



The Trinity Tower



Volume 34 Number 11

2011

The December Trinity Tower Newsletter is sponsored by Nancy MacMeekin
in memory of loved ones.



WORSHIP DURING DECEMBER

The season of Advent preparation is here.

Rev. Heasley will preach Dec. 4, 11, 18.

Rev. Heberling will lead worship Christmas Eve (8:00pm)
and Christmas Day (9:00am).

Dec. 4- Second Sunday of Advent 8:15/10:30. The Prophet Isaiah's words are of comfort and promise. Mark's Gospel introduces John the Baptist who prepares us for the coming one.

Dec. 11-Third Sunday of Advent 8:15/10:30

Again Isaiah gives encouraging words of the coming joy. John the Baptist is the focus in John's Gospel with an emphasis on his witness and voice pointing to the One who is to come.

Dec. 18-Fourth of Advent 8:15/10:30

II Samuel, the Old Testament lesson speaks of the 'House of David', setting the foundation for the One who descends from that 'house', namely Jesus. Luke's message is the joyous/fearful news from angel Gabriel to Mary of the impending birth.

Dec. 24- Christmas Eve 8:00 p.m.

Through lessons, carols, congregational singing and choir anthems the awe-filled beauty and wonder of this night will be celebrated with a candle-lighting ceremony.

Dec. 25-Christmas Day One Service 9:00 am

This will be a relaxed and joyful celebration of the gift of Jesus come to earth to reveal God's love, peace and hope for all.

January 1-New Year's One Service 9:00 am

We will usher in the New Year with **Communion**. Scripture texts celebrate the cycle of time and the call for NEWNESS!
Rev. Heasley will lead the worship

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday school classes have been running smoothly, and the new "system" of a "center approach" to the children's class structure seems to be a hit. There is a time for "work" and a time to play. The children are experiencing the basic bible stories weekly to help them progress through our current scope and sequence.

The older youth have been wonderfully consistent, and we want to thank **Garrison, Elliot, MacKenzie, Cole, and Luke** for their contributions to both Sunday school and church. Teachers have been trying new ideas in all classrooms, and they remain consistent, caring, and giving. There is a great need for more of our congregation to volunteer to work with our youth. Please consider giving of yourselves to our younger members...you will not regret the time spent with them. We are so fortunate to have exemplary youth in our midst!!! **more** □

Christian Ed, continued

A great big thanks to those who have volunteered so far in the nursery. It is wonderful to see the littlest ones "bouncing" along to the music and playing together. Nothing is more of a treasure than to walk in that room and see a beaming baby!
Have a beautiful holiday, and come visit the classrooms during this special time in our church year. **Ann Walsh**

SOCIAL CONCERNS

The Social Concerns Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the "Mission:1" challenge! We did have participation in every area. The final numbers as of Sunday, November 13 for all participating groups were: Food for our local communities - 1,204,532 (1,000,000 goal), letters to our government representatives - 34,010 (11,111 goal), Neighbors in Need dollars donations \$92,006 (goal - 111,111) and East Africa Famine Relief dollars donations \$94,196 (goal 111,111). These are numbers we can be proud to be a part of. Trinity donated 378 food items (with special thanks to **Don Blevins** and **Thomas Weiant** for delivering our food items to the local Food Pantry) We wrote 9 letters, and gave \$564 in just two weeks!! A special thank you to the middle and high school Sunday School class for the Posters. **Janet Sheely**

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, December 11 at 11:30 am (after the 10:30 service.) You will receive a separate mailing prior to the meeting so you can look over the budget. Also in this separate mailing, will be the names of 2 Elders and 2 Deacons for consideration for the class of 2014

ALTAR GUILD HAPPENINGS

Decorating the Greens: Come enjoy Fellowship and cider while we decorate Trinity's Christmas Wreaths on Saturday, December 3rd from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Bring a glue gun or floral wire if you have them. See or call **Rayna Cooper** if you can join us!

Included in this Trinity Tower newsletter

is an order form for placing poinsettias

on our altar in honor or memory of loved ones.

Deadline to order is Dec. 11.



Altar Guild Members' annual meeting will be **Sat. Jan. 7 2012 at noon** at Hoss's Steak and Seafood in Gettysburg. Members and a guest will enjoy a Dutch Treat lunch with the meeting following. **RSVP to Rayna Cooper at 337-1074.**

Eric Blackstone has again donated a beautiful tree for our Gathering Area. We need help bringing it in on Thurs. Dec. 1st a.m. Strong men encouraged to be here!

TRINITY CIRCLE

The Circle will hold their annual Christmas Party at noon on Saturday, December 3, at General Pickett's Buffet.

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Annual Holiday Bazaar is Friday, December 9 this year. Please participate! Call Connie Howe or Perla Gish and sign up in the gathering area for the various jobs needed. See flyer included!

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Planned Giving - Considering an adjustment to your finances at year's end? Reviewing and up-dating your will?

If you are thinking about either of these things, the Stewardship committee encourages you to consider how you can continue support for your church. Planned Giving resources are available on the UCC website (ucc.org), or speak with **John Fuss** or one of the Pastors. There are a number of ways to give to the church through planned giving, including a gift annuity that provides income in the present and a gift to the church in the future.

Advent Devotionals - You are encouraged to observe a period of daily meditation during Advent. The devotional booklet "*The Lord is Near*" by Henri Nouwen is available on the literature table in the **Gathering Area**. Pick up your copy and have a more intentional devotional life in this Advent season as we prepare to celebrate the gift of God's generous love in the birth of Jesus.

CALLED TO CARE

Lay Visitors Program

Eleven folks from Trinity recently completed a seven week program for visiting those in nursing care facilities, those confined to their homes, those who have recently been hospitalized, and others in the congregation going through some difficult days. These folks have made a commitment to use their gifts of a listening ear and a healing touch to make a difference in the lives of others in the congregation and community. We deeply appreciate their willingness to share themselves in this way and ask for your prayers of support. When you see them offer an encouraging word, ask them about their work, and rejoice with them in how fulfilling it is to serve.

Members of the **Lay Visitor team** are: **Don Blevins, Darla and George Christopher, Mary Crockett, Ann Harner, Sue Henderson, John Lucas, Jane Malone, Jen Mickelson, Suzy Miller, and Pat Ziegler**. If you think there is someone in the congregation who could benefit from a visit, contact either **George Heberling** or **Jen Mickelson**, the Coordinator of the Lay Visitor Program.

Happy Anniversary

Celebrating **50 years**:

Francis and Marjorie Lyons - Dec. 8th
95 Woodcrest Drive, Gettysburg PA 17325

Celebrating **51 years**:

Jay and Janet Cutshall - Dec. 17th
1508 Biglerville Road, Gettysburg PA 17325

Trinity has **three Nonagenarians**:

Kathryn Kepner - Dec. 4
56 Knollwood Rd, Millersville PA 17551

Mildred Hankey - Dec. 11
1345 Biglerville Road, Gettysburg PA
17325

Jean Shealer - Dec. 28
Lutheran Home
1075 Old Harrisburg Rd, Gettysburg PA 17325

and our **Octogenarians**:

Virginia Lohuis - Dec. 5
Lutheran Home, Unit 305,
1075 Old Harrisburg Rd, Gettysburg PA 17325

Evelyn Gorman - Dec. 10
345 Shealer Rd, Gettysburg PA 17325

Gloria Ziegler - Dec. 15
166 Early Ave, Gettysburg PA 17325

Charles Krietz Sr - Dec. 22
2205 Emmitsburg Rd, Gettysburg PA 17325 **more** □



Jay Brown - Dec. 25

253 S Howard Ave, Gettysburg PA 17325

Lila Martin - Dec. 26

85 Table Rock Road, Gettysburg PA 17325

Clyde Martin - Dec. 27

31 Ski Run Trail, Carroll Valley PA 17320

Barbara Seiferd - Dec. 27

1180 Chambersburg Rd, Gettysburg PA 17325

And our **8 and under birthdays**:

Keira Popovice - Dec. 12 - 4 years

128 Rodes Ave, Gettysburg PA 17325

Parker Cox - Dec. 17 - 4 years

Kalena Cox - Dec. 28 - 5 years

c/o 165 Oak Drive, Orrtanna PA 17353

Mateo Bowles - Dec. 30 - 6 years

670 Middle Creek Road Fairfield PA
17320



SEARCH COMMITTEE

Meeting weekly, Trinity's Search Committee continues to review Ministerial Profiles. To date, 40 profiles have been received.

CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING

The Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ was able to assist over 1600 retired ministers and families last year. That assistance was in the form of

- Supplements for low pensions
- Assistance with health insurance
- Emergency grants for retirees/families in financial crises
- Thank you gifts for those in need
- Energy assistance grants for lower income annuitants.

The needs continue for many of our clergy who retired with low pensions. **Your gift in the red envelope (in the pews) are needed and greatly appreciated.**

HOMEWOOD GARDEN OF LIFE

A time to remember and honor loved ones at **Homewood at Plum Creek, Hanover, December 2**. Two services - 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel and 7:30 p.m. at Windows Dining Room. Donations of \$5.00 per are light are accepted.

GRIEF AND THE HOLIDAYS

A program to help grieving persons cope with the holidays will be offered at on **December 8, 7:00 p.m. in Community Room A of Gettysburg Hospital**, sponsored by the Pastoral Care Department, Rev. Ted Trout-Landen. To register call 337-4300.

Financial Books for 2011 will close Noon, Dec. 29.

Church office closed Dec. 26 and Jan 2

Christmas Greetings from your Staff:

We who serve you throughout the year extend our sincere wishes that the members and friends of Trinity and your families have a blessed Advent, a joyous Christmas, and a healthy New Year.

Pastor George Heberling	Audrey Blackstone
Pastor Ken Heasley	Lisa Reinoehl
Cally Kruger	Bill Hartlaub
John McKay	Mary Harmon
Jane Eiker	Laurie Catchings

In our thoughts and prayers: **Ashley Black,, Shane Cox, MacKenzie Kretz, Steven McKenna (serving our nation in Egypt), Tom Smith, Mary Timmins, Patsy Titus, and Teeyara Jo Weiant.**

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

Envelope offering needed through Dec. 20: \$160,881.
Envelope offering received: \$155,225.

Improvement Fund needed through Dec. 20: \$ 13,536.
Improvement Fund received: \$ 12,613.
Fellowship Hall Renovations through Dec. 20: \$ 78,687.