



ANDERSON DISTRICT

South Carolina Conference of the UMC

FEBRUARY, 2015 NEWSLETTER

web: anderson.umcsc.org



Rev. Susan Leonard-Ray - District Superintendent

Several weeks ago now, my Dad gave me this bundle of papers placed in a folder and tied with a bow. He said it was a collection of memories that my Mom had collected throughout the years. He knew I would want them. And he knew my Mom would want me to have them.



Deciding not to untied the bow then in the event that some of the contents of my heart might come unbound too, I waited until I returned home and had a few uninterrupted minutes to sit and sort through those things that had been kept and held for a day when they would be passed on to me.

What I found inside were simple things – the information card off from the nursery at the hospital on the night I was born which put in print my name for the first time, paper clippings from events I had participated in, my baptismal certificate, a letter from a camp counselor at Asbury Hills from the summer of my 6th grade that contained the words, "I think we will find our Lord making a path in His service and ministry for her."; my confirmation certificate, a copy of one of my first sermons, events that marked my marriage to Keith, bulletins from the night of our ordination, birth announcements for each of our children. All of them small treasures that only someone who loves you would remember to keep and save and give.

My Mom was a remarkable mother. And this gift in the days following her death is the ongoing reminder of what she so gently did all the days of my life – she reminded me of my story. Who I was, where I had come from, how I had been loved all the days of my life, how I had potential to bless others through words and actions, how my one, small life was extraordinary when given over to God for God to love through me.

I tell you these things because I believe that we have all been given a collection of memories and stories that remind us of who we are, where we come from, how very much we are loved, and how much potential for meaning and blessing resides within every one of us. The Bible is our book of memory, purpose and hope.

As pastors, we live among people who are searching for identity, meaning and purpose. The good news is that we have a word, a story, a memory, a truth to offer. We do! And sharing these sacred stories and timeless truths well is worthy of our best gifts and is among our highest callings.

So let me encourage you -- find a few uninterrupted moments and savor these stories for yourself, small treasures that only Someone who loves you would remember to keep and preserve and give.



MEMBERSHIP TO DISCIPLESHIP

Many of our churches do not know that we have a great resource here in our district in the person of Rev. George Donigan. George served as editor and chief of Discipleship Resources. He has written two books that have made a difference for me and my walk with Christ. In his book, "A World Worth Saving", George offers some opportunities to practice our faith during Lent. Here is a question he answered while being interviewed for the great Lenten Resource.

Q: After reading A World Worth Saving, what spiritual practice or practices do you hope readers will choose to incorporate in to their own lives during Lent?

George: I hope that people will continue to pray as they follow the daily news reports. I hope people will notice what strikes them as unjust or unfair or simply not right and that they will focus their ministry and mission on these topics.

The Swiss theologian Karl Barth reportedly said that preachers should prepare sermons with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. Today I think all Christians need to do that.

I hope we will continue to see the needs of our world and respond in loving and caring ways to those needs, remembering that God loves this broken world in which we attempt to make visible to others the love of Christ.

This is a glimpse of What it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Upcoming Events/Calendar

- FEBRUARY 1** Spring Lay Servant School 2:45-6:15 Bethel UMC, Iva
- FEBRUARY 3** Small Group Clergy Meeting 9-11am Clemson(Clemson)
- FEBRUARY 4** Small Group Clergy Meeting 9-11am Trinity (Anderson)
- FEBRUARY 8** Spring Lay Servant School 2:45-6:15 Bethel UMC, Iva
- FEBRUARY 16** Small Group Clergy Meeting 9-11am First UMC, Easley
- FEBRUARY 16** DCM Discipleship team meeting 5 pm at the District Office
- FEBRUARY 17** Small Group Clergy Meeting 9-11am Main Street, Abbeville
- FEBRUARY 22** Spring Lay Servant School 2:45-6:15 Bethel UMC, Iva
- FEBRUARY 22** Spring Lay Servant School Closing and Reception 6:30 Bethel UMC, Iva

Men's Kairos Weekend March 12-15, 2015

Cookies due to district office Tuesday, March 10 by 12pm(noon)

Women's Kairos Weekend April 23-26, 2015

Cookies due to the district office , Tuesday April 21 by 12pm(noon)

Worship at South Main Chapel and Mercy Center Sundays 11:00am

HAPPENING IN OUR DISTRICT TRINITY UMC, ANDERSON SC PRESENTS ITS TWELFTH ANNUAL "JOURNEY TO THE RESURRECTION" RESERVATIONS BEGIN FEBRUARY 16, 2015 On March 19-22, 2015, Trinity United Methodist Church of Anderson will present its twelfth annual "Journey to the Resurrection" - an interactive biblical experience in the Marketplace of Jerusalem and a walk-thru drama of Jesus Christ's last days on earth during Holy Week from His entry into Jerusalem through His Resurrection. Come and walk through the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter's Denial, Jesus' Trial before Pilate, His Crucifixion and Resurrection! With a cast of over two hundred, God uses the "Journey" to demonstrate what He did for us through His Son Jesus Christ. It draws us into the presence of Jesus as if we were with Him during His last week on earth. He can be heard at the Resurrection scene saying, "I did it for you.....and you.....and you." Our purpose is to draw people to the Lord and to remind them that He died for them. This event is free but tickets are required for the walk-thrus in the Journey. No ticket is required to visit the Marketplace. Tickets are available on or after February 16. Four to eight presentations are done each night of the event. Times vary each night so call 864/224-2531 or visit our website www.trinityanderson.com for more information or to join the "Journey to the Resurrection" with Christ!



PETITION AND PRAISE

Our Thoughts and Prayers go Out to:

Jeff and Delaine Childress in the loss of their dads, Weldon Childress 10/5/2014 and Don Wilson 11/21/2014

Jason Wilson in the loss of this grandmother , Jane Ables 11/10/2014

Earl and Irene Gunsallus in the loss of their son David 11/14/2014

Gayle Summey in the loss of her Mother, Agnes Minor 12/14/14

Charlie Thomas in the death of his sister, Carolyn Martin 12/21/14

Carleathea Benson in the loss of her aunt and uncle who passed away in November

We celebrate new life with

Keven and Janie Lindley with the birth of their son , Charlie Frank Lindley 12/9/2014

Michael and Anna Goldstein with the birth of their son , Jack Ford Goldston 1/21/2015

The New IRS mileage rate, beginning January 1 2014, is 57.5 cents per mile

Needs for the South Main Chapel and Mercy Center continue:

- Blankets
- Bottled water
- Socks
- Diapers
- Thermal underwear
- Art room supplies
- Hats
- Office supplies
- Gloves

For a tour or more information call Rev. Kurt Stutler 864-356-2125 or kurtstutler@gmail.com

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