Trinity UMC
Preschool
Newsletter
December
2013

Dates to Remember
Supper with Santa Wed, Dec. 4th
Christmas Break - 12/23/12 - 1/3/13
Happy Days for Moms and Dads - Children
return to school - Wed. Jan. 6

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 to see if CMS is closed
and we will be also or call the school's number
704-399-1684 ext. 23 for a message from
Claudia. Please remember to dress your child
appropriately for the weather outside. The
children do go outside daily unless it is raining
or snowing.

Start a New Tradition for
this Christmas Season
Have a basket or make a
'manger'. Have a pile of
raffia or yarn pieces, about 8"
for each piece. You'll need a lot of pieces. Put
the crib in a high-traffic area. (Mine goes in
front of Christmas tree.) Explain to all the kids
that for each good deed that they do, they get
to put a piece of 'straw' in the crib. To make a
really soft bed for Jesus, they will need to do
lots of good deeds. If they don't tell anyone the
good deed, they get to put in TWO pieces of
straw. On Christmas morning, put a baby doll
(Jesus) in the crib. Have the kids help make
'swaddling clothes' out of strips of sheet.

Supper with Santa
December is the month
for one of preschool's
favorite events. As you
all know the Hot Dog
Committee serves lunch
each Wednesday from 11:00
until 2:00 PM. On DECEMBER 4TH, they
will reopen at 6:00 so we can welcome
Santa Claus! He comes each year on Long
Creek's Volunteer Fire Department
truck. 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 always arrives
around 6:30pm and will be available for
photos with your child, so be sure and
bring your camera. We will open the
doors for Supper at 6:00 so come and
enjoy a meal with your family before
Santa arrives. On the menu you can
choose from Hotdogs with all the
fixings, Chicken Nuggets and Fries.
Invite your neighbors and join us for a
magical night.

TUITION REMINDERS
All tuition monies for December must be in
the office no later than 12:00pm, Friday,
December 13th. After that, a $10 late
charge will automatically be charged to
your account, unless you have talked to
Cindy 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
JINGLE FOR JESUS

Ms. Laura, our youth coordinator at Trinity wants to invite all of the Trinity Preschool children between the ages of 2 and 5 years to be a part of the Christmas Children’s program on Sunday, December 15. To be in the program, they only need to attend the final practice, which will be Saturday December 14, at 11:45 am. Everything, including Saturday’s practice, will be in the Family Life Center. On the day of the program, starting immediately after the 11:00 service, a BBQ lunch will be provided by the UMM for a donation! Children's program starts 1pm. Please have children in the Fellowship Hall entryway at 12:45 and have them dressed in a Sunday Christmas outfit!

The Trinity Choir will be singing “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year” on Sunday, December 8th during the 11:00am Traditional Worship Service. Come be a part of this Worship Service and enjoy the beautiful Christmas music.

Four Years Old
- Seth Hough 1st
- Landon Grove 17th

Three Years Old
- Jerrick Ferguson 9th
- Bentley Bruce 18th

Two Years Old
- Georgia McMillan 3rd
- Jake Eades 5th

As you read the Christmas story and read of the Wise men and their gifts to Baby Jesus, have you ever wonder what you would have given the Christ Child. Some of our children had no trouble at all.

- Layla Hunning – a baby puppy
- Cruz Surrat – a tractor
- Poppy Fee – a yo-yo
- Sam Bauer – a dinosaur
- Ben Eade – a red race car
- Ashlyn DeWolfe – a baby toy
- Seth Hough – a baby elephant
- Hannah McGrady – a bear
- Landon Grove – a game

Extended Lunch Bunch
Every Wednesday in December
With the Christmas Season upon us, we know it can sometimes be stressful trying to get everything accomplished between now and the New Year. So, we would like to offer you a few extra hours of free time to run errands, buy Christmas presents, or just relax and reflect on things.
Any Wednesday in December, your child can drop in for Lunch Bunch from 12:00pm - 2:00pm for $20 giving you an
From the Preacher at Trinity,

Outside my office window today the weather is cold and cloudy. Even though it’s the last of November, it sure looks and feels like winter. Soon Christmas will be here.

The signs are everywhere. Many stores and malls have the trees and lights up. Some houses in my neighborhood have already put out the lighted deer and Christmas trees. Black Friday has turned into Black Thanksgiving evening or Black last of November. It seems everyone wants to get a head start on what many folks call “the most wonderful time of year.” The Advent. Christmas season is meant to be the most wonderful time we celebrate each year. But, for many folks it’s anything but wonderful. Some lose the wonder of Christmas in their rush to buy presents for folks that already have all they need or want. Others lose the wonder in the stress of planning family gathering, extravagant meals, or attending all the functions that are expected of them. Every year I try to slow down, enjoy, and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas…the birth of Jesus…the Savior of the world. But it seems that my intentions are soon derailed by all the pastoral, family, and personal demands. Maybe some others feel that way too. Perhaps my intentions were well intended but impossible in today’s world. Maybe if we could only steal a few moments…find a time that we can’t be interrupted and spend just enough time to read the Christmas story in Luke’s Gospel we could experience that wonder again.

Of course, there are folks that lose the wonder of Christmas in other ways. Some lose that wonder because of situations in life. They are alone. They don’t feel loved. They don’t have anyone to give a present to or get a present from. Depression often gets the deepest during Christmas. Perhaps that’s why the suicide rate almost doubles between Thanksgiving and New Year’s. Far from being the “most wonderful time of year,” the holidays find many folks at the end of their rope and the end of their hope.

What can we, as followers of Jesus, do to bring the wonder of Christmas back to us and to those who feel most alone? In addition to slowing down, perhaps we can get our heads out of the latest Black Friday sale circular and just notice things and people around us. Take time to notice the glow of the lights in the mall…and the darkness of the person we pass on the street. Take time to think about how we can make the wonder of Christmas real to those around us.

Maybe we could invite someone who is alone or struggling to a Sunday School Christmas or New Year’s function. Maybe we could reach out to those less fortunate…not with just a gift we hurriedly purchased…not with just a hug and the reassurance that Christmas is a time when all things can be made new.

The Advent/Christmas season is meant to be “the most wonderful time of year.” God came near…God came as a help-less infant…God came to live among humanity to experience our struggles and identify with our pain. God came so that Christmas and every other time could be the most wonderful time of any year. I pray we each find time to experience the wonder of Christmas in our lives and give that wonder to someone who is struggling.

Grace and Peace
Reverend Wade Ogle
With Love from Miss Claudia

This month I will not write about the reason that we have Christmas. Our pastor, Wade has covered that on the preceding page quite beautifully. What I would like you to reflect on is another important element of Christmas or for that matter, if we are very lucky, our whole life. What I am referring to is wonder; now I am not talking about a little wonder, but mind blowing, fireworks flying “WONDER AND AWE”!

All through a child’s day they experience things that are fresh, new and beautiful, full of wonder and excitement. Most of us lose that clear-eyed vision, that true instinct for what is beautiful and awe-inspiring. Each year that passes, we see the world less clearly. If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it; an adult that has by a miracle hung on to it or at least is willing to rediscover with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.

I sincerely believe that for the child, and for the parent or grandparent seeking to guide him, it is not half so important to know as to feel. The years of early childhood are the time to stir emotions. Once the emotions have been aroused—a sense of the beautiful; the excitement of the new and the unknown;—then we wish for knowledge about the object of our emotional response. Through the feelings of wonder and awe a child wants to seek out answers, which has a much more lasting effect than putting him on a diet of facts he is not ready to understand or apply.

True learning is possible when we allow and encourage children to be themselves and learn from exploring the things and places that their emotions of awe and wonder may take them.

“The world is full of magic things, patiently waiting for our senses to grow sharper.”
W.B. Yeats

Kids Say the Cutest Things

It was the day before Thanksgiving break and the weather was terrible so “Miss” Susan decided to play, “Who’s Missing”, a game where one child hides while the rest of the class have their eyes closed. After picking a few children and them guessing the missing child on the first guess, Miss Susan said, “I am going to have to change this game up, because you are too smart!” Cooper Kidd raised his hand and said, “Why don’t you just pick someone dumb?”

The entire staff at Trinity would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas.
New Babies in the Preschool Family

Thanksgiving break is over and we are celebration three families, the Liner’s, Falcone’s and the McMillan’s who added three new babies over Thanksgiving. As I was greeting I saw lots of happy grandparents and big brothers. We also had a Daddy, doing a great job getting his older child to school, even if the hat was put on a little off center.

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 Monday, December 16th.

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.