



## FROM THE PASTORS DESK...

As you read this, Thanksgiving is over. Most of the leftovers have probably been consumed and the members of the family are back at home. Now, our attention turns to Christmas...if it didn't on Black Friday.

For many people the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas are the busiest of the year. There are more family gatherings, parties for work and for church groups, and extra events at church to attend. All of this is in addition to scouring the malls and outlets for that "perfect" gift for someone that already has everything they need or want and might be returned or "re-gifted" at the first opportunity.

It seems we spend a lot of time and stress worrying over a present that will only be one more gadget or another piece of clothing in an already crowded closet. Have you ever wondered what you could give someone that would last more than a few days or be relegated to the bottom of a toy box in a few weeks? What could we give someone we care about that would last and be remembered?

I'd like to suggest giving the most precious thing we have. I'm not suggesting diamond rings or gold jew-

elry. As lasting as those gifts might be they only involve spending money...and money isn't a sacrifice for most folks.

Let's give something that is very precious, doesn't cost us a penny, but giving it requires sacrifice during this busy Christmas time. The greatest and most lasting gift we can give is our time...time with our parents or grandparents...time with our spouses and our children...time with our friends and neighbors.

I was my mom and dad's only child. Additionally, I was the only child on my mother's side of the family for many years. My aunts and uncles gave me as many toys as my parents. The fact is, I don't remember any of the things they spent money for.

What I remember is the time...the time my grandmother let me "help" her bake cookies and fruit-cakes. I remember the time my mother spent reading Christmas books and the story of Jesus' birth to me. I remember the time my dad spent taking me to the local Christmas parades.

Even today, my memories of recent Christmas are of time. I treasure the time spent with my children at Christmas dinner. I remember the time my grandchildren spend in my lap look-

ing at all the Christmas toy catalogs. Their **presents** are only an after-thought now. But their **presence** will be forever held in my heart.

Yes, the Christmas season can be busy and rushed. But, while we're buying the **presents**...think about how we can give (and receive) the most precious thing we have... our time... our **presence** in someone's life.

Have a blessed Advent and a very merry Christmas.

Grace and peace

Wade



### For Church information visit:

Visit us at— [www.trinityumcofcharlotte.com](http://www.trinityumcofcharlotte.com)

Rev. Wade Ogle—(Minister) - [wade@trinityumcofcharlotte.com](mailto:wade@trinityumcofcharlotte.com)

Laura Gann—(Children's coordinator)—[laura@trinityumcofcharlotte.com](mailto:laura@trinityumcofcharlotte.com)

Ronna Privette—(Administrative Assistant) - [ronna@trinityumcofcharlotte.com](mailto:ronna@trinityumcofcharlotte.com)

Claudia Myers—(Preschool Director) - [caudia@trinityumcofcharlotte.com](mailto:caudia@trinityumcofcharlotte.com)

# TRINITY HAPPENINGS

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

**WHEN:** Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

**TIME:** 11:00am

**WHERE:** Sanctuary

**WHAT:** "NOEL"

## LIVE NATIVITY -

Sun., Dec. 7th @5pm. This is for ALL AGES! Praise Team will lead the Carols, Liturgical Dancer will perform, Children will sing and all are invited to participate in the Live Nativity. Please see Laura to help with this. No rehearsals just be here by 4pm.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS

**CHILD...** On Monday, Dec. 15th a group from Trinity will be going to work at the warehouse from 2—6pm helping to sort and prepare the boxes for shipping. Anyone 13 and older is invited to come join the group. The bus will leave the church at 1:30pm.

## SUPPER WITH SANTA

On Wednesday, Dec. 10th all children are invited to bring their families and come enjoy Hot Dogs, Chips and Tea or Chicken Nuggets, Chips and Tea for \$3.00 @6pm. Santa is planning this **one time visit** to Trinity this year. Invite your neighbors and join in on this magical night.

**JOIN US...** All are invited to join the Emmett Wilson Sunday School Class for the David Jeremiah study *The Coming Economic Armageddon* that will begin on January 18, 2015. If you like to purchase a study guide please let Marie Ross know by Sunday, November 16th. The cost is \$10 and payable at the time the order is placed. The study guide is a useful tool and not a requirement for the study.



Food Pantry  
Donations Needed

## COOKIE TRAYS and PARTIES



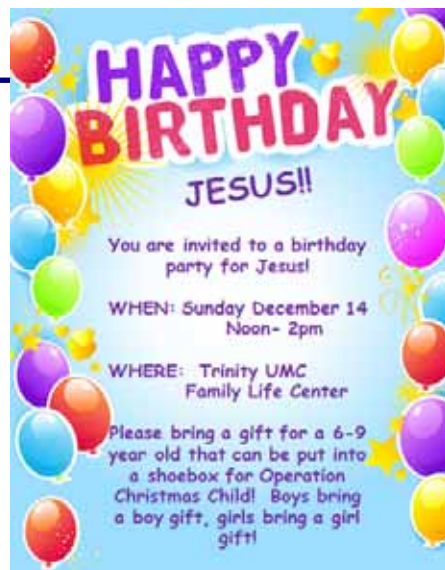
Circle #1 will be selling **Old Fashion Christmas Cookie Trays** again this year,

**BUT** they are **NEW** and **IMPROVED!** These **Old Fashion Christmas Cookie Trays** will as in past years have 4 dozen cookies on each tray. There will be 3 different kinds of cookies (1 dozen each) and then a variety of fudge and chocolate covered pretzels. Each wrapped and bowed tray will be sold for \$20.00. They will have 50 trays to sell, so

look at your Christmas list and get your orders in early. You can call the church office to place your order or see a circle #1 member. These will be ready to pick up on Saturday, Dec. 13th from 10—11am or you can pick them up Sunday morning.

## YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

**SUNDAY, Dec. 7th-12-4pm.** They will go out to eat and then go to the McLemore's for a \$10.00 gag gift exchange. Please let Laura know if you can attend so that travel arrangements can be made.



ONLINE GIVING



## ROOM IN THE INN

The dates for RITI are Dec. 16-17, Jan 16-17, Feb 20-21, March 20-21. Volunteers are needed for bus driving, bed set up, provide and serve dinner, stay the night, morning clean up, laundry and breakfast. If you can help please

contact Lisa Roberts @704-622-9015 or [robertslr2003@yahoo.com](mailto:robertslr2003@yahoo.com).

We are collecting gloves and hats for the ministry.

**RITI** is an extension of Urban Ministries in the winter months. It gives churches an opportunity to provide a warm bed, and a warm meal for one night during the month to those in need.

**Have you tried sending in you tithe online?** You can now go to the church website to do online giving from the privacy of your home.

V i s i t [www.trinityumcofcharlotte.com](http://www.trinityumcofcharlotte.com) and open the **ONLINE GIVING** site it will direct you as to how to send your contributions to Trinity.

## From the desk of Laura Gann

### KIDS FOR CHRIST (KFC)

#### YOUTH schedule for December :

Dec. 7 - Youth Christmas Party (12-4pm)

Live Nativity (4pm)

Dec. 14—KFC/Youth (12-2pm)

Happy Birthday Jesus Party

Dec. 21—No Youth

Dec. 28—No Youth

**AFTER SUPPER**...The reports that are coming in about the After Supper this past Saturday evening are topping the charts. Thank you to the Praise Team for providing a great Saturday evening of Praise and Worship. They hope to do this again after the first of the year. Stay tuned...you will not want to miss it!



The Homecoming Committee is selling Church prints and notecards to help raise funds to prepare for the 2015 Homecoming Celebrations. These make great Christmas presents!

5 x 7 Framed Print \$15.00

8 x 10 Framed Print \$25.00

11 x 14 Framed Print \$40.00

10 Notecards and envelopes \$10.00

(2 prints to choose from for the notecards)

**Checks to Trinity United Methodist Church or Cash**

## CELEBRATING 200 YEARS IN 2015!



Sunday, January 11, 2015 Bishop Goodpastor will help Trinity kick-off her 200th

Anniversary during both the 9am and 11am Worship Services. **PLEASE** mark your calendars for this historical event!! There will be celebrations all during 2015!

Do you have some **TRIVIA** you want to share about Trinity? Put on those thinking caps and let us hear some of the "history/gossip" a great great grand parent may of told you. Nothing is to trivial.

E-mail it or write it down and send to the church office. These will be shared throughout 2015.

Four copies of **The Unbreakable Boy** By Scott LeRette have been donated to our church library by Circle #1. Scott and Teresa and their two boys were members at Trinity before moving to Iowa. Stop by the church office and check one out!



### **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

On Sunday, Dec. 21st we will be placing red Poinsettias in the FLC and Sanctuary in honor or memory of loved ones. These 6" pots will be \$8.00 per plant. All orders are due by Sunday, Dec. 14th. Please place this form along with your \$8.00 in the collection plate or mail to the church office.

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount paid \_\_\_\_\_ cash \_\_\_\_\_ check \_\_\_\_\_



**LOAF** Sunday will be Sunday, Dec. 14th with sandwiches made on Monday, Dec. 15th beginning @8am in the FLC kitchen!

**TRINITY's FOOD PANTRY** will be open every Friday beginning Nov. 28th from 6:30-8:00pm for those in need. *Our mission is to show the love of Jesus Christ to others and to help stave off hunger in families.*

# THE MESSENGER

Trinity United Methodist Church

answering Jesus' call to:

**"FEED MY SHEEP"**



Church—704-399-1684

Pastor's—704-655-2841

704-456-8251

9:00am—Rise-Up Worship Service 10:00am—Small Groups 11:00am—Traditions Worship Service

Trinity United Methodist Church

6230 Beatties Ford Road

Charlotte, NC 28216

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit Organization

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Charlotte, NC

Permit No. 770

## Worship Helpers and Retirement Residents

### RISE-UP NURSERY

Dec. 7—Lisa Laney  
Dec. 14—Donna Stroupe  
Dec. 21—Brenda Raynor  
Dec. 28—Laura Gann

### TRADITIONS NURSERY

Dec. 7—Marlene & Tom Campbell  
Dec. 14—Shelly & Daniel Black  
Dec. 21—Dolores LaPrade and  
Darlene Sarment  
Dec. 28—Becky Lancaster and  
Cindy Hough

### USHERS FOR DECEMBER

David & Donna Stroupe  
Justin & Kristen Stroupe

### FINANCE STEWARDS

Lynne Bruce & David Stroupe

### RETIREMENT RESIDENTS

Olde Knox Commons—Bill Todd  
The Oaks—Margaret Merritt  
Unlimited Possibilities—David Todd  
(Mint Hill)

### HOSPITAL NEWS

Novant (Main) - Claudia Myers  
Home—Wayne Privette

### HOMEBOUND

Vance McKee, Bobbie Almond

### COMMUNION SERVERS

Ushers (2), Dolores LaPrade,  
Sherry & Danny Barth

### TITHES and OFFERINGS

Needed Weekly: - \$5,148.89

### PRAYER LIST

Bobbie Almond, Bill Atwell, Walter Ballard, Tyler Barkley, Beau Bradford, Marie Chesser, Sue Crocker, Nancy Cross, Wayne Flowe, Judy Fogle, Joyce Gibson, Beverly Goble, Tina Heatley, Austin Houser, Margaret Merritt, Claudia Myers, Calvin Nance, Lee Owings, Nancy Pace, Wayne Privette, Marlyn Quidley, Jaci Schiffert, Misty Fogle-Sizemore, Kim Strange, Curtis & Helen Threatt, Ande Trawick, Bill Todd, David Todd, Vicki Tucker.

*(Trinity is a praying church,  
please take a few minutes to  
remember those in need.)*

### DECEMBER SCRIPTURE

Dec. 7—John 10: 7-10  
Dec. 14—Luke 1: 26-33  
Dec. 21—Luke 2: 8-14  
Dec. 28—