



The Trinity Spirit

June, 2010

Dear Friends:

As most of you know, the clergy and three of our laity have spent the last several days at Annual Conference. Now, I counted it up and this was the 31st time I have attended Annual Conference – first elected as a youth delegate from the Mobile district when I was 14. There have been good conference and contentious conferences – there have been great sermons and well not so much. There have been deeply moving and emotional moments and times when, frankly, it was as dry as a bone. Many, many people have attended more than I, but I think I've gone enough to at least offer some historical perspective.

There was something in the air the moment I walked into the Opening Service of worship on Sunday evening. It was a spirit of realistic unity. That's it. It was immediate that we were from different places – different sizes of churches – and we didn't even agree on all the issues. But, from the beginning, I can tell you I have never felt the presence and spirit of God more. I have never felt the sense of shared and common unity in the body of our annual conference more than this year. The worship was outstanding. The teaching was superb. The sight of 36 of our church family attending the service of ordination for Nancy was amazing. It was, quite simply, the best annual conference session I have ever attended. There are so many people to thank for that – but I believe the spirit and presence of our Bishop, Paul Leeland, was at the heart of it.

Thank you for the honor of being asked to serve as your Senior Pastor for another year. Faith, the boys and I counted it an honor and high privilege to work alongside you in the ministry here at Trinity.

Now, to what's on my mind. Over the next several weeks we will go through the appointment of our **new Associate Pastor, Christina Hale**. Let me ask you for two things. First come by her office and welcome her. This is her first full time appointment and I know she is a bit anxious about it.

Let her know your name and offer your support and prayers to her. Second, offer grace. She will not be perfect. Allow her the time and grace to get her feet on the ground and to become more accustomed to our church – it will take a while, but she'll get there. Her first sermon at Trinity will be on Sunday, July 11th. If at all possible, make a point to be here. I know it will mean a great deal to her.

Our congregation has responded in amazing fashion to our *"Into the Future Together"* campaign. To date we have pledged and in cash a total of \$172,700.00. Please remember this: **First, our goal to complete all the work is \$202,000. Second, as promised, we WILL NOT move forward on work we do not have the cash and/or pledges to complete.** It looks like our Facilities Renovation Team will begin the work of getting our sanctuary updated and the other work of the project in short fashion. This means that there WILL BE A FEW SUNDAYS WHEN WE WILL BE OUT OF THE SANCTUARY. As soon as we get firm on those days, I'll let you know. We **will** continue our 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 worship format in the Memorial Fellowship Hall. Let me thank you for the way you have responded to this needed work on our beautiful worship space.

Finally, we have a number of our church family who are battling cancer and other life illnesses. Over the next few weeks, I will be personally visiting our shut-ins and those with illnesses which will not allow them to attend church. Please let me know if you are aware of someone who could use a visit or telephone call – I will be most happy to do it.

As always, I'd love to have you come by and chat. My office is always open to you!

Pastor Bobby