

December, 2019

Volume 29, Issue 12

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Cantata Sunday is December 22

On Sunday, December 22, during the 10:30 worship service, the Trinity Choir and a 23-member orchestra will present “*THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS*”, a beautiful Christmas cantata recounting the Christmas story and its meaning for today. Using a combination of traditional carols, newly composed songs and a narration based upon the Christmas story excerpted from all four Gospels, this “glorious” music will inspire and enlighten all our hearts for a truly meaningful Christmas.

Thanks to all who have donated to the cantata subscription series which makes this presentation possible for our congregation and all of Tucson.



Christmas Eve Services

Casual Christmas Eve 5:00 pm

An informal service that includes a children's procession, a brief Christmas message by Pastor Mack, carols and candles.

(Please call 623-2579 for your child/grandchild to take part.)

Christmas Café 6:00 pm

Enjoy hot apple cider, cocoa, sandwiches, cookies, fellowship with friends old and new, and live Christmas music.

Please bring holiday goodies, veggies or fruit to share.

Traditional Christmas Eve 7:00 pm

Organ prelude at 6:40 pm, a candlelight service with a Christmas message, led by Dr. Mack, the Trinity Choir & Trinity Ringers.

Bring your family, friends and neighbors as we celebrate our Lord's birth on this holy day!

Pastor's Letter

"The High and the Low of Christmas"

Ezekiel 17: 22-24

Our culture usually experiences the Christmas season in both "lows" and "highs." Throughout December there will be conversation in the virtual world and in the media about the problem of Christmas depression. According to a mental health website, up to 12% of the population experiences some form of "Seasonal Affective Disorder" (SAD), which is just a fancy way of saying, "the Christmas blues." There are plenty of reasons for "lows" at Christmas – exhaustion, frustration, nostalgia, unfulfilled expectations, the memory of grief, or that feeling of emptiness that occurs when Christmas is celebrated without regard for its authentic meaning.

There are also Christmas "highs:" some of them are artificial, as substance abuse dramatically increases during the holidays; but in most cases, we experience Christmas cheer in our own special way - the colorful lights, our favorite Christmas music, gatherings of friends, the return of distant family members, and the simple hope that Christmas seems to engender in the hearts of those who celebrate it.

As Christians who celebrate Christmas - not as a tradition but as an act of worship - there are highs and lows that transcend the boundaries of culture and tradition. At the heart of the story of Christ's birth are these words, sung by a chorus of heavenly messengers to all of humanity for all of eternity: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." For believers, the high of Christmas has nothing to do with our emotions, our status, or our situation, and everything to do with the glory of God.

The prophet Ezekiel, speaking as the voice of God, reflects upon this glory hundreds of years before the birth of God's Son: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain...under it every kind of bird will live...All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree...I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it."

Christians must not forget the identity of those who heard the angelic chorus singing about the highest glory of all - it was the shepherds, who were considered the lowest among the people of Palestine. The testimony of shepherds was not even allowed in the courts of that time,

because shepherds had the reputation of being liars, and totally untrustworthy. Among all the different people in Israel, why did God choose shepherds to deliver the good news of the Messiah?

Even as the angels sang to the lowly shepherds, the stars were leading the Magi toward Israel. The Magi of Persia were so respected that they received an immediate audience with King Herod when they arrived in Jerusalem, about two years after the birth of Christ. The Magi were not only the highest of their nation, but their status was recognized and respected among other nations, yet these distinguished visitors were forced to become fugitives after they had delivered their gifts to the Christ child: "I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree." Why did God want it this way?

In the events of the Christmas story, God is communicating the all-encompassing purpose of the coming of Christ. Humans are bound together not by things, but by emotions – the fear and wonder experienced by the shepherds was the same fear and wonder experienced by the Magi, Mary and Joseph, Zechariah and Elizabeth, and, of course, we who believe in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, the Savior of the world. What all of us have in common is that we can hold a baby in our arms, and love that child in our hearts, because the love of Christ is not about who we are, but who God is – God is love. That is good news for all of us, whether we are high or low during this Christmas of 2019, because it means we are never alone. The Father sent the Son so we would never have to be alone, and that is why the lowest of human hearts can join with the angelic chorus and sing, "Glory to God in the highest." May that be our song as we journey to the manger.



Merry Christmas!
Dr. Mack

The Messiah

Worship & Music



CHRISTMAS EVE FELLOWSHIP

Dust off your favorite Christmas cookie recipe or bring veggies or fruit in to this year's Christmas Cafe. Join us in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm between the two Christmas Eve evening worship services. There will be sweets, cider, hot chocolate, sandwiches, and strolling minstrels to enliven our holiday festivities.



ADVENT MINI-CONCERTS

Trinity will present two Advent mini-concerts this year on December 15 and 22. Both programs take place in the sanctuary following the 10:30 worship service and last around 20 minutes.

December 15 – *A Jazzy Holiday* features toe-tapping arrangements of Christmas favorites presented by the Trinity Jazz Ensemble.

December 22 – *Instrumental Joy* features the lovely timbres of cello and piano in beautiful and fun setting of Christmas classics presented by Robert Chamberlain, cellist and Lynn Moser, pianist.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

December 1 Isa. 2:1-5; Ps. 122; Rom. 13:11-14; Matt. 24:36-44

December 8 Isa. 11:1-10; Ps. 72:1-7, 18-19; Rom. 15:4-13; Matt. 3:1-12

December 15 Isa. 35:1-10; Ps. 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matt. 11:2-11

December 22 Isa. 7:10-16; Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19; Rom. 1:1-7; Matt. 1:18-25

December 29 Isa. 63:7-9; Ps. 148; Heb. 2:10-18; Matt. 2:13-23

Help Decorate Trinity's Sanctuary!

Please join us for *The Greening of the Sanctuary* **Sunday December 1 at 11:45 am.**

During this family-oriented event following worship we will decorate the sanctuary for Christmas, sing some carols and learn the history behind some of our decorating traditions. The children will be making Christmas ornaments in Sunday School before this event, and a light lunch will be served.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Through the Christmas Joy Offering taken Sunday, December 22, Presbyterian church congregations have long expressed their compassion for others, especially for those who serve the church. This Offering is received for the equal benefit of the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which distributes financial assistance to eligible church workers and their families, and racial ethnic schools and colleges of the PC(USA).

The Christian Education committee would like to recommend these daily personal devotions for the upcoming Advent season.

- “d365 Daily Devotionals” an app which includes a daily thought, scripture, prayer and even music.
- “Devotions – Advent & Lent” the app from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary that we’ve used before.

Congregational News

ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA

A cherished tradition at Trinity, poinsettias adorn the Sanctuary enriching worship during Advent. The cost is \$10 each and you may order as many as you like. You may take your poinsettias home following the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship or leave them to be distributed by the Deacons to members that are unable to attend. Order your poinsettias by calling the church office at 623-2579 or using the enclosed order form.

The deadline to order is December 9

The History of Making Sandwiches for Casa Maria

In the 1980s Paul & Jane Parker started feeding the homeless at Casa Maria Catholic Worker Community (Casa Maria, for short) in South Tucson. At that time, the homeless were being served peanut butter and jelly sandwiches every day. Paul and Jane proposed to Brian Flagg, who oversees the charity, the idea of providing bologna sandwiches instead. Brian stated, "That would be a treat!" So, Paul & Jane approached the Trinity Presbyterian Women about making bologna sandwiches each week. They agreed, and each of the eight women's circles volunteered to take a week. Paul & Jane agreed to buy and provide the bread, bologna, mustard, pickle relish and other supplies needed. In the beginning, the women's groups made 100 sandwiches per week but over the years the number gradually increased to 600 sandwiches. In the early 2000s, Jane approached the church about opening up the ministry to the whole church, which was approved. Soon Trinity members and friends of all ages began making sandwiches and today they make 600 bologna sandwiches on the second Sunday of each month after the worship service. In addition to the satisfaction of serving the homeless, the volunteers enjoy a rich time of fellowship. If you would like to know more about Casa Maria, you can visit their website www.casamariatucson.org.



WHO'S IN YOUR PEW Meet Janet Jones

What did you do for a living? I retired from the Forest Service working in the Human Resources Department. I also served in the Navy for 6 years.

Where is your hometown? Albuquerque, NM

What do you like to do in your leisure time? I like to hike, play with my two dogs, Cholla & Pepper, and watch TV.

What is your favorite hymn? "For All The Saints"

What does Trinity mean to you? Family. Great music. Welcoming to ALL.



WHO'S IN YOUR PEW Meet Ernesto Tacuba

What do you do for a living? I go to school and learn new things, in the 7th grade.

Where is your hometown? I grew up in Tucson and moved to New Jersey for a year and a half & now I'm back.

What do you like to do in your leisure time? I like to go and play outside with my three sisters & friends.

What is your favorite food? Pizza!

What is your favorite hymn? "Grace Alone"

What does Trinity mean to you? Where you show your belief in God



Another one of Trinity's missions to our Tucson community is meals at Primavera's Men's Shelter. Thanks to Tom Henderson and the other volunteers for their hard work.

Christian Education

YOUTH CLASSES

NURSERY

9:00 am– 12:00 pm Children 4 and under enjoy coloring, singing and playing in our beautiful nursery with DeDe Markin.

FELLOWSHIP HALL ACTIVITY TABLE

9:00 am to 10:30 am Children 4 and up can meet Alix for low action activities—puzzles, and coloring, with some low sugar snacks.

10:30 am to 11:30 am Children 4 and up meet their teachers in the Sanctuary and participate in the Worship Service. After the Children's Message they leave for these age appropriate classes.

GOD'S TRAILBLAZERS

God's Trailblazers **4 through 8 will meet in Rooms 7 & 8 with Kathy.** Using "Instant Bible Lessons A TO Z THRU THE BIBLE" and will learn 26 Biblical stories and engage in fun activities, games and crafts.

KREAMER'S CRUSADERS

Kreamer's Crusaders **8 through 12 meet in Room 6 with Matt** & continue using the book "Be Tween-Exploring Faith & Christian Life with Older Elementary Children."

ANCHOR TRINITY

Anchor Trinity **Junior High School & College meet in Room 1 with Rona** to study the Theology of Mister Rogers, the ordained Presbyterian minister who spent a lifetime teaching children and modeling Jesus' edict that we should love our neighbor as we would want to be loved. This mixed media class will include printed books, songs penned by Mr. Rogers, television episodes, recordings of Mr. Rogers giving speeches at events, with time for Bible journaling & study.

ADULT CLASSES

WORD OF LIFE

Word of Life **meets at 9:00 am in Room 5 (Lower Level Lounge)** and will begin a new study December 1 using "1-3 John: A 12-Week Study" by Michael LeFebvre. The books of 1-3 John are full of practical wisdom for the Christian life. John wants his readers to understand that as they grow in their understanding of who they are as children of God, they ought to grow in love for one another and in obedience to God's commands.

APPLIED CHRISTIANITY

Applied Christianity **meets at 9:00 am in Upper Room West** and continues a six part series using the book & DVD "When Christians Get it Wrong" by Adam Hamilton. Wrong ideas about Christian living, suffering, other religions, sexuality & science make the church appear to be judgmental and discourages some people from participating. Getting things right frees us to be more accepting and show love to our neighbors.

POLO

Parents of Little Ones (POLO) **meets at 9:00 am on the second Sunday of the month in Room 1 (Anchor Room)** to study "More Than Words" a book on practical parenting .

DR MACK'S BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF REVELATION
resumes in January



Mission News

TRINITY FOOD PANTRY

Trinity's Food Pantry is open **Sundays 12:00 to 2:00 pm**
& Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00 to 4:00 pm.

RESOURCE CENTER

The Resource Center is open **Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00 to 4:00 pm** to help clients with Department of Economic Security (DES) applications and other items such as duplicate Arizona ID cards, money on economy bus passes and notarizing documents.

4TH ON 4TH COMMUNITY SUPPER

We will be taking a break in December & look forward to resuming this mission in January

Trinity Family Shelter

Our Family Shelter has closed. During the past year we have helped over 500 people, from newborn babies to adults be welcomed and fed, and travel to their sponsors' home. Many church members, our university interns and other volunteers have made that possible. Thanks to you all so much!

At our packing party, organized by Janet Munson, sixteen volunteers worked to get everything that had been donated boxed up. It was impressive to see so many boxes filled with useful things. With Peter's help, we sent them off to new homes.

- The clothing, baby supplies and medicines went to The Inn, a church-shelter like Trinity which cares for asylum seeking families.
- The cooking pots, utensils, serving ware, sheets, blankets and pillows went to Refugee Focus. They will give these to refugees starting a new life in Tucson. We worked with Refugee Focus to help Amos, Hadija and their family to settle here.
- The food, toiletries, and some clothing will be distributed to those in need by the Food Bank and Resource Center. Some food will also go to the Salvation Army.
- All the toys went to Big Brother/Sisters. They will use them or sell them in their Thrift shop.

CUP OF WATER

at the Winter 4th Avenue Street Fair

Sign up to help "**Serve God in the Heart of the City**" **December 13-15** as we offer cups of water to guests at the street fair. **See Billie Holbrook Sundays to sign up or contact her during the week by email or phone.**

The DEACONS will also be serving food at their hamburger stand. Plan to have lunch there that weekend.

2nd Sunday Mission Opportunities

Join us **December 8 at 11:45 am** to make sandwiches & help put together Paul's Socks packs for Casa Maria,



HOLIDAY FOODS

- Stuffing Mix
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Gravy-Jars or Packets
- Jell-O and Pudding
- Small Canned Hams

FOR INDIVIDUAL PACKS

- Vienna Sausage
- Deviled Ham
- Canned Meats (like chicken)
- Individual Fruit Cups
- Individual Peanut Butter Packages
- Drinks (like Capri Sun)
- Pocket Can Openers

Please bring items to the office Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm or put them in the box in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

Session Notes

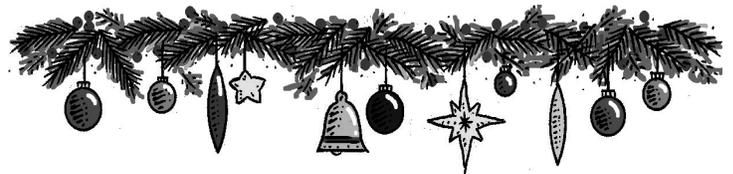
With the threat of hard rain and the desire that everyone be safe on the road, the November stated Session meeting was a mere 35 minutes long. Even so, many elders stayed to enjoy the spice cake that Janet Jones brought to keep session members nourished and ready for business. Will Tilley opened the meeting with a reading of Jeremiah 29: 1-14 and a prayer that we are precious to God and so we have a future and a hope to continue serving God in the heart of the city.

Here are the items of business that Session considered:

- Bucky Lovejoy reported that El Rio plans a soft opening in the new building a week after Thanksgiving. They are waiting for certification for the elevators and are moving equipment into the first floor. The parking lot has been slow to open because El Rio wants their security people on duty.
- Deacons are gearing up for the winter 4th Avenue Street Fair with Steve Barlow lining up volunteers to help with the Trinity hamburger stand.
- The Annual Joint Elder-Deacon dinner and meeting will happen on December 9th. The elders treat the deacons with a potluck dinner and the deacons do the dishes! DeDe Markin is graciously making a cake for each table for dessert.
- Trinity Presbyterian Women have 45 Ryan's Bears ready to be blessed on Sunday, December 8th.
- Session approved all communion dates for 2020 as proposed by the Worship Committee.
- Administration & Personnel has clarified the classification of staff members in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act's non-exempt and exempt status.
- Christian Ed will sponsor a Christmas party for our youth and recommends the "d365 daily devotionals" app for Advent.
- Growth & Outreach Team is getting ready to launch geographic group studies with leaders trained by Dr. Mack. Stay tuned!
- Mission Committee plans to encourage Trinity congregants, other churches and WUNA to attend a Mental Health First Aid class on Friday, January 31, 2020. Interfaith Community Services will be the facilitators.
- Session approved that the pocket change money collected in the glass jars found on the tables in Fellowship Hall will be directed to the Casa Maria Soup Kitchen sandwich making items rather than the Resource Center. This begins in 2020.

- Paul's Socks are back on Second Sunday in December! Casa Maria will hand out all 200 socks that Trinity members will stuff with hygiene items and goodies.
- Property Committee oversaw \$1,700 emergency repairs to the boiler and is working hard to rent our extra spaces to outside groups.
- Stewardship & Finance handed out a proposed 2020 budget for consideration at the December meeting.
- Session members listed those congregants in need of extra care and concern. Dr. Mack prayed for those mentioned and gave thanks for the rain. The gift of much needed rain gave session members the gift of a short, short meeting – a blessing during this busy holiday times.

Janet Hooper
Clerk of Session



TRINITY BOOK CLUB



Trinity Book Club meets **Monday, December 16 at 5:00 pm (new time) in Fellowship Hall** to discuss "American Nations" by Colin Woodard.



Dear Trinity family,
A hearty thank you to all who contributed items for the Cornucopia. Those items were very appreciated.
Jim and Janet Hooper



Thank you to everyone who sent me cards and prayers when I had my stroke. I know you are all the reason that I have healed so quickly.
God Bless! Bunny Mallams

Trinity Milestones

Honoring & Memorials

In Honor of Mary Wong by Leone Mohney
In Memory of All The Saints by Leone Mohney
In Honor of Alice Gratias by Leone Mohney
In Memory of Doug Myers by his Family
In Honor of Lynn Moser by Edmund Loew
In Memory of Joyce Wilson Loew by Edmund Loew
In Memory of Joseph & Patricia Hoxie by Holly Clark



December Birthdays

2	Ida Wickizer	19	Melissa Bird
4	Melinda Arnold	19	Ann Butler
5	Errol Dimenstein	19	Janet Jones
6	Elliott Koeppen - 90	22	Jeremy Roggow
7	Marilyn Slagle	22	Beatrice Spillers
9	Bonnie Stull	25	Charity Everitt
12	Rosalie Goll	29	Don Myers
13	John Hill	31	Sherry Letson
17	Heather Lind		

January Birthdays (1—10)

1	Amos Nsinga	2	Dr. Mack Sigmon
1	Hadija Bamurange	5	Jeanette Ryan
1	Sanani Mukadesa	9	Jeri Ogden
2	Dale McCray		

Trinity Women



Ryan's Bears will be blessed on Sunday, December 8. They will then be distributed to Our Family Social Services, Primavera and Arizona Children's Association for their Christmas Giving. Approximately 45 bears were made this year with many thanks to: Rosalie Goll, Imogene Moser, Leone Mohney, Ruth Myers, Ruth Russell, Helen Forbes, Harriet Marble, Marilyn Slagle & Bonnie Stull It takes many hands to make a bear. Thanks to Charity Everitt and Catherine Dimenstein for the many caps they made. Thanks also to Peter Holbrook and Maria Andrade for unlocking doors, closets, toting bags and fixing the coffee. We will begin **Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 9:30 am in the Lower Lounge** on making bears for Christmas 2020.

December Anniversaries

17 Bobby Whipple & Sherry Letson

Trinity Women



The Horizon's Bible Study will meet **December 10, at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall**, Join us as Dr. Mack leads this study "*Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*" authored by Eugenia Anne Gumble. Everyone (men & women) is welcome to join the study.



Trinity
Presbyterian
Church

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We are "LIVE" streaming the 10:30 am service if you cannot attend. It is on the home page of our website and is available to view during that service time.

You can also view the Children's Messages, Special Music and Sermons under WORSHIP on the top toolbar.

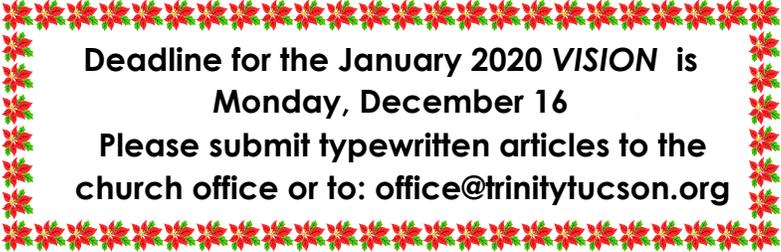
Visit our website at www.trinitytucson.org for all the information and events you are looking for.

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**Deadline for the January 2020 VISION is
Monday, December 16**
**Please submit typewritten articles to the
church office or to: office@trinitytucson.org**