

Trinity's Mission: We are a community of Christian disciples building pathways through which God's love is realized.

Trinitv Community Christmas Dinner marks 25 years!

Gloria Whitaker

On Tuesday, December 25, a delicious dinner will be served at Trinity United Methodist Church. The Community Christmas Dinner which has been hosted by Trinity since its inception in 1987 is intended to add joy to all

who would like to share a meal on this special day. Originally, the dinner, prompted by the United Way of Leon County and downtown churches, was formed to serve a Christmas dinner to those who would otherwise not have one; today this is still true,

but there is an open invitation extended to all who would like to share in this wonderfully festive event.

The dinner also offers the opportunity for folks to volunteer to help, because as you can

imagine there

are many hands

needed to make

sure this dinner

is a success.

The dinner

begins with pre-

planning, but

after twenty five



In this photo, three generations set a good example for the fourth.

years, this part is pretty well established. The day of the event is the time of the real need to fill all kinds

of tasks - there is something for everyone: setting up, stuffing goodie bags (which are handed out to each guest as they leave), cooking (ably handled by an all male crew), greeting, serving, singing, conversing, restocking, dish washing, cleaning



Trinity helps families connect at Christmas time.

Many return year after year; it has become an annual reunion for our volunteer family. The dinner is served from 12 - 2 p.m. so the bulk of the help is needed during this time, but preparation begins about 8:30 a.m. and continues until Moor Hall is in tip top shape usually about 3 p.m. If you volunteer, plan to have dinner while you're here.

While the dinner is being served, there will be a 'Carol Sing' as visitors and volunteers join the musicians who serenade us until closing time. You don't have to have any special talent to join the singers, just sing along for the pure joy of it. For two years in a row, we've been blessed to have the Hats for the Homeless Ministry join us, bringing knitted and crocheted hats

C foli	day Ser	vices
Monday, Christmas Eve*		
Time	Service	Minister
4 p.m.	Vespers	Rev. Hynes
5:30 p.m.	Families	Rev. Curry
8 p.m.	Lessons & Carol	s Rev. Curry
9:30 p.m.	Contemporary	Rev. Fotsch
11 p.m.	Communion	Rev. Curry
* All Christn	nas services will have	candlelight.

and scarves of all sizes for men, women, and children. It's fun to watch people look for just the right hat or scarf that suits them.

The dinner, which is cooked from scratch, is a veritable feast - as good as can be found anywhere. By the time the dinner ends, the clean up crew is under way, the dishwashers are hard at work, and good byes are exchanged until next year.

Everyone is invited to join us for the 25th Community Christmas Dinner, so bring your family and friends. Maybe you know of a neighbor or friend who might be alone, ask them to come too. If you want to help with monetary donations, volunteer, or need more information, call Gloria or Blue Whitaker (878-6064) or email (gloria@talweb.com).



Let's see, Christmas dinner - check; Christmas tree - check; Christmas carols - check; Christmas lights - check; fellowship with the church and community - check; cozy ambience - check.

Gifts to Trinity

Trinity received the following gifts from October 17-November 26, 2012:

In memory of **Dorothy "Carline" Moore** from Dean and Lisa Knox and family, Hal Lewis, Bill and Cynthia Smith and Buzz and Betty Ann Korst.

In memory of **Eleanor Pederson Hale** from Tallahassee Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and Joanne Lazar.

In memory of **Karl L. Roesch, Jr.** from Ledley and Oberley Brown and Mr. and Mrs. James Alford.

In memory of James E. Croft from Duane Clark.

In memory of **Pat D. Denmark** from Charles and Cynthia Goodman and Mary Denmark Hutcherson.

In memory of Julian Wyatt Hamilton from Bill Moncrief.

In memory of **Shirley Louise Kirwin** from Mary Marchant and John and Susan Thomas.

In honor of the **2012 Guatemala Mission** Team from Warren and Rita May.

FINANCIAL Deace

Trinity's first Financial Peace University class graduated Nov. 15! At their last class, the thirty-one member group reported that they'd paid off \$41,570 of debt and had also put \$29,360 in savings - in a mere 9 weeks!

They have learned the power of diligently applying the principles and "baby steps", as Dave Ramsey calls them, of FPU. Additionally, they cut up thirty credit cards! THAT, my friends, is "plastectomy"!



NETkids perform Dec. 9! The NETkids Christmas program is slated for Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. This year's production is titled "Operation Baby King." It's bound to be funny and quirky, so don't miss it.





By E. Wayne Curry Senior Pastor

Dear Friends,

The story is told of a little girl in a Christmas pageant who gave an unscripted sermon one Christmas Eve. She was one of the many angels in the pageant who gathered around the manger and, on cue, sang "Glory to God in the highest." However, she was way in the back and couldn't see what was going on. In a momentary pause, the small girl electrified the entire church by crying out in a voice shrill with irritation and frustration at having her view blocked: "Let Jesus show!"

And I can think of no better cry in the midst of the Christmas season than that: Let Jesus show!

The strange irony of Christmas is that it is the one time of year, of all the times during the year, where Jesus is often hidden from view. In the season that proclaims God's presence with us in Jesus, it is the absence of God and Jesus that seems the most real.

And what hides Jesus from us? For many of us, perhaps, it is the expectations and exhaustion, the demands and money worries and all the rest. For others of us, it may have to do with the endless emphasis on family and friends gathering in good cheer - an emphasis that only makes sharper the emptiness and pain we feel at the thought of family and friends who have died and can't gather with us any longer. Of course the little girl was in church when she uttered her cry ...and sometimes churches themselves hide Jesus from view - crowd him out with business and busyness and more.

Let Jesus show! And it's what we seek, I think, more than we might realize - to see Jesus, to glimpse something of His light in a dark and dangerous world, to experience something of the healing and hope and peace only He can give. It's why we decorate trees with glimmering lights and glittering ornaments and hang wreaths and light candles and give gifts. We do it all, I think,



in the hope of Jesus coming near enough to us to grace us with what we long for and can never quite give ourselves.

Let Jesus show! And the truth is that if Jesus is to be seen in this often violent and uncertain world, then it will have an awful lot to do with you and me. It will have to do with letting Jesus show in our own lives, in our believing and trying to believe, in little acts of kindness and compassion, in remembering those who are far from joy, in giving life and hope to those who need life and hope, by ourselves to them. And it will have to do with our looking for Jesus day after day in unexpected, ordinary places and people - something like the very places and people in and through which He once came to birth - looking for Him even in emptiness and pain and confusion.

Let Jesus show! So that no matter where we may be in our lives, this season will truly be a season of God's presence and a time to rejoice in Christ and know something of the hope and peace and gladness that can come to birth in our lives because of Him.

You are loved,

Wayne

Music News for December

Mark Repasky Director of Music

December is a busy time for Trinity's musicians. Besides providing music for our typical Sunday morning services, we have numerous other musical offerings. We hope you can be part of them!

December 2

How about attending a massed handbell concert to jump-start your Christmas season? Our own **Trinity Ringers** participate in this event every year. It is a unique experience. Come to **First Baptist Church on Saturday**, **December 1 for our 4:00 p.m. concert**. There's plenty of time to go to the parade afterwards.

December 9, morning

The Chancel Choir, accompanied by a string quintet and organ, will present "The Christmas Oratorio" by Camille Saint-Saëns during the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. It opens with the angels visiting the shepherds and exclaiming "Glory to God in the Highest." What follows is the believer's response to this miraculous birth, wrapped in music of incredible beauty!

Camille Saint-Saëns is one of the better known French composers of the Romantic Period. He was born October 9, 1835 in Paris. From a very early age, Saint-Saëns was recognized as a musical prodigy. His first piano composition was written before the age of four. At ten years of age, he could play all 32 of Beethoven's piano sonatas by memory. As a young man, he made a living as organist for large churches in the Paris area. While serving as organist at Eglise de la Madeleine, Saint-Saëns wrote the Christmas Oratorio in just two weeks. It was performed there just ten days later, on Christmas, 1858.

December 9, evening

Come to Moor Hall for at 5:00 p.m. for a delicious potluck dinner, then enjoy our 6:00 p.m. "Christmas With the Children" program. Our two children's choirs which we call NETkids Alpha and Omega Choirs, have been busily preparing

"Operation Baby King." "Your mission, Double O-Heaven, should you choose to accept it, is to witness the birth, monitor visitors to the child and his parents, and ensure that no single nation or group of people claim that he is theirs alone. This message will automatically erase in five seconds." You get the idea: the story of Christ's birth is told through the eyes of "good-guy" special agents sent to find and protect the newborn baby. They are a bit like modern angels! The children sing numerous familiar Christmas Carols to help tell the story. The dialogue is delightful; sometimes serious and sometimes funny. Also performing that night is our NETkids steel pans ensemble!

December 12

NETkids choirs visit **Woodmont Retirement Center** for a 30-minute concert starting at 4:15 p.m.

December 16

Senior Handchimes will be doing something different before the 11:00 a.m. service that day. Not telling what ... it's a surprise!

December 19

Our 50+ preschoolers present their annual Christmas Program at 11:45 a.m.



in Moor Hall. The children tell the Christmas story with lots of music in between. We have a song about the donkey that carried Mary to Bethlehem, one about the Wise Men on their camels, and of course an angel song, a song about the shepherds and lambs...you get the picture! And the children love wearing their Christmas costumes!

December 24

We have 5 Christmas Eve services at Trinity! Warren May and Carol Marchant lead music at the 4:00 p.m. Vespers Service in the Chapel. Youth Choir, NETkids Choirs and NETkids Steel Pan Ensemble provide special music at the 5:30 p.m. Family Service. The 8:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols Service includes music by Chancel Choir, Trinity Ringers and Pans of Praise. At 9:30 p.m., in Moor Hall, is the Contemporary Service, led by Circle of Friends Praise Band. A small vocal ensemble provides special music at the 11:00 p.m. Communion Service.

Special Opportunity

We are looking for an additional player for our steel pans starting in January. Here's an opportunity to learn to play a new musical instrument! You must be able to read music. Contact our Music Director Mark Repasky for additional information.

Christmas Organ Concert at Trinity

Jonathan Hehn

Trinity organist

Boston organist, Dan McKinley, will appear in concert on Sunday, December 30 at 3:00 p.m. at Trinity. This concert will be free and open to the public, and will feature a variety of fun and virtuosic pieces played on the Casavant organ in the sanctuary.

Daniel McKinley is organist and choirmaster of Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church, Danvers, Mass., after having been at Christ Church of Hamilton and Wenham, in Hamilton Mass. from 1998 to 2009. Prior to those appointments, he served for 19 years as the director of music at First Christian Church in Columbus, Ind. He is dean of the Boston chapter, American Guild of Organists, and has been dean of the Merrimack Valley chapter. Mr. McKinley has been soloist in organ and orchestra works of Dupré, Elgar, Guilmant, Jongen, Poulenc, Saint-Saëns, Richard Strauss, and Widor. His solo performances with orchestra have been broadcast on the syndicated radio programs "Performance Today," "Pipedreams[®]," and "With Heart and Voice." His recording of Marcel Dupré's music for organ and orchestra is on the Naxos label. He studied organ and church music at the Indiana University School of Music, received bachelor's and master's degrees with distinction, and was awarded the school's Performer's Certificate. As a tuba



Daniel McKinley

player, he was named the Outstanding Bandsman of the IU Marching Hundred; but he never got to the Rose Bowl.

Rare Madonnas set stage for UMW luncheon

Linda Yates

The heart of Christmas, symbolized by the Virgin Mary and Baby Jesus, will be



depicted by Madonnas from around the world for United Methodist Women attending the December 4 luncheon meeting in Moor Hall. Sheila Merlau will share traditions and stories of a large collection of Madonnas her late mother owned. Special Christmas music will also celebrate the

Advent Season.

New officers who will lead Trinity's recently restructured United Methodist Women Ministry, which starts in January, will be installed at the meeting. Judy Levy will take office as president; Nancy Waugh as secretary; and Esther Harrison as treasurer.

Coordinators taking office include: **Spiritual Growth** - Lynda Hanson; **Missions** - Mary Ann Moore; **Membership** - Terri Sue Aldridge, chair, and Hillary Ryan, vice-chair; Education - Ruth Ann High; Congregational Care - Maxine Mantooth; Communications - Linda Yates. Each coordinator will choose committee members to create new avenues of ministry and mission for Trinity women, provide studies and programs to educate and enrich spiritually, and create new small groups in which women may find fellowship, support, and service opportunities.

Reservations for the luncheon, which begins at 11:45, may be telephoned to Nancy Kerce at 877-6546.

The executive committee, headed by Kitty Ball, outgoing president, will meet at 10:30 a.m. in the library Dec. 4.

UMW Circles to Meet

Circle 1 meets at Cynthia Smith's home (561-1112), 1530 Marion Ave., Dec. 3 at 10 a.m.

Circle 2 meets Tuesday Dec. 4 at 12:45 in the Parlor. Circle 4 meets Tuesday Dec. 11 at 10:30 in the Library.

Circle 5 meets Thursday Dec. 20 at a restaurant. Call Patti Oakley (877-4898).

Circle 6 meets Monday Dec. 10 at Julie Pararo's house, 2104 Randolph Circle (385-9791).

Circle 8 meets Dec. 5 at 12:00 in a downtown restaurant. Marti Chumbler (389-6596).

Circle 9 meets Tuesday Dec. 18 at Linda Yates house, 1111 Wisteria Dr. (385-2768).

Thanks to TUMC congregation for their support in the UMW pecan sales. We have raised over \$2,700 to support our local and global missions. If you haven't picked up your order, please contact Judy Levy (850-877-5442 or judithtlevy@embarqmail.com) to make special arrangements for pick up.

Cooking club for 3rd-5th graders

Calling all third, fourth and fifth-graders interesting in cooking. We are going to start a new club in January for those students that would like to learn to cook and/or bake for our TUMC congregation.

This would be along the line of our current Trinity Chefs, who cook meals each month for people in need - but the grade school group would meet quarterly and prepare food for the HEO pantry. We will begin by baking cookies, and progress to more difficult projects as the group progresses.

We will need to have a brief planning session in Moor Hall after the 11:00 service on January 6. Please

plan to attend this introductory meeting, or let me know that you are interested in joining the group. We will be deciding on a convenient time/date to meet for our regular sessions. For more information, please contact Judy Levy (850-877-5442, judithtlevy@embarqmail.com). Thanks to Hannah Moncrieff for the suggestion.

Preschoolers exercise their right to vote!

Stacey Duggar Preschool Director

The results are in. With 100% of classrooms/precincts reporting, the election results have been tabulated and certified:

- Our favorite snack is cupcakes! Cupcakes beat out cookies by a wide margin.
- Spiderman won more votes than Batman and became our favorite superhero!
- In the closest race, Cinderella was the winner over Tinkerbell by one vote!

The preschoolers sure had a fun time voting and look forward to the day when they too can exercise their right to vote for the leadership of our community and country!



Trinity's Habitat Festival Tree

The tree at right was decorated by Barbara Hynes, Cindy and Tom Donelan, Gloria Colvin, Kelly Rains, Jayne Mittan, and Sheila Merlau for the 4th Annual Festival of Trees. All of the ornaments on the tree are from Guatemala.

The decorated tree was purchased for \$250, before

the silent auction. All proceeds were donated to the Big Bend Habitat for Humanity.





Health Wellness news for December

Beth F. Curry, ACSM-HFS, AFAA

The Trinity Community Garden is Planted for YOU



Tatsoi is an Asian salad

green that is most often

eaten raw but can also

be combined with other

greens and prepared in

cooked foods. It has a

mild mustard or cabbage

flavor similar to Bok

Choy. Its dark green

leaves are high in beta-

carotene and Vitamins

A. C. and K.

Next time you stroll down Duval Street stop and take a look at Trinity's Community Garden. This garden is planted and maintained for YOU. Please help yourself to our fall crop of

collard greens, mustard greens, cabbage, kale, broccoli, spinach, tatsoi*, and

Better Balance

• 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Power Hour

*\$3 suggested donation

share some too. If you'd like to help take care of the garden please contact Beth Curry. We are always looking for people to help weed and water.

Coming Soon 4th Annual Health Screening Day

The Health Wellness Team will present the 4th Annual Health Screening Day on Sunday, February 10, 2013. Be sure to mark your calendar now for this very important free screening day. Some of the screenings already lined up include cholesterol, glucose, blood pressure, BMI, body fat, vision, hearing, spinal stress, skin cancer, and new this year – bone density. Plan to join our youth for their soup and salad fundraiser, and enter your name to win some great door prizes too.

Can You Find

Trinity's AEDs? Did you know that Trinity has two AEDs (Automated E x t e r n a l Defibrillators) on site? Could you find one in a hurry if there was an emergency?



Health Wellness Calendary Health Wellness Classes are Drop in any time ! in the Parlor. **BFC** Series Upcoming Events **Exercise** Classes <u>Saturday – December 1</u> — Tuesdays and Thursdays — Jingle Bell Run • 9:15 ~ Staying Strong • 11:00 ~ Variety Mix** <u>Tuesday, December 11 – 10:30 a.m.</u> ** Nursery by reservation only Mats for the Homeless — Wednesdays -Tuesday, December 11 – 12:30 p.m. • 4:15-5:30 p.m.

Hats for the Homeless

Sunday, February 10, 2013 Health Screening Day



With the holidays upon us, remember these ways to fit "1" hour of physical activity into your day:

- Take an extra lap or two around the mall while shopping
- Take the stairs instead of the escalator
- Park your car as far away as possible and walk
- Walk outside for half an hour instead of having screen time



- Wear a pedometer and track your steps
- Walk to your colleague's desk instead of emailing or calling on the phone

Look for them in the following two locations: The Welcome Center on the wall adjoining Moor Hall. The second floor hallway beside the stairwell door that is between the Church Office and the Staff Break Room.

BFC Holiday Schedule

BFC Series Exercise will take a holiday break as follows:



Tuesday/Thursday classes - final classes of the year will be on **Tuesday**,

December 18. Classes resume on Tuesday, January 8, 2013.

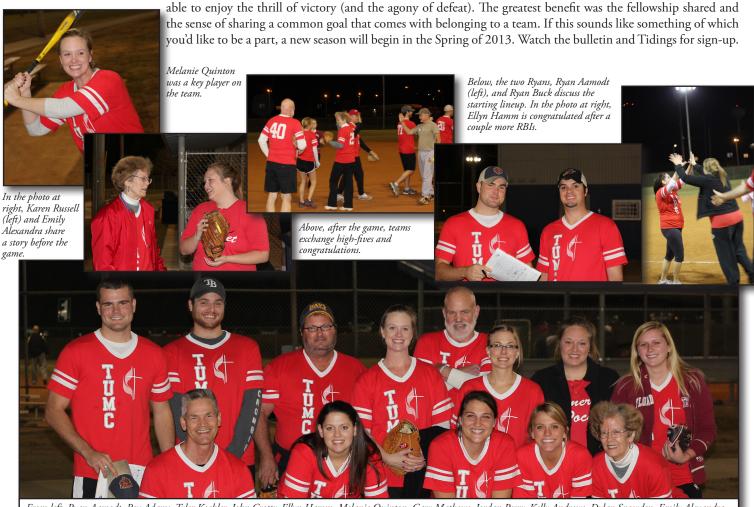
Wednesday classes – Final classes will be

December 12. Classes resume with next Lay Academy Session in 2013.

For more information: Beth Curry - BFCSeries@yahoo.com

Trinity's softball team finishes strong

The Trinity softball team finished their season recently, with two wins. Thanks to the leadership of Trinity member, Ryan Aamodt, who got the team signed-up with the city's co-ed league, arranged for uniforms, and brought bats and balls each week, many Trinity members were



From left, Ryan Aamodt, Rex Adams, Tyler Koehler, John Crotty, Ellyn Hamm, Melanie Quinton, Gary Mathews, Jordan Perry, Kelly Andrews, Dylan Snowden, Emily Alexandra, Karen Russell, and Catherine Lockhart. Not pictured were Ryan Buck, John Sanderson, Jessie McMillan, and Kevin Sterling.

Sound Operators Needed

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Lisa Prasse SUN Service leader



Come be a part of what makes everything sound so much more wonderful every Sunday morning service! We are looking to add a couple more members to our terrific sanctuary sound team.

There's no experience required and training is available. It's a fun, easy way to volunteer your gifts and services to the entire church family. Please contact Lisa Prasse at: lisaprasse@aol.com if you are interested. Hope to "hear" from you soon!

Help! Computer Operators Needed

SUN Service leader

The SUN service is in need of a computer operator who is willing to volunteer their time and ability every Wednesday evening (7-9) and Sunday morning (9:45-10:45).

There's no experience required (only time!) and training will be made available. This is a terrific opportunity to creatively share your gifts and services with the entire congregation. If interested, please contact Lisa Prasse (lisaprasse@aol.com).



Youth Happenings in December

Youth Director Youth Intern A Note from Kelly ...

Getting excited about Christmas? Got all your decorations up? Have you made all your travel plans, shopping lists, and party invitations? Is your family one that gets so excited they decorate for Christmas before Thanksgiving? Maybe even before Halloween? It seems to get earlier each year, not just in stores but I see it in neighborhoods. It's crazy! So here is what I am wondering. Why can't we get that excited about other stuff? I'm taking about an excitement that we just can't contain, an excitement we have to share with others regardless of what others might think. So what is it for you? What are you excited about right now (other than Christmas) that you would love to tell people about and possibly already have?

For me, it's the Bible. Now I know some of you might be saying that's not a new idea, Kelly, especially here around church. It's used

all the time, it's read in church, and it's taught to our children in Sunday school every week. But my point is whether or not we are talking about it? Are we so excited about



Sign Up Now for Camp!

I know, it seems early, right? But if you want to be part of the great fun at Warren Willis summer camp in Leesburg, you better sign up - NOW! Just go to "Camp registration" at www.warrenwilliscamp.org - Trinity is going the week beginning June 24. it we have to tell everyone about it? Well, I am. I am currently in the Disciple Class which reads most of the Bible in 34 weeks. I am really enjoying it and trying to learn as much as I can (at least as much as my brain can hold). I have been familiar with lots and lots of stories from the Bible my whole life; however, reading it cover to cover is giving me so much more insight about God and his relationship with us. After all these years, God hasn't changed and neither have we! We are still human, sometimes getting it right and sometimes getting it wrong. God is still the gracious and merciful God who loves us so much he gave us his son, Jesus Christ. And yes, Jesus is the reason for all the Christmas hype and the reason we celebrate this time of year. But this year I will be more focused on God, not baby Jesus, and how much he loves us, even when we mess up!



Above, Trinity youth packaged over 200 snack packs for the homeless! At left, the Mid-High madness group goes out on the town. Below, High school Late Nite - looks kinda scary.

Upcoming Youth events for December

UNDERGR

Dec. 1 Reg. for Warren Willis Camp opens (Trinity goes June 24, 2013) Dec. 1 Festival of Lights (Chili Fundraiser) Dec. 2 Band 4pm, Choir 5pm, UMYF 6pm Dec. 2 High School Late Nite 8pm Dec. 5 Middle School Bible Study 4:30pm Dec. 7 Mid-High Madness (check website for details) Dec. 9 Band 4pm, Choir 5pm, UMYF 6pm Dec. 12 Middle School Bible Study 4:30pm Dec. 16 No Band, Choir 5pm, UMYF Christmas Party \$5.00 6pm Dec. 16 High School Late Nite 8pm Dec. 19 No Middle School Bible Study (early release) Dec. 23 No Sunday School (Youth attend Sun Service 9:45am) Dec. 23 No Sunday activities Dec. 30 No Sunday School (Youth attend Sun Service 9:45am) Dec. 30 No Sunday activities (COM)||1/0| Jan. 6..... No Sunday School (Youth attend Sun Service 9:45am) Jan. 6..... No Sunday activities

- Jan. 9..... Middle School Bible Study resumes
- Jan. 13..... All Sunday Activities resume



Trinity hosts CROP Walk

