



## Trinity UMC Preschool Newsletter December 2019

### Dates to Remember

Supper with Santa – Wed. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> - 5:30 pm  
Ladies Christmas Tea – Sat. Dec 7<sup>th</sup> - 3:00 pm  
A Night of Great Joy – Sun. Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> – 5:00 pm  
Christmas Break - 12/23/19 – 01/03/20  
Christmas Candlelight – Tue. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 pm

### Looking Ahead to the New Year

Preschool Board Meeting – Tue. Dec 10<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 pm  
Children Return to School – Mon. Jan 6<sup>th</sup>  
School Closed – Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>  
CMS Teacher Workday – Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>



### December Birthdays



#### One Year Old

Cameron Rosa December 6<sup>th</sup>  
Savannah Griffin December 13<sup>th</sup>

#### Three Years Old

Greyson Reid December 21<sup>st</sup>

#### Four Years Old

Addison Smallwood December 27<sup>th</sup>

#### Five Years Old

Melah Johnson December 12<sup>th</sup>

### Inclement Weather

If we should get snow or freezing weather and it is sticking, please come for your children, immediately. Don't wait for Charlotte Mecklenburg to close. If you wake to bad weather, check for an email or Facebook post from us to let you know if we are open or closed. Please remember to dress your child appropriately for the weather outside. The children do go outside daily unless it is raining or below 32 degrees.



### TUITION REMINDERS

All tuition monies for December must be in the office no later than 12:30pm, Friday, **December 13<sup>th</sup>**. After that, a \$10 late charge will automatically be charged to your account, unless you have talked to Denesa and made other arrangements. **Tuition fees for December do not change. Tuition is figured on a yearly basis, and then broken down for your convenience into monthly payments.** If you have any questions about tuition, please see Denesa or Shelly in the preschool office.

**A NIGHT OF GREAT JOY!**  
**Our Children's Christmas Program**  
**December 22**  
**5:00pm**



Join us for a wonderful Christmas play performed by Trinity's amazingly talented children. This play is based on the children's book "A Night of Great Joy." It will feature a sweet donkey wagon for Mary to ride in, some cute sheep with their shepherds, a host of angels singing, and so much more! It is sure to be a sweet representation of the story of Jesus' birth told by our youngest members.

We will practice on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm. If you would like for your child to be involved, please see Ms. Shelly!

### Christmas Services at Trinity



#### **COME LET US ADORE**

Join us for Sunday services at either 9:00 am or 11:00 am, throughout the month of December. Also, plan to join us Christmas Eve for our beautiful Candlelight Service at 5:30 pm.



# Supper with Santa

December is the month for one of my favorite events. On Wednesday, December the 4<sup>th</sup>, we will have a visit from Santa Claus. He comes each year on the Long Creek Firetruck. It is such a magical night as we stand on the steps waiting. The first thing that happens is we hear the siren and then we see the blinking lights through the trees as he makes his way down Beatties Ford Road. Adults feel like children again. Santa should arrive around **6:15pm** and will be available for photos with your child, so be sure and bring your camera. We will open the doors for Supper at 5:30 so come and enjoy a meal with your family before Santa arrives. On the menu you can choose from a hot dog or chicken nugget plate. This year we will offer the following options:

- 1 Hot Dog & Chips - \$3.00
- 5 Chicken Nuggets & Chips - \$3.00
- 2 Hot Dogs & Chips - \$5.00
- 10 Chicken Nuggets & Chips - \$5.00

We will also have Santa’s Workshop open for the children to “shop” and get a wrapped gift for mom & dad. There will be crafts and activities too! Invite your neighbors and join us for a magical night full of the Christmas Spirit!

## Online Payments



We have heard from several families that there is an interest in being able to pay for your monthly tuition online. We have heard you! We are hoping to find a solution soon, but we want to find out if this would be a solution that would work for ALL our current families. We will be sending out a survey in the coming weeks to find out what your preference is. Please respond and let us know how you prefer to make your payments. THANK YOU!!!

## Ladies Christmas Tea Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> – 3:00 pm



Ladies and little ladies! Please plan on joining us for our Annual Christmas Tea Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 3:00pm. The cost is \$10 per ticket and tickets are on sale now in the church office.

We thank you for your support! This year's proceeds will support the backpack ministry.

## ANGEL TREE



The Angel Tree is up! Each tag on the tree represents a child or sibling of a child who attends Hornet’s Nest Elementary and needs our help. There is a sign-up sheet on the table next to the tree. Please put your name and phone number by the child’s tag that you took. The Angel tree is at the entrance, as you walk into the preschool. Wrap your gifts and secure the child’s tag to the gift. All gifts need to be turned in by **Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**.

If you are looking for a wonderful feeling, take a tag off the tree and shop for a child you have never met. We have a chance to be Christmas love for a child in need.





## **“Just Be A Lighthouse!”**

**By Jimmy Howard**

So, do we all agree that raising kids is not for sissies? At least this is what Anne Lamont has to say! It takes a whole lot of attention and guidance to say the very least, especially during this holiday season! But I just happened to stumble across a quote by Anne Lamont in her book, *Operating Instructions: A Journey of My Son's First Year*; and, it seemed to open my eyes a wee bit, at least insofar as offering a game plan for raising children!

Lamont wrote, “Lighthouses don’t go running all over an island looking for boats to save; they just stand there shining.”

So, maybe this is the best advise possible for parenting! Just maybe the most important action for any of us is to just be ourselves and simply shine. After all, in the scheme of things, Christ seems to ask virtually no more of us than this.

Lamont’s quote caused a recollection to bubble up from the deepest recesses of my memory; and, out of the cobwebs and dust came forth one of Robert Fulghum’s essays. This one had to do with a mermaid.

The scene opens and Fulghum is trying to organize a room full of elementary-aged kids in his church fellowship hall. The aim is to navigate some eighty children into a large-scale human version of Rock, Paper, Scissors. He volunteers up front that the real purpose of this game is to simply make a whole lot of noise and run around willy-nilly, until no one knows which side they are on.

(It sounds to me as if he is just killing time with these kids until their parents come to pick them up. Been there. Done that. Have the T-shirt to prove it.)

Fulghum shouts to the kids that they must decide immediately if they want to be either Wizard, Giant or Dwarf. As the group began to chatter among themselves, he felt a tug on his trouser leg.

In response to the tug, Fulghum looked down to see a little girl looking up at him and as their eyes meet, she asks, “Where do the mermaids stand?” After a pause, Fulghum tells the little girl, “There are no such thing as mermaids.” “Well, there certainly are,” the girl replies, “Because I am one!”

This wise little girl knew all along that she did not fit in either category, neither being Wizard, Giant nor Dwarf. And, it appears she was long past choosing to remove herself from the game; and, go stand over by the wall and be left out!

So, she emphatically claimed her rightful place as a mermaid. Without giving up her dignity or her personal identity, this little girl was going to participate within whatever category that mermaids fit into the scheme of things.

Have you ever thought about where the mermaids stand? If one is not a Wizard, Giant nor Dwarf? Where does one stand?

If we know that we are a mermaid, how can we force ourselves into the Wizard, Giant or Dwarf box? But we do...too often I am afraid...live lives attempting to be someone or some thing that we are not.

And, this brings me back to lighthouses. No one says we have to chase all over an island trying to find someone else’s purpose or run willy-nilly in trying to help our children find theirs.

It is OK to just stand there and shine.

But, what about the mermaids? Where do they stand...*all those who are different, who do not fit the norm, and who do not accept the available boxes and pigeonholes?*

Well, Fulghum says they can go stand over by the King of the Sea! And, I call the King of the Sea, the Lord of Lords, Christ! So, I suspect it is possible to

be a mermaid and a lighthouse all at the same time.

I know that mermaids do exist...because Jesus does...exist. And, if we're standing beside him, we are who and what we need to be.

"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world (Matthew 5:13-14 The Message)."

*Again, lighthouses don't go running all over an island looking for boats to save; they just stand there...shining.*

Have a Holy Christmas,  
Jimmy Howard

## The Foundation: Bible Study

A new church wide Bible study will begin on Christ the King Sunday, November 24 and continue on through the fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22. It will be held in the Family Life Center and begin at 10:00 AM each Sunday.

This Bible study will focus upon the world in which Jesus was born into. We will examine the four hundred years between the closing of the Old Testament book of Malachi and the birth of Christ, often referred to as the Intertestamental Period.

Such matters as the geopolitical environment as well as cultural influences will be explored. Hopefully this Bible study will expand our understanding for what the angel meant when he said, "Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of a great joy which shall be for ALL people (Luke 2:10 KJV)." *Jimmy Howard*

This Bible study is not meant to replace any Sunday School class offering but to add an additional study option throughout the Advent season.

## GOBBLE, GOBBLE, GOBBLE

The Trinity Food Pantry would like to be able to give out turkeys to those in need this Christmas.

**PLEASE HELP US!!**



Please purchase a turkey (or 2) during this Thanksgiving season while they are on sale and drop them off at the church. They can be dropped off at the church office or on Sunday. The deadline for this is Friday, Dec. 13 so that they can be distributed on Tuesday, Dec. 17.

Those who serve in the Food Pantry thank you, but those receiving these turkeys will be especially grateful!!

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## **BABY GATE NEEDED**

Our one year old class is in need of a baby gate. If you have one that you are no longer using please consider donating it to the Preschool /Church.



*"The giving of gifts  
is not something  
man invented. God  
started the giving  
spree when He gave  
a gift beyond words,  
the unspeakable gift  
of His Son."*

—ROBERT FLATT

# Trinity United Methodist Church

## Annual Christmas Tea

Saturday, December 7, 2019

3:00 pm

Tickets are \$10  
and are on sale  
now in the church  
office.



Please join us for the  
Christmas Tea

Trinity UMC  
6230 Beatties Ford Rd,  
Charlotte NC 28216  
704-399-1684