

THE BRIDGE

Trinity Presbyterian Church

1400 W. Sheley Road

Independence, MO 64052

Phone: 816-252-5893

Fax: 816-252-505024



Rev. Elizabeth Meador Strobel
www.trinityofindependence.org

December, 2015

Volume MMXV, No. 12
trinitypresby@att.net

"Diverse in Background, United in Faith"

Friends,

This last October, I attended a conference at Montreat Conference Center called "Neighbor: Being Christian in a Multifaith World." This was a fantastic experience both as a continuing education opportunity as well as a spiritual retreat. Thank you for giving me the time and financial support to do this kind of study leave regularly.

One of the many wonderful keynote speeches I heard there was by Rabbi Judy Schindler in which she gave 5 principles for how to best "Love Your Neighbor as Yourself." They are:

1. Know your neighbor's name.
2. Know your neighbor's beliefs.
3. Know your neighbor's pain.
4. Know your neighbor's story.
5. Lift up your neighbor.

It strikes me how simple these five principles are and how easy they are to practice. Asking our neighbors about their family, ideas, history, struggles, and desires are the everyday workings of good relationships – and yet, too often, we fail to live out these simple steps. Too often, we don't take the time to know our neighbors well enough see the image of God in one another.

These were shared in the context of interfaith dialogue – and oh, how we need to better understand, love, and interact with those of all faiths in the world. And yet, it occurs to me how much better even our churches would be if Christians would love one another enough to ask these questions.

As Trinity and Calvary will be uniting into one church, we have the opportunity to reach out to many new neighbors as friends – more importantly, as brothers in sisters in Christ. My challenge to you is to take the time to intentionally follow these steps. In this season of Peace, Love, and Hope, may we all know and lift up one another. If we truly take the time to know one another, then we will better love as God first loved us!

Blessings,
Elizabeth

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS



Trinity sends its love and sympathy to the family of John Sloan who passed away on Saturday, November 7th. His memorial service was held at Trinity Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, November 11th.



Both Trinity and Calvary Presbyterian Churches voted on November 22 to unite as one church. Thanks be to God!



This list of members at Trinity has been organized for the purpose of being lifted up in prayer during the week. We look forward to God's blessings as we pray for one another. During the month please pray for:

- Dec. 6:** Justin Chapman
John & Teresa Chapman
Travis Chapman
- Dec. 13:** Carol Chartrand
Rev. Donna Chavez
Larry Clark
- Dec. 20:** Donna Coffel
Don & Judy Combs
Bob & Jane Cooper
- Dec. 27:** Billie Cross
Ben, Heidi, Aspen, & Alexa
Daniel
Joe & Mary Daniel



- Dec. 6 George & Brenda Scott
- 7 John & Mary Sloan



- Dec. 1 Katie Sorensen
- 2 Carolyn Nickens
- 8 Debbie Hatton
- 9 Carol Chartrand
- 10 Irene Schmitt
- 13 Reid Hansen
- 16 T. J. Layman
- 17 Jack Layman
- 21 Laurie Rasmussen
- 22 David Lyons, Jr.



Thank you, Trinity, for saving the Best Choice Bar Codes for us. We have already collected 2,210 for 2015. Please keep saving!

MUSIC News



If you were so sad to read Catherine's "goodbye letter" in the last Bridge, it's time to rejoice!

Catherine has postponed her move until next summer, and will remain with us through the end of this choir season in May. Hooray!



NEW STAFF MEMBER

Trinity extends a warm welcome to our new Nursery Director, Amber Barker. Amber started at Trinity in October and has 7 years of previous childcare experience at Spectrum Station Early Learning Center. In her spare time, Amber loves baseball, especially the Royals! She and her daughter Amiya enjoy going to the zoo and making crafts together. Welcome Amber!

Nursery Needs



Amber needs your help in the nursery, as we need two-deep leadership in watching our children. To sign up, please contact Julie Lyons.

Joyful Giving



*On the first Day of the Week
"The people came together . . .*

Worship Services

Nov. 1	85
Nov. 8	65
Nov. 15	75
Nov. 22	91
Nov. 29	Not Available

and the people gave . . .

Nov. 1	\$2,662.00
Nov. 8	1,953.04
Nov. 15	1,019.57
Nov. 22	6,064.40
Nov. 29	<u>Not Available</u>
Nov. Total	11,699.01

A heartfelt thank you to those who have so lovingly and generously contributed to Trinity's memorial funds:

- Joyce Bailey
- Dorothy Christy
- John & Lottie Cianciolo
- Marilyn Burkett
- Billie Cross
- Betty Goetz
- Jim & Beth McPike
- Betty Miller
- Evelyn & Mike Richards
- Mary Zoe Shellely
- Paul & Sondra Tivis
- Sylvia Livingston
- Bob & Jane Cooper
- Jack & Jess Layman
- Jean Riddle



Advent Fair

The Christian Education Committee invites the congregation to our Annual Advent Fair on Sunday, December 6, 2015, 9:30 AM in the Founders Hall. There will be activities for all ages; cards to make for the shut-ins, encouragement notes for those having chemo treatments, and a craft for the kids. We are asking for your help by bringing your favorite holiday goodie to share at the Tasting Table. Look forward to seeing everyone there.



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2015 following morning worship.



Friday, December 25, 2015



Pastor's Christmas Gift

Members of the congregation wishing to give a monetary donation for pastor Elizabeth Strobel's Christmas gift should see Clerk of Session Lucy Berry or Financial Secretary Evelyn Richards by Sunday December 13th.

Our gift will be presented to her at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.



Don't forget to bring mittens, scarves, hats, and other cold weather clothing for our Mitten Tree. All donations will be taken to Hope House.



WEATHER CLOSINGS

When the weather is bad do you wonder if Trinity is opened? Now you can turn to your local television stations to find out. We will be listed on WDAF Channel 4, KMBC Channel 9 and KSHB Channel 41. We will NOT be listed on KCTV Channel 5.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on December 20th

This special offering is divided between the following 2 programs:

50% Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions

Financial assistance to individuals and families that have dedicated their lives to the church:

- Retired church workers with financial and housing needs
- Church workers with urgent financial needs

50% Presbyterian Mission Agency ministries in racial ethnic education and leadership development.

Education and leadership development opportunities:

- Assistance for students and future church leaders
- Equipping racial ethnic leadership for all ministries of the Church
- Support for Presbyterian-related schools and colleges to maintain Important ministries

Special offering envelopes are available in the pew racks or just mark you check memo to "Christmas Joy Offering".



Christmas Pageant

Trinity will once again mark the celebration of the season with the presentation of a youth and children's Christmas pageant on Sunday, December 20 during our 10:30 a.m. worship. **A brief organizational rehearsal will be Sunday Dec. 13 immediately following worship and the dress rehearsal will be Saturday, Dec. 19, at 9:30 a.m.**

If you would like to participate, a permission slip is available in the church office.



PIZZA CORN DOG SNACKS

1 pkg. (16 ozs.) frozen corn dogs, thawed
½ cup pizza sauce
3 tablespoons ripe olives
1 jar (4-1/2 ozs.) sliced mushrooms, drained
¼ cup shredded mozzarella cheese
Remove stick from each corn dog; cut into 1-in. slices. Place on an ungreased baking sheet. Spread with pizza sauce. Top with olives, mushrooms and cheese.
Bake at 350° for 15-20 minutes or until the cheese is melted and corn dogs are heated through. **Yield:** 30 snacks

Prepared for tailgate party by Beth McPike



"The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. They are planted in the house of the Lord, they flourish in the courts of our God."

Psalms 92:12-13

Our sanctuary will be decorated for the 2015 holiday season with beautiful poinsettias.

If you would like to provide a poinsettia in honor of someone you love, we invite you to do so by filling out the form below and returning it to the church office with your check for \$8.00 by December 6th. Make your check payable to Trinity Presbyterian Church and place it in the offering plate or send it to the church office.

A list of donors, as well as the person(s) in whose honor/memory/celebration the gift is given will be printed in the News Sheet.

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Celebration of: _____

Given by: _____

I will pick up my flower(s) following worship Christmas Eve

I wish for my flower(s) to be delivered to a shut-in.

Please name the shut-in, if possible

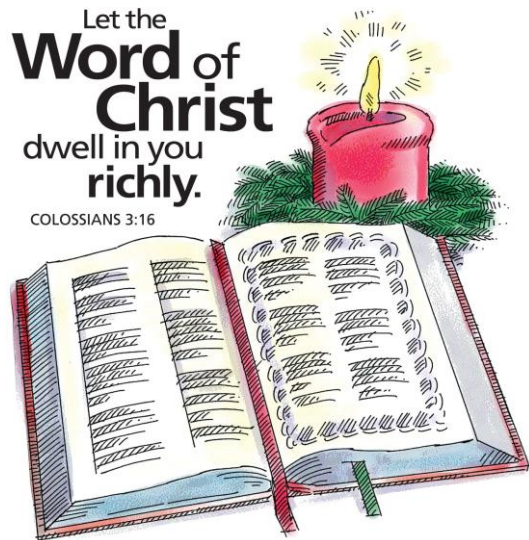
If you have any questions call Cathy Ruppert at 816-510-1836.



Can you guess the church member who ...

1. ... enjoys rainy days with a good book.
2. ... loves to shop at Craft Fairs.
3. ... was married at Trinity a long time ago.

Answer is on the last page!



TIGERs Corner

DECEMBER MEETINGS

Dec. 6 : 11:30 a.m. At Church
Dec. 20 : 6:00 p.m. Dinner & Movie at the
Strobel's House

RECENT EVENTS

During November the TIGERs sold nuts & picked up leaves through the Rent a Youth program. These were done to raise funds for our 2016 mission trips.



The Youth had so much fun with the Rent-a-Youth Fundraiser that we would like to extend a helping hand to any who might need assistance. We are here to help, free of charge! So if you have a job that needs to be done and could use a hand let us know. We'd like to help if we're available. Give Becky Layman or Julie Lyons a call to check on availability.

Plus, mark your calendar kids for our get together with Elizabeth & Charlie on December 20th.

TWO YOUTH TRIPS FOR 2016

– select just one or select both –
registration deadline December 13, 2015

Heifer Ranch Youth Mission Trip



The Youth 2016 Mission Trip to the Heifer Ranch in Perryville, AR - Global Gateway Extended Program.

- Dates: estimated June 23-26 or June 30-July 3 (we have to submit two date options to the ranch).
- Cost: estimated \$159.00

We will experience some of the daily struggles people in poverty face in village life in areas such as Zambia, Thailand or Appalachia. The adventure will include doing chores, fixing meals & sleeping in a village site.

Branson, MO Youth Retreat Trip

The Youth 2016 Retreat Trip is to Branson, Mo for the Young Christians Weekend at Silver Dollar City.

- Dates: March 31-April 3, 2016
- Estimated cost: \$214.00

We will be staying at the Suites at Fall Creek. Activities will include events over the weekend at SDC's Young Christians, Moses show at the Sight & Sound Theatre, the Titanic where we'll learn through application that with God in our life we never have to fear harm, for he is in control.



A DOSE of HUMOR

STILL MORE PUNS FOR
EDUCATED MINDS!

This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.

When chemists die, apparently they barium.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?



~~oops!~~

From a worship bulletin in Murfreesboro, Tennessee:

invite your friends:

Our "living Nativity" will re-create the manger scene ...

Join us beginning Dec. 20 at 6 p.m.

What a realistic scene this promises to be!





PHOTOS FROM THANKSGIVING DINNER



ANSWER

You guessed it! The answer is Diana Miller!



ANSWER: A & C
(SEE LUKE 2:1-2.)



All submissions for the December Bridge are due on Friday, December 20

2015
December
Events



Deck the Halls
Saturday, November 28
9:00 AM

Join us as we clean and green the sanctuary in preparation for the Advent and Christmas Seasons. Donuts provided!



Breakfast with Santa
Saturday, December 5
8:30 AM

Join Calvary Presbyterian Church for their annual, family friendly event!



ADVENT Fair
Sunday, December 6
9:30 AM

A traditional Advent Fair for all ages including crafts, music, tasting table, and fellowship!



CHRISTMAS CANTATA
Sunday, December 13
10:30 AM

Join us for Sunday morning worship featuring this year's cantata, "Comfort and Joy."



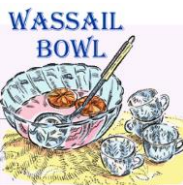
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, December 13
11:30 AM

Members are encouraged to attend our annual congregational meeting after worship to elect new officers, approve the budget, and other business.



Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 20
10:30 AM

Morning worship will feature our annual Christmas pageant as presented by our children and youth.



WASSAIL BOWL
Thursday, December 24
10:00 PM

Enjoy hot wassail, cookies, and fellowship before our Christmas Eve Service.



Christmas Eve Service
Thursday, December 24
11:00 PM

Candlelight Worship Service with the Communion.