

MONTHLY

Findings

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Volume 37, Number 11, December, 2010

Trinity's Mission: We are a community of Christian disciples building pathways through which God's love is realized.

On a Mission

Read this note from Trinity member, Bill Grow, and find out how he has found a way to minister to children in need in Haiti.

Sincere thanks on behalf of Bethlehem Ministry to all who participated in our annual Shoebox Christmas Program for the children of St. Barthelemy's School in Terrier Rouge, Haiti — Sunday School classes, UMW, and individuals. Your generosity in contributing both boxes and financial support is greatly appreciated. Last year we shipped 750 individual gift boxes which covered the 720 children in the school with a few left over for other children. On November 19th over



Children appreciate receiving the boxes.

1200 boxes were delivered to Haiti by Missionary Flights International in Ft. Pierce. What a blessing! Without asking, people sensed the need and sent more. They arrived at my house from all over the US, and even from Canada. The extra boxes will be an unexpected surprise for the children of the 1000 or so refugees from Port-au-Prince area who are crowded into Terrier Rouge.

To learn more about this program see www.bethlehemministry.org.

Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICES

Friday, December 24*

Time	Location	Minister
4:00 p.m.	Chapel	Barbara Hynes
5:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	E. Wayne Curry
8:00 p.m.	Sanctuary	E. Wayne Curry
9:30 p.m.	Moor Hall	Tony Fotsch
11:00 p.m.	Sanctuary	E. Wayne Curry

Sunday, December 26

11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Tony Fotsch
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No Sunday School

Year-end Giving Helps Others

Christi McClure
Comptroller

I simply cannot believe that 2011 is around the corner! But my calendar says it's so...so thank you for your generous giving to the ministries and operations of Trinity! Trinity is a congregation that seeks to mirror the example given to us by God: "For God so loved the world that He gave..."

A few year-end reminders: Friday, December 31, is the last day for 2010 gifts to be tax-deductible in this year. If you choose to mail in your gift, it must be post-marked no later than 12/31/10. (If you made a gift to UMCOR for Haiti, and chose to deduct it on your 2009 return, you will need to subtract those gifts from your 2010 contribution statement total; they are only deductible in one year).



TRINITY'S YEAR-END GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

1. Complete your pledge for 2010.
2. Make an extra, second-mile gift!
3. Honor someone special - a living tribute!
4. Great gift for the "person who has EVERYTHING!"
5. Direct gift from your IRA.

If you have any questions regarding your giving or would like information about giving by charitable trusts, stock gifts or via estate planning, please call Christi McClure, Trinity's Comptroller, at 222-1120.

Gifts to Trinity

Trinity received the following gifts from October 13, 2010 through November 17, 2010:



In memory of Jeff C. Crews from Pat and Tom Denmark and Roy and Maxine Mantooth.

In memory of Mark Trafton, III from Sam and Mary Margaret Rogers and Bill and Cynthia Smith.

In memory of June Armistead Dugger from Dot Binger and the Betty Phifer Sunday School Class.

In memory of Foster Scott Boyd from the Dawirs family and the Betty Phifer Sunday School Class.

In memory of Francis J. Black, Jr. from Edward and Joyce Saccio.

In memory of C.J. Hodges from Bill and Marylee Peebles.

In memory of Hume Field Coleman from Sally and John Arthur Jones, Nancy and Harry Sawyer, Bill and Cynthia Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. Murray Wadsworth.

WAYNE'S WORDS

By E. Wayne Curry
Senior Pastor

Dear Friends,

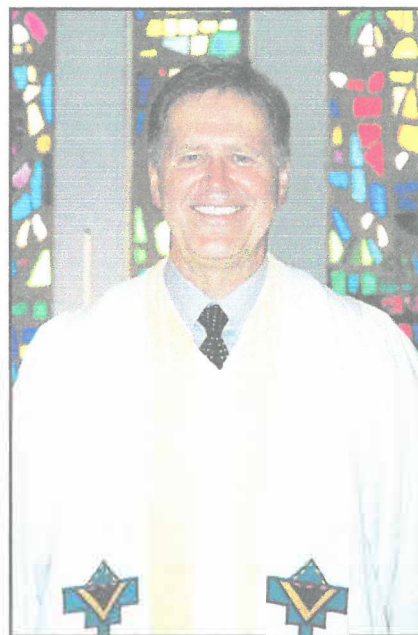
Four children came home one Sunday afternoon excited about the annual church Christmas pageant. They quickly ran up to their rooms and, in a few minutes, were back downstairs demanding their parents' attention. The parents knew right away that the children were practicing the pageant on them, because the children brought in a flashlight wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a shoebox.

Six-year-old Johnny appeared in his daddy's bathrobe. Ten-year-old Jane had a dish towel on her head and said, "I'm Mary; he's Joseph." Four-year-old Margaret came in with pillow cases on both arms which she flapped and said, "I'm the angel."

Finally, eight-year-old Sarah appeared. You could tell she was a wise man because she walked as if she were riding a camel. She was also wearing all the jewelry in the house, and, on the dog's pillow, she carried three items. She bowed to the flashlight, bowed to Mary, bowed to Joseph, bowed to the angel, and finally bowed to her parents. Then she announced, "I am all three wise men and I bring precious gifts of gold, circumstance and mud."

Christmas will be here in a few weeks. Are you ready? Well, ready or not, here He comes! Into all the circumstances of your life...into the gold and into the mud...the Christ Child comes. Frederick Buechner writes:

"Who knows what the facts of Jesus' birth were? Whether there were ten million angels there or just the woman herself and her husband, when that child was born the whole course of history was changed. That is a fact as hard and blunt as any fact. Art,



music, literature, our culture itself, our political institutions, our whole understanding of ourselves and our world—it is impossible to conceive of how differently world history would have developed if that child had not been born. And in terms of faith, much more must be said because for faith, the birth of the child into the darkness of the world made possible not just a new way of understanding life but a new way of living life."

Have a wonderful Christmas! Christ our Savior is born! Alleluia!

You are loved,

Wayne

Camp Registration opens Dec. 1

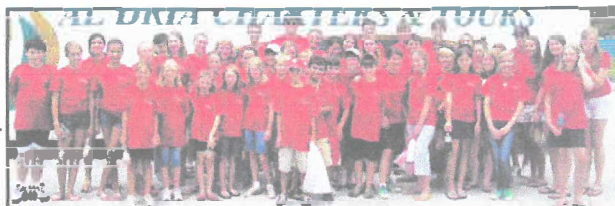
Kelly Rains
Youth Director

Trinity will be heading back to Warren W. Willis Summer Camp in Leesburg again this summer and we don't want you to miss it. All children and youth (who will be in 4th grade in fall of 2011 through graduating seniors of 2010) who want to attend camp must register online this year at www.warrenwilliscamp.org. Trinity will be going the week of July 18th and the camp cost this year is \$380. Register early to ensure

your spot and remember to list Trinity as your church when registering.

Once you have registered your child or youth, please forward your confirmation email from camp to Kelly Rains at krains@tvmct.org to get further instructions for receiving the Trinity member assistance of \$100 and to get a seat on our charter bus. Like in years past, additional

scholarships are also available through the camp itself. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly at 850-222-1120.



Music News for December

Mark Repasky
Director of Music

Steel Band

By the time you read this, you should have a better idea what Trinity's Steel Band is all about, since the adult band will have participated in 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services on November 28. We might start a new 6-member ensemble after Christmas if there is enough interest. First step is to see who wants to play, contact me at the church to put your hat in the ring! Ability to read music is required. If enough people want to play, you will be contacted about possible rehearsal times and a leader for the group. One possibility is to form intergenerational group where older children (probably need to be at least 5th grade) can participate with parents and/or grandparents!

Celebrating Christmas at Trinity

Most church musicians invest a lot of time and effort in Advent/Christmas music. Here at Trinity, it is perhaps our biggest season of the year!

We start early, with Trinity Ringers participating in the only Massed Handbell Concert in the Tallahassee area, held each year at First Baptist Church. The concert is at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 4. Many who attend then stay for the Winter Festival parade!

The very next day, we are pleased to host the FAMU Concert Choir's annual Christmas Concert. Remember, the group sang at our 11:00 a.m. worship service one Sunday this past April and they were WONDERFUL! Their concert is at 6:45 p.m. on Sunday, December 5 in our sanctuary. They will present the Christmas section of Handel's "Messiah," plus a selection of more contemporary Christmas music. The FAMU Handbell Ensemble will also perform.

Our NETkids annual Christmas Concert is set for Sunday, December 12 in Moor Hall. We begin with a pot-luck dinner at 5:00 p.m. with the music program immediately following. Something new this year is our NETkids Steel Band Ensemble, which will play 2 or 3 short selections. All are invited to attend as the choirs tell the Christmas story through our Christmas musical "Aaron, the Allergic Shepherd."

Youth Choir presents a Christmas Music Program at a retirement center on December 12 and NETkids Choirs visit a different retirement center on December 15.

Our annual Preschool Christmas Program

is Friday, December 17 at 11:45 a.m. in Moor Hall. The children present the Christmas story with costumes, dialogue and songs. It will be fun!

Christmas Eve services are always special occasions at Trinity.

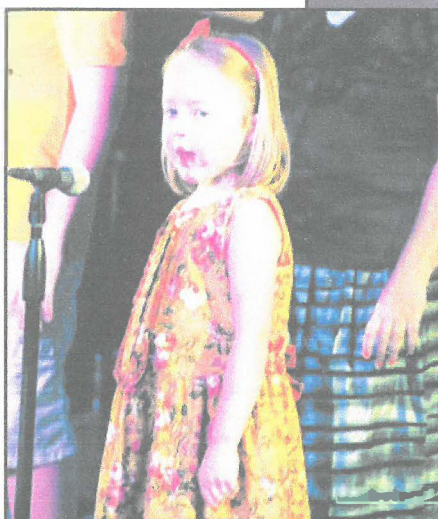
Warren May will be music leader for the 4:00 p.m. Vespers Service in our Chapel. Youth and Children provide most of the music for the 5:30 p.m. Family Service. Youth Choir, NETkids Choir, NETkids Steel

Band Ensemble, and Cherub Choir will all participate. Our 8:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols Service features music by adult groups, namely Chancel Choir, Trinity Ringers and new this year, our adult Steel Band Ensemble and Senior Handchimes. At 9:30 p.m. we have a Contemporary Service led by Circle of Friends Praise Band in Moor Hall. Finally, at 11:00 pm is our Communion Service with an ensemble from Chancel Choir singing a few selections.

If you enjoy singing, how about coming to the Community Christmas Dinner December 25 at noon and help in singing some Christmas favorites? It's a tradition!

Sing Christmas Eve

We are looking for people to sing with the Chancel Choir at the 8 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. Join us for this special "Lessons and Carols" candlelight service! Come to our Wednesday, December 15 & 22 rehearsals at 8:15 to practice our three selections together.



At left, making her musical debut, Mary Kate Wyatt sang "So Long, Farewell," from *The Sound of Music* for the Trinity Broadway Sampler in October.

Above, Pat Stafford sang "I'm In Love With A Wonderful Guy," from the musical *South Pacific*.



The Chancel Choir got into the act with a medley of hits from Rodgers and Hammerstein.



Jana Sterling gave a beautiful performance of "If I Loved You," from the musical *Carousel*. Trinity is so blessed to have such a wide range of musical talent.



Thanks Altar Guild!

If you were here at Trinity for the Stewardship Sunday service, you saw the awesome cornucopia the Altar Guild put together. They started on Friday and finished late Saturday. God is good and his bounty is boundless.

Thank you Altar Guild for showing the beauty in the produce of the earth.



Habitat Festival of Trees

Trinity was well represented at the recent "Habitat Festival of Trees." Proceeds from the sale of these trees help to support Big Bend Habitat for Humanity's mission of providing affordable housing for hard working families in local counties. Shown in the photo at left are, from left, Sheila Merlau, Sandy Kappes, Reverend Barbara Hynes, Liz Smith, and Patti Oakley (Not pictured is Marti Chumbler).

Heifer Project

Frank Leonard
Missions Committee Chair

The Heifer Project is coming! Save the date! Members of Trinity's Mission Committee will be in the Welcoming Center in Moor Hall from Nov. 28 to Dec. 19 before and after each service to provide you the opportunity to help with this worthy cause.



For the past two years members of Trinity have had the opportunity to celebrate Christ's birth with an "alternative" gift for loved ones while at the same time helping those less fortunate. Choose a meaningful gift to give a loved one and help children and families around the world receive training and animal gifts that help them become self-reliant.

Shares of animals begin as low as \$10. What better way to celebrate the Christmas season than through a gift that will bring joy to the recipient but also will assist the needy in becoming more self-sufficient?

"Trinity Flutes"—A Holiday Program of Flute and Song for UMW!

Rita May

Trinity United Methodist Women Luncheon Meeting, Dec. 7, 2010

'Tis the season for music and song ... and that's exactly what we can look forward to at our December United Methodist Women luncheon. Put on your holly and mistletoe, dust off the red sweater or vest, and come to enjoy a wonderful luncheon and fellowship.

About three years ago, Trinity's own Sue Parsons made a dream of hers come true. She started a musical group, Trinity Flutes, whose goals are "Flutes, Fellowship, and Community Service." They play together on a regular basis to prepare music for church and community groups in the Tallahassee area. "We have a lot of fun together, playing our instruments, praying together, and reaching out to our community," remarked Sue when we talked about the upcoming UMW program.



The Trinity Flutes are excited that they will be with us, and we look forward to their holiday program of music and song! Be sure to invite a

friend and mark your calendar for December 7. (To make your luncheon reservations (\$6) call Nancy Kerce at 877-6546 by Wednesday, Dec. 1.)

UMW Circles to Meet

Circle 1 will meet Monday, December 13 at 10:00 a.m. with Willa Almoff, Westminster Oaks Pool House.

Circle 2 will meet in the church library immediately after the UMW luncheon meeting on Tuesday, December 7.

Circle 4 will meet in the church library on Tuesday, December 14, at 10:30 a.m.

Circle 5 meets Saturday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. at Southwood Golf Course

Circle 6 will not meet in December. They will be delivering flowers.

Circle 8 will meet at noon, Wednesday, December 1, at St. John's Cafe.

Circle 9 meets Tuesday, December 21 at 10:00 a.m. with Miriam Peirce, 4194 Diplomacy Circle.

Circle 10 meets Thursday, at 7:00 p.m., December 16 with Donna Duggar, 1010 Shalimar Drive.

P.S. We will also be introducing our new officers for 2011 - you won't want to miss this! (Julie Pararo, UMW President)

The Pecans are here!

Judy Levy

YEAH! The pecans are finally here. Please pick up your order in the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings after each church service or in Moor Hall on Wednesday night from 5:30—6:30 pm. If you would like to purchase some of the extra pecans, stop by during the above times with your money. There aren't too many left, so come by soon! Thanks so much for making this fund raiser for UMW such a success (and you get some very delicious pecans to boot.).



The preschool staff takes a break during the Thanksgiving Feast to pose for a photo. This talented group of ladies has well over 100 years combined worth of experience and has cared for and nurtured thousands of children!

Sitting in front, from left to right: Chelsea Anderson, Leanna Elkins, and Laura Patton; in the middle row are, Nancy Duncan, Stacey Duggar, Victoria Tettey, and Mary Forrestall; and standing are, Rosa Morris, Anna Hutton, Kristin Power, Meredith Fee, Ashley Payzant, Candace Duclos, Lora Signs, Amy Rudzik, and Veronica Stewart.

Youth Happenings in November

Kelly Rains Jordan Perry
Youth Director Youth Intern

A Note from Kelly ...

Are you ready for the Holidays? Are your decorations up and your shopping list complete? Are you already enjoying the smell of your fresh Christmas tree that you bought from the youth? Well, the youth are ready for Christmas and have decorated The Underground for the first time. The youth are always busy in December (like they aren't the rest of the year) and are ready to kick off the season with our Chili Fundraiser on Saturday, December 4. During the Festival

of Lights the youth will be providing warm, delicious chili and cornbread for just \$4.00. We even have vegetarian chili too! Chili will be served in to-go containers up on the front steps of the church from 5:30-8:30 p.m., so be sure to stop by during the festival. Parking is always included with a chili ticket purchase but be sure to get here by 5:30 p.m. due to street closures. All proceeds will go toward youth mission trips in 2011. Hope to see you there!



Above, mid-high youth line up before the race at Fun Station. They also rode bumper boats and played laser-tag.

At right, Guatemala Youth Mission Team keep their cool during a traffic jam on their way to Orlando. Realizing that they weren't going anywhere for a while, they got out and had some fun on the interstate.



Upcoming Youth events for November

Dec. 1	Registration opens for Warren Willis Camp in Leesburg
Dec. 1	Mid-High Pickup, Unload Christmas Trees (4:30-5:30pm)
Dec. 1	Christmas Tree Pickup (5:30-8:30pm)
Dec. 4	Chili Fundraiser Parking (2:30-5:30pm)
Dec. 4	Chili Fundraiser \$4 on front steps (5:30-8:30pm)
Dec. 5	Praise Band 4pm, Youth Choir 5pm, UMYF 6pm
Dec. 8	Wednesday Bible Study (Mid-High 4:30pm)
Dec. 12	8:30 & 11:00am Youth Choir Sings, Caroling at Retirement Homes
Dec. 12	6:00pm UMYF (No Choir Practice, No Praise Band)
Dec. 15	Wednesday Bible Study (Mid-High 4:30pm)
Dec. 19	No Youth Choir, No Praise Band
Dec. 19	Youth Christmas Party 6:00- 9:00pm (at The Underground)
Dec. 24	Youth Choir sings at 5:30pm Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 26	No Sunday School, No Choir, No Praise Band, No UMYF

Other Upcoming Events

Jan. 2	No Youth Choir, No Praise Band, No UMYF
Jan. 9	Youth Choir 4pm, Praise Band 5pm, UMYF 6pm
Jan. 9	Guatemala Meeting 8pm
Jan. 12	Mid-High Bible Study and Pickup Resumes
Jan. 17	Meals On Wheels Delivery

The Guatemala Team enjoys some of the international foods offered at Pan Pan Colombian bakery in Orlando. From left they are, Justice Merlaw, Malinda Rains, Avery Smith, Jonathan Danforth, Alex Ingram, and John Rains.

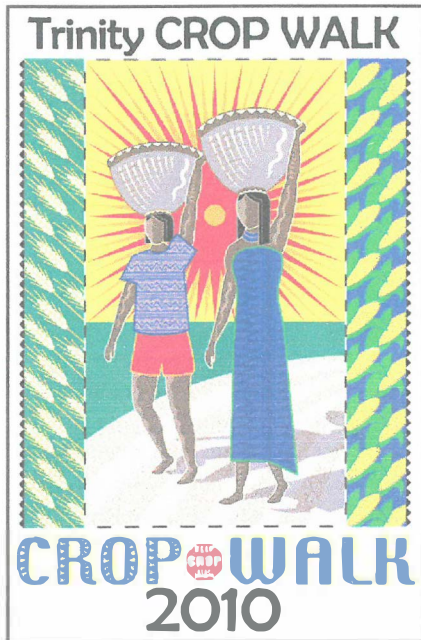
Stay current! Visit the website often! www.undergroundministries.org



Elizabeth Vandervort, Kathryn Crotty, and Alex Ingram stop for a photo before walking for 3 miles during Crop Walk 2010.



Ella Smith and Jessica Danforth lead the way as Trinity heads out on the Crop Walk.



Trinity was well represented at Crop Walk again this year with over 60 participants. Many thanks are owed to coordinator Phyllis McCranie for organizing the Trinity walk and for facilitating the online giving.



Daniel Watson, Casey Waddill, Malinda Rains, and Eva Mustian are ready to walk to help fight hunger worldwide.

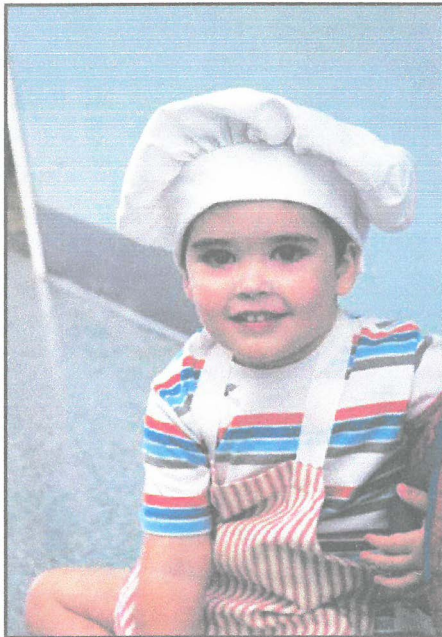


Ella Smith, Katie Watson, and Elizabeth Vandervort enjoy some beans and rice prior to walking. Yum!

Reasons

Hillary Ryan
HEO Coordinator

Ever since I was blessed with the position as the Helping Each Other (H.E.O.) Coordinator, I have wanted to somehow inspire more Trinity members to volunteer through the church in some small way - to put it on their "to do



The newest Trinity Chef, Hillary and Eric Ryan's son, Kane.

list" - even if it is just one small effort once a month. Not so much because we "should," but because I want my church family to experience the joy I have. Serving at Trinity has given me so very much. It has deepened my faith and enriched my life. I want that same experience and opportunities for others.

So, I have been asking as many faithful and frequent church volunteers as possible: "Why do you do so much with the church? What or who inspired you?" Inevitably, many say the behavior was modeled for them growing up (as the sixth and seventh reasons listed below reflect - more on that in the coming months), but, one volunteer, after attending a very long (several hours long) committee meeting at church one night, took the time to contemplate the question and emailed my family member this truly inspiring response that so moved me (and that I really identified with), I wanted to share it with you. It was simply entitled: "Reasons." This is not your average forwarded email.

Reasons I Volunteer With My Church:

- I volunteer because I love Jesus and He speaks to me as we work together.
- I volunteer not to earn my salvation, but as a way to thank God for my salvation. When I think of all God has done for me, how He has saved me, and what He has saved me from - I cannot help but volunteer out of a heart of gratitude.
- Volunteering has increased my faith and been a display of what God can do in a life, as I have been enabled to do tasks far beyond my capabilities. When you KNOW how frail you are and see what God does - you know there is a really BIG God behind it. It is NOT you.
- Volunteering puts me in position to depend on God and not myself. When I am able to accomplish the work He gives me, it brings Him glory.
- I volunteer as a way to be a part of the Kingdom - not as an observer, but as a participant in what God is doing in the world.
- I volunteer because it was modeled for me by my father; it is his legacy.
- I volunteer to model it for my children - maybe it will be my legacy for them.
- I volunteer because it brings me joy.
- I volunteer to experience the character of God first hand, not just read about His character in His Word.
- I volunteer because when each one does what God has called them to, little ones come to saving faith.
- I volunteer out of obedience to what Christ calls us to do.
- I volunteer because it connects me relationally with people who also love Jesus.
- I volunteer because God has provided for our family in that I haven't worked outside the home, and some who would like to volunteer can't because of work commitments.
- I volunteer because I love people ...

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PERIODICALS
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TALLAHASSEE FL

little people, big people, hungry people, needy people, happy people, sad people ... people.

- I volunteer because it changes me and moves me toward Christ's example.
- I volunteer because it increases my compassion and gratitude.
- And lastly, I volunteer so I don't have to do my housework. If I go to church, I don't see the mess in the house!

There are probably countless other reasons and your question will likely provoke much thought for me over the next few days. Thanks for the heart check.

Blessings,
A Grateful Church Volunteer

Your H.E.O. coordinator and ministries are here, not only to serve you, but to allow you to serve.

Trinity welcomes and needs your questions, concerns, ideas and participation in our congregational and community care, a.k.a. H.E.O., ministries. I look forward to your phone calls and emails (hryan@tumct.org).

Christ is
BORN
WONDER
COUNSELOR
MIGHTY GOD
PRINCE OF PEACE