



THE RIDER

Trinity United Methodist Church

December 2012

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6600 Greenyard Road
(at Ironbridge Road)
Chesterfield, VA 23831
(804) 748-2439
www.trinity-umc.com
www.facebook.com/TUMC.Chester

EMAIL DIRECTORY

Church Office
trinity@trinity-umc.com

Pastor • Rev. Teresa Keezel
trinityrev@trinity-umc.com

Music Director • Patricia Madison
piano4mom@gmail.com

Prayer Group
kevinquinley@verizon.net

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PASTOR'S CORNER: LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

In the name of Jesus Christ I thank you for your joy and for your community.

As I told ya'll, I received a wonderful letter. The person shares that she is in and out of town. When she is in town, she worships with us. She has been touched by our friendliness and appreciates our worship services. In response to God's grace, she wanted to send an offering to God. She told me to use the money where I would see fit.

So, I've been praying. We will not need it to pay out our budget. So....I've been praying. And the answer keeps bringing me back to the same place. I'm starting a church bus fund. The check is for \$1,000. I know that it is a long way to a bus or van. Still, with a van we can car pool our youth or children to mission trips or outings. We can take a group of seniors on day trips. We can increase our sense of community. Some will say that we don't need a van. True enough. We don't need. But I've listened to your past youth leaders and they think it is a great idea. I served at a church that purchased a van just as I arrived. Some said "We don't need a van! It will never get used." The seniors use it all the time. All the time. They go to plays and meetings and all kinds of outings. I've been amazed. So while I heartily agree that we don't need a van....it's a worthwhile place to explore.

Pray about it. If it is God's will, other money will come in. If it is not God's will, none will come. I have the ability to redesignate the money. But for now, this is what I think I discern.

A church bus or van...

Hum...

SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS

*"Come and Worship, Come and Worship
Worship Christ the newborn king."*

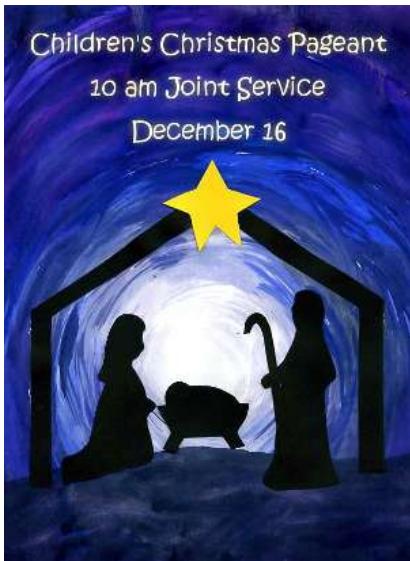
Gone are the days when every child had a bathrobe. But we in the church are still dressing shepherds. Somewhere along the way, our coat hangers ceased to be metal. And yet, still we make angel wings with wire and toile. And so the pageant takes shape. On Sunday December 16th we celebrate the Christmas Story.

CONTINUED

PAGEANT

CONTINUED

At this 10 am joint service, our young people will reenact for us the story of Mary and Joseph; of shepherds and angels; of Herod and Magi. It will be a simple play. We will try to not lose a child along the way (though in our hearts we eagerly wait to see who will do what!). But in our simple fair and simple way, we will retell this old, old story. And we hope that you will join us.



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS



We meet at
Sherbourne UMC
2nd Saturdays
at 10 am
to put together bags
of food

Contact Deborah
Napolitano for more
information.



CHRISTMAS EVE

This year we are offering 2 services on Christmas Eve. One will be at 7 pm and the other will be at 11 pm.

The services will be the same, just at different times. Both will be candlelight. May God bless you with rest and joy in this blessed season.



FIFTH SUNDAY JOINT SERVICE

The quarter has come around again. This time the fifth Sunday falls on the last Sunday in December. So we will gather for a 10 am service and join together. The service will be largely, Scripture and Carols.

Jane is working to pull together some eatables after the service. This will provide us a time for fellowship and snacking.

So please remember. I know that we have had more joint services than normal but as you know, December is a special time of year. Thank you for being gracious about the change. And again, looking forward to everyone being together.

CHRISMON TREE DECORATING



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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

With the Christmas season and New Year coinciding with newsletter time, a little advance deadline is needed.

Please have all news, pictures and articles to the office no later than Sunday, December 16th for inclusion in the January Newsletter.

You can send items by email to trinity@trinity-umc.com or drop off at the office.



DECEMBER MUSIC NOTES

PAT MADISON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

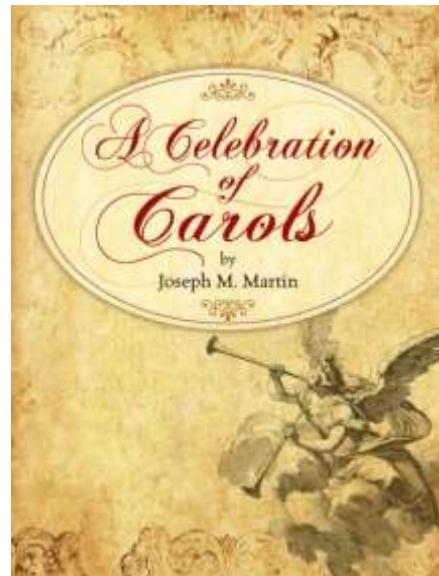


Thanks to the young ladies of Odyssey who entertained us after our traditional Thanksgiving feast. This is a great opportunity for these young people to express themselves in music and verse. Thanks for being such a great audience. A special thanks to Betty Kennedy for being our MC as well as providing ideas for the show. Many thanks to David Heird and his band for being a part of our production. To all of you, thanks for giving us a song in our heart and a smile on our face!

It was a joy and a blessing to take Haley and Annabelle to Youth Jam 2012. It was a great experience for students and directors alike. It was wonderful to feel the presence of God through the music of Mark Miller and in the voices of 200 youth. This event is held at the same time every year, so if you are in grades 6-12, please give some thought to participating in this event next year.

Our Trinity Chancel Choir will be presenting "A Celebration of Carols" on Sunday, December 9th at 10 am. This is a lovely cantata arranged by Joseph Martin which includes congregational carols as well as special pieces. So please join us for this special service on the 9th.

Our Children's Play and Santa Party will be December 16th at 7 pm. Our Production this year is "In a Galilee Far, Far, Away". Please join the Treble Clefs, Angels, and Cherubs as we journey into space and the Christmas Story.



Our annual talent show will be coming up after the Christmas Holidays. Our theme this year will be "Celebrate the Holidays" using music for July 4th, Easter, Christmas, Valentine's Day, St Patrick's Day, a special time in your life, etc. So- think of a special song, dramatic scene, dance that you like for a special holiday - any country, any season! Let's celebrate those special days together with lots of music, verse, and costumes!!! More information in January!

Have a blessed Holiday Season!

Pat



UMM NEWS

JOHN MORRIS

Due to popular demand and to raise funds to support the renovation of the church kitchen, the Trinity United Methodist Men will again be cooking their famous Brunswick Stew on Saturday, December 15th.

The proceeds from the Brunswick Stew sales will be used to support the renovation of the church kitchen and to allow support of their many local missions.

If you wish to purchase stew, please sign your name and telephone number on the sign-up sheet located at the "sign-up booth".

As the stew historically sells out, it is recommended that you pre-pay (\$7 per quart) to ensure that your stew will be reserved prior to opening sales to "walk up" customers.

The Brunswick Stew will be ready for pickup or purchase between 1 and 4 pm.

BRUNSWICK STEW PREP

The men request volunteers to help prep the ingredients (cutting meat, peeling and dicing vegetables). We will start preparing the ingredients Friday, October 5th at 6 pm. If you have them, please bring your own sharp knives, peelers and a cutting board. This is a great time to volunteer your services and enjoy socializing with other members of your church family. We appreciate any and all volunteers who may be able to help us! If you have any questions, contact John Morris at 777-9163.

YOUTH NEWS AND UPCOMING SCHEDULE



The youth will be providing childcare as a fundraiser. Contact Anthony or Crystal for more information.

kids! The cost is \$20.00 for the first child and \$5.00 for each additional. We will have snacks and lunch provided. Please see the registration form to write down any allergies. If you missed dropping off your registration form during service on Nov. 25th, we will also be collecting them at drop off at the event, but if you are interested and will be turning in registration at the event please e-mail Krystal at COFERKR@VCU.EDU and include kids ages as well as any food allergies. Thank you for helping us raising money for Trinity Youth Missions.

Dec 1st Youth watching kids as fundraiser, 9 am - 3pm

Dec 2nd Meet at 4pm to shop for UMFS, return to church to eat and wrap presents

Dec 7th Overnight lock-in

Dec 9th Parent meeting only, 4-5 pm

TUBING TRIP OPEN TO ALL!

The Youth Group is hosting a church-wide trip to go tubing! On Saturday, January 19th we will leave from the church at 7 am and return around 4 or 5 pm. Cost is just \$30 for 2 hours tubing and/or \$15 for the zipline. Signups and money is due to Anthony Lively by Sunday, December 9th.



Attention Youth: The Youth group is sponsoring a portion of your cost, so just \$10 is your cost for the full day of fun. But you still have to sign up and pay by December 9th!

THANKSGIVING DINNER

PAM SOTO

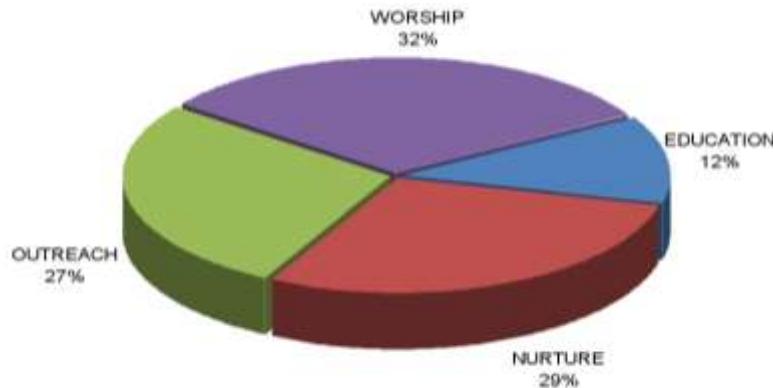
A great big thank you to everyone for helping to make the dinner a successful one! I especially want to thank Deborah Napolitano for all her guidance, shopping for the paper goods, and helping yet again in the kitchen to prepare food and doing clean up, and Bob for delivering the tables. Thanks to Teresa for helping get me organized, shopping for stuffing and doing the sign-up sheets and setting up. Huge thanks to Lana Lefferts and Jennifer Walker for being co-chairs with me and all their hard work, and to Jennifer too for supplying the extra tables needed. Special thanks to Mary Potter for her help in making the centerpieces and to her and Gary for help with set-up. Janet Collins, thanks for all your help in set-up, staying in the kitchen to clean up until the last minute, and attempts at keeping me sane throughout the planning. Thanks to Tom Kennedy and all who helped for set-up. Thanks to the kids for the wonderful turkey decorations and to the Odyssey choir and Miss Pat for their wonderful performance. Thanks to all who made turkeys and stuffing and mashed potatoes as well as the sides and desserts. Thanks to Coleen Cassada for helping the kids with all the decorations. Thanks to all of the "helpers": kitchen, set up, and those who manned the food and drink tables. I guess that is the whole church so forgive me if I did not mention you. Almost forgot, thanks to Katherine for helping create the "Give thanks" signs on the tables and the creative sign-up sheets. I know there is food left over because we had planned for 265 with new families in the church. We hope to take it to the shelter soon. "It takes a village" they say; in our case it takes "the whole church".

A NOTE FROM THE LAY LISTENER

DAVID BAILEY, LAY LISTENER

Over time, the Methodist movement, and other movements of its day such as the Evangelical Church and the United Brethren Church created thousands of vital congregations in America and later Africa, the Caribbean, Latin and South America, the Philippines and Europe. It was a vital movement built on practicing the means of grace, teaching and preaching the story of personal salvation and engaging disciples in ministry with the poor (John Wesley called personal salvation and ministry with the poor, scriptural holiness.)

In the 1900s the movement both expanded and contracted. It expanded outside the United States but within the United States the movement had mixed experiences. There were congregations that continued to build on helping people practice the means of grace and spread scriptural holiness and there were congregations that faced steep challenges related to cultural changes and population transition. Parts of the movement began to settle and focus on institutional maintenance. This is true at Trinity. Look at the pie chart and see where we spend the money by program area that is given to the Church by its members.



Judge for your selves, is this the balance of activities that we want for Trinity?

The District Superintendent told us the importance of following the leaders that we elected and to hold them accountable for the goals we have set. If we continue to monitor effectively and use wisely what resources that we have, we can continue to call ourselves an instrument in furthering the kingdom of God.

This means that we need to look forward to our needs in the foreseeable future. Several of our Sunday school classes are packed and the nursery is often very crowded with toddlers during the late service. The Administrative Council set goals for next year that are all program based. Now we need to spend some time looking beyond the current year.

Remember that we answer God's to impact lives for eternity through ministry, missions, and worship.

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT

STAFF/PARRISH RELATIONS
COMMITTEE

Dear Trinity Family,

The Staff/Parrish Relations Committee, on behalf of the church, would like to present a Christmas Gift to our paid staff at our annual Children's Christmas program on December 16, 2012.

This is a time when we as a church family can express our appreciation to our paid staff for their special talents and service to our church. If you would like to participate, please place your gift in the offering plate ("Staff gift" in memo line) or give it to our Treasurer, Lana Lefferts by December 11, 2012.

Thank you for supporting and remembering those that have worked so hard to meet our everyday needs and make our worship experience at Trinity meaningful and uplifting.

In Christ's service,

Staff/Parrish Relations
Committee

Tim Ruxton • Christian Miller
Flo Gray • Deborah Napolitano
David Heird • Pat Shrader
Ellen Melton • David Bailey
Linda Goodman • Bill Faris
Richard Wilkes

CARES CHRISTMAS

Which would you say was your best Christmas ever? The year your sweetheart said she'd marry you? The year you got EVERYTHING on your Christmas wish list? The year you finally got a job after looking for months and months? The year your parents got you a smart phone with unlimited texting? The year you and your children moved into a crowded shelter with a half dozen other families?

Most of us would say one of the first four (or some similar happy memory from our past). Two years ago, a shopper at our pumpkin patch said the Christmas she had spent at the CARES shelter in Petersburg was her best Christmas ever!

If you don't know, the CARES shelter is a safe haven for women and children that are being abused and have to flee their homes. Many of these families leave most of their possessions behind and have no other place to live. The rooms are barely big enough for a mother and her children to sleep in. The shelter is crowded, and there is little privacy. In spite of all the things the shelter lacks, it provides an oasis of hope for the lucky families who spend a Christmas there.

The shelter staff is caring and compassionate. The ladies living at the shelter are finally safe, and they receive counseling and help getting their lives back together. They look for jobs, if they don't already have one, and receive help finding a new place to live. And then Christmas morning arrives, and they get to see the love of Christ right before their eyes.

Thanks to the encouragement of the Holy Spirit and the good hearts of current and former members at Trinity, these women and children receive everything on their Christmas wish lists. Over the years, probably 400+ women and children have received:

- Warm coats
- New clothes
- Pots and pans
- Bicycles
- Toys
- Spiderman outfits
- Books
- Hugs
- Love
- Personal Bibles
- All the Christmas lunch they can eat

What can you do to assure that the women and children at the CARES shelter this year have their best Christmas ever?

- Keep the women and children and the staff at the shelter in your prayers.
- Place a donation in the offering plate by December 16th with CARES in the memo line. We will probably need \$4000 to \$5000 this year to help the families in the shelter and to provide a small gift card for each CARES staff member.
- Come to Trinity at 8 AM on Saturday, December 22nd. We'll leave there and go to Wal-Mart to shop for the families.
- Come to Trinity at 4:30 PM to wrap packages for the families. Bring a snack and plan to have some fun.
- Bring desserts to Trinity when you come to the Christmas Eve service. You can leave them in the kitchen or serving area, and they will be taken to the shelter Christmas morning. Brock's Bar-b-que will cook lunch at the shelter, and we will provide the desserts.

If you have any questions, please see Karen or Bill Poole, call them at 739-1615, or email billandkaren@mindspring.com

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UMW NEWS

BARBARA SMITH

UMW will meet Thursday December 6 at 7 pm. This date is a change from our usual second Thursday of the month. We will be wrapping our Christmas Mother gifts at this meeting. Everyone is asked to bring a holiday snack to share. Even if you did not sign up to bring a Christmas Mother gift, please come to help us wrap gifts and enjoy food, fellowship and fun.

Hope to see you on Dec. 6th!

PRAYER SHAWL

PAM SOTO

We are busily preparing fleece blankets for the girls @UMFS and shawls for the women at CARES. We need triangular shawls, knitted or crocheted, if you would like to help.

We always welcome newcomers or perhaps you would like to work at home and still be a part of this wonderful ministry.

We appreciate any donations of yarn or fleece material as well. We need 1 1/2 yards of coordinating fleece fabrics to make the blankets and 4 skeins of yarn to create a shawl. Please join us anytime.

Congratulations to us for being active for 2 years now...Thanks to all the women and men who help to make this ministry stay alive. A Blessed Holiday to all.

Contact Pam Soto or Diane Springfield for information. Our next meeting is December 11th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. We will be wrapping all the shawls for CARES and having a little celebration.

CCHASM THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

BOB CASSADA

Thanks to everyone who volunteered, provided food, or made contributions for the CCHASM Thanksgiving meal program. This year CCHASM was able to provide a Thanksgiving meal package and a \$15.00 gift card (for perishable items) to over 2,300 families.

As the November 17 distribution day neared CCHASM was short about 700 gift cards. That means that the number of bags pledged exceeded the number of gift cards pledged by 700. Since CCHASM promises each client a food bag and a gift card we could only schedule as many clients as we had gift cards.

CCHASM made a plea to the member Churches, that if they had not already pledged food bags to please consider monetary donations. Each food bag is valued at approximately \$30.00 which is the equivalent value of two gift cards. We announced the need at Trinity, and over the next two weeks checks totaling \$1,535.00 were designated to CCHASM Thanksgiving.

With CCHASM's discount at Martins that money was used to purchase 107 gift cards. Mathematically that equates to 54 grocery bags. In addition Trinity members donated 25 bags of food for a total value of 79 bags! That does not include monetary donations made by the UMW, UMM, and Sunday School Classes.

Whenever I visit the CCHASM office the staff tells me how much Trinity means to them. We are a major supporter but they were not expecting us to step up the way we did this year. The 107 gift cards that the offering donations provided ensured that 107 families received a Thanksgiving meal package, which would not have happened except for Trinity.

Nothing ever goes to waste. There were food packages left over but they were picked up by several of the Church food pantries that are affiliated with CCHASM.

I am the chairman of the CCHASM Board of Directors and extend my personal as well as CCHASM's thanks for your generosity. We appreciate your support. We depend upon Trinity to continue to support CCHASM's efforts to provide relief to our neighbors who are experiencing an acute economic crisis which threatens their basic survival needs.

PRAYER MEETING

PAM SOTO

Need a little quiet time or in need of some healing? Please join our small group wanting to grow.

No set date for December yet so watch the bulletin. Contact Kristen Miller, Linda Goodman or Pam Soto for information.

BIRTHDAYS

Help us update our information; if your birthday is this month and you are not listed, please notify the office so we won't miss you again!

December 2

Lindsay Cassada
Bob Cassada
Kristen Huff
Kelsey Huff

December 3

Douglas Bailey
Scott Bradley

December 6

Colleen Cassada

December 7

Paul Brown

December 8

Haley Rasmussen
Ashlyn Sandlin

December 12

Derek Bailey

December 14

Neil Lisagor
Hailey Donithan
Jackson Mills

December 15

Jeffrey Burley

December 21

Edward Collins
David Bailey

December 23

Rachael Stariha

December 24

Michae Arnold
Herbert Frith

December 26

Erin Madison

December 27

Karen Cash

December 28

Ken Griffith

December 29

Rosie Tarkington
Sue Morris

December 30

Noah Day
Gwen Sapp

OFFERING TELLERS

December 2 & 9 Harold Saunders & John Morris
December 16 & 23 Gary Potter & Pat Shrader
Dec. 30 (& Jan 6) Al Tougas & Linda Lewis

TODDLER NURSERY WORKERS

December 2 Janet Collins & Colleen Cassada
December 9 Amanda Kelly & Angela Bailey
December 16 Douglass Bailey & Emilee Bailey
December 23 Catherine Genkinger & Belinda
December 30 Betty Sawyer & Jackie Sawyer

If you are available to help in the toddler nursery,
please get in touch with Diane Springfield.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS



POINSETTIA ORDERS

Orders Due by Sunday, December 2

Christmas Poinsettias



To order a poinsettia to beautify the sanctuary during the Christmas season, please indicate below your choice of wording for the bulletin. Please place this order form and your payment in the offering plate or return it to the church office. Kindly make checks out to "Trinity UMC" and note they are for "Poinsettias".

The cost is \$11 for each 6" (3-5 blooms) poinsettia. Poinsettias will be placed before the December 9 Christmas Cantata.

Please take care to print your information neatly and legibly to ensure it appears as you would like in the bulletin. Thank you!

Number Red _____ + Number White _____ = Total _____ x \$11 = _____

In Honor Of _____

OR In Memory Of _____

By _____

December 2012

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| If you have items to add to the calendar, please let the office know by email to trinity@trinity-umc.com or phone at 748-2439 | | | | | | 1 8 am UMM 9 am "Parents Day Out" Fundraiser 9 am Chrismen Tree |
| 2 <i>Regular Sunday Morning Schedule</i> 4 pm Disciples II; Chimes; Odyssey 5 pm Passover Seder | 3 7 pm Trinity Bells 7 pm Boy Scouts | 4 7 pm Praise Team 7 pm Missions | 5 6 am Bible Study 6 pm Christmas Play Full Cast Rehearsal 7 pm Full Choir Rehearsal | 6 7 pm UMW 7:30 pm AA | 7 5 pm Youth Lock In | 8 10 am Sherbourne |
| 9 CANTATA 9 am Sunday School 10 am Joint Service 4 pm Youth Parents Mtg. 4 pm Disciple II 4:30 pm Safe Havens 5 pm Christmas Play Full Cast Rehearsal | 10 7 pm Trinity Bells 7 pm Boy Scouts | 11 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl 7 pm Praise Team | 12 6 am Bible Study 6 pm Angels & Cherubs 7 pm Men's Chorus 7:30 pm Choir | 13 7:30 pm AA | 14 5:30 pm Buses for UMFS 6 pm Brunswick Stew Prep Girl Scout LockIn | 15 9 am Christmas Play Rehearsal 1 pm Brunswick Stew Pick-Up |
| 16 PAGEANT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9 am Sunday School 10 am Joint Service 7 pm Christmas Play and Santa Party | 17 7 pm Trinity Bells 7 pm Boy Scouts | 18 7 pm Praise Team | 19 6 am Bible Study 6:30 pm District Scouts 7 pm Men's Chorus 7:30 pm Choir | 20 7 pm Piano Recital 7:30 pm AA | 21 | 22 |
| 23 <i>Regular Sunday Morning Schedule</i> 4 pm Disciples II | 24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7 & 11 pm Christmas Eve Service | 25 CHRISTMAS DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED | 26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED | 27 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7:30 pm AA | 28 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED | 29 |
| 30 FIFTH SUNDAY 9 am Sunday School 10 am Joint Service 4 pm Disciples II | 31 | | | | | |