

TRINITY TIMES

December 2011

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Pastor's Pen

Advent is the season when many of us place a greater emphasis on worship than normal. I see this each December when looking at our pews filled with people and hearing the buzz of excitement around our buildings. So here's a question that's on my mind about worship: *How do you and I prepare to worship?*

My hunch is that many of us arrive to the Sanctuary Sunday morning feeling rushed, preoccupied and/or fatigued. When this is the case it's challenging to have a meaningful and authentic experience of connecting with God in worship. Yet I believe there are some things we can do throughout the week to prepare our minds and bodies for the worship service we'll attend on Sunday. Here's some food for thought:

✠ Worship begins with spiritual preparation

In Psalm 34 David writes, "I will bless the Lord at all times and His praise shall continually be in my mouth." Here we see David explaining that worship is a lifestyle. Rather than having a once a week experience of worship, the entire week leads us to that time of corporate worship. In other words worship isn't simply something we do one hour each week, we worship God with regularity.

Furthermore David encourages us to approach God in worship with the proper attitude. *Psalm 24:3, "Who may ascend the hill of the Lord or stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart..."* In my mind God's servant is explaining that God blesses our worship time when it naturally grows out of our daily desire to please Him.

✠ Worship is deepened by mental and physical preparation

I Chronicles 28:4 "Worship and serve God with your whole heart and a willing mind." This text teaches that by devoting our minds to worship before we arrive in the Sanctuary and focusing mentally once in the Sanctuary, we are prepared to express praise to God and to receive from Him.

The physical preparation for worship has become increasingly important for me as I have aged (and hopefully matured!). Physical fatigue often leads a person to being distracted and lacking the energy to concentrate. As an athlete prepares for a big game by resting to gain strength, we prepare for worship in a way that allows us to offer God the best we have.

Friends, as always I'm grateful for the privilege of serving and worshipping God alongside you.

Grace to you,
Shawn

Men's Study Group. . .

The Men's Study Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month at 7:30 a.m. at Heitzman's Bakery on Shelbyville Road. All Trinity guys are invited! In December we continue to study Luke, reading Chapter 10.

Christmas Morning. . .

It's always a special celebration when Christmas falls on a Sunday as it will this year. We hope that you'll make worship a part of your Christmas Day by attending Trinity. Our schedule will be a little different that morning with no 9 a.m. service or Sunday school. Instead we'll enjoy gathering in the Fellowship Hall between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. for some tasty treats; after which worship will feature our favorite Christmas hymns as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and Lord Jesus!

Advent and Christmas Calendar. . .

- 11/27 1st Sunday in Advent
- 12/3 8-11 a.m. TPW Annual Christmas Sale
- 12/4 2nd Sunday in Advent
- 2-5 p.m. Open House at the Barkley's (504 Foxgate Rd)
- 12/11 3rd Sunday in Advent
- 5 p.m. Church Family Christmas Dinner (Fellowship Hall)
- 12/18 4th Sunday in Advent
- Adult Choir Christmas Cantata (11 a.m. Service)
- Operation Warm Feet
- 12/24 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
- Operation Warm Feet
- 12/25 Christmas Day
- 10 a.m. Fellowship Time (Fellowship Hall)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service
- (No 9 a.m. service or Sunday school)
- 1/1/12 9 a.m. Worship Service
- 11 a.m. Worship Service

**There will be NO WoW during Advent.*

Weekly Worship Attendance . . .



		One Year Ago
November 13:	178	162
November 20:	161	166
November 27:	138	158
December 4:	165	164

December Birthdays. . .

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 12-4 Linda Thomas | 12-8 Katie MacDonald | 12-18 Bill Husband |
| 12-5 Phyla Alderette | Max Oyler | 12-19 Judy Davids |
| 12-6 Cori Goodknight | 12-9 Marc Levy | 12-24 Anna Hayden |
| Clarke Johnson | 12-10 Ethan Misleh | Herb Kallweit |
| 12-7 Kelly Meska | 12-13 Carl Hornung | 12-27 Clay Harville |
| | 12-14 Steve Conn | |

December Anniversaries. . .

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 12-5 Philip & Linda Strohmeier | 12-27 Malcolm & Kathy MacDonald |
| 12-18 Andy & Diana Alderette | 12-31 Richard & Jean Paulmann |
| 12-19 Ron & Kristen Bingner | |

Treasurer's Corner. . .

**STEWARDSHIP CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY
For the Month ending October 31, 2011**

OCTOBER						
	Oct-11		Oct-10	YTD Oct-11		YTD Oct-10
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual
Pledges			\$13,586			\$165,891
Plate offering	\$328	\$407	\$376	\$3,399	\$5,220	\$4,728
Donors	\$23,789	\$21,884	\$7,120	\$231,490	\$237,293	\$55,003
	\$24,117	\$22,291	\$21,082	\$234,889	\$242,513	\$225,622

Thanks. . .

Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you so much for the generous gifts, retirement luncheon and most of all your friendship. I am truly blessed to have spent my last working years with my Trinity friends and family. I want to also thank all my office volunteers throughout the years who faithfully assisted me in the church office. The folks at Trinity will always hold a special place in my heart.

Sincerely,
Linda Thomas

Nursery Volunteers. . .



December 4: Mary Charnes, Brenda Miller & Steve Kratt
December 11: Glenna Ogle & Elizabeth McDaniel
December 18: Paid Workers
December 25: Paid Workers

Collection Counters. . .



December 4: Mary Corum & Marilyn Davis
December 11: Janet & Bill Husband
December 18: Carol & Larry Hartmann
December 25: Cathy & Tom Dawson

Update on Operation Christmas Child. . .

We are very pleased to announce that we collected **6286** Gospel Opportunities (shoeboxes) for children around the world! What a true privilege it is to know that our church family participated in the opportunity for 6286 children to learn about Jesus!

Our area collection center collected **31,962** Gospel Opportunities during collection week! This year our area had set a goal of 30,000 shoeboxes to be collected. With lots of prayer and work we went beyond that goal and we praise the Lord for His guidance before, during, and after collection week!

The Mission Committee would like to thank all the volunteers who helped before and during collection week! This mission would not be possible without the dedication of everyone involved! THANK YOU!

Highlights from November Session Meeting. . .

As might be expected at this time of year a large part of the meeting was spent discussing the budget for the upcoming year. The theme of this year's stewardship campaign was "Living Generously" and we greatly appreciate the many commitments to generously share the gifts that we have received from God. If you haven't returned a commitment card please consider doing so by either returning it to the financial secretary or just placing it in the offering plate. This will help us make the difficult budget plans for next year.

We welcome our new secretary, Emily Bradley, hope that each of us will take the time to introduce ourselves to her. She plans to work in the office Monday—Thursday from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The following persons were duly elected at the November 20th congregational meeting.

As elders----Cathy Conn, Mike Meska, Ann Moorman, Gary Watson

As deacons---Barbara Cooke, Norma Pennington, Carol Redd

As deacon emeritus---Isabelle Cassidy

We welcome each as they live generously by giving generously of their time and talents as they assume their new duties in January.

From the Director of the Faith & Art Center. . .

Peace & Grace to All,

The Center is selling pottery and Kentucky-crafted Christmas ornaments and bookmarks: ornaments are \$9 and bookmarks are \$5. Please see the display in the Narthex. Please contact Candy or the church office if you would like to make an order.

Candy will be teaching a hand building class starting January 4th that will last for six weeks. The cost is \$20 per class, plus the cost of clay. You may attend one class or all six.

The Center will also be holding a card making class as well as water color classes in the upcoming year. Please see the January newsletter for dates.

Thank you to everyone for your support in 2011. We look forward to a New Year and new programs.

In Christ,
Candy Wheat

From the Director of CE and Youth . . .

I struggle like most people trying to find time to relax and experience peace during the Christmas season. It is interesting that while we are celebrating the birth of the Prince of Peace, there often is not much peace going on in our lives. Unless we enter this season with great effort to keep things calm we can easily become absorbed in the chaos.

Reading books that focus on the meaning of Christmas have been helpful to me. I recently discovered the book *Christmas is Not Your Birthday* by Tim Slaughter. It offers great insights on how to remain focused on the birth of our Savior. We have this book and many others available in the library or my office.

Having family movie nights during the Christmas break is another way to relax and spend quality time with your family. We are on the move so much that it is a real treat to stay home and watch something heartwarming. I recently watched *Christmas Child, a Max Lucado Story* and enjoyed it quite a bit! There are a variety of Christian themed movies available to you in the library or in my office. Feel free to check out any of these books or movies.

Many Blessings to you and your family over this Christmas Season!

Linda Kennedy

DO YOU KNOW who Jesse is from the Old Testament? Have you heard the term “Jesse Tree”? Turns out, a Jesse Tree is an Advent tradition based on the lineage of Jesus. Read on...

This year Tuesday Morning Circle has been taking an in-depth look at the book of Genesis. From version 1 chapter 1 of that first book of our Bible, we learn of God’s divine scheme or us, who were created in His image. Promises and covenants between God and His chosen people illustrate God’s sovereignty and deep love for His creation. When the first mortals succumbed to temptation, only one means existed to rectify God’s plan, and that involved the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus, the Son of God.

At Tuesday Morning Circle’s special Christmas celebration on December 13th, we will built our own Jesse Tree. Following an age-old tradition involving readings from the favorite Christmas passages of the New Testament along with prophetic ones from the Old, we will then illustrate key images from those passages with ornaments that will be placed on a tree. From this Advent observation, my hope is that each will know more about Jesse, as well as be in wonder about the true heritage we share because of Jesus Christ. If your schedule permits, please join us for this special Christmas gathering!

SEW ‘N SEWS, a crafting ministry of TPW, thoroughly loved making little stuffed animals during the summer at the request of Mission Committee’s Operation Christmas Child. Simply made from two pieces of fabric, some faces were made with ink pens, some embroidered, and some were blank. Each was made with love and prayers, hoping that they’d bring happiness to a little girl or boy. Go to the church website to see a photo of some of the critters.

BY THE TIME this issue of Trinity Times hits the press, TPW’s annual Christmas Sale will be history. But the joy of your sharing in our efforts will still be warming our hearts. Thank you so much for participating with us by making delicious baked goods and homemade crafts and by shopping. Your contributions make it possible for our ministries to women, children and families continue through the upcoming New Year. We are so grateful for you.

God bless,
Virginia Kozak, Moderator

Tuesday Morning Circle: December 13th, 10:30 AM, Parlor. Bring a brown bag lunch; dessert and beverages provided. Bible study: Jesse Tree. Facilitator: Virginia Kozak. Hostess Group 1.

Please note – No 4th Tuesday ‘Just for Fun’ Ladies’ Lunch on December 27 due to the Christmas holidays. We will resume them in January, 2012.

Quote of the Month

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

~Isaiah 11:1

Operation Warm Feet

Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2011
6:00 P.M.



MEN'S SOCKS NEEDED.
PLEASE BRING YOUR DONATION OF
SOCKS TO THE CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICE.

Trinity Presbyterian Church
10200 Shelbyville Road
Louisville, KY 40223
(502) 245-5515

We all wear them; we change them daily. We are able to wash them when they are dirty.

Homeless people are on their feet all day, and they are most likely wearing the only pair of socks they own. Most will wear that one pair of socks until they are so thread bare, they no longer hold together.

This Christmas we will be collecting socks to donate to **Fellowship with Christ Ministry**, a waterfront ministry here in Louisville.

Trinity Preschool. . .

The four year olds in the Red Room have been busy in November! We have been adding a new letter to our alphabet book each week and practicing writing that letter. We prepared for Thanksgiving by making some funny turkeys and using their highly decorated tails to carry the words expressing the things in our lives for which we are thankful. We also learned about Native Americans and the Pilgrims and their shared celebration in 1621. We concluded the unit by celebrating a Thanksgiving feast with our friends here at school. The Red Room children ended November by looking at how squirrels and some of the other animals get ready for the coming winter.

Miss Linda & Miss Tina

Library Notes. . .

Fosdick, Harry Emerson. 248.3 Fos. *The Meaning of Prayer*. A devotional classic published in 1962 Daily readings arranged for reflection. Fosdick shows us how prayer can change lives by using Bible verses and commentaries.

Muller, Wayne. 248.3 Mul. *Learning to Pray: How We Find Heaven on Earth*. Muller offers simple yet profound guidance based on the Lord's Prayer. Highly recommended.

Newsletter Deadline—December 18. . .

Please email articles to trinitypc@earthlink.net or leave them in the secretary's mailbox.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Trinity's Vision Statement

"We are a welcoming church family, developing disciples who joyfully minister to others in the name of Christ."