



FROM THE PASTOR...

Well, it's a new year. The rush and stress of Advent and Christmas is over. The presents are put away. The decorations may already be returned to their place in the garage or storage. The page has been turned on the Christmas stories in Matthew and Luke for another year. Like me many folks have mixed emotions this time of year.

On one hand I am a little relieved that life will return to something resembling normal. Sometimes the gatherings, parties, and additional services during December cause our calendars to be filled up. We wonder if we have the time or energy to go all the places we need to go and do all the things we need to do. Usually, on Christmas night, I sink back in my chair, enjoy the quiet, and silently thank God the busyness is over for another year.

But I also experience a sadness that evening. I realize the house will look barren when the decorations come down. The lawns that only a few days ago twinkled with light will soon return to leafless trees and brown grass. The house is silent...too silent...absent is the clatter of family and the running of little feet. After Christmas, normal just doesn't seem right in many ways. What happens when Christmas is over? What do I do now?

Maybe there are others that feel the way I do. Maybe some of you are wondering what to do now that Christmas is over. I'd like to share something that has helped me refocus after Christmas. It is entitled "The Work of Christmas" by Howard Thurman

"When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
the work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost
To heal the broken
To feed the hungry
To release the prisoner
To rebuild the nations
To bring peace among brothers and sisters
To make music in the heart."

May God lead us, guide us, and strengthen us at Trinity as we go about the "work of Christmas".

*Grace and Peace
Wade*

For Church information visit:

www.trinityofcharlotte.com

Rev. Wade Ogle—(Minister) - awogle1@att.net

Ronna Privette—(Secretary) - rgprivette1@att.net

Claudia Myers—(Preschool Director) - claudiamyers@att.net

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

As we begin this new year we are changing the format of our newsletter a little. This is still a work in progress, so you may continue to see some changes over the next couple of months. Please be patient with us, and if you have some suggestions of things you would like to see in your newsletter, now is the time to call the church office with this request..



Christmas is over and of course that means the decorations must come down. Saturday, January 14th you are asked to come out and help with this task. It all begins at 9:00am and hopefully will not take to long if there is plenty of good help!

JUST A THOUGHT...

A few things not to bring with you into the new year...

- Self help books—Trust in God first; don't

turn to Him as a last resort. (Proverbs 3: 5-6)

- Tape measure—Consider only God's standards; don't compare yourself to other people. (Luke 18:9-14)
- Rearview mirror—Don't live in the past. You'll miss out on what God is doing in your life now. (Philippians 3:12-14)
- Gavel—Stop wasting time judging others. Instead, pray for them, help them and team with them. (Luke 6: 37-38)

copies

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

VISIONARY/PLANNING DAY

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Jan. 28th. This will be a day for visioning and planning for 2012. All church leaders and members are invited to come



help with this visioning time for Trinity. This will run from 10:00am—1:00pm in the FLC!

NEW YEAR BIBLE

DISCUSSION

Preacher Wade will begin a new Bible Discussion group on Sunday, Jan. 8th. For 13 weeks he will be offering a study of Revelations. The time is 5:15pm—6:30pm each Sunday evening.

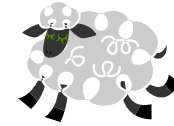
SHEEP HAPPENINGS

Trinity was blessed during the month of December with many Christmas celebrations. On Sunday, December 4th the Chancel Choir presented their wonderful **Christmas music** during the 11:00am Traditions Worship Service directed by Cheryl Howard. Many of our small groups celebrated with **Christmas parties**,

Room In the Inn was held at Trinity on December 16th with 7 neighbors joining them. The children and youth presented **"JINGLE FOR JESUS"** and showcased the hard work that they have been doing each Sunday evening during youth. Trinity continued to "Feed My Sheep" by making 500 sandwiches for Urban Minis-

tries on Dec. 18th. The festivities ended with a **Christmas Eve** candlelight service and a special worship service on Christmas Day.

We hope that sometime during this month you and your family were able to be a part of the celebrations honoring Jesus' birth.



THANK EWES...

Dear Trinity UMC Family,

The staff and students at Hornets Nest Elementary School would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to you for supporting our school through Thanksgiving and Christmas donations. Your generosity helps our students who are less fortunate to realize there are special people in our community who care. As we think of you this season, our hearts overflow. May the warmth of the holidays fill your hearts with joy! Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Again, thank you for supporting our school.

Jenee' Johnson, Counselor

"The sight was so spectacular, please wipe away that tear, for I spent Christmas with Jesus Christ this year. I heard the many Christmas songs, that people hold so dear, but the sound of music can't compare with the Christmas Choir up here. For I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices brought. It is beyond description to hear an angel sing. I know how much you miss me, I see the pain in your heart but I am not so far away, we are not really apart. So be happy for me, dear ones, you know I hold you dear and be glad I spent Christmas with Jesus Christ this year."
copied

We would like to thank everyone for the cards, calls, food, flowers, prayers and many acts of kindness sent to our family after the loss of our mother, Annie McElroy. Each one has meant so very much to us.

Anne Griffin & Family

I would like to express my appreciation for all the cards, letters and thoughts you have sent to me during my recovery time. I send best regards to you and your families for a wonderful New Year.

Rev. Lee Ellis

A big thank you to all who purchased Christmas cookie trays from Circle #1 in December. This fundraiser helps to provide for many needs in the church and community during the year.

Your toughfulness and kindness through your love offering to Susan and I is very much appreciated. Thank you to all for your well wishes during this season.

Blessings,
Wade Ogle

NEW MEMBERS

Trinity welcomes 3 new members to its flock.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We look forward to working with these mem-

bers in the future!



Don & Nancy Brown

Joined by transfer
11/27/11



Donnie Wilson

Joined by POF
12/4/11

OPPORTUNITIES

2012 BIRTHDAY CALENDARS

Place your order today for a church birthday calendar. These calendars include birthdays for church members as well as a blank calendar

were you can keep your church activities. The cost is \$7.00 each.



2012 Budget and Officers sheets can be pick up in the church office

HOSPITAL NEWS

HOPSITALS

Home—John Moore,
Marie Chesser, Marion Elliott

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

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship Helpers and Retirement Residents

NURSERY

Jan. 1—No Nursery
Jan. 8—Nowell & Audrey Midthun
 Laura Miller
Jan. 15—Christie & Gus Pistolis
 Jacob Pistolis
Jan. 22—Cheryl & Peter Putukian
 Ryan Putukian
Jan. 29—Shelly & Daniel Black
 Logan Massey

RISE-UP NURSERY

Jan. 8 - Lisa Laney
Jan. 15 -Dolores LaPrade
Jan. 22—Donna Stroupe
Jan. 29—Ronna Privette

USHERS FOR JANUARY

John McLemore
Carolyn McLemore
Mike Hicks
Elaine Hicks

FINANCE STEWARDS

Lynne Bruce & John McLemore

SERMON SCRIPTURES FOR JANUARY

Jan. 1—Ecclesiastes 1:2-3; 12-18
Jan. 8—Mark 1: 4-11
Jan. 15—John 6: 32-42
Jan. 22—John 8: 12 -18
Jan. 29—John 10: 11-21

RETIREMENT RESIDENTS

Shad's Landing—Lee Almond
Olde Knox Commons—Bill Todd
 Patsy Ward
Churchill Assisted Living—
 O'Neal Harpe
Maple Leaf Healthcare Center -
 Hilda Morris
The Laurels—James Rogers
Aldersgate—Francis Whisenant

HOMEBOUND

J.B. Heglar
Betty Johnston
Melvin Kerns

TITHES and OFFERINGS

Needed Weekly: - \$4,944.32
Contributions have been made to
the **Cemetery Fund** by Ted &
Corinne Carland.

Room In the Inn ministry in honor
of *Marie Ross* by The Emmett Wil-
son Bible Class.

The Homeless Fund in honor of
Wade Ogle by Wayne & Ronna
Privette.

The Church Budget in honor of
Mildred Davis by Barbara Brake-
bill.

The Sandwich Ministry in mem-
ory of *Lawrence Duke, Sr.* By Hen-
derson & Larry Duke.