



THE RIDER

Trinity United Methodist Church

December 2013

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PASTOR'S CORNER: THE KING IS COMING

REV. TERESA KEEZEL

Advent is about the 'advent' of the coming of the King...Christ the King.

One way to celebrate Advent is to prepare for the coming of the baby. At the time...preparing for a baby was a bizarre idea. God's people were not looking for the coming of a baby. They wanted a warrior descendent of King David. Babies are weak. They wanted strength. Most of the time when church people think about advent, they think...a baby. And so we light the Advent wreath...a candle for the prophets who foretold; a candle for the angels who went to Zechariah and Mary and the shepherds; a candle for Mary and the town of Bethlehem where David's descendent would be born; and a candle for the shepherds who are the first evangelists... go and see /// go and tell. Four candles...four Sundays to prepare the way into your heart and belief.

The other way to celebrate the coming of the King is to prepare for the Second Coming. The Disciples, Paul, and all the Early Church thought Jesus was coming back in their lifetime. Some Christians today are looking for Jesus to comeback soon. So where spend this month examining our lives and our choices and preparing for the Judgment.

However you choose to spend this preparation time, I hope that you are using it to grow your spirituality. I hope that you are intentionally moving to be looking for Christ and to be growing in his grace and mercy.

The King is coming. He is coming to the living and the dead. He is coming not to condemn but to save. Presents to be bought, cards to be sent, cookies to make (all well and good)...You are preparing for the celebration of Christmas...How are you preparing for the coming of the King?

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have all news, pictures and articles to the office no later than Sunday, December 22th for inclusion in the January Newsletter. This is earlier in the month than usual, due to the Christmas holiday and office closures. You can send items by email to trinity@trinity-umc.com or drop off in the "Church Secretary" hallway mailbox.



OFFICE CLOSURE



The church office will be closed December 25-27 for Christmas.

PASTOR'S CORNER: STARTING IN JANUARY....

I understand that some people enjoy reading the Scripture in the Sunday worship services. When I got here, several people were on a list of volunteers to read the first reading. Starting in January, I am opening this opportunity back up. Unlike Cynthia, I do not know the reading until Monday of the week. If anyone is still interested in the ministry of reading, please let me know. We can arrange which Sundays you would want to read, mark these on the calendar and then let you know on Monday or Tuesday of that week what the actual reading will be. You would need to read the same version that will be on the projection screen. So if people still want to read, please let me know and we will start in January.

Eat, laugh, and play. This January our small groups will start back up again. These groups will be anywhere from 8 to 12 people. I will have sign up sheet in the narthex. I have some volunteers to gather the group. I need about 6 more. The leader of the group is being asked to call the first meeting together and plan something for the first meeting. It may be eating and games...or a mission opportunity...or bowling. As I said, I will post a sign-up sheet with a leaders name starting next week. Please just sign up with the group you want. My hope is the groups will meet once a quarter.

Disciple III starts again in January. This 34 week Bible Study reads thru the minor prophets and some of the New Testament. Look for a clip board near you.

A NOTE FROM THE GIDEONS

RICHARD WILKES

The Gideons International thank the pastor and the congregation at Trinity United Methodist Church for an opportunity to provide a Gideon report during the November 10 worship services and for the generous way that you supported our ministry.

Your contributions will purchase more than 300 Testaments or more than 80 hotel/motel Bibles.

Local church support has made it possible for the Gideon camp to distribute almost 14,000 copies of God's word in the Chesterfield area during the last six months. Please continue to pray for the Gideon ministry, and we will continue to pray for your congregation and each of your members.

Special Services of the Christmas Season

CHRISTMAS CANTATA – DECEMBER 8 AT 10 AM



Our Music groups lead us in worship at a single service at 10 am. Sunday School for all ages will precede the service at 9 am.

CHRISTMAS HOMECOMING AT HISTORIC TRINITY CHURCH – DEC. 13 & 14



The Chancel Choir and Trinity Belles will participate in these community holiday services at the Historic Trinity Church.

Friday & Saturday December 13 & 14 at 7:30 pm

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL AND SANTA PARTY – DECEMBER 15



Sunday, December 15

7 pm

Special rehearsal Saturday, December 14 from 9-11 am

LIVE NATIVITY – DECEMBER 20 AT 6:30 PM



Children's ministries will be hosting a live nativity on the grounds. Cider, cocoa, and goodies will be sold. There will also be live animals for the kids to enjoy after the program.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES – 7:30 & 11 PM



Two services on Tuesday, December 24

7:30 – Family Service

11 pm – Candlelight Service

FIFTH SUNDAY JOINT SERVICE – DECEMBER 29



9 am – Sunday School for All Ages

10 am – Joint Worship Service

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT

STAFF/PARRISH RELATIONS
COMMITTEE

Dear Trinity Family,

The Staff/Parrish Relations Committee is requesting donations, on behalf of the church, for a Christmas gift to our paid staff at our annual Children's Christmas program on December 15, 2013.

This is a time when we as a church family express our appreciation to our paid staff for their special talents and service to our church.

If you would like to contribute, please place your gift in the offering plate or give it to our Treasurer, Lana Lefferts by December 8, 2013. (please put "staff gift" in the memo on checks)

Thank you for helping to remember our staff that has worked so hard to make our worship experience at Trinity meaningful and uplifting.

In Christ's service,

Staff/Parrish Relations
Committee

David Bailey • Sarah Bishop •
Paul Brown • Bill Faris • Flo
Gray • David Heird • Christen
Miller • Nick Ruxton • Ed
Sismour • Jennifer Walker •
Richard Wilkes

SHERBOURNE FOCUS FOOD

DEBORAH NAPOLITANO

The focus food donation for December is

Cereal

Providing food for 60 families each month is for His glory.

DECEMBER UMW MEETING

BARBARA SMITH

UMW will meet Thursday December 5th 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. 5th.

BANNER YEAR FOR APPLE BUTTER

This year the Fellowship Class broke all previous records with their 26th Annual Apple Butter Stirring.

They cut up and cooked 14 bushel of apples, ran them through Squeezos to make applesauce, and then stirred the applesauce for 7 hours in copper kettles over an open fire to make 504 pints.

Shoppers at the UMW Bazaar and the Pumpkin Patch enjoyed having jars available this year. It has all been sold, and the Fellowship Class cleared almost \$2,500 dollars to be used for a 6-children Christmas family, CCHASM Thanksgiving baskets, and various other mission projects throughout the year.

The class would like to thank the Shelton family for donating the apples and for sharing their 3 kettles with us. We would also like to thank all the non-class members who helped with the applesauce on Friday night and those who helped us on Saturday. It was a long weekend, but the weather was beautiful, and we enjoyed the time together.



TOILET PAPER ROLL THANKS

Thank you to your overwhelming response to the call for empty toilet paper tubes!

The children's choirs enjoyed making nativity sets with them. Thank you!

DECEMBER MUSIC NOTES

PAT MADISON, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Youth Jam was held at Bon Air United Methodist Church this past weekend. Trinity was represented by 5 of our youth, Haley Rasmussen, Annabelle Rasmussen, Rodney Rasmussen, Hannah Donithan, Abby Farrow. It was a wonderful experience to be in a choir of 150 youth singing songs we have learned in our small group. A special thanks to Cindy Shelton for going with us and being our chaperone.

The Trinity Chancel Choir will be presenting *What Sweeter Music*, a festival of carols on Sunday, December 8th, at 10 am. There will be familiar carols as well as new compositions sung by with choir and congregation. The Angel Choir and Odyssey Choir will also be participating. Please join us for this special service.

A "Christmas Homecoming" will be held at the historic Trinity Church on Krause and Ironbridge Road on December 13th and 14th. Trinity Church members are encouraged to come on Friday 13th. The general public is invited to attend on the 14th. The Trinity Chancel Choir and the Trinity Belles will be providing a short program of sacred and secular Christmas music. Parts of the building will be open for you to see the restoration that is taking place. The program will begin at 7:30 each night. We look forward to seeing you there.

The children's Play "The Nightshift Before Christmas" will be presented on Sunday, December 15th at 7 pm. We have 28 children participating in this performance. Come and experience a special night at the "Falafel House" in Bethlehem! The play will be followed by the Santa Party. Don't miss this time of fellowship and fun.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a happy new year!



DECEMBER PRAYER SHAWL NOTES

PAM SOTO

Well Thanksgiving is upon us, so I would like to thank everyone involved with the ministry for all their help and enthusiasm, and financial support as well. With Christmas right around the corner we have several special projects to keep in mind. We crochet shawls for all the ladies at CARES. We now have been asked to do blankets for the folks at Safe Haven, and have to get some blankets ready for the girls at UMFS.

I am not bragging by any means but rather asking your help. ***If you can tie a knot you can be a great asset.*** Pam will have the fleece purchased if you would like to take one home and work on it, or attend any of the workshops: Tuesday, Nov 26th in the evening and a day session in December will allow us to complete the 20 we need. Please consider joining us. If you have any questions, ask Pam Soto or Janet Collins, or any member of the prayer shawl ministry. Bring a friend if you like!

A Blessed Christmas to you and thanks to the Fellowship class for their special donation to the Safe Haven blanket fund.

UMFS CHRISTMAS

Our annual Christmas party for girls at United Methodist Family Services will be Friday, DECEMBER 13 at 5 pm. To be involved with the gifts or party for this, contact Deborah Napolitano.

STOP HUNGER NOW



The Children's Ministry is doing a fundraiser to sponsor a Stop Hunger Now program by selling Krispy Kreme donuts for \$7 per dozen.

Donuts will be available for pickup at the Living Nativity on Friday, December 20. Preorder today on the clipboard sheet.

A CARES CHRISTMAS

Last Christmas, Trinity and our friends provided about \$4500 to make a nearly normal Christmas morning for 35 abused women and children temporarily living at the CARES shelter in Petersburg. I'm sure the workers at the shelter will be telling this year's women and children that Jesus loves them and that Santa will find them in their new "home".

Please remember all that God has done to uplift you and pay it forward to uplift the lives of these frightened families as they struggle to get their lives back to normal.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? YOU CAN:

- Pray for the project
- Place a donation in the offering plate no later than December 15th, and mark "CARES" on the memo line
- Meet at Trinity at 8 am on December 21st to buy Christmas presents at Walmart.
- Meet at Trinity at 6:30 pm on December 21st to wrap presents and share your favorite Christmas snack. *The date and time to wrap presents may change, so listen for an in-church announcement on 12/15.*
- Make desserts for Christmas dinner at the CARES shelter. Desserts can be left at Trinity when you come to the Christmas Eve service.

If you have any questions, please see Karen or Bill Poole (billandkaren@mindspring.com or 739-1615).

PUMPKIN PATCH 2013 FOLLOW-UP

ED SISMOUR, PUMPKIN PATCH CHAIRMAN

Every year it takes a team effort to successfully complete our Pumpkin Patch, and this year was no exception. From planning to review, from set-up to break-down; from off-loading over 1800 pumpkins to attending to or waiting for customers; handling money, making and passing out advertisement cards, and everything thing in-between, my sincerest 'Thank You!' to everyone who did anything to support this effort.

We had some struggles this year, especially the rainy season, and we learned a few new tricks (the credit card reader for example), but all-in-all we had a respectable outcome. We sold over \$15,500 of pumpkins yielding a profit of over \$5,000. Consider, however, that this year was our latest start ever for Pumpkin Patch. A comparison of sales for each of the past twelve years shows that this was our 2nd best year over the equivalent time period from 10/8 to 10/31. Nevertheless, our profit is based on total sales and, as such, 2013 was our 6th best year (2011 has been the best so far).

Since 1999, Trinity UMC has raised over \$81,000 for charity (we've sold nearly a quarter-million dollars' worth of pumpkins), and we're not done yet.

As an 'FYI', I have committed to serve as the Pumpkin Patch Committee Chair for next year and I hope that you will help again so that, through this mission and outreach, we may continue to serve and honor Christ.

THANKSGIVING DINNER THANK YOU

PAM SOTO

Since I was not officially the "Thanksgiving coordinator" but still received thanks from folks, I think it only appropriate to thank the *real* workers.

Many thanks to Karen Sismour for all her planning, table counting and tons of prep work – including washing all the silverware by hand!! Thanks, too, to Ed for all his help, and Ted for coordinating the table arrangements. Deborah Napolitano did all the shopping and preparing of the food items, as well as making all the drinks, green beans, and then manning the kitchen while food came in, and stayed along with Janet, Kristen, Teresa and others (you know who you are!) to clean up and store all the food. We appreciate all the table runners – Anthony and Todd doing the majority of it. Thanks to Mary Potter for her help in tying leaves to the trees for the tables and her wonderful calligraphy on the leaves. Thanks to The Smiths for doing the dessert tables. Many thanks to everyone who stayed and helped get the church back in order and cleaned up – the unsung helpers. Of course thanks to Teresa for organizing the rosters and helping out wherever she could. Katherine did the wonderful table placards. And of course thanks to all of you who brought food and desserts as well as cooked turkeys, mashed potatoes, dressing and all the wonderful side dishes. We appreciate Miss Pat for getting our entertainment as well. If I have forgotten to say thanks to anyone in particular, forgive me – but you know who you are!

CHRISTMAS FOR BELLWOOD

Pick up a name and wish list of a Bellwood student to sponsor for Christmas with Deborah Napolitano. Gifts will be collected by December 8th to provide to the families.

SAFE HAVENS CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

We are collecting T-shirts and underwear (men's L, XL & XXL and women's M, L & XL) and socks, washcloths and hygiene items for Safe Havens. We will distribute them along with \$5 GRTC cards and blankets from the Prayer Shawl Ministry Contact Bertelle for more 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

Dec. 1 & 8 Gary Potter & Karen Poole

Dec. 15 & 22 Al Tougas & Linda Lewis

Dec. 29 Judy Seely & Aubrey Tarkington

NURSERY WORKERS

December 1 Workers needed

December 8 Jackie Sawyer & Carolyn Wilson

December 15 Dawn Fallin & Janet Collins

December 22 Workers needed

December 29 Workers needed

NOTE OF THANKS

Thanks to all of you for all the prayers, care, cards, food, and calls when I had my gallbladder surgery. I really appreciated all of it.

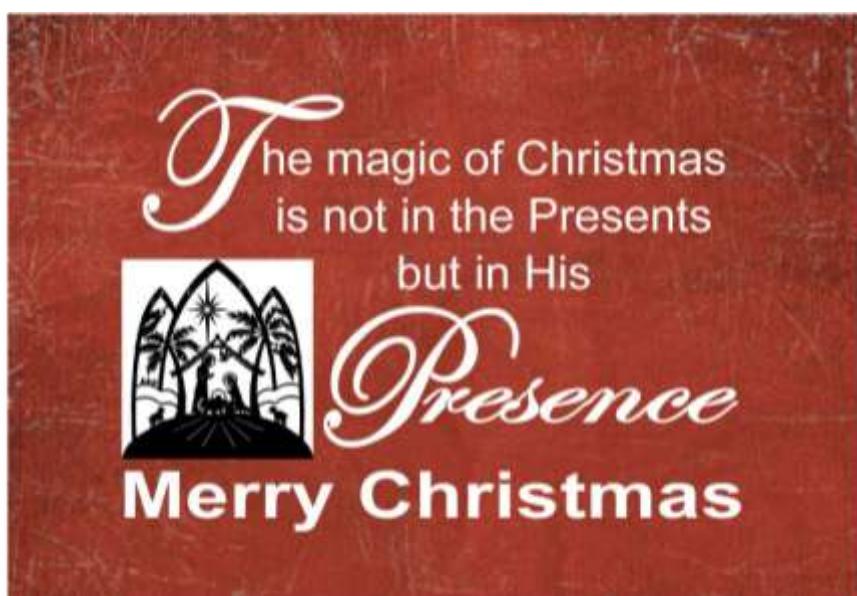
Thanks, too, for the concern and prayers for our dog Lydia with her serious surgery. It went well and she is doing well so far.

Pam Soto

IN CELEBRATION

A donation has been received in celebration of Minerva Walters and her 80th birthday. Happy birthday, Minerva!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Regular Morning Schedule</i> 4 pm Chimes; Odyssey 5 pm Trebles	2 7 pm Trinity Belles 7 pm Boy Scouts	3 6:45 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm Praise Team	4 5:45 pm Angels & Cherubs 7 pm Men's Chorus 7:30 pm Choir	5 7 pm UMW 7 pm Fun with Faith 7 pm AA	6	7 8:30 am UMM 9 am Sherbourne
8 9 am Sunday School 10 am Christmas Cantata Service 4 pm SPR 4 pm Chimes/Odyssey 5 pm Trebles 4:30 pm Safe Haven 5 pm CARES Angel Shopping 5pm Youth Group	9 7 pm Trinity Belles 7 pm Boy & Cub Scouts	10 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl 7 pm Praise Team	11 5:45 pm Angels & Cherubs 7 pm Men's Chorus 7:30 pm Choir AT OLD TRINITY	12 7 pm Fun with Faith 7 pm AA	13 5 pm UMFS Christmas 7:30 pm Christmas Homecoming at Historic Trinity Youth Lock-In	14 9-11 am Children's Play Rehearsal 7:30 pm Christmas Homecoming at Historic Trinity
15 <i>Regular Morning Schedule</i> 2:30 pm SPR 7 pm Santa Party and Children's Play	16 7 pm Trinity Belles 7 pm Boy Scouts	17 6:45 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm Praise Team	18 6:30 pm BSA District Leaders Meeting 7 pm Men's Chorus 7:30 pm Choir	19 7 pm Praise Team 7 pm AA	20 6:30 pm Living Nativity	21
22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE <i>Regular Morning Schedule</i>	23 7 pm Trinity Belles 7 pm Boy Scouts	24 7:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Service 11 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS <i>Office Closed</i>	26 <i>Office Closed</i> 7 pm AA	27 <i>Office Closed</i>	28
29 9 am Sunday School 10 am Joint Fifth Sunday Service	30	31	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. For the most up to date calendar, visit www.trinity-umc.com/CalendarofEvents – now available as a Google calendar you can add to your smartphone calendar!			