

THE BRIDGE

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"Diverse in Backgrounds, United in Faith"

Dear Friends,

It has been an Advent tradition at Trinity that each family is provided with a devotional of some kind. We are continuing that tradition this year, but with a twist! You are all invited to participate in the Christmas Gift Challenge. Instead of just a devotional, this will be an Advent discipline.

Each household will receive one box (or you can provide your own) to fill with a gift each day for someone in need. Essentially, it's a reverse Advent Calendar – instead of getting something out each day, you put something in! We have a devotional booklet to accompany your gift box, with a question or thought for reflection each day accompanied by a prayer of dedication for the item you're giving away. The focus will be on the action of giving. Our worship and other events will also incorporate the theme of giving.

Our goal is to both serve our community as well as examine our own attitudes, expectations, and theology of gifts. It is my prayer that you will have a richer understanding and experience of the great gifts that God gives to us after this season.

Because that understanding can be so personal, you are invited to individualize your Christmas Gift Challenge. That can take any number of forms. For instance, if you ordinarily make a large financial investment in Christmas gifts to friends and family, you're encouraged to give just as generously to those in need.

If your holiday budget is thriftier, then delight in finding great bargains for your box. If you only give homemade gifts, consider making some or all of these gifts that you give away. You could make a box with a specific type of person in mind - a mom, an athlete, a bookworm, a child – whatever speaks to you. If you have children at home, please be sure to involve them in the gift planning, shopping, and giving. The Challenge is open ended for a reason: make it your own!

We will bring our gift boxes to church on Christmas Day and dedicate them during morning worship. They will then be sent to the appropriate charities. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about yourself, serve others, engage with your family, and grow closer to God. I look forward to participating with all of you!

Blessings,
Elizabeth



In Our Hearts & Prayers

WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

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 these:

- Dec. 4:** Lara (Susie) & Rob Anderson & Grant Allen
Paul, Dr. Andrea, Natalie & Norah Anderson
Raymond Andes
- Dec. 11:** Julie Atkins
Jean Babcock
Dave & Nancy Bankeroff
- Dec. 18:** Amber Barker & Amiya Taylor
Betty Barnett
Sandra Bellew
- Dec. 25:** David & Lucy Berry
Kevin Berry
Megan Berry



SO 'N SEWS

Thank you Trinity, for saving the Best Choice Bar Codes for us. We have already collected 851 for 2016. Please keep saving!



- Dec. 6:** George & Brenda Scott



MITTEN TREE

Don't forget to bring mittens, scarves, hats, and other cold weather clothing for our Mitten Tree in the Narthex. Donations will be received through December and then taken to Hope House.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Dec. 1:** Kathryn Sorensen
2: Carolyn Rich
9: Carol Chartrand
10: Irene Schmitt
13: Reid Hansen
16: T. J. Layman
17: Jack Layman
19: Ruth Ann Bullard
21: Laurie Rasmussen
22: David Lyons, Jr.
24: Claudia Gruenwald
26: Roberl L Gabel
27: Mike Richards

cheerful givers

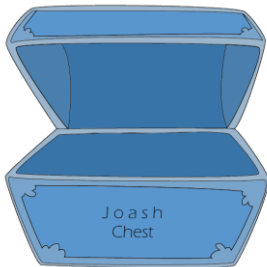
On the first Day of the Week

*"The people came together..."
Worship Services:*

Nov. 6	.....93
Nov. 13	.....97
Nov. 20	.....96
Nov. 27	.....Unavailable

"and the people gave . . ."

Oct. 30	..... \$2,192.00
Nov. 6	..... 2,708.00
Nov. 13	..... 2,343.35
Nov. 20	..... 6,302.75
Nov. 27	..... <u>Unavailable</u>
Total	..... \$.13,546.10



The Joash Chest is open in the sanctuary and ready to receive your pledges for 2017. Thank you for your generosity!

Congregational Meeting

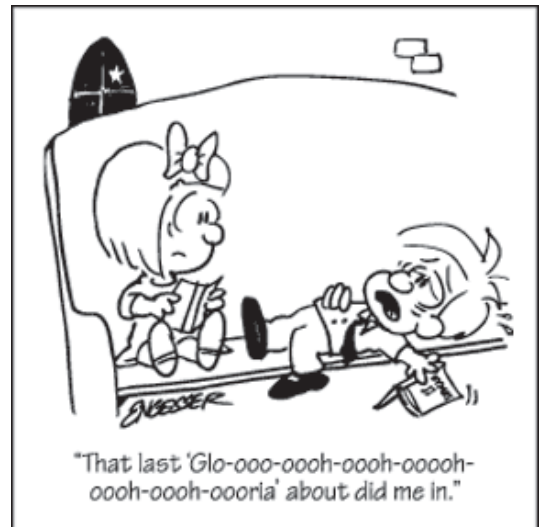
The Annual Meetings of the Congregations of Trinity and Calvary will be held jointly on Sunday, December 18, 2015 following morning worship.



WHO'S WHO?

- Can you guess the church member who ...
1. ... Worked for the Federal government 47 years: 13 yrs. - Air force, 34 yrs. FAA
 2. ... Station at Little Rock AFB, AK 1962-1969
 3. Still have our wedding lily (planted outside) from June 1956
- Answer on the last page.

A DOSE of HUMOR



~~oops!~~

From a worship bulletin:

Advent hymn sing

"Hark, the Herald Angles Sing"

See page 564

How angelic did that sound?



DECORATE THE CHURCH

Saturday
November 26
9:00 a.m. - Noon



Advent Workshop



Sunday
November 27
9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Please bring an item for our Tasting Table. If you bring something homemade, bring the recipe so that others can write it down on provided recipe cards.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN RED, GREEN, & WHITE LUNCHEON

December 10th
Noon
Fellowship Hall

All women of Trinity are invited to a Red, Green, White luncheon. This tradition comes from the Calvary women. Meat, beverages, and table setting are provided. We are asking you to bring a side or dessert that is red, green, or white in color - or a combination of those colors. Any questions please ask Lucy Berry 816-456-2235.



Saturday
December 3
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Enjoy a pancake breakfast and get your picture taken with Santa! Each family will take home the first photo for free, and then pay only \$1 per additional photo. There is no charge for admission or breakfast, but we will gladly accept freewill donations. Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors!



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11
10:30 a.m.

It's time again for our annual Christmas Pageant, starring the church children and youth! If your child is participating, **please plan to attend all rehearsals:**

Sunday, December 4, after church
Saturday, December 10, 9:00 a.m.
Sunday, December 11, 9:30 a.m.



LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday,
December 18
10:30 a.m.



Christmas Eve Communion

December 24
11:00 p.m.

And join us for fellowship
with cookies and hot wassail
at 10:00 p.m. before the service.



CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Join us on Sunday, December 25th, for Christmas morning worship at 10:30 a.m. This will be a casual service in Founders Hall – kids are welcome to come in their pajamas, encouraged to bring their favorite gift for a “show and tell” Christmas Sermon, and we will all enjoy festive snacks. Come worship the newborn King!



T.I.G.E.R.s CORNER

T.I.G.E.R.s questions call
Becky Layman at 830-4066

December 11: 11:30 a.m. - T.I.G.E.R.'s
December 20: **NO** T.I.G.E.R.'s

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



Angel - *Angel*, which means “messenger” in both Hebrew and Greek, is a spirit-being God created to perform tasks for him. In the Bible, angels appear in human form to deliver divine messages. Angels appear separately to Joseph and Mary, announcing Jesus’ upcoming birth, and “a multitude of the heavenly host” (Luke 2:13) tells shepherds of the Savior’s arrival. Scripture offers little information about angels, though we know some rebelled against God. Among the holy angels, categories include cherubim and seraphim.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

One of the best parts of any holiday is sitting down to a great meal with friends and family. If you do not have a family gathering on Christmas Day, the Stobels invite you to have Christmas Lunch with them in the Fellowship Hall following worship. So that we can make sure there is more than enough food, please let Elizabeth know if you’ll be attending by Sunday, December 18th.



PHOTOS FROM THANKSGIVING DINNER

November 18, 2016



Thanks to Dan Washburn for these great pictures. If you'd like to contribute photos to the Bridge, please email them to the church office at trinitypresby@att.net.



Christmas can be a difficult time for people who are hurting or grieving. In the 1860s, poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow had reason to despair: America was at war with itself, his son was severely wounded in battle and his wife died in a fire. The first Christmas after his wife's death, Longfellow wrote, "How inexpressibly sad are all holidays."

Three years later, on Christmas Day 1864, Longfellow penned a poem that later became the song "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." The lyrics move from despair to hope — and, thanks to Jesus, so can we.

*And in despair I bowed my head.
There is no peace on earth, I said!
For hate is strong, and mocks the song
of peace on earth, good will to men!*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
God is not dead, nor doth he sleep!
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
with peace on earth, good will to men!*



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.



WHO'S WHO?

ANSWER
You guessed it! The answer is
Dan Washburn!

Don't Miss the



The deadline for items submitted to the
January Bridge is
Friday, December 16.

Information for the weekly News Sheet
is due each week on Wednesday by
1:00 p.m.