

# THE MESSENGER

T R I N I T Y U N I T E D M E T H O D I S T C H U R C H



## FROM THE PASTORS DESK....THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS

Were you in church last Sunday? If you were at Trinity UMC you saw the children bring the Christmas Child boxes down the center aisle and place them on and around the altar. Their faces showed the joy that Christmas brings into the world. Not one of them wanted to keep a box for themselves. They gladly gave them up and returned to their parents. Only God knows the hands of the children that will receive them in the next few months.

Would you be satisfied with just a simple shoe box, decorated up with paper? Inside might be a pair of socks, a flashlight, a few small toys and maybe a toothbrush. For many it will be the only gift they receive.

The wonder of Christmas is not in the getting, it is in the giving. The heart of Christmas is the gift of God given in the divine baby born in Bethlehem so long ago. The first gifts of Christmas were given by the Magi. The child grew to a man and he gave his life on Calvary to save us from our sins. Even the tradition of St. Nick is about giving. Think about it, all Santa gets from us on Christmas Eve is a glass of milk and a few cookies.

Somehow we have allowed this culture to turn everything around and make Christmas into getting. We are led to think the more we get, the happier we will be. The truth is the more we get, the more we want. How about a Christmas Revolution this year? Let's put giving back into Christmas. Here are a few suggestions:

**TAKE AN ANGEL OFF THE ANGEL TREE** and help make a child's Christmas wish come true.

**GIVE IN THE RED KETTLE** and help the Salvation Army spread Christmas. This means not going in the Garden Center door at Walmart.

**BUILD THE CAN TREE** in the Family Life Center and help feed the hungry in our community. Bring a bag of canned goods, beginning February, 2010.

**SPONSOR A CHILD FOR A YEAR** with a Trinity Playschool scholarship. This will help our younger families who are struggling to make ends meet.

**GIVE TO A MISSION** of your choice in honor of someone you love. This is especially true for those who don't really need more stuff.

**GIVE OF YOUR TIME** to help with Room in the Inn on December 18<sup>th</sup>, or make sandwiches with Mrs. Cheryl on Monday December 21<sup>st</sup> or plan to go on the mission building team to Georgia in early January or whatever or wherever you are led by the Holy Spirit.

**MAKE UP YOUR OWN WAY TO GIVE**

If the Bible is true, and it is, it tells us; "That it is more blessed to give than to receive". Do you believe this? Maybe you would get it if you could look into the eyes of a child when that Christmas Child box is placed in his or her hands. Just ask Frances, or Freddie, or Patti or anyone else who has witnessed this first hand. Let us keep the real meaning of Christmas alive as we give as God has given to us.

INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE:

Poinsettia  
Order Form

Fish Fry

Prayer Shawl  
Ministry

Community  
Blood Drive

Cantata

A Journey to  
Bethlehem

Calendar,  
Birthdays &  
Anniversaries



**HANGING OF THE GREENS**

THIS Saturday, November 28th  
9:00—12:00 noon

Please join the Nurture Committee for decorating, fun and fellowship! We will be putting up the Crismon tree, decorating the Sanctuary and the outdoors.

The **ONE Service** will this coming Sunday, November 29. Sunday School will be at 9:15am and The One Worship service will be at 10:30am.



**POINSETTIA ORDER FORM**

Trinity will once again be ordering Christmas Poinsettias in memory or honor of a loved one. The cost is \$8.50 per pot. Please fill in the form below and place it along with your check (made out to Trinity UMC) in the collection plate on Sunday or mail to the church office attention "Ronna".

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

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

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

Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline to order is Monday, Dec. 7th.**

There are two opportunities to travel to the **Operation Christmas Child Warehouse** in Charlotte to volunteer your services in helping to prepare the shoeboxes for shipment. On Thursday, December 3rd the youth and adults ages 13 and older are leaving the church parking lot at 3:30pm to go volunteer, see Shelly Black for more info. Then on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> the church bus will leave Trinity and anyone interested in going let Cheryl Howard know. You must be at least 13 years old. The bus will leave around 6:45 on Dec. 15th and return by 10:30.

We have been volunteering for 3 – 4 years and have ALWAYS been blessed by doing so. Come receive a blessing too!

*\*\*\*Trinity contributed 119 boxes this year to Samaritans Purse...thank you Shelly for coordinating this mission and thank you Trinity for your boxes filled with love.*

Each year during the holidays, Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region (HPCCR) provides the opportunity for survivors to gather with others who have experienced loss for a 'Celebration of Life' memorial service. Readings, music, and prayers are an important part of these services. For many, however, the most significant moment comes when they are given the opportunity to light a candle and call the name of their loved one. Some names are called boldly and with resolve, while others are called through cracked voices, broken by grief. A feeling of comfort prevails, though, as those who have gathered realize they are not alone others are walking this journey with them. The following sites will hold these services:

**Hospice & Palliative Care Lake Norman**

Mt. Zion UMC  
19600 Zion Street, Cornelius  
Thursday, Dec. 3rd—7:00pm

**Levine & Dickson Hospice House**

11900 Vanstory Drive—Huntersville  
Sunday, Dec. 6th—2:00pm



**Prayer Shawl Ministry** had it's FIRST meeting on November 21th with 20 present. Our next meeting will be Saturday December 5 @ 10 am. If you missed the first one it's not too late to come out and learn how to crochet these prayer shawls. When finished they will be delivered to Hospice Levine-Dixon House in Huntersville.

**FISH FRY**



Saturday, December 5th the United Methodist Men will host a Fish Fry. The cost is \$9.00 per plate which includes Filet Flounder, Shrimp, Catfish, Slaw, Fries, Hushpuppies, Tea) Desserts will be available for \$1.00. The cost for children 12 and under is \$5.00.



**Churchwide caroling** sponsored by the choir.

Come on out and help us sing for our shut-ins on Wednesday, December 23 @ 6 pm. We will take the bus and leave from the church, carol and end the fun at Shoney's in Huntersville for dinner. Fa La La La La La La La!



Circle #1 of the UMW group is selling **Christmas Cookie Trays** again this Christmas season.

The cost is \$15.00 for a wrapped tray of 4 dozen cookies. Pick-up day will be Saturday, Dec. 19th in the FLC from 11:30-12:30. You can call the church office to place your order or see a member of Circle #1.

## TITHES AND OFFERING—

**11-15-09**—Budget—\$3,972.00

Montana Mission—\$25.00

Playschool Scholarship—\$20.00

**11-22-09**—Budget—\$2,640.00

Children's Church Ministries—\$20.00

Montana Missions—\$25.00

Playschool Scholarship—\$20.00



**Playschool Scholarship**.....if you need to turn in your money for December, please make your \$10 check out to Trinity United Methodist Church and on the memo line put Playschool Scholarship. Drop it in the offering plate or turn it in to the office. THANKS

## **THANK YOU**

Neana Phillips' entire family wants to thank all of you who came out to support us on Saturday, Nov. 14th at the BBQ Benefit at Hopewell Presbyterian Church. We are so appreciative of your generosity. Words cannot express the comfort that comes with the support you have all shown to our family throughout this time. God's love is truly amazing, and it was certainly evident to anyone who attended the event and saw the number of people who came out to show that they care. We are so grateful to you all for the generous donations made, which will go toward Neana's medical expenses and for the constant prayers and cards received. We are truly blessed to have so many loving friends and family to lean on. Please continue to pray for Neana and her treatment and keep us all in your prayers over the next several months.

With love in Christ,

Davie, Neana, DG, Brandy, & Harry Phillips

Joyce Untz, Nancy Mertz, Kimberly Untz, & Tamie Untz

Harry & Linda Smith



**THANKS** to St. James Male Chorus for a wonderful concert AND for their generous offering to our Sandwich Kitchen. Many, many homeless WILL eat because of their donation!!!

## TRINITY UMC COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, December 20th from 10:00am—12:45pm Trinity will host a Blood Drive. You can sign up for this after the Worship Services or call the church office.

*"Brighten a Child's Holiday Season by signing a gift tag to be placed on a stuffed puppy!!"*



**REMINDER:** Get your cleaning cloths today!!! These make great stocking stuffers or a small gift for that special person. They are great for washing cars, cleaning windows, mirrors, silver and much, much more. See any United Methodist Women or stop by the church office. They are just \$5.00 and clean just about anything!!!

There are also still some cookbooks for sale. The cost is \$15.00 per book.

So start looking at your Christmas list and stop by the church and let us help you shop.

**EMMANUEL** - Celebrating Heaven's Child is the name of the Christmas musical the choir will be presenting during the eleven o'clock worship service on December 13th. If you would like to sing with us just for this Christmas program consider yourself invited!!! We practice our regular Sunday morning music on Wednesday evenings from 7 – 7:30 and we will be practicing our Christmas music from 7:30 – 8:00, so you are welcome to come at 7:30 if you would just like to be a part of this Christmas special.



## A JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Sunday, Dec. 20th at 5 pm come see a live nativity, hear handbells and carolers, hear the children present their Christmas musical, Shepherds, Sheep, and a Savior and maybe even visit with SANTA!!!

**Childrens Practice** is every Sunday afternoon at 5:30pm. This is for any age child/youth that would like to help sing.

## TRINITY APOSTLES NEW YEARS MEETING

On Sunday January 3, 2010 the Trinity Apostles invite all members of the Apostles group as well as anyone interested in hearing more about The Emmaus Walk or Chrysalis Flights to join them in the FLC immediately following the 11:00am Worship Service for lunch and an information session. This is not a time to pressure anyone into going on one of these week-ends, it is just for information. There has been a lot of interest in this and people asking just what is Emmaus or Chrysalis. This is your chance to ask any and all questions.

**LOAF Sunday** was a big success in November. We received LOTS of bread. Many thanks loafers!! Let's do it again on December 20th. GO LOAFERS!!!! (a thank you goes to the following for making 500 sandwiches on November 16: Von Haverlah, Ronna and Wayne Privette, Ed Puckett, Curtis Buchanan, Peggy Hough and John Moore)

**December, 2009**

Non-profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 770  
Charlotte, NC

**TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

6230 Beatties Ford Road  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28216  
704-399-1684

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**DECEMBER WORSHIP  
RESPONSIBILITIES**

**INFANT NURSERY**

Dec. 6—Shelly & Daniel Black  
13—Lynne Bruce & Cynthia Gilbert  
20—Laura & Chad Hunning  
27—Crystal Figaro &  
Claudia Myers

**TODDLER NURSERY**

Dec. 6—Michelle & Joerg Brachten  
13—Cheryl & Peter Putukian  
20—Karen Kidd &  
Cathy Carpenter  
27—Susan & Lee Owings

**USHERS**

Donnie Bruce (Head), David Stroupe,  
Justin Stroupe, Adam Stroupe,  
Doug Darnell

**FINANCE STEWARDS**

Finance Committee & Donnie Bruce

**RETIREMENT RESIDENTS**

Regency Retirement Village —  
Lawrence Duke  
Shad's Landing - Lee Almond  
Olde Knox Commons at the  
Village— Patsy Ward  
Churchill Assisted Living-  
O'Neal Harpe  
Mapleleaf Healthcare Center—  
Hilda Morris

**HOMEBOUND**

Betty Johnston  
Bill Todd  
Melvin Kerns

**HOSPITAL NEWS**

Presbyterian (*Main*) - Buddy Kidd  
Home—Bain Sharar

Visit us at:

**[www.trinityumcofcharlotte.com](http://www.trinityumcofcharlotte.com)**

**Room In The Inn Dates**






During this coming winter season  
Trinity will host The Room In the  
Inn during the following week-ends.  
Dec. 18 & 19  
Jan 15 & 16  
Feb. 19 & 20  
March 19 & 20  
Please mark your calendars and  
anytime that you can help please  
come be a part of the ministry.

**The Billy Graham Library**

presents Christmas at the Library  
December 1—23 from 9:30am—  
9:00pm. This is for the whole fam-  
ily. There will be a live nativity,  
horse-drawn carriage rides, twin-  
kling lights, exquisite decorations,  
the merry sound of carolers, and  
tours of the library. For other  
activities offered call 704-401-3270.



# December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30am—Bible Study @ IHOP 7:00—Boy Scouts	2 10:00-2:00-Hot Dogs 6:00—Handbells 7:00—Choir	3 6:30—Daisy Scouts	4	5 10:00-Prayer Shawl Class (FLC) 11:00—Choir 4:00—Fish Fry
6 9:00-Contemporary Service 10:00-Sunday School 11:00—Traditional Serv 5:00—Youth 5:30-Play Practice	7 9:30— <i>Deadline to order poinsettias</i> 	8 6:30am—Bible Study @ IHOP 7:00—Boy Scouts	9 10:00-2:00-Hot Dogs No Choirs 6:00-Supper with Santa	10	11	12 10:00-Choir
13 9:00-Contemporary Service 10:00-Sunday School 11:00—Cantata 5:00—Youth 5:30-Play Practice 6:30-Searching the Word SS Class	14 12:00-Circle #2 <i>Christmas Party</i> 1:00—Circle #3 @JoAnne Smiths 7:00—Circle #4 @Donna Stroupes	15 6:30am—Bible Study @ IHOP 6:45—Bus leaves for Samaritans Purse 7:00—Boy Scouts <i>(Deadline for Angel Tree donations)</i>	16 10:00-2:00-Hot Dogs 6:00—Handbells 7:00—Choir	17 6:30—Circle #1 @ The Haverlah's	18 6:00—Room In the Inn	19 8:00am—Room In the Inn 9:00—Play Practice 11:30-12:30-Cookie Pick-up (FLC) 
20 9:00-Contemporary Service 10:00-Sunday School 10—12:45—Blood Drive 11:00—Traditional Serv 5:00—A Journey to Bethlehem/Dinner	21 8:00am—Sandwich Shoppe	22 6:30am—Bible Study @ IHOP 7:00—Boy Scouts	23 6:00—Christmas Caroling	24 7:00-Christmas Eve Service	25 <b>CHRISTMAS</b>  <i>Office Closed</i>	26
27 9:00-Contemporary Service 10:00-Sunday School 11:00—Traditional Serv	28	29 6:30am—Bible Study @ IHOP 7:00—Boy Scouts	30 10:00-2:00-Hot Dogs	31  <b>NEW YEARS EVE</b>		