



Ministry Newsletter

July 2024

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN MINDS

OPEN DOORS

“Birthday Reflections”

On June 30th we will be celebrating our first birthday as a new church plant. It is amazing to think about how far we have come in twelve months! As we look back, we give thanks to God, for we have been truly blessed with the Holy Spirit that nurtured, encouraged, and led us to where we are today. I also give thanks to our incredible laity and staff who have given so much of themselves to this congregation and thus been instrumental in our success in our first year.

The timeline below shows some of our growth milestones and how ministries sprang up one after the other, but it does not convey the feelings we all experienced in our time of transition and transformation. Early in 2023, we were disoriented by grief and had no firm answers about what our future would hold. That Easter we were living the story of Jesus’ crucifixion and death, and yet we hoped in a resurrection for our congregation. It would not be until late May that we got the green light from the Annual Conference to become a new church. After months of prayer, patience, and faithfulness, this congregation accomplished feats that could only be called miraculous. I saw members of Christ’s body the church, pull together quickly to prepare for our new beginning. We created a communication system, new website, membership transfer process, and temporary brand for ourselves. We painted classrooms together and furnished them with love and laughter. I remember there was a day that volunteers came for different purposes, and I realized that they did not know one another so I gathered us to make introductions. It was a holy moment as stranger looked upon stranger, assembled for the

common purpose of building this new congregation together. We made a circle to pray and left not as strangers but a family. It was the first fruits of resurrection and the promise of a new day was finally springing forth.

And now, a year later, we have grown in faith and love, and we have grown as a congregation. We have become a beacon of hope for the United Methodist church in South Carolina and beyond. We are making our mark in the Greenville community as a church that is missional, inclusive, and compassionate. We are not only Easter people who are living into the resurrection, we are Pentecost people who are ignited to be the Church in the world.

Happy Birthday, Open Hearts! I am so very grateful to God for you and your faithfulness.

Your partner in ministry,
Rev. Karen Jones
Lead Pastor

A Timeline Leading Up to Our New Start

June 2017

SC Annual Conference convenes. Trinity UMC is closed and subsequently adopted by Buncombe Street UMC (BSUMC) through local church and Annual Conference actions. This church becomes “Buncombe Street UMC – Trinity Campus.”

October 2022

BSUMC has a preliminary vote to leave the United Methodist denomination by a vote of 667 to 306. A few days later, Rev. Karen Jones, Associate Minister of Christian Education at BSUMC, has a conversation with Bishop Jonathan Holston at a conference they are both attending regarding the 306 individuals who voted to remain United Methodist.

December 2022

The annual average worship attendance at BSUMC–Trinity Campus is 55 people.

January 2023

Rev. Karen Jones and Rev. Brian Gilmer, Senior Minister at BSUMC, meet with Bishop Holston and Rev. James Friday, Director of Congregational Development to discuss options for the United Methodist “remnant” from BSUMC. Karen and Brian make the bold request to be appointed to such a congregation.

March 2023

Rev. Brian Gilmer receives a new appointment at Travelers Rest UMC to begin in July.

April 2023

BSUMC has a binding vote to leave the denomination using The Separation Agreement created by the SC Annual Conference of the UMC. The Trinity

campus remains a part of the UMC and becomes a viable option for the “remnants.”

May 2023

Plans are finalized with Bishop Holston and conference staff to launch a new church start using the soon-to-be released Trinity Campus.

June 2023

SC Annual Conference convenes. BSUMC is approved to leave the denomination, Trinity campus is released from its adoption by BSUMC, and a new church start begins. Rev. Karen Jones is appointed as the Pastor and Rev. Jim Patterson Sr. is appointed as Administrative Pastor to begin in July. Karen receives a License to Pastoral Ministry giving her sacramental authority in the new appointment as Pastor. Karen calls upon 10 diverse laity to serve on a Leadership Team, representing the Trinity congregation as well as the remnants who left BSUMC. Over 60 laity come to a workday to prepare the building for its new beginning.

July 2023

We launch with 131 membership transfers to our new church start, called "Fellowship United Methodist Faith Community." We joyfully worship as a new church start and have a potluck lunch on the lawn to celebrate our new beginning. To see how we have grown in our first year, [click the image below to watch a timeline.](#)



REMINDER

**OPEN HEARTS UMC FIRST
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!
JUNE 30TH FROM 12:30 to 2:30**

Join us as we celebrate our First Birthday with a potluck party following 11:00 am worship service. Bring your favorite dish to share and a picnic blanket. We'll provide outdoor

activities for the kids, and of course there will be cake!

If you would like to buy a present for the church to celebrate our first birthday, consider shopping from our updated Amazon wish list.

[Click here](#)



UPDATES

SAMARITAN HOUSE 20 FOR 20

Our June mission focus is on Samaritan House, a long-time mission of our church and a vital ministry to families in need in our community.

Our goal was to raise enough funds for 10,000 canned goods to be purchased in bulk through Harvest Hope Food Bank. We have far exceeded that goal and have raised **\$7406**, which will purchase 37,030 cans! Thank you all for your generous contributions and your support of our ministry partner.



Mark 25: 35 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,..."

INCLEMENT WEATHER

A reminder that in case of inclement weather, or other emergency, there are many avenues which we will use to keep you informed.

- Facebook – [Home page](#)
- Website – look for updates in the banner of our website – [Click here](#)
- Phone – You can call the church office for updates – **(864)242-4478**
- Email – An email notification will be sent as soon as possible.
- WYFF4: Look for updates regarding Open Hearts UMC.

LOOKING AHEAD

SUMMER MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



SALKEHATCHIE EXCURSION TO NEWBERRY JULY 17

Salkehatchie Excursion to Newberry. Meet in the church parking lot at 2:00 pm to carpool. We will arrive around 3:00 pm to visit the work sites and deliver cool treats for the workers. To learn more about Salkehatchie, a

long-time mission of the United Methodist conference,

[Click here](#)

MEALS ON WHEELS AUGUST 5TH

7:45 am to 10:00 am

Volunteers will pack meals to be delivered to Meals on Wheels clients. Plan to arrive at 15 Oregon Street, Greenville 29605 by 7:30 am.

[Sign-up](#)



CAMPUS MUSIC MINISTRY HAPPENINGS



Summer Choir Opportunities

Do you like to sing? Then the summer choir is for you! Starting June 19 our Fellowship Adult Choir will suspend Wednesday evening rehearsals but will continue to meet Sunday mornings at

10:30 am in the choir room to prepare to lead hymns and congregational singing (without robes). This would be a great opportunity to hone your musical skills and try the choral experience. All singers aged 14 and above are welcome. Come join us on Sunday mornings as we make a joyful noise!

Special Music Selections This Summer

We are excited to share some special musical selections with you this summer. Join us during our 11:00 am Worship Services to enjoy the talents of members and non-members alike who will share their musical gifts with us.

- June 30: Sarah Moseley, guitar/voice
- July 7: Greg McKee, guitar/voice
- July 14: David and Molly Stanley, trumpet and violin/or horn
- July 21: Doris Loretta, soprano
- August 4: Sarah Moseley, guitar/voice
- August 11: Overcomers Men's Choir (Miracle Hill)

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER

Women's Ministry Dinner: July 24, 6:00 pm. We hope to see you at our next dinner which will be at Red Bowl (on 27 S. Pleasantburg Drive #30) at 6:00 pm. Please contact Donna Wilson if you have any questions and to RSVP at destyles826@gmail.com.



First Friday Coffees: We meet at *Inspire Coffee* on the first Friday of each month at 9:30 am. Hope to see you there!

LOOKING BACK

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The new CDC school term (now under direction of Augusta Road Baptist Church) started Monday, June 3rd. We were excited to celebrate and educate with an open house on Friday May 31st and a welcome breakfast on Monday, June 3rd, attended by 75 families, teachers and staff. Thank you to all who supported these kick-off activities. We are off to a great start!

- Support the classrooms with a purchase from the CDC Teachers' Amazon Wish List:

[Click Here](#)

- Support the CDC scholarship fund for Open Hearts campus students by making a donation here:

[Click here](#)



Men's Ministry

We were excited to kick off our Open Hearts Men's Ministry with our first dinner at The Blockhouse. Over 20 attended and we look forward to future events and activities. Contact Miles Loretta via email at meloretta@gmail.com if you are interested in the Men's Ministry.

Several members toured the JVC on June 18 to learn more about their services and needs. We also delivered goody bags to the staff to show our appreciation for the work they do.



Vacation Bible School

This week we held our first VBS as OHUMC. We had 40 children attend to enjoy a meal, story time, activities and more. We would like to thank the Sunday School classes who sponsored and supported an evening meal, and all the volunteers who made VBS a success. We can't wait for next year!



United Ministries

On Saturday, June 22 a group of Open Hearts Sunday School class members cleaned out an apartment as United Ministries departs from Front Porch Housing. After much research and conferring with their program participants, United Ministries has decided to partner with Homes of Hope and other non-profits to move families as quickly as possible into single family homes in neighborhoods throughout the Greenville community. Susan Midgett, Director of Mission Advancement, shared detailed information about the reasoning behind this comprehensive model, which will

continue to provide case management services, including helping families avoid predatory lending that is rampant in our city. Jessica Primus, Volunteer Coordinator, guided our cleaning efforts and told us how refreshing it was to have a church group who chatted and obviously enjoyed being with each other. SHARE hopes to provide ongoing opportunities for Open Hearts' members to put our faith into action by partnering with United Ministries to help families gain affordable housing, particularly in the Augusta Road area.

Leadership Team May Meeting Update

A summary of notes from the Leadership Team May meeting are available on the upstairs (by the church office) and downstairs bulletin boards and on Realm.

Remember to check our Amazon wishlist to support our church needs as we grow! There are items added all the time!



Website : openheartsumcsc.org



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