

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Christmas Greetings!

Isaiah 7:14 (NIB) 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

A New Testament reference to this prophecy is found in Matthew 1:23 and goes on to share the meaning of the Name "Immanuel" which is "God with us."

If there is ever a day we need the assurance of the presence of God, it is today, and we know God's presence still abides with us through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus came to earth over 2,000 years ago in the form of a little child, it was both the fulfillment of many prophecies declaring it would happen, but also was the beginning of the revelation of God to a lost and dying world.

God was declaring who God the Father was through the life of His Son. A powerful scripture shares this truth; John 14:7-9 (NIB) 7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." 8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." 9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?

Too often we can become so enthralled with the trappings of Christmas, yet fail to realize it was ALL about God coming to earth to reveal And offer unconditional love in the continual offer of forgiveness ,mercy and grace.

We as Trinity once again find ourselves on an Advent journey to Bethlehem as we recall the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we journey towards Christmas , I pray you would take time during this very special time of the year to discover or rediscover that God is still "with us".

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Rich

Inside This Issue



Pastor's Message	1
Membership News	2-3
Christmas News	4
Ask the Rev	5
Missions	6
UMW	7-8
December Calendar	9
December Birthdays	10
January Calendar	11
January Birthdays	12
Finance Report	13
Health Outreach	14
Nurse's Corner	15
Santa's Angels	16
Linden Tree Notice	17

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

THANK YOU NOTES



I would like to thank my Trinity family for all the prayers and cards I received over the last several months. Although I still don't have a diagnosis, I am doing better and am able to do therapy.

Ernie Bailey

WEDDINGS

September 25th, 2021

Adam Perez Mercado/
Sonya Nicole Evans

To all my friends at Trinity for prayers, calls, and get well cards. Dean's visit was much appreciated.

Tom DuPont

DEATHS

October 29th, 2021

John Randolph Wootten

Dear Trinity family,

I would like to thank you all for your prayers, cards and support when my husband, Randy died. It was uplifting to know that so many people cared. He loved Trinity Church and the church family. Again may I say thank you.

Lois Wootten

2021 CHARITABLE DONATIONS

By Tracy Shannahan

For your donations to be recorded as 2020 giving, the church must either receive your donation in the church office or offering plate by December 31, 2020, or it can be mailed, but must be **postmarked by December 31, 2021**.

If you want to give cash to the church, please use your giving envelopes or otherwise identify the cash so that your donations can be recorded and reported to you on a statement from the church. Since 2007, in order to claim any charitable deduction on your taxes, you must be able to show a bank record of the donation, such as a canceled check or a written communication from the charity that includes the charity's name, date of the donation and the amount.

We have a generous church, and we want to make sure you get tax credit for giving.

Our church is truly blessed to have so many members who generously support our mission and ministry to those in need. If you're looking for an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of worthy, disadvantaged souls, we would welcome your participation.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

As Christmas approaches, our card ministry will be sending Christmas Cards to our Nursing Home residents and also our shut in families.

We get so many messages from people who have received cards from our church members and they express gratitude for the messages and thoughts.

Our Military Coupon ministry continues to thrive and we get notices every other month from the "Support Our Troops" organization telling us where the coupons are being sent and thanking us for our support.

Last month our totals were \$15,739.90. The months from January thru October we have sent in \$118,272.54 worth of coupons. These mean so much to our military families at bases around the world.

Currently our coupons are going to Germany and Japan.

Thank you so much for your help in this wonderful mission program.

T-CAP

T-CAP members want to thank the congregation for their contributions to the hygiene products collected for students at Choices. We are currently asking for \$10 gift cards that will be provided to students for student of the month and attendance incentives. We are preparing to recognize the contributions of the hard-working staff at Choices during the upcoming holiday season. We are also planning to host a prayer circle twice a month with those staff members who would like to participate. Our clergy will be participating each quarter and they will write several appropriate prayers for T-CAP members to read during their scheduled date. We are planning to make "No Sew" blankets after the first of the year. We're hoping to have a blanket making session with students at Choices as well as having a session open to the congregation at the JMB. More information will be forthcoming. It should be noted that a member of T-CAP donated a Yamaha keyboard to Choices. Music is so important to these students and this keyboard will provide opportunities for staff to help students grow in this area. Again, thank you so very much for your support. The students and staff at Choices appreciate the assistance being provided by the Trinity congregation

THE CHRISTIAN SHELTER

The Christian Shelter located on Barclay Street in Salisbury is in need of a few volunteers.

1. Sunday morning office volunteer - The staff at the Christian Shelter can't be paid commensurate with the importance of their ministry work. The Christian Shelter ministry is a labor of love and an important Christian service to the poor, hungry, lost and hurting families. We are so thankful for the staff. One of the ways that we can show staff that we appreciate their efforts and help them to rejuvenate is to allow time away from the Christian Shelter for them to attend their home church on Sunday mornings. To allow staff to have Sunday mornings to attend church, there is a need for the office to be manned for a few hours. There are not too many office duties during this Sunday morning time, but training is available to all new volunteers. The hours on Sunday morning are 8AM to 12:30 PM. **If interested people would volunteer even 2 or 3 times a year it would be a great blessing.**

2. Data Entry - The Christian Shelter is in need of someone to perform data entry services. The data entry schedule is flexible and requires only 2-4 hours per week. It is possible that some of the data entry might be able to be accomplished remotely. Contact Dave Downes at ddownes@davedownes.com or 410 430-9985 if you are interested in volunteering or just hearing more about the Christian Shelter.

ASK THE REV



Q. What is the Jewish Festival of Hannukah?



Hannukah commemorates the rededication of the altar and the Temple after the Jewish victory over the Hellenist Syrians. In 168 B.C. the Jews' holy Temple was seized and on the 25 of Kislev a statue of Jupiter that resembled Antiochus the Greek King of Syria was erected in the Holy Place. This resulted in the successful Jewish rebellion led by the Maccabees. Tradition states that when the Maccabees set out to rededicate the Temple they found only one day's worth of consecrate oil. They decided to light the candelabra anyway and "a great miracle happened there". Oil enough for only one day, continued to burn for eight whole days, enough time to make and sanctify new oil. Some say this is the reason that Hanukkah is celebrated for eight nights. Others suggest that it is celebrated for eight days because the Maccabees conducted a belated Feast of Tabernacles.

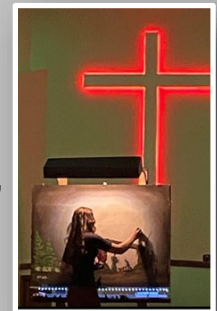
Both Christmas and Hanukkah occur on the 25th of their respective months (Hanukkah occurs on the 25 of the Hebrew month of Kislev). Both holidays originated in the same land, gifts are given and lights are used in both celebrations. Hanukkah is also known as the Feast of Lights and Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ, the true Light of the world. We as Christians can celebrate both Hanukkah and Christmas as we celebrate the deliverance of God's people from the hand of Antiochus and the birth of the Messiah who has delivered us out of the hands of sin.



*Ask the Rev is a Trumpet newsletter feature where Rev. DeFino will answer your questions on the Bible, doctrine or religious beliefs and events. Send or call your questions into the church office, and they will be answered in future issues. Have a question? **Ask the Rev!***

FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Dec. 19 at the 10:00 a.m. Worship service, renowned artist Carolyn Turner, will be giving a Christmas theme Chalk Drawing while Pastor Dean speaks on the Topic "Sound of Christmas" or "The Last Sin Eater"



December 19 at 6:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Drive in movie "The Muppets Christmas Carol."

Special Christmas Eve Service December 24, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.
Special media presentation of "The Glorious Gift"



Trinity United Methodist Church

Christmas Door Wreaths

The wreaths were donated as follows:

- In memory of Jim and Elizabeth (Lib) Betts by their granddaughter, Tracy Shannahan and family.
- In memory of Bill and Estelle Phoebus by their children, Howard Phoebus and Ellen DiCintio and their families.
- In memory of Nelson and Tom Berry, Jr. by their parents, Tom and Betty and their granddaughter, Alyssa.
- In memory of Mr. and Mrs. William Eugene Bounds and Mr. and Mrs. James Mengason by Mr. and Mrs. George J. Mengason.
- In memory of their parents, Evelyn and James Parks, and Spyros and Matina Sarbanes by Tony and Billye Sarbanes and family.
- In loving memory of Alex and Wilma Azar by their family.
- In memory of our parents, Mr. and Mrs. James R. Thomas and Mr. and Mrs. Herman Stevens, by Jim and Kaye Thomas and family.
- In memory of Harry Palmer by his wife, Mildred.
- In loving memory of Ashley Marie Gilkerson by her family.
- In honor of our grandchildren by Dick and Margy Meeks.

Christmas Window Arrangements

- In honor and memory of our loved ones by the Vinyard Family.



Cranberry White Chocolate Chip Cookies

- ◇ 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- ◇ 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- ◇ 1/4 teaspoon salt
- ◇ 3/4 cup (1.5 sticks) butter, softened at room temperature
- ◇ 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- ◇ 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- ◇ 1 large egg
- ◇ 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ◇ 12 ounces white chocolate chips
- ◇ 1 cup dried cranberries (such as Craisins or cherry-infused Craisins)

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.

Whisk together flour, baking soda, and salt in a medium bowl. Set aside. Beat butter and sugars in a large bowl with an electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add egg and vanilla; beat well. Gradually add the flour mixture just until combined, being careful not to over mix. Stir in the white chocolate chips and the dried cranberries. Drop batter by heaping tablespoons onto ungreased cookie sheets. Bake for 8-10 minutes or just until golden brown. You want them to still be soft when you pull them out of the oven. They will firm up as they cool, and this will keep them soft and chewy on the inside. Allow the cookies to cool on the cookie sheet for at least 1-2 minutes, and then transfer them to a wire rack to cool completely. These cookies freeze really well, or you can keep them in an airtight container on your counter.



CHRISTMAS AT TRINITY

Friday, December 24th

Family Life Center

4:00 p.m. - Multi-media Presentation of the Story of Christmas

Downtown Sanctuary

7:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. - Traditional Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols with Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 26th

Family Life Center

10:00 a.m.

Downtown Sanctuary

10:00 a.m.

(There will not be an 8:30 a.m. worship service)

2021 Annual Missions Report

Maureen Williams
Missions Chairperson

The good news is that 2021 has seen a reopening of most of the Missions that Trinity members support although some of our programs are still not operating at 100% due to the pandemic. The Missions committee met on Tuesday, September 28th at which time we finalized our budget requests for 2022 and heard from Trinity member Loudell Insley who is proposing a new mission to transport people from Mallard Landing to our 10:00 church service downtown using a church van. Her proposal was approved by the Administrative Board at the October meeting.

A team of dedicated volunteers continue to serve in the **HALO Café** on the 2nd Monday of the month. Another group serves two Thursdays a month. The **Joseph House Café** hot lunch program has been closed since March of 2020 but Trinity families have been providing bagged lunches to be distributed from their location on Boundary Street. As of October 31st, more than 2000 lunches have been provided by 33 Trinity families.

Trinity accepts food donations each week at all services for the **Lazarus Food Pantry**. Several Trinity volunteers help sort and distribute the items to those in need.

HOPE is still seeing clients weekly at Wicomico Presbyterian Church. They focus on assisting clients, many who are homeless, with medical and dental issues. We have supported HOPE both financially and with volunteers from our church.

ASP Teams Leaders David Phippin, Bryan Ashby and Mary Lynn Selzer report that the ASP mission trip to Kentucky in June was a huge success. An interest meeting for 2022 was held on September 26th.

Salisbury Urban Ministries has held their own financially through grants and donations and has made adjustments to their God's Kitchen Feeding Program and Kids Café in accordance with COVID guidelines. Trinity supports SUM by hosting God's Kitchen twice a year, staffing the Men's Welcome Center, donating several thousand items to the Lazarus Food Pantry annually, supporting their Kid's Café' and uniform program and providing financial support.

Trinity's **TCAP** committee has continued to do what we can to support staff and students. The committee requested donations of hygiene supplies from the congregation to support the students at Choices. The congregation was very generous in filling this need. Two members of the TCAP committee attended a staff/parent dinner at the school and several committee members provided desserts.

Trinity had approximately 20 volunteers who helped to make Christmas brighter for 145 families in 2020 through the **Santa's Angels** program. Volunteers shopped, wrapped gifts and delivered gifts to local schools to be picked up by the families. Santa's Angels will be using the Family Life Center this season as the central location for the drop off, distribution and delivery of gifts.

Trinity's **Active Believers Christian (ABC) Study Group** has been shopping for and delivering needed items to HALO each month. The items purchased will be needs that HALO lists on their website.

Trinity continues to support those in recovery through their partnership with the **Resource Recovery Center**. On two occasions we have been able to provide a Thanksgiving feast at the center where those in recovery and their family members can gather to have a safe and supportive environment to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.

Trinity volunteers continue to support homeless men in our community through the **Community Emergency Shelter Project** that was held January, February and March of 2020. Church members have the opportunity to interact with guests, prepare, deliver and serve meals. 57 Trinity members volunteered by providing bagged meals, preparing and serving dinner, staying overnight and doing evening check-in.

In 2021 we were able to once again support **Lifewater International** through a \$3500 donation. Lifewater is a Christian organization that provides clean drinking water and sanitary living conditions to those in rural villages all over the world.

Our congregation continually provides support to those in need using their time, talents and treasures.



Trinity United Methodist Women

BY GINNY RIFFLE, PRESIDENT

The Trinity United Methodist Women will be meeting in December with a luncheon at the Green Hill Country Club. We passed out Salvation Army Stockings at our November meeting and will be filling them to be returned to the church office by December 5. What a nice way we can help the children in our community.

Every Sunday in December we will be selling after each worship the remaining Trinity Tumblers wrapped up for Christmas gifts as well as Notecard of Trinity that we will be splitting the profits with Altar Guild.

Several of the circles have come up with some meaningful projects to help in our community. As you can see in the photos below, Esther circle put together, "Totes for Hope" handbags filled with things a woman would like and were presented to Teresa Schevel, from Halo. They will be given to homeless women on Christmas morning. Ruth Circle collected hats, gloves, socks and underwear and will be distributed to three local elementary schools for children in need. They have several other community projects lined up after the first of the Year.

The purpose of The United Methodist Women is to help Women, Youth and Children and I'm so happy we are able to help those in need in our community as well as the monetary donations we give yearly from our fundraising to community charities.

Circles will be meeting again in January. If anyone wants to join in on our meetings, Deborah meets the first Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the JMB, Esther meets the first Tuesday at 1 p.m. in member's homes, and Ruth now meets the first Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at the Family Life Center, Retreat House. We would love to have you join us.

Wish you all a Special Christmas Blessing and a Joyful New Year.





TRINITY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN DECEMBER FUNDRAISER

Every Sunday in December following worship both downtown and Family Life Center, the United Methodist Women will be selling the remaining 30 Tumblers, wrapped up in gift wrap with tag for \$20 to be given as gifts and we have 50 Trinity Notecards (8 to a packet) selling for \$10. Proceeds from notecards will be split between UMW and Altar Guild.



THE GIFT OF JESUS

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2021



Believers in Christ,

We are entering my favorite time of the year, Christmas! The time of year we get together to recognize and celebrate our Savior's birth. In celebration of the Christmas season, we take time putting up Christmas lights, decorating trees, baking, making sure we make all the Christmas parties and functions we have scheduled, and of course, spend time running around getting the best deals for all those gifts we buy family and friends for Christmas. But wait a minute, with this busy schedule and stress of running around, are we taking time to celebrate the "true meaning" of Christmas? That is a question for all of us to ask ourselves. The true reason for the season is Jesus! John 3: 16 states, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life". In this passage of Scripture, notice the word, "gave". He "gave" His one and only son, Jesus. Jesus is our gift, the best gift of all, the perfect gift. Without Him, our sins would separate us from God. The "gift" of Jesus is the ultimate example of God's grace over His children. Jesus, the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, came to be a blessing to us. As we enjoy celebrating Christmas and the New Year with family and friends, as we exchange gifts with one another during this joyous season, remember the "perfect gift" that was given to each and every one of us. The gift of Jesus! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! God bless you and your family.

In His Loving Grace,

Pastor Mark Thomas

DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10am Staff Meeting 12pm UMW Luncheon 6pm Youth Group	2 10am Worship Team Huddle 3pm ABC Study Group 4pm Handbell Choir 7pm Sanctuary Choir	3	4
5 8:30am Worship Sanctuary 10am Worship Sanctuary 10am Embrace Worship - FLC 2nd SUNDAY ADVENT	6 3:30pm Hebrew Class	7 10am Greek Class 6:30pm Compassionate Friends	8 6pm Youth Group	9 10am Worship Team Huddle 4pm Handbell Choir 7pm Sanctuary Choir	10	11 9am Trinity Trekkers Red & White Poinsettias & Greenery in Sanctuary
12 8:30am Worship Sanctuary 10am Worship Sanctuary 10am Embrace Worship - FLC 3rd SUNDAY ADVENT	13 3:30pm Hebrew Class 5:30pm HALO Café Feeding	14 10am Greek Class	15 10am Staff Meeting 6pm Youth Group 7pm Harp Concert	16 10am Worship Team Huddle 3pm ABC Study Group 4pm Handbell Choir 5:30pm HALO Café Feeding 7pm Sanctuary Choir	17	18 8am UMM
19 8:30am Worship Sanctuary 10am Worship Sanctuary 10am Embrace Worship - FLC 6pm Outdoor Drive-In Movie 4th SUNDAY ADVENT	20 3:30pm Hebrew Class	21 10am Greek Class	22 1pm Christian Book Club 6pm Youth Group	23 10am Worship Team Huddle 4pm Handbell Choir 7pm Sanctuary Choir	24 4pm Service - FLC 9pm Service - Downtown OFFICE CLOSED	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 
26 8:30am Worship Sanctuary 10am Worship Sanctuary 10am Embrace Worship - FLC	27 3:30pm Hebrew Class	28 10am Greek Class	29 6pm Youth Group	30 10am Worship Team Huddle 4pm Handbell Choir	31 OFFICE CLOSED NEW YEAR'S EVE	

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 - Judy Beck
Adriana Dunsten
James Gaul
Jessica Kostelac
Gail Parker-Layfield
Larbet Tull

2 - Theresa Culver
Lyndsay Mooney
Larry Saywell
Beverly Tull
Marley Webster

3 - Hayley Howard
Barbara Kohler
Juliette Kostelac
Theresa Titus

4 - Baylor Barnes
Matthew Laws
Rosemarie Leonard
Omar Lowman
Hanna Pusey
Sara Ryman
Kendal Snyder

5 - Howard Culver
Barbara Dix
Michael Dunne
Katelyn Menzel
Lindsey Menzel
Hannah Richardson
Helene Richardson
William Wigton

6 - Jessica Agnew
Quintin Gordy
Steven Hearne
Katherine Irvine
Anne Peacock

7 - Stacie Dees

8 - Vicki Corbett
Richard Culver
Terrance Dunn
Louise Hartman
Will Hedger
Robert Kantzes
Chuck Lankford

Andrea Martin
David Mellone
Sarah Renshaw
Joleen Roe
Ryan Townsend
Jack Williar

9 - Bill Horstman
David Phippin
Frances Pitsenbarger
Julia Taylor
MargeryVioletta-Ropko

10 - Andrew Chandler
Grayson Ennis
Hunter Hammond
Chris Menzel
Barbara Phillips
Leah Wilson

11 - Regina Ahtes
Bruce Ennis
Joey Kitzrow
Laurel LaVorgna
Katherine Vorhis

12 - Hailee Arrington
Rosemary Gallis
Tom Holder
Elle Hudson
Phyllis Oldham
Megan Walter
Bob Wheatley

13 - Kelly Chandler
Leona Collins
Joanne Esham
Addison Laws
Samantha Rozaieski
Robert Snyder
Barbara Webster
Evan Weeg

14 - Alaina Kiser
Lauren Mann
Adam Meeks
Kaitlin Sande

15 - Cynthia Ashcraft
Roger Follebout III
Shelby Holland

16 - Katelyn Barnes
Cali Fletcher
Ellis Hudson
Tres Pelot
Mike Purkey

17 - Susan Banks
Liz MacFarlane
Mark Thomas
Sharon Zockoll

18 - Matthew Doyle
Max Guy
Kyle Kohler

19 - Jeanne Dwiggins
Charles Kriegisch
Herb McCoun

20 - Chiara Alfano
Heath Collins
Erica Howard
Cheryl Parker
Caleb Ritchey

21 - Awbree Caton
David Douse
Callie Jones
Jeff Merritt
Catherine Stevens
Bo Su
Grace Thorpe
Phyllis Vinyard

22 - Taya Pusey
Stephen Wheatley

23 - Tony Gilkerson
Joseph Hannemann
Holly Hawkins
Rhett Jones
Tom Wieland

24 - Dale Dwiggins
Paige Mitchell
Andrew Morris

25 - Chris Ashcraft
Ginger Culver
Sandy Robinson
Amy Shetler
Kim Washington
Heather Yesko

26 - Robert Rickards
Wayne Smith

27 - Donald Bailey
Dianne Dykes
Becky Gregory
John Herweh
Robert Merritt II
Richard Snyder

28 - Lindsay Jones
Lauren Ross

29 - Kathleen Bryson
Daelyn Gregory

30 - Kathleen Abercrombie
Jenny Davis
Jessie Schramko
Julie Winslow
William Young

31 - Andrea Dunsten
Pamela Ward

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JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 OFFICE CLOSED 
2 8:30am Worship Sanctuary 10am Worship Sanctuary 10am Embrace Worship - FLC	3 1:30pm UMW "Deborah" 3:30pm Hebrew Class	4 10am Greek Class 1pm UMW "Esther" 5:15pm SPRC Meeting	5 10am Staff Meeting 1pm Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 6pm Bible Study	6 10am UMW "Ruth" 3pm ABC Study Group 4pm Handbell Choir 7pm Sanctuary Choir	7	8 9am Trinity Trekkers
9 8:30am Worship Sanctuary 10am Worship Sanctuary 10am Embrace Worship - FLC	10 3:30pm Hebrew Class 5:30pm HALO Café Feeding	11 10am Greek Class 5:15pm Board of Trustees Meeting	12 1pm Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 6pm Bible Study	13 4pm Handbell Choir 7pm Sanctuary Choir	14	15
16 8:30am Worship Sanctuary 10am Worship Sanctuary 10am Embrace Worship - FLC	17 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OFFICE CLOSED 	18 10am Greek Class 5:15pm Finance Committee Meeting	19 10am Staff Meeting 2pm SPRC/Staff Meeting 5:15pm T-CAP 1pm Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 6pm Bible Study	20 3pm ABC Study Group 4pm Handbell Choir 7pm Sanctuary Choir	21	22 SUM Men's Welcome Center 8am UMM
23 8:30am Worship Sanctuary 10am Worship Sanctuary 10am Embrace Worship - FLC	24 3:30pm Hebrew Class	25 10am Greek Class	26 1pm Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 6pm Bible Study	27 4pm Handbell Choir 7pm Sanctuary Choir	28	29
30 8:30am Worship Sanctuary 10am Worship Sanctuary 10am Embrace Worship - FLC	31					

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 - Lenny Kutchen
Dave Rossi
Richard Webb

2 - Phil Eberspeaker
Robyn White

3 - Brenda Hearn
Laura Hill
Sean Howard
Tammy Kantzes
Gabrielle LaVorgna
Joan Manzini
Lori McCoun
John Psota

4 - Steven Groves
Olivia Kitzrow
Kory Lowe
John Merritt, Jr.
Trevor Pusey
Edward Shoemaker

5 - Ethan Richardson
Dylan Warwick
Heather Wieland

6 - James Ford, Jr.
Joe Pitsenbarger

7 - Patricia Bragg
Kenna Fleming
Amanda Moore
Brendan Payne
Kristyn Snyder

8 - Susan Bailey
Virginia Dulany
Annette Huddleston
Norma Phillips
Patricia Poore

9 - Carol Carey
Olivia Hamilton
Jill Hussey
Brian Parsons

10 - Jeremy Knopf
Elliana Long
Brittany Mauzy
Bill Mengason, Jr.
Sadie Robertson

11 - Richard Dunn
Susan Dunsten
Dylan Kenney
Sadie Nelson
Billye Sarbanes
Terri Wattay

12 - Brooke Benedict Day
John DeMott
Jennifer Heinicke
Rachael Meeks

13 - Sylvia Chiofolo
Patrick Dix
Clarice Dodd
Greg Holland
Terri Hussey
Viola Moore

14 - Christjon Huddleston
Jakob Mahon
Karen Quillen
Allen Riggins

15 - Caroline Chandler
Drew Chandler
Steven Chandler
Gabriel Davenport
Kim Nechay
Guinn Paxton
Hazel Price
Hailey Ritchey
Robert Todd
Izabella Wieland
Tristan Wieland
Zenden Wieland

16 - Alan Hogg
Valerie Stevenson

17 - Hayley Carey
Larry Collins
Timothy Emge II
Carly Layfield
Evan Psota

18 - Olivia Cook
John Nelson III

19 - Don Coffin
Joe Harmon
Aaron Jones
Brady Jones

20 - Rebecca Barnard
Kelly Shannahan
Jessica Terrell
Samantha Titus
Nancy Turner

21 - John Ericson, Jr.
Leslie Folliebout
Allison Hickman
Steven McGrillies
Carolyn Smith

22 - Carter Day
Walker Day
Lindsay Edler
Patrick McGrillies
Melanie Meeks

23 - Sophia Elburn
Paul Ennis
Ted Graef
Jackie Kutchen
Cody Moore
Olin Shockley

24 - Philip Desjardins
Isabella Hooper
Paul Jones
Fran Reed
Kelsey Reichenberg
Graysen Wright

25 - Sue Andrews
Michael Charlton
Edmund Yesko, Jr.

26 - Christina Dickerson
Corey Haldeman
Aiden Nelson
Jennifer Rayne
Joe Seagraves

27 - Linda Downes
Marcus Henderson
Joyce Hickman
Gary Mackes
Parker Savage
Luke Smith

28 - Pat Duncan
Bryan Phillips

29 - Deborah Ball
Heather Charlton
Margaret Harkins
Jared Terrell

30 - Kern Briele
Joyce Dunn
Reese Fletcher
Peggy Layton
Fran Smith
Noah Thomas

31 - Ryan Kenney
Gene Malone
Tenley Pelot
Elizabeth Soper

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TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Finance Committee Report
Year-to-date as of October 31, 2021
By Karen Albright

YTD PRIOR YEAR COMPARISON TOTALS :

- ◇ **Total Income was \$596,828** compared to \$570,246_ in 2020, an increase of 5% or \$26,582 more giving to date.
- ◇ **Total Expenses were \$650,405** compared to \$655,525 in 2020, a decrease of .78% or \$5,120 less spent this year.
- ◇ **Net Income was (\$53,577)** compared to (\$85,279) in 2020, a decrease in loss of 37% or a higher Net Income of \$31,702.

2021 YTD BUDGET PERFORMANCE TOTALS:

- ◇ **Total Income** compared to the budget of **\$610,400** was unfavorable by (\$13,572) or -2% less than estimated.
- ◇ **Total Expense** compared to the budget of **\$690,376** was favorable by \$39,971 or 6% less than estimated.
- ◇ **Net Income** compared to the budget of **(\$79,976)** was favorable by \$26,398 or 33% better than estimated.

TOTAL EXPENSE BY CATEGORY:

Personnel & Benefits	\$ 307,954	47%
Facilities Expense	162,510	26%
District & Conf	85,554	13%
Office & Professional	40,165	6%
Missions & Programs	54,222	8%
	\$ 650,405	

SUMMARY:

The improvement in Net Income since 2020 is due to a 15% decrease in personnel costs caused by staff changes and open positions. The 5% change in overall Giving from last year is composed of a \$15,312 decrease in regular giving; offset by \$9,034 and \$32,860 increases in open plate and other income, respectively. As of the October 31, 2021, attendance is up 4,618 and Sunday collections up \$20,922 over the same time last year. The Finance Committee extends sincere gratitude and wishes for a blessed holiday season to all of our faithful parishioners here at Trinity .

Copies of the complete financials are available upon request by email to Karen Albright at albrightk02@gmail.com



Christmas Symbols of Beauty, Peace, Joy, Hope, & Light

Health Outreach Ministry
Dr. Dot Baker



CHRISTMAS – Christmas Day on December 25th celebrates the birth of Baby Jesus. The word "Christmas" means "Christ's Mass" - derived from the English term "Christes masse."

We have marvelous Christmas symbols of beauty, peace, joy, hope, and light. The Christmas story is wonderfully portrayed in Luke 2. The ultimate news is that "For unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given." As with the angels and others, we should praise and give glory to God for His greatest gift and peace on earth, goodwill toward men. What joy and hope that our Good News messages offer!

MANGER – The word "manger" is derived from the Greek word "phante" that denotes "the ledge or projections on which hay or other food was placed for travelers' animals in their crib or stall. "Mary brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7). Baby Jesus was born, clothed, and placed in a most humble bed where animals ate. The angels' sign was that visitors would find Baby Jesus and his parents in the humble stable setting.

ANGELS - The word "angel" is derived from the Latin word "angelus" meaning "one going or one sent." Angels are seen as intermediary spiritual beings between God and man. They are instruments who convey God's messages to mankind. At Christmas, angels were glorious messengers who proclaimed the greatest news story ever. To the shepherds, "...fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). Their message rings clear over the centuries.

POINSETTIA - A charming story is told of Pepita, a poor Mexican girl who had no gift to present the Christ Child at Christmas Eve Services. As Pepita walked slowly to the chapel with her cousin Pedro, her heart was filled with sadness rather than joy. "I am sure, Pepita, that even the most humble gift, if given in love, will be acceptable in His eyes," said Pedro consolingly. Not knowing what else to do, Pepita knelt by the roadside and gathered a handful of common weeds, fashioning them into a small bouquet. Looking at the scraggly bunch of weeds, she felt more saddened and embarrassed than ever by the humbleness of her offering. She fought back a tear as she entered the small village chapel. As she approached the altar, she remembered Pedro's kind words: "Even the most humble gift, if given in love, will be acceptable in His eyes." She felt her spirit lift as she knelt to lay the bouquet at the foot of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into blooms of brilliant red, and all who saw them were certain that they had witnessed a Christmas miracle right before their eyes. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the *Flores de Noche Buena*, or Flowers of the Holy Night, for they bloomed each year during the Christmas season (Paul Ranch).

CAROLS, CANDLES, BELLS, and EVERGREENS – all of these symbols proclaim God's eternal and everlasting gift to us. Music, words, lights, musical sounds, and continuous green foliage remind us that Jesus, God, & the Holy Spirit are and always will be present and will reign forever and ever. Those thoughts certainly warm us and light our lives at Christmas and throughout the year.

CELEBRATE your Christmas season and New Year's visions with these symbols of beauty, peace, joy, hope, and light. God uses all of them to announce and confirm His most precious message of all: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Christmas and New Year blessings to everyone from your Health Outreach Ministry



The holiday season is upon us and I want to say Merry Christmas to each of you and wish you a very Happy New Year.

I found this inspiring story about a family moving to a new location and looking for a church, yet when they called the church they said they couldn't join the church as they already had too many families enrolled.

This reminds me of Mary and Joseph at the Inn when they were told no rooms were available in the Inn but they could sleep in the barn.

'O Holy Night'

"So where do you think we will be going to church next month?" That became a common inquiry from my husband. We had moved to this mid-Atlantic hinterland and found ourselves in search of a new church. This mission was compounded by the fact that we knew no one. Weekly, we checked out a different church to find the perfect place to worship.

After months, we found the perfect place (or so we thought). It was close to home, had a great children's program, and seemed to have an appropriate amount of young, growing families. I spoke with the greeter and found out who to call. The next day, Monday, I did just that.

"Hello, may I speak with Reverend Coleman?...Oh, well is there a better time to reach him? My family and I have been relocated to this area, and we really like your church and your congregation and would like the appropriate paperwork to formally join."

The receptionist, who had been taking Reverend Coleman's calls, told me that we could not join the church because too many families were enrolled. A new congregation

was forming, however. "Perhaps you could speak with someone there," she said. I was to call a man whom I did not know, at a place that did not exist, for a congregation that was only being formed...somewhere.

"Okay, we will go back to the church one more time, and maybe we can find out where this new group meets," I told my husband and children. They were agreeable, mainly because we always went to breakfast after church. The draw was not the worship but the fellowship and the feast afterward. At the next Sunday mass, the homily was actually given by the new leader of the scattered flock of people. Thus, we now had a contact; her name was Mary Lou. I called her the next day.

"Oh, yes, yes, yes!" she said. "We would love to have you join our congregation. May I stop over and introduce myself and bring the paperwork for you and your family? We are still looking for a permanent place to have our weekly church gatherings, but we are delighted that you will be joining us." Mary Lou chattered on for a while longer, and I knew we were going in the right direction, although I was not sure where.

"Mommy, I thought we were going to church," Jay questioned the following Sunday as we pulled into the parking lot of a movie theater.

"We are, sweetheart," I answered, as his daddy parked the car. Jason's eyes lit up, and he was not about to let this drop, thinking one or both of his parents had lost their minds. "Why are we here if we are supposed to be going to church?"

"The church is not a church yet, and we do not have anywhere else to go, so we are going to the movie theater," I explained. None of us really cared where we went after a few weeks, especially because on these days we began going to the movies after church, which took the place of breakfast. Pop and popcorn began

to substitute for ham and eggs. As the summer wore into autumn, and the leaves began to drop from the trees, the congregation continued to grow and the accommodations in the movie theater became too small. It was time to move on again, and the new location was, again, due to the generosity of a community member. This time we were shuffled to an old, gray barn. It was not much to look at, but it served the purpose -- and our active, hard-working, and still-growing community gathered at this rustic spot, now filled with folding chairs.

It took a long time to get wiring into this dimly lit structure to supply us with light, heat, and a microphone. Reverend Appleby fortunately had a sense of humor and a booming voice. However, as October transitioned into November, and Thanksgiving ushered in Advent, our necessity for heavy coats during church became more apparent.

"Jim, make sure the kids have their gloves this morning," I said. "It is really cold. I know we should expect December weather, but the wind seems brutal today."

"Check. We have gloves and hats, and I grabbed a blanket, just in case we need it. We can wrap these little monkeys up; they'll stay warm for the hour."

The cold weather brought preparation but still no permanent church. December wore on and Christmas Eve appeared in a flash.

Again, we had the checklist before church. "Honey, let's keep the kids extra warm. It may snow tonight. Can you help me get Katie's boots on?" Robby, our second child, mumbled, "Mommy, do we have to go? It's too cold."

"Yes, honey, we do. It is Christmas Eve, and if we have time to wait for Santa, we have time to go to church and remember Jesus' birthday."

So we packed up the children and drove to the barn. "This is an exceptionally blustery night," I remarked. "It is a

good thing that Daddy remembered the blanket, isn't it?"

"Yes!" the three children yelled in unison. Dusk slipped into darkness as we parked along the old country road and trudged along to the barn, children in tow, wrapped up so much that they could barely walk. We entered our familiar "church."

The old, gray barn was no longer just an old, gray barn. It had been transformed into a nativity scene -- a real one, with a real manger and real sheep and a cow and a donkey. Hay was everywhere. The eyes of the children were filled with sheer wonder. Amid the animals were people. The woman wore a blue robe, and the man was in old, brown sackcloth tied with a rope. He held a staff, and she held an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes. They were not just people; they were the Holy Family. They were surrounded by shepherds tending the flock. I don't remember what the music was, if there was any. Nor do I remember what the homily was, if one was given. I don't even know if we stayed warm enough. I do remember being in the presence of the true spirit of Christmas. It was magnificent.

That Christmas Eve celebration could have lasted forever. We finally left the barn to find that snow was lightly falling and the stars were announcing the birth of Jesus. We all felt a silent joy at the miraculous event we had been witness to. Eventually, we did find a church to call our own. But nothing ever came close to that Christmas Eve of wonder, with Jesus in the old, gray barn. -- By Elizabeth Toole
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This family received the same message as Mary and Joseph that there was no room in the Inn, yet they continued to share in the path of our Lord and Savior and were given a gift as inspiring as that very first Christmas.



2021 SANTA'S ANGELS GIFT LIST

*If you have any questions, contact Beverly Tull at (443) 235-1423 or mrstool@yahoo.com
If you would like to shop for a family, please contact Lora Adkins at (410) 726-2977.*

All donations are due by Sunday, December 12

Gifts can be dropped off after each worship service at both the downtown and FLC locations on Sundays or at the church office during the week.

*Kids Gifts

Hoverboards for kids 12 and over
Scooters for boys or girls
Baby Alive dolls
Barbie Dolls with accessories (ie, Barbie Townhouse, Car, Airplane, etc.)
Barbie Doll Heads to do hair
Baby dolls for all ages from age 1 to 12 (*New Generation or Journey dolls)
Arts and crafts for boys and/or girls, jewelry making , rock painting, weaving, slime kits
Discovery Science kits and Kinetic Sand kits
Elmo
Anything for Paw Patrol
Anything with LOL Dolls
Action Figures -Spiderman, Superman, Avengers, Ninja Turtles, & Transformers
Remote control cars or trucks
Board Games – (Suggestions: Trouble, Fortnite, Jenga, Life, Clue, Scrabble, etc.)
Legos for all ages
Karaoke machines
Fire 7 Tablets or any tablet that connects to internet

**** Please include batteries for any items that require them***

Gift Cards for Kids

Roblox Gift
X-Box Live membership gift cards
Fortnite V Buck gift cards

For Teenagers

Make-up kits or purses
Jewelry - Necklaces, bracelets, & pierced earrings
Wireless earbuds like Apple, but generic and less expensive

Adults

Walmart, Target gift cards



Dear Trinity Members,

The Board of Trustees regrettably reports the necessity to remove the large Linden tree adjacent to our historic sanctuary on November 9. The Linden tree had a long history at Trinity and was estimated to be over 100 years old. Over the past decade, the tree had exhibited signs of stress and decay, and several measures were taken to protect and preserve it. Most recently, the Trustees took the following actions:

- In August, we hired Beaver Tree Services, which has a history of working on the tree, to conduct several tests. The company was able to assess the extent of rot in the trunk and measure changes since the last tree repair several years ago when support cables were installed in the upper section of the tree.
- In early September, our team had an onsite meeting with the owners of Beaver to discuss their findings: The tree had several vertical fissures and is deteriorating at the base. In addition, the cables on the large branches were stressed, indicating a further weakening of the support system.
- At Beaver's recommendation, we hired a Certified Arborist consultant, T. D. Mayer Consulting, to provide a second opinion. Test findings confirmed substantial rotting and interior damage. An assessment of potential damage targets included the church, Palmer building, Rt. 50 traffic zone, and even High Street. Risk was imminent, and the recommendation to remove the tree was clear.
- Subsequent to these findings, the Trustees voted unanimously on September 28 to have the tree removed, based on the two expert opinions that there is extensive decay at the base of the tree, creating both safety concerns for the public and potential extensive damage to the sanctuary.
- As we were unable to obtain a committed contract from Beaver, we contracted with Tree Tech to remove the tree, which occurred on November 9. The availability of a crane and a favorable weather forecast factored into the narrow window of time for notifying the congregation.

The decision to remove the tree was not made lightly as we recognize its significance to the beautification of the sanctuary. However, not to act would have been a dereliction of our duty as Trustees to protect the properties of the church. We hope to salvage some of the wood for various projects and possible mementos of this historic tree.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Regards,

Trinity Board of Trustees





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Merry
Christmas
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

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