

Pastor's Desk

I have a framed poem by Howard Thurman which, each Christmas, I bring out of the drawer in which we store it. I always place it front and center on the table in our living room, close to the Christmas tree. This poem serves as a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas. Christmas is our yearly celebration of God's fully entering into his world, taking on our lives and flesh to go about reclaiming the world from the powers of darkness which threaten to overcome it. While culturally Christmas Day may be the climatic finale to a month of preparation for a wonderful family time, for Christians this day is another opportunity to immerse ourselves in the good news of God's never-failing love, to rededicate ourselves to growing spiritually and to discipleship, to living our lives as "little Christs", to use Martin Luther's terminology. After the wonderful day (and week that follows) of gift giving, parties, and holiday cheer, Christians roll up our sleeves and get to work addressing the issues in the forefront of God's mind; the spiritual and physical welfare of his children. For the true meaning of Christmas is that God acted in a decisive way to draw us to himself in this life and in the next.

I offer Howard Thurman's poem for your reflection. If you wish to have it in electronic form, please email me and I can pass it along. It is one of my favorite religious poems; I hope it will become one of your favorites.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations,
 To bring peace among all,
 To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman

New Years Blessings,
Joe

TRINITY HI-LITES "ABOUT US"

First Edition
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The Rev. Joseph I. Donovan
Mr. Ross Cunningham



The following members and friends of Trinity were included in our prayer list during December:

Emily Saylor Karen Saylor
Amanda Ales April Ellis
Elouise Himes Lorraine & Don Hair
Jean Carr Esther Semler
Nicolas Griffith Ron Flook
Clyde Snyder Reese Burdette
Jean Lefler Bob Glausier
Lisa Lewis

ATTENTION

Announcements for the bulletin must be submitted to the church office **NO LATER** than **9:00 Friday morning**.

Newsletter article should be submitted into the church office **NO LATER** than the **15th of the month**.

SECRETARY AND PASTOR OFFICE HOURS:

Wednesday & Friday 9:00 AM – Noon

January Birthdays

Jan.	2	Thomas Bikle
	2	Jason Semler
	3	Ethan Foster
	3	Cole Hoffman
	5	Joseph Howell
	6	Bradly Hoffman
	6	Laura Iager
	8	Jerry Landsman, Jr.
	8	Jeff Himes
	11	Leonard Summers
	15	Cathy Landsman
	16	Mike Norris
	18	Mary Frances Roney
	19	William Garrison
	19	Jeff Hoffman
	19	Seth Hutchinson
	20	Jared Tribett
	21	Angie Deater
	21	Beverly DeBaugh
	26	Beth Thomas
	27	Tammy DeBaugh
	29	Susan Layos
	30	Connie Cline
	31	Melissa Hinlicky
	31	Jack Panther



JANUARY ALTAR FLOWERS

- Jan. 3 Dellinger
- Jan. 10
- Jan. 17
- Jan. 24
- Jan. 31

The above 2016 dates are for flowers to be placed on the altar. The 2016 flower calendar is on the podium in the Social Room. You may sign up at any time to place flowers on the altar for a Sunday service.



NURSERY SCHEDULE FOR 10:15 WORSHIP

- January 3 – Jen Poffenberger
- January 10 – Theresa Foster
- January 17 – Julie Hartman
- January 24 – Andrea Smith/ Jean McCammon
- January 31 – Lindsay & Mike Norris

Please be considerate to others when placing your children in the nursery during worship time. The nursery is for children age infant to 4 years old. Older children 5 and older should not be in the nursery. Thank you for your cooperation to ensure our little ones are properly well cared for.

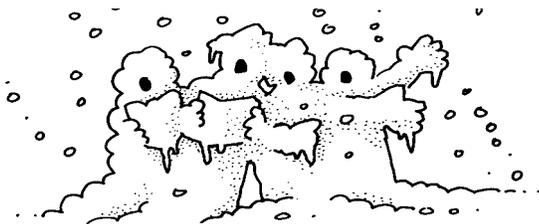


The Men's Bible Study meets in the social room at 8:00 AM each month on the first and third Sundays. In January, we meet on January 3 & 17. We always have room around the table for a few more men. Join us as we gather over pastries and coffee to discuss scripture.



Our Children's Church Program at Trinity is a wonderful ministry to our young people ages 4 through grade 3. Children's church is offered the 3rd and 4th Sunday's of the month as part of our 10:15 A.M. worship service. Below are listed the leaders for January through April:

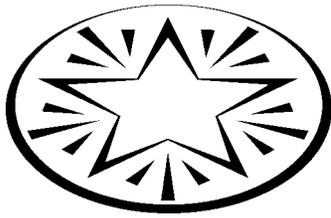
- Jan. Belinda Pippen/Julie Hartman
- Feb. Karen Tribett
- Mar. Julie Williams
- Apr. Jen Poffenberger



CANCELLATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may learn of the cancellation of Sunday school and/or worship services due to snow or ice by calling the church office (301-432-2226) and listening to the outgoing message, by checking your email for an email blast or by tuning to the following local radio stations:

- WCRH (90.5 FM) WJEJ (1240 AM)



EPIPHANY STARS

January 6 is Epiphany, the festival that celebrates the Magi's visit to Jesus in Bethlehem. We will distribute an Epiphany star to guide you the rest of the year during worship on Sunday, January 3, and will explain the significance of the star prior to the distribution.

Installation

The Congregation Council Installation is Sunday, January 10 during the 10:15 AM service. We ask all council members to attend this service.

The following members are the 2016 Congregation Council: Larry Dalton, John Everline, Theresa Foster, Susan Layos, Christina McClellan, Tony Nally, Tim Panther, Tom Piston, Zane Poffenberger, Chip Rockwell, Melissa Schwalbe, John Talley, Karen Tribett, Gene Walkley, Julie Williams.

We will elect the council officers and appoint the committee chairs and liaisons at the January 12 Council meeting.



OFFERING ENVELOPES

The offering envelopes for the new calendar year are ready for you to pick up. Please check for yours on the table in the education wing hallway. If you want a printed contribution statement for 2015, please contact **Tony Nally** at 301-432-4431 or tnally@myactv or **Christina McClellan** at 240-461-4225 or whatever@myactv.net



Thank you so much for the cards, gifts and wonderful monetary gift you gave my family and me this Christmas season. Words cannot express my surprise at its amount. I truly thank you for all your love and support throughout the years!

All my love, Joe



PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT

For quite a while now, Meritus Medical Center has NOT informed area clergy when one of their parishioners is hospitalized. The only way clergy can know of a patient admission is for the pastor to physically go to the hospital and check the clergy information available at the information desk or for you to call the pastor and inform him. If one of your loved ones is admitted to the hospital and you wish Pastor Joe to visit, please let him know IMMEDIATELY that your loved one is in the hospital. Please call him on his cell phone, 240-675-1604. He would love to visit any patient in the hospital but needs to know they are there!

NEW BIBLE STUDY

Beginning Tuesday, January 5, Pastor Donovan will offer a weekly weekday Tuesday Bible study at 9:15 a.m. in the church lounge in the education wing. This study is for **women only**. The Bible study topics will vary depending upon the topics the group suggests. If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Joe at either his email (pastortrinity@yahoo.com) or call him at the church office number 301-432-2226.



JANUARY FIRST FRIDAY IS COMING QUICKLY!

Since it is New Year's Day, there will be no First Friday in January. Instead, we will have Cabin Fever Friday on Friday, January 8th, weather permitting. Come have a hot meal, and enjoy some board games for all ages. Meal served at 5:45 PM. Games until 8. RSVPs are necessary for planning purposes.



The Prime Timers is Trinity's fellowship group for ANYONE available during the day to get together with other folks for a meal or to take an excursion to a local (and sometimes not so local) attraction. The past couple months, we've enjoyed a covered dish meal in the social room and an evening trip to attend a true candlelight worship service at Eyler's Valley Chapel in Frederick County. Our next event is a covered dish meal at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 20. We ask you to sign up on the sheet of paper in the church narthex to bring a main dish, side or dessert. Beverages are provided. Join us for good conversation and great food!



Gaggle Gathers to Giggle

January Gaggle: Thursday, January 28 at 6:15 PM at the home of Kristy Smith. Stay tuned for details.

If you are on Facebook and would like to be added to the Gaggle page, please let Kristy know. We wouldn't want you to miss any scoop!



Do you want to schedule the social room or other space at Trinity for a church related or family activity or an event for an organization to which you belong? To schedule an event, contact the church office, Steve Jamison or Pastor Donovan. The master event calendar is kept electronically through Google calendar. Before you contact the office, you may view the Google calendar at Trinity's web page at <http://www.trinitylutheranboonsboro.org>.

Click "home" at the top of the page to make certain you are on the home page then scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Calendar - See What's Happening at Trinity". This takes you to the Google calendar and you will be able to scroll through the entire year to find available dates. Knowing Trinity's schedule in advance will help you plan your events! We try to keep the calendar up-to-date as best we can!



ATTENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRS & TREASURERS: All committee chairs, heads of organizations and treasurers should have their **year-end reports** for 2015 into the church office **no later than Sunday, January 24**. Copies of last year's report are available from the office if you should need one as a guide.

AUDITING CHURCH ACCOUNTS: If you are willing to help audit the church accounts in January, please contact Mark Poffenberger at 301-432-0456 or markpoff84@yahoo.com. This usually involves a few hours one evening in January, if we have several volunteers.



The South County Food Pantry is again hosting a PaintNite event to benefit the Micah's Backpack program on Saturday, February 6, 2016 at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 64 South Main Street, Boonsboro, MD. It will begin at 2:00 pm. We need to sell 35 tickets by January 23rd to make this event happen so please get your reservations in early! The price per ticket is \$45.00. This would make a great gift for someone on your list. Micah's Backpack of South Washington County is currently serving 98 students at 5 elementary schools and, with the uncertainty of the operations at the Maryland Food Bank-Western Branch, this fundraiser will help us continue to provide nutritious meals over the weekends. Please register at: <http://paintnite.com/pages/events/view/northernmd/932755>. You may contact Lisha Bikle at 301-667-2406 or goldenlover@myactv.net if you have questions about this fun event. Thank you for your support!

Yes, we bring our dog to church. His name is Boomer and he is in training to be a service dog. He is a mixture of a yellow Labrador and a Golden Retriever. His forehead frequently wrinkles when he is waiting for a command or his ball.

The state correctional institutions here in Boonsboro are home to America's VetDogs Prison Puppy Programs. In this special program, inmates are raising and training puppies who will one day work as service dogs for wounded veterans. In many facilities, incarcerated veterans are participating in the program giving them an emotional connection to their dog's future handler and partner.

Each weekend, puppies go home with a volunteer. These "weekend puppy raisers" teach house manners, socialize them to car rides, traffic noise and visit stores, restaurants, churches and hospitals so that they will be confident wherever their future veteran partner will go. That is where we come in. We have had Boomer every weekend since August of 2015 and recently began to occasionally bring him to church service. Volunteering in this program gives us the opportunity to combine our love for dogs and our ongoing respect for the United States Military.

So please don't be shocked if you see a tail sticking out from the pew.

In peace, The Hutchinson family



MAR-LU-RIDGE SUMMER CAMP

Come and join us this upcoming summer for a wonderful week of camp! The summer camp brochure with a full schedule and camp descriptions is available here at the church as well as online at www.Mar-Lu-Ridge.org. Mar-Lu-Ridge offers:

- a fun, small group, Christ-centered week in the woods
- affordable pricing starting at \$405 per week for overnight and \$165 for day camp
- friendships and memories that stay with your child
- camperships to ensure that all children can attend camp
- a wide variety of unique specialty programs for all ages!
- ACA certification means MLR meets the highest safety standards

Interested families may consider joining us at one of our open houses from 2:00 to 4:30 PM on Sundays March 20, April 24 and May 22.

If you have any questions, please contact MLR by e-mail at MLR@Mar-Lu-Ridge.org or by phone at 301-874-5544.

Registration opens January 1, 2016!

December Council Minutes

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Financial Secretary's Report was sent via email and reviewed by Council. We continue to be short of our budgeted amount, but are hopeful that this

Mark your calendars now for March 5th and the 2016 Chili Cook Off! We've lost track of the number of years we have had this popular event!

Chili cookers, dessert makers, and variety acts will soon be recruited! Want to help plan? See Kristy Smith.



Coats and Blankets for Syrian Refugees - The local American Turkish Friendship Association representative, Fatih Akyol, expressed his gratitude for the large donation of coats and blankets for the refugees.

The members of Trinity provided several bags and boxes loaded with the needed items, which will give comfort to Syrian people who had to leave their home land.

will be resolved by the end of December.

John Talley provided a written copy of the Treasurer's Report. The balance in Benevolence is now \$992.75, but he still needs to pay \$1,500 (Apportionment, Ambulance and Fire). If we do not receive sufficient donations, John is asking for permission to transfer \$1,000 from the Building Fund. Karen made a motion to approve this transfer of funds; Susan seconded; all voted in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tim provided a verbal report for the Property Committee. They have decided to do the landscaping in the front of the church and parsonage themselves, in the spring. Tuba Greenfield will assist with the design. They also had a discussion about security in the Church. We recently lost two air conditioning units (not certain if they are misplaced or have been taken). They are suggesting changing the security code periodically and only giving it to certain individuals who need it. Tom suggested a security system with individual access codes, so that there is a record of who has been in the building. He will get information and pricing. Gene commended the Property Committee for the new Wi-Fi set up.

OLD BUSINESS

Everyone agreed that the presentation on giving at the Congregational Meeting went well and that we should continue to make that information available to everyone. Gene agreed to do his presentation on December 20, prior to the worship service (10:10 a.m.).

We also agreed to revisit the issue of electronic giving. Since there is a cost to this (\$0.25 per transaction), we should consider having only a monthly, rather than weekly, transaction.

Pastor Joe spoke to Mark Poffenberger about re-establishing the Stewardship Committee. They are going to consider candidates for this Committee and he will have information for the January Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Chip had a prior discussion with Pastor Joe about Benevolence and determined that the Council needs to define a process for selecting and promoting specific activities/organizations whom we want to support. Gene suggested that we have a specific committee (either a new committee or an established committee) be responsible for this. Their first task would be to establish a policy and criteria for donations. No firm decision was made.

Dale Ford submitted a request for 2015 Benevolence funding for Johnie and Friends and for Gideons. Karen made a motion to approve \$250 for each from 2015 funding, coming from the Witness/Evangelism line item in the budget. John seconded the motion and it passed by majority vote.

Jen Poffenberger asked if Funk funding could be used for Road Trip for youth group members (6 youth and 2 adults, \$100 each for the deposit needed at this time). Theresa made a motion to approve; Zane seconded; all voted in favor.

Pastor Joe reported that a Drug Intervention Program will be held at Trinity tomorrow night. An issue that was raised in prior meetings was the need for Family Support Group meetings. He asked for permission to allow these meetings at Trinity and this was approved.

The Bulletin Board

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8 AM Men's Bible study 9 AM SCS 10:15 AM Worship – Communion - 11:30 AM Music & Worship Committee	4	5 9:15 AM Bible Study – Lounge 7 PM 11 th Step	6 7 PM Contemporary Choir	7 1-3 PM Food Pantry & Micah's Backpack 6 PM Girl Scouts 7 PM AA Meeting	8 Cabin Fever Friday 5:30 – 7 PM	9
10 9 AM SCS - 10:15 Contemporary Worship - Soup & Bread Luncheon Install Congregation Council members	11	12 9:15 AM Bible Study – Lounge 7 PM 11 th Step 7:00 PM Council	13 3 PM Girl Scouts 7 PM Adult Choir	14 1-3 PM Food Pantry & Micah's Backpack 7 PM AA Meeting	15	16
17 8 AM Men's Bible study 9 AM SCS 10:15 AM worship – Children's Church – 11:30 AM Coffee Call	18	19 9:15 AM Bible Study – Lounge 7 PM 11 th Step	20 11:30 AM Prime Timers – Socia 1 Room 7 PM Adult Choir	21 1-3 PM Food Pantry & Micah's Backpack 6 PM Girl Scouts 7 PM AA Meeting	22 Youth Road Trip	23 Youth Road Trip

24 9 AM SCS 10:15 AM worship Children’s Church/Joyful Noise Choir Year End Reports Due	25	26 9:15 AM Bible Study – Lounge 7 PM 11 th Step 7PM Outreach Committee	27 3 PM Girl Scouts 7 PM Adult Choir	28 1-3 PM Food Pantry & Micah’s Backpack 6:15 Gaggle - Kristy Smith 7 PM AA Meeting	29	30
31						