <b>58th</b> 	3 9am-FLC Reserved 6pm-Karate 6:30-Food Pantry	4
5 9am—Rise Up Serv 10am—Small Groups 11am—Traditions Ser	6	7 6:30-Zumba	8 10—2pm—Hot Dogs	9 6:30-Zumba 7pm—Praise Team	10 6pm—Karate 6:30pm-Food Pantry	11
12 Daylight savings <i>Begins</i> 9am—Rise Up Serv 10am—Small Groups 11am—Traditions Ser	13 6pm—UMW Joint <i>Meeting</i>	14 6:30-Zumba	15 10-2pm—Hot Dogs 7pm—Choir	16 6:30-Zumba 7pm—Praise Team	17 6pm—Karate 6:30pm-Food Pantry 	18
19 LOAF Sunday 9am—Rise Up Serv 10am—Small Groups 11am—Traditions Ser	20 8:30am—Sandwich <i>Shop</i>	21 6:30-Zumba	22 10-2pm—Hot Dogs	23 6:30-Zumba 7pm—Praise Team	24 6pm—Karate 6:30pm-Food Pantry	25 11-9-FLC Reserved
26 9am—Rise Up Serv 10am—Small Groups 11am—Traditions Ser 11-8pm-FLC Reserve	27	28 6:30-Zumba 7pm—UMM	29 10-2pm—Hot Dogs 7pm—Choir	30 6:30-Zumba 7pm—Praise Team	31 6pm—Karate 6:30pm-Food Pantry	