



Monthly Tidings

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA • VOL. 15, NO. 11 • DECEMBER, 1988

God's Gift to Us Calls For Response

As Trinity members celebrate God's gift to humankind at Christmas, they will have several special ways to respond with gifts they bring to God.

The annual Christmas offering received at Advent worship services will be used to underwrite Trinity's support of Methodist missional projects locally and worldwide. The offerings will be used to finish payment of those apportionments designated for World Service and Conference Benevolences, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, other agencies of the church, and Trinity's own budgeted items for community charities.

Sometimes forgotten in the season of special gift giving, December is also the last month of the year in which 1988 pledges toward the church's budget should be paid in full. Utility bills, salaries, insurance, debt service and other on-going expenses must be met.

A financial statement in mid-November showed the church budget into deficit spending of approximately \$35,500 from borrowed funds. Some \$97,000 in pledges remained to be paid.

UMW Meetings

Circle 1—Monday, December 12, 10 a.m.—Home of Mart Hill, 513 Plantation Road. Co-Hostesses—Frances Simmons, Charlotte Midyette and Kitty Jones.

Circle 2—Monday, December 12, 2:30 p.m. at the home of Mary Lee Hurt, 2102 Old Fort Drive. Program by Eloise Berry, devotional by Mildred Yates.

Circle 3—Tuesday, December 13, 10 a.m. at the home of Ollie Reese Whittle, 2227 Woodlawn Drive. Study Course, Martha Hill, leader.

Circles 4 and 6—Tuesday, December 13, 10 a.m. at the home of Bonnie Mannheimer and Carolyn Krentzman, 2100 West Randolph Circle. Program by Rev. Beth Fogle-Miller.

Circle 8—Tuesday, December 13, 12:30 p.m. at the home of Sue Humphress, 1736 Highland Place. Christmas salad luncheon. Church nursery available at 12 noon.

Circle 9—Tuesday, December 13, 9:30 a.m. at the home of Helen Price, 715 East 6th Avenue. Christmas memories meeting.

Circle 10—Monday, December 12, 3:30 p.m. at Tallahassee Convalescent Home.

Circle 11—Thursday, December 8, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Nancy Duncan, 1415 Claude Pichard Drive. Christmas meeting.

Circles 12 and 15—Tuesday, December 13, 12 noon-1 p.m. in Choir Loft of Sanctuary with program by Myron Munday. Bring brown bag lunch.

Circle 13—Tuesday, December 13, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Jacquelyn Trapp, 162 Dawn Lauren Lane. Program by Linda Haggard.

Circle 14—Tuesday, December 13, 10 a.m. in Room 218 at the church. Music program with Walter and Rae James.

Celebrating Advent

Dec. 4—8:30 and 11 a.m., Morning worship. Sermon topic: "New Every Morning" by the Rev. David Hortin.

Dec. 11—8:30 and 11 a.m., morning worship. Sermon: "It Is Good to Hear Some Good News" by Rev. Hortin 9:45—New member orientation class, Conference Room 6 p.m. Churchwide Christmas covered dish dinner, Moor Hall 7 p.m.—Youth carolling to Trinity's homebound

Dec. 18—8:30 and 11 a.m., morning worship. Sermon: "The Suffering Servant" by Rev. Hortin

9:45—New Member orientation, Conference Room

Dec. 24—4 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service. "God News of a Great Joy" by the Rev. Beth Fogle-Miller.

7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

11 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service, "Good News of a Great Joy" by Rev. Fogle-Miller

Dec. 25—10:15 a.m. Fellowship for all Sunday school classes, Moor Hall 11 a.m.—Morning worship.

"Bring Your Best Gift to the Christ Child" by Rev. Hortin.

Advent Tree To Benefit Habitat for Humanity

By Liz Smith
Outreach Chairperson

"There's no place like home for the holidays" . . . and for most of us that is so true. But for so many in our city and country and the world there is no home for them to be in this Christmas.

Because homelessness is such a pervasive problem today, the Outreach Commission voted to give the proceeds from this year's Christmas tree to Habitat for Humanity, whose innovative program for helping to provide decent, affordable housing around the world by helping people help themselves and others, merits our support.

The Advent Tree, now a tradition at Trinity, gives members a way to remember those they love with something more than just a card or a trinket. When you make a donation of any amount to Habitat for Humanity, you will receive an ornament to hang on the tree and a card to send to your friends, telling them that you have given a gift in their name to Habitat.

It's a way to thank Sunday school teachers or church staff members, remember grandchildren or other relatives, honor special friends and loved ones. They will find their ornaments

on the tree with their names.

The ornaments are little styrofoam houses, handmade and decorated for the season. Lillian Eberly has made a beautiful gingerbread house that is on display in the narthex. It will be given to children who must spend Christmas at Refuge House. The Outreach Commission will also have a big cardboard play house, made by Bob Lamison, that the children will be drawn to so that they will want to be a part of this project too.

As Gordon Greathouse, the missionary Trinity helps support in Brazil, announced, Habitat will undertake a massive project of building 200 homes in the slum area near his community center. Some Trinity folks are hoping and planning to be a part of the large volunteer group who will be going to help build these homes.

Make a list of all those you want to remember and honor and come to the reception area next to Moor Hall, to the Congregate Room, the courtyard between the buildings to find the display and tables where you can buy the ornaments to make "I'll be home for Christmas" a reality for others less fortunate. The money raised will be divided between the local and international projects.

Bazaar Workers, Participants Thanked

As chairman this year of Trinity's bazaar and auction, I would like to say thank you to all of you who worked so hard to make this year's bazaar and auction as successful as those past.

Thank you, too, to the membership for participating in the bazaar and auction, purchasing frazier fir trees and pecans; and in doing so, enabling us to help HEO, our Boy Scout Troop, pay off the church van, and assist ECHO and the Cold Nights Project.

A very special "thank you" goes to the 1988 Bazaar and Auction Committee:

Paula Smith, Co-chairman
Bill Smith
Nancy & Jimmy Petrandis
Lynn & Georgianna Wollschlager
Dianne & Don Douglas
Walli & Louis Beall
Ebe & Henrietta Walter
Patti & Jim Oakley
Bette Jackson
John Humphress
Marti Hall
Ruth & Bob Bass
Betty Ashlock
Carol Hart
Dinah & Ken Hart
Cinda Hortin

Leslie & Vereen Smith
Trish & Arthur Clements
Jamie & Vernon Parramore
Joan Fregly
Judy Levy
Laura Rogers
Pam Reed
Carole & Jim Smith
Lynn Barrera
Linda Haggard
Karen and Frank Skilling
Mollie & Paul Hill
Anne Jolley & Brian Proctor
Cindy Wendel
Brigitte and Guy McKenzie, Jr.

Also, a special thank you to Walter Funderburk, Tom Jones, Charlotte and Myron Blee and Bob Walker and his "Trinity Barbecue Crew," the church staff; and last, but definitely not least, the wonderful and talented "Busy Bees." Thank you everyone for your assistance.

Sue Humphress, Chairman

Three Christmas Eve Services Planned

Trinity members and friends may choose among three opportunities to hear the "Good News of a Great Joy" on Christmas Eve.

The traditional candlelight service of lessons and carols, which has drawn overflow crowds in recent years, will be held at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, December 24. The Christmas story will be told through Scripture, carol and hymn singing, liturgical dance, a solo by Linda Haggard, handbell music and the traditional candle lighting.

Added for the first time this year are worship services at 4 and 11 p.m. A Communion candlelight service will be featured at both services, and the Rev. Beth Fogle-Miller will bring the message, "Good News of a Great Joy."

The worship services on Christmas Day, which falls on Sunday this year, will be combined at 11 a.m. The Rev. David Hortin will preach on "Bring Your Best Gift to the Christ Child."

No regular Sunday school classes will be held on Christmas but a fellowship time for all members of the church family will be held at 10:15 in Moor Hall. Juice, coffee and coffee-cake will be served.

The churchwide family Christmas dinner will be held on December 11 from 6 to 7 p.m. in Moor Hall. Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish for the meal.

Many individual classes and groups are planning Christmas parties during the Advent season. Elementary Sunday school classes are giving a birthday party for Jesus during the class hour on December 18. It will be complete with a birthday cake, games, prizes, and presents given to Jesus, based on Matthew 25:34-40, and laid at the foot of the manger.

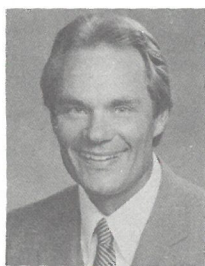
All the events and programs of the Advent Season are outlined in a special brochure prepared by the staff and mailed to each Trinity member or family last month. If you missed getting one, call the church office (222-1120) and ask for another.

Teachers Night Together Planned for December 6

On December 6 from 6 to 8 p.m., Sunday school teachers will gather for a Teachers Night Together in Moor Hall.

Supper will be served for the teachers and their families, followed by a brief meeting on the Resource Room and the new system for obtaining supplies and resources.

A mini-seminar will follow on "Discipline in a Volunteer Classroom" for the teachers of children and youth and one on group discussion skills for the adult class teachers. Reservations can be made by calling the church office at 222-1120 or Linda Mobley at 575-3363.



From The Pastor's Study

By David G. Hortin

ADVENT

Advent is a season of preparation. We all know that. Even before Thanksgiving has come and gone we have a feeling that we are behind in our preparation for Christmas. Christmas takes lots of preparation. The Christmas cards must be prepared. The gifts must be prepared. The house must be prepared and decorated. The list of preparation seems endless. It makes us weary just to think about it. Is it all really worth it? Ask folks what their favorite time of year is and most of them will tell you Christmas. It is worth it and we need Christmas.

Perhaps we prepare everything but ourselves and our spirits for Christmas. Advent is a time of spiritual preparation. Advent is a time when we think of the Hebrew people, oppressed and downtrodden, longing for the Messiah. We think of our lives and long for God's Anointed to speak to us in ways that uplift and encourage us. We know there are areas of our lives that need the blessing of God's unique messenger.

Perhaps it is that we overdo the material preparation for Christmas and underdo the spiritual preparation for the coming of God's love at Christmas. Our spirits are prepared by our public worship and private devotions. Our spirits are prepared by the music of Christmas and by entering into the spirit of Christ at Christmas.

May the joy of Christ be yours.

Notes from the Library

The Advent Season is upon us—a period of four weeks preceding Christmas Eve. Advent means the Coming of Our Lord and opens the church year.

The mood of Advent is expressed in the liturgical color violet. The paraments of the sanctuary and the stoles of the clergy are purple, depicting a feeling of quiet dignity, royalty, and repentance. Violet once was the traditional color of a king's robe. This color is used by the church to signal the coming of Christ who is the King of Kings.

God comes into our lives at all times, not just at Christmas. However in this Advent Season we are particularly mindful of God's entrance by a humble birth in a stable. In Advent we rejoice that we are being given another opportunity to realize our Lord's presence.

How do we respond to God's presence in our lives? By learning God's word and by applying that learning to the way we live our lives.

Some books in the Church Library

of special interest at this time of year are: *Heart of the Christian Year* (Meditations from Advent through Easter) by H. B. Walker; *The Mood of Christmas* by Howard Thurman; *The Whisper of Christmas, Reflections for Advent and Christmas* by Joe E. Pennel, Jr.

In the library are also numerous books on the life of Christ, some of them classics. A few of the titles are:

Allen, C. L. *The Life of Christ*

Barton, B. *The Man Nobody Knows*

Barton, G. *Jesus of Nazareth, a Biography*

Bornkamm, G. *Jesus of Nazareth*

Bowie, W. R. *The Master, A Life of Jesus Christ*

Erskine, J. *The Human Life of Jesus*

Oursler, F. *The Greatest Story Ever Told*

Sheen, F. J. *Life of Christ*

Other books on the life and teachings of Jesus are also available.

Frances M. McAdams
Church Librarian

Gifts to Trinity

Trinity has received the following gifts during the past month.

Memorials were given in memory of the following:

M. M. Ferguson, by Mrs. Julie J. Sutton, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Brown Taylor, Dr. and Mrs. C. L. Campbell, Mary Lou Pace, Mr. and Mrs. Don L. Hay, Mrs. Annie Royal Andrews, Walter and Kitty Funderburk, Mr. and Mrs. Myron Blee, Helen J. Beard, Mrs. W. W. Walker, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Black.

Margaret Cogswell, by Walter and Kitty Funderburk, Gordon and Lynora Wheeler, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Burrell, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Branan, Jr., Gertrude Moser, Charles H. Deeb.

Frank Wollschlager, by Gordon and Lynora Wheeler, Richard and Betty Almarode, Mr. and Mrs. John F. Ruthford, Jr.

Mrs. Frances Wheeler, by Mrs. F. C. Moor, Jr.

Louis L. Sabins, by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Lux.

Dr. Robert E. Lee, by Gale S. Haskell.

Dr. George Foster, by Marylee and Bill Peebles.

Mrs. Ellen Smith, by Marylee and Bill Peebles.

Merle M. Smith, by Mr. and Mrs. Myron Blee.

A gift was given in honor of Linda Mobley by Mr. and Mrs. Myron Blee.

Contributions For Hymnals May Honor, Memorialize Loved Ones

Trinity members and friends have an opportunity to memorialize or honor a loved one during December and January with a gift of a hymnal.

The Commission on Worship is inviting contributions of \$10.50 for each hymnal. The name of the person in whose memory or in whose honor the hymnal is given will be inscribed inside the front cover.

The commission says Trinity needs to purchase 600 books for use during worship services. The order needs to be placed before February 1 in order to obtain a dollar discount on each hymnal.

The new hymnal was approved by the General Conference of the United Methodist Church last April and is expected to be ready for distribution in October 1989. It will include many well known hymns from sources such as the Cokesbury hymnal, the EUB hymnal and the 1935 Methodist hymnal, as well as the present hymnal in use at Trinity.

When the new books arrive, the commission plans to make the old hymnals available for sale to members of the congregation.

Symbols on Chrismon Trees Tell Story of Christ and the Christian Faith

By Kathy Guilday

The beautiful Chrismon trees that grace our sanctuary during the Advent season are an evergreen type tree symbolizing eternal life. They are decorated with handmade chrisma representing many of the symbols of our Christian faith.

The word "Chrismon" is a combination of two words: CHRIST and MONogram. Thus, a Chrismon is a monogram of Christ. The dictionary definition of Chrismon is the specific Chi Rho monogram of Christ. The plural form of Chrismon is chrisma or chrismons.

The term chrismon was adopted by the first church to use this idea, Ascension Lutheran Church of Danville, Virginia, in 1957. As time passed new symbols were added to the collection. Today a Chrismon may be a monogram, a sign, a symbol, or a combination of such figures. One design was added here at Trinity especially for the children and hangs low on each tree. It is a round ball carved out with a tiny nativity scene placed in it. The ball is framed by a flame of gold to symbolize the Sun of Righteousness. Young children can understand this simple symbol and begin an early appreciation for the many different chrisma.

The actual choice of symbols dates to the very beginning of Christian history and on into more modern times. The earliest followers of Jesus drew or carved many of the symbols on jewelry, household utensils, buildings and on the walls of the catacombs in Rome. The use of these symbols helped to identify a Christian to other early believers. The chrisma also helped to pass the ideas and faith of the teacher-artist to the viewer.

Chrismons are made only in gold and white. White is the liturgical color for Christmas and reflects the purity and perfection of our Lord.

Gold represents His majesty and glory. The tiny white lights on each tree remind us that Christ is the Light of the World.

There are many different types of Chrismons on each tree. Some of the symbolisms are very simple while others are much more complex. The cross appears in many forms. Crosses are a reminder of our Lord's sacrifice for our sins, thereby bringing us forgiveness and salvation. Also prevalent is the use of stars. Stars are formed by setting crosses at various angles to reflect the close relationship between the birth and death of our Savior. The number of points a star has indicates a meaning. A six-point star refers to God, the Father, and the six days of creation, and an eight-point star is the symbol for Baptism and regeneration.

Monograms which are either letters or words are also used for Chrismons. The oldest monograms are all in Greek since most of the New Testament was written in Greek. One of the most familiar of the monograms is the Greek word IXOYC(fish) which forms an acrostic on the Greek phrase, Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior. The fish also appears as one of the symbols used as a chrismon and stands for His Fisherman Disciples.

Some of the many other symbols include the triangle for the Trinity, the circle for eternity and eternal life, the square for earthly things, the crown for the Kingship of Jesus Christ, the butterfly for Our Lord's Resurrection and the resurrection of those who have died who like the butterfly have lived life on earth in one form and with joy emerge into heaven in another form.

Study the Chrismon trees for the many symbols of our faith in Jesus Christ, his divine birth, life, death, and glorious resurrection and enjoy their beauty throughout the Advent season.

Trinity Travelers Notes

The next outing for Trinity Travelers will be a spring trip to points of interest in Montgomery and Mobile. Dates for the trip are March 14-17, 1989.

The first stop on the trip will be Montgomery where the group will attend a performance of "Romeo and Juliet" at the new Alabama Shakespeare Festival Theatre. After sightseeing trips to historical buildings in the city, the group will visit Jasmine Hill Gardens. A dinner cruise aboard the General Richard Montgomery Riverboat is also included. Highlights of the visit to Mobile will be tours of Bellingrath Gardens and of historical areas of the city.

Cost of the trip will be \$325 per person, twin, which includes motorcoach transportation, three nights hotel accommodations, baggage handling, guided tours, admissions to attractions, and three meals. A deposit of \$100 is needed to secure a reservation with the final payment due February 1, 1989. For further information call Rubie Butterworth in the church office.

Plans are also underway for a trip to California next summer. Mark your calendar for July 3-13 and watch for further announcements.



Monthly Tidings

Vol. 15, No. 11 Dec., 1988

Published Monthly except

August by

Trinity United Methodist Cl

USPS - 013 - 030

P. O. Box 1086

Park and Duval

Tallahassee, Florida 3231

☆ ☆

David G. Hortin

Beth Fogle-Miller

Ministers

Linda Mobley

Diaconal Minister

☆ ☆

Linda H. Yates, Editor

Jan. deadline: Dec. 19

Second Class Postage Paid
at Tallahassee, Florida

5205

M/M CHARLES R. YATES

1204 GARDENIA DRIVE

TALLAHASSEE FL. 32312

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Tidings, P. O. Box 1086, Tallahassee, FL 32302