

January, 2024

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**Wednesday Evening Vespers**

Dr. Mack hosts a weekly devotional on Zoom called "Wednesday Evening Vespers" each Wednesday, at 6:30 pm for about 30 minutes. This is a brief time of prayer and sharing when Mack shares scripture, a devotional, prayer concerns, and then participants pray as a group. The invitation is available at <http://trinitytucson.org/wednesday-evening-vespers/>.

**Thank you to everyone who  
planned & participated in the  
Cantata, Advent Mini Concerts, &  
Christmas Eve Services**



This Advent Season we were able to enjoy a new cantata complete with a 18 piece orchestra and two Advent Mini concerts to prepare us for Christmas. Christmas Eve morning we celebrated the birth of Jesus with special music and a message from Dr. Mack. Christmas Eve night we had a candlelight service with several members participating as readers and musicians. The procession at the beginning of the service was wonderful as a small group of youth and adults dressed as the shepherds, wise men and holy family. We are grateful that we were able to worship in person along with having the services available online.

**Video recordings of the Cantata, Advent Mini Concerts and Christmas Eve service are available to view anytime at [www.trinitytucson.org](http://www.trinitytucson.org) on the homepage.**

**CHOIR REHEARSAL** is **Thursdays at 7:00 pm** in the Sanctuary. Join the Trinity Choir as they participate weekly in the service and prepare for the Easter Cantata.  
**We resume January 11.**

**HANDBELL REHEARSAL** is **Thursdays at 5:30 pm** in the Bell Room upstairs. See Lynn Moser if you want to participate.  
**We resume January 11.**

# PASTORAL LETTER

Have you ever heard of the Christmas hangover? I am not speaking of anything connected to alcohol, but instead that feeling of exhaustion or emptiness that many experience after the holidays. The gifts are unwrapped; we journey back home or bid farewell to loved ones; the New Year arrives, the fireworks burst, the partyers gather, the ball games are played, and then we wake up to the ordinary chores of our lives. Usually, the first chore is storing the Christmas decorations until next year. Once that is done, it is time to “get back to normal.” Of course, the celebrations of Christmas and the New Year do not make any profound changes in us. Holidays are not meant to do this. Holidays represent things that have already happened -things which embody profound meaning. In our nation Martin Luther King’s birthday is the most recent holiday, with others going back as far as Year One on the Julian calendar (which became the Gregorian calendar for most of the world in the 16<sup>th</sup> century). We celebrate the past in the present because they are on the calendar. The world has taken the primary meaning of Christmas as the holiday itself, but we who believe in Jesus Christ know that Christmas is a sign of something much more - God’s love and our redemption. For the church, Christmas is not about doing (although we do a lot) but being. The Christmas hangover for most is the end of the holiday and the tasks that come with

it. The Christmas hangover for Christians is our continuing life in the kingdom of God, and how we are to live the Christmas story – not just for the New Year, but every year, and every day, and every second. Unlike the holiday hangover, we are not left empty and exhausted, but spiritually renewed. As believers, the sacred holidays remind us of who we are and who walks with us. Every Sunday is a celebration of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ; and everyday is a chance to enact that life through our compassion, forgiveness, and mercy. The coming year is going to need the Christmas life more than ever. Let us pray that Christ will decorate our hearts with his love each day, that we can share the gifts of his presence with everyone.

*Dr. Mack*



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**January 7** Gen.1:1-5 & Psalm 29; Acts19:1-7;  
Mark 1:4-11

**January 14** 1 Sam. 3:1-10 (11-20) & Psalm  
139:1-6; 1 Cor. 6:12-20; John 1:43:51

**January 21** Jonah 3:1-5, 10 & Psalm 62:5-12;  
1 Cor. 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

**January 28** Deut. 18:15-20 & Psalm 111;  
1. Cor. 8:1-`3; Mark 1:21-28

## NEW ELDERS & DEACONS

New ruling elders & deacons for the Class of 2026  
will be training and begin service this month.

Thank you to the following people for their  
willingness to serve our church.

Deacons are Sherry Letson, Daphne Madson  
and Shirley Wilka

Elders are Steve Barlow, Janet Hooper,  
Liz Strong & Roberta Westergaard

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## YOUTH CLASSES

### GOD'S TRAILBLAZERS (Preschool - 2nd grade)

*Teacher: Kathy Moser*

#### WISE MEN, STRONG TOWER, AND A WALL

We will be having in-person Sunday School downstairs in Room 8 following the children's message. We will begin on Sunday, January 7th with a visit of the Wise Men to the Christ Child. On Sunday, January 14th, we will celebrate and learn about God, our strong tower, through Scripture, song, and a building project. On the last two Sundays, we will celebrate and learn about obedient Joshua and those high "block" walls of Jericho.

### CRUSADERS (3rd - 5th grade) & FAITH ENCOUNTERS (6th grade & older)

*Teachers: Debbie Hobbs & Bonnie Stull*

#### GRAB YOUR WORSHIP BAG

We encourage children and youth grades 4th and above to pick up activity sheets and supplies for worship-based activities from the Kids Korner in the narthex and to sit with their families during worship.

## LIBRARY NEWS

There is something for everyone. What I enjoy about reading is that it takes me to another place, and I meet interesting characters that I will miss when I finish reading the book. Yes, I get absorbed in the story and the characters. Kathy Moser

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK TO READ?

I would like to include your responses in the LOVE of Reading article for the February Vision. Please fill out the form that can be found on the credenza in Fellowship Hall and place it in the LOVE of Reading basket in Fellowship Hall. *Please include your name, book title, author and genre.* Did you know February is LOVE of Reading month?





# MISSION NEWS

## TRINITY FOOD PANTRY

Trinity's Food Pantry is open **Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00 to 3:00 pm** in basement of the Sanctuary building. Thanks for your food and monetary donations.

Casa Maria  
sandwich making  
Every second Sunday  
in Fellowship Hall after  
the Sanctuary service.  
The next one is  
**January 14, 2024**

## Just Coffee For Sale

The Mission Committee sells Just Coffee before and after church each Sunday in Fellowship Hall . The display is near the stained glass window manned by volunteers. You may pay by cash or check. Coffee will be \$10 or \$11 and the proceeds benefit Café Justo which is a grower-owned Coffee Cooperative based in southern Chiapas Mexico. For info visit [justcoffee.org](http://justcoffee.org).



SHARING  
GOD'S  
GIFTS

**Special Mission Offering** Twice a year the Mission Committee has a special offering that reaches out to the community. February's offering will be given to our **Deacon's Emergency Fund**. To give your gift please click on the Donate button on Trinity's website and designate your gift for SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING or mail a check to the office. You may also give in the offering plate. This special offering may be made throughout the month of February.

# CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

## WHO'S IN YOUR VIRTUAL PEW Meet Alix Roa



*What do you do for a living?* In Venezuela I was a Graphic Designer assistant. Here in the USA I have worked 10 years with Special Education children. This year I am working helping children at school who start to learn English, and I am the school Bilingual clerk.

*Where is your hometown?* It is an idiom in Spanish that says "your hometown is the town where you live." Tucson charmed my soul, I love the desert. I'm grateful to be in this nice city – the Old Pueblo is my hometown.

*What do you like to do with your leisure time?* I love to walk at Rillito River, climb at/near mountain A, and I practice yoga.

*What is your favorite food?* Paella Española.

*What is your favorite hymn or Bible verse?* I love Psalm 91 Jeremiah 1:12 and 30:14

*What does this church mean to you?* Trinity is my home, I come here to meet with my family. All of you are incredible people, always supporting me with all your kindness and love. I am grateful.

*What is something that many people would not know about you?* They don't know how grateful I am to be part of Trinity family. Gracias

# SESSION NOTES

The last Session meeting of 2023 saw the Deacons and Elders reviving a long-held tradition of having a joint meeting with potluck dinner. The tradition was suspended during the Covid years, and it felt good to return to a dinner meeting with the Elders doing the cooking and the Deacons doing the cleanup. Daphne Madson, Deacon Moderator, summarized the activities of the Deaconate and, as usual, the Elders realized that “Deacons rock!” In 2023, our big-hearted Deacons delivered poinsettias and lilies, sponsored a CPR class, began ushering again, held an all-church picnic with 29 people, blessed and distributed prayer shawls and pocket prayer shawls and hosted a baby shower. Plus, they kept up a card connection with congregants and went above and beyond for those who needed some extra help and concern. This portion of their work helps Dr. Mack with Trinity’s pastoral care.

After dinner and Daphne’s report the Elders answered questions about the property sale and the prospect of new construction beginning in 2025. Elders shared that they plan to have some strategic planning and think ahead with vision. Emmanuel Alley thanked everyone that Trinity is a place where our African community finds warmth and welcome. The two groups separated to conduct their own meetings. Since the event was changed to an earlier date in the month, many Session committees had not yet met. Session business was meager because of this. But here are current accomplishments:

- Treasurer Ruth Russell and the Stewardship & Finance Committee presented a proposed budget for 2024. Session approved the proposed 2024 budget.
- Ruth commented that the Trinity Financial Policies, recently updated by the Committee, are deemed exceptional by some of the financial people that help her conduct our finances. The Elders need to make sure they have a printed copy of the policies for their Session notebook.
- Administration & Personnel Committee reported that they are giving a 3.2% cost of living increase to all Trinity salaried staff for 2024.

- Our Presbytery Commissioners attended a called Presbytery de Cristo meeting via Zoom to elect representatives to attend the General Assembly meeting next June.
- Administration & Personnel Committee also reported that the job openings for the Food Bank site and the Nursery have been posted with the hope that applicants will be found early in the new year.
- Dr. Mack gave the Elders an assignment to write a one or two sentence vision for Trinity PC. Vision drives purpose and the 2024 Session will engage in strategic planning for the coming years.

Before adjourning Session members prayed for congregants with health issues and gave thanks for our blessed church, our children, our African community and for those who step up to do the work that Trinity does as she strives to serve God in the heart of Tucson.

Janet Hooper  
Clerk of Session

## TRINITY WOMEN

*The Horizon's Bible Study* Dr. Mack leads the study “Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke - Acts” by Olive Mahabir. The group meets in the Library on Tuesday, January 9 at 10:00 am. Everyone is welcome.

*Ryan's Bears* meets Tuesday, January 16 at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Ruth Myers to either help there in person or at home. We will begin making bears for 2024 Christmas gifts at Primavera, Our Family Social Services and the Arizona Children's Assoc. Your donations of fabric, stuffing & buttons are always welcome.

# TRINITY MILESTONES

## January Birthdays

1	Sanani Mukadesa	23	Hannah Toering
2	Emmanuel Alley	24	David Toering
2	Dale McCray	24	Cindy Toering
2	Dr. Mack Sigmon	26	Kyle Elliott
2	Barbara Pollack	27	Janet Munson
9	Jeri Ogden	27	Tom Henderson
11	James Hooper	30	Bobby Whipple
15	Peggy Chamberlain	31	Ezra Moyer
19	Matt Kreamer		

## February Birthdays (1—10)

8 Emmanuelle Seddo



BLESSINGS  
ON YOUR  
BIRTHDAY



## January Anniversaries

15 Lynn & Kathy Moser

## Honoring & Memorials

*In Memory of* Bunny Mallams by Melinda Arnold

*In Memory of* Bunny Mallams by Joan Kingan

*In Honor of our wonderful Deacons Derry Dean &*

*Daphne Madson by Annie & Bates Butler*

*In Memory & Honor of* Melissa Bird by Amy Bird

*In Memory of* Leone Mohney & DeDe Markin

by the Lohse Foundation

*In Memory of* DeDe Markin by Michael

May the faith of God  
be with you this year.  
May the peace of God  
surround you,  
and may you be blessed  
each day!

*Happy New Year*