

# Trinity Methodist News

July 1997

Volume I Issue 2

*A publication of:*  
**Trinity Methodist Church  
Trinity Methodist Church Cemetery, Inc.  
Raleigh, Mississippi  
Smith County, Mississippi**

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**Trinity Methodist Church  
Smith County, Mississippi  
(5 miles northeast of Raleigh, MS)  
1847-1997**

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***150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
Sunday, July 20, 1997***

### From the Editor

This is our second attempt at a newsletter; we hope you liked the first. Our plans are to publish a newsletter twice a year, once in the winter and again in the late summer. However, due to the activity surrounding our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration (Homecoming) on Sunday, July 20, 1997, we decided to publish an additional newsletter in 1997. If you know someone that did not receive this issue, but has an interest in Trinity Methodist Church or cemetery, please contact W.M. Tramel at (601) 956-3135 or at 1060 Briarfield Rd., Jackson, MS 39211.

### Sesquicentennial Celebration (Homecoming) – Sunday, July 20, 1997

Bring your entire family – children, grandchildren, grandparents, cousins, aunts, uncles, friends, and anyone that would enjoy a day of singing, preaching, eating, and seeing friends and relatives of the past. Bring enough food for your family and a little extra.

Indications are that there will be more than 100 people attending; many for the first time in years.

Sunday, July 20, 1997 - Agenda	
10:00am	Trinity Methodist Church Cemetery Association Meeting
10:30am	Singing – The 5 T's. Also singing will be other groups, individuals, and the audience. The audience may request special songs.  <i>A special good singing time will be shared by all.</i>
11:15am	Church service – Rev. Mark Thompson of Corinth, MS will be preaching. Rev. Mark was born and reared in the Trinity community. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Micky Thompson, he was called to preach about 10 years ago.
11:55am	Dinner on the ground (bring food for your family and a little extra)
1:30pm	Assemble in church. Each person will have the opportunity to tell something about himself and his ancestors.

### Trinity Methodist Church Cemetery, Inc.

Members of the Cemetery Association, friends, and others have completed the replacement of the fence around the cemetery, and we are very proud of it. We had free labor for tearing down the old fence, cleaning the right-of-way, stabilizing the road bank, and so on. Jeffcoat Fence Co., of Pearl, MS built the new fence. The out-of-pocket cost will be around \$7,000. The many volunteers will not be mentioned by name, but you know who you are. Without the volunteers, the fence could not have been built.

### Cemetery Association Membership

After the first newsletter several people have made donations to the Cemetery Association and have asked how to become a member.

By making a donation, a person automatically becomes a member. We encourage you to become a member because donations are the only way the Cemetery Association can maintain and sometimes improve the cemetery. If you desire to make a donation by mail, make a check out to "Trinity Methodist Church Cemetery, Inc." and send it to W.M. Tramel (1060 Briarfield Rd., Jackson, MS 39211). **Do not send cash!** You will receive an acknowledgement and the receipt can be used for tax purposes. When sending a donation, please also provide the following information:

1. Sender Name \_\_\_\_\_
2. Address \_\_\_\_\_
3. Amount      \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \_\_\_\_\_
4. In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name **and** address)\*
5. In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name only)\*

\* This is necessary so that the honoree or memorial relative can be notified of your thoughtful gift.

### Tramel Family Reunion - Reminder

The Tramel family reunion which, in the past, has been scheduled in September has been changed for this year. This year the reunion will coincide with the Trinity Homecoming on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Come join us in the fellowship.

### Other Family Reunions

We encourage families to have their reunions at the church. The facilities are good and always available for such use.

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## Broken Tombstones

There are several broken tombstones for people buried many years ago; mostly in the early 1900s and earlier. Most of their immediate family has died or their descendants have moved from the area. Some tombstones are broken such that they cannot be repaired. However, a very appropriate tombstone can be obtained for around \$100.

If you would like to replace a tombstone and need help, the Board of Directors of the Cemetery Association will be happy to work with you.

John and Peggy Bowling of Huntsville, AL, have recently restored two tombstones of their ancestors in the cemetery: William Fletcher Bowling (1801-1875) and Ascenith Vanzant Bowling (1817-1888), wife of W.F. Bowling. This is a very meaningful way to honor your ancestors and relatives.

The names below are those with broken tombstones that cannot be repaired and should be replaced:

1. E.M. Stewart, wife of J.J. Stewart
2. Eli Stewart, son of J.J. & Emily Stewart
3. Charlie Stewart, son of J.J. & Emily Stewart
4. Sarah Bufkin
5. Clara Rogers, daughter of D.E. & M.E. Rogers
6. Sarah V. Austin
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Austin
8. Infant son of J.E. & Martha A. Austin
9. Mary Drummond, daughter of W.S. & Harrett Drummond
10. Margaret E. Bowling
11. Eli C. Bowling

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## Bowling Family

One of the earlier families in the Trinity Church area was William Fletcher Bowling and his wife, Ascenith Vanzant Bowling. The Bowling name was spelled Bolling in some courthouse records and Bowling in others. Recently, there is one known Bowling descendant that spells the name as Bolling.

William Fletcher Bowling (1801-1875) was born in Burke County, Georgia, lived in Washington County, Alabama, and came to Smith County with a group of "fifty wagons" originally from Virginia and the Carolinas. The Rogers, Vanzants, Austins, Soreys, Bruces, and Hegwoods, to name a few, were part of this wagon train.

William Fletcher Bowling and Ascenith Vanzant Bowling had eleven children: Margaret, Emma Lucenda, William Robert, Lorenzo Franklin, John Fletcher, Eli C., Mary, Sarah, Julia M., Eletha Amanda, and Louisa. Margaret, Eli C., William Robert, Lorenzo Franklin, and John Fletcher are buried in Trinity Cemetery; there may be others.

Historical records at Milsaps College in Jackson show that the Bowlings helped organize Trinity Methodist Church. William Robert was a Sunday school superintendent and Lorenzo Franklin was church secretary. Ascenith Vanzant Bowling was an early pillar of the church because the church records at her death show "departed this life in good faith". Records also show that other Bowlings were church members.

William Fletcher lived near where Caley Bailey and Robert Webb now live and is known as the Harris place. The flat land across the road from Robert Webb is known as the "Bowling bottom". The head waters of "Bowling Creek" which meanders around and through land owned by the Boykins, Tramel, Bailey, among others, flows into the Leaf River. The editor and other boys in the community swam, fished, and hunted in and around Bowling Creek.

Lorenzo Franklin's children were Garland, Eli, Bonnie, Mae, Ruth, Selby, Trudy, and Blanche. Lorenzo Franklin graduated from the University of Alabama and became the Smith County Superintendent of Education in the early 1900s.

William Robert's descendants were John Fletcher (Johnnie), Wallace, Lizzie, and Francis (Fannie). Francis married "Kelly" and their children were Yvette, Lucilla, Robert, and Lelia Bell; most were either residents of Raleigh or lived nearby.

This information was obtained from John Luther Bowling of Huntsville, AL. Other descendants of William Fletcher can add to the Bowling (Bolling) history. Any additions will be published in future issues of the newsletter.

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## Next Issue

Part of the next issue will be devoted to early memories of involvement in the community and church activities and some old tales handed down from generation to generation. Let us hear from you about yours.

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The new fence around Trinity Cemetery – completed in July 1997

*Trinity Methodist Church Cemetery, Inc.*

*Route 2, Box 266*

*Raleigh, MS 39153*