

Pastor's Desk

My loved ones, I did not write this - I found it (really, it found me). But I needed to pass this along to you this January because it powerfully preaches the meaning of Christmas and Epiphany season. God bless all of you.

Love, Joe

We were the only family with children in the restaurant. I sat Erik in a high chair and noticed everyone was quietly sitting and talking. Suddenly Erik squealed with glee and said, 'Hi.' He pounded his fat baby hands on the high chair tray. His eyes were crinkled in laughter and his mouth was bared in a toothless grin, as he wriggled and giggled with merriment.

I looked around and saw the source of his merriment. It was a man whose pants were baggy with a zipper at half-mast and his toes poked out of would-be shoes. His shirt was dirty and his hair was uncombed and unwashed. His whiskers were too short to be called a beard and his nose was so varicose it looked like a road map. We were too far from him to smell, but I was sure he smelled. His hands waved and flapped on loose wrists. 'Hi there, baby; hi there, big boy. I see ya, buster,' the man said to Erik. My husband and I exchanged looks, 'What do we do?' Erik continued to laugh and answer, 'Hi.'

Everyone in the restaurant noticed and looked at us and then at the man. The old geezer was creating a nuisance with my beautiful baby. Our meal came and the man began shouting from across the room, 'Do ya patty cake? Do you know peek-a-boo? Hey, look, he knows peek-a-boo.' Nobody thought the old man was cute. He was obviously drunk.

My husband and I were embarrassed. We ate in silence; all except for Erik, who was running through his repertoire for the admiring skid-row bum, who in turn, reciprocated with his cute comments.

We finally got through the meal and headed for the door. My husband went to pay the check and told me to meet him in the parking lot. The old man sat poised between me and the door. 'Lord, just let me out of here before he speaks to me or Erik,' I prayed. As I drew closer to the man, I turned my back trying to sidestep him and avoid any air he might be breathing. As I did, Erik leaned over my arm, reaching with both arms in a baby's 'pick-me-up' position. Before I could stop him, Erik had propelled himself from my arms to the man.

Suddenly a very old smelly man and a very young baby consummated their love and kinship. Erik in an act of total trust, love, and submission laid his tiny head upon the man's ragged shoulder. The man's eyes closed, and I saw tears hover beneath his lashes. His aged hands full of grime, pain, and hard labor, cradled my baby's bottom and stroked his back. No two beings have ever loved so deeply for so short a time. I stood awestruck. The old man rocked and cradled Erik in his arms and his eyes opened and set squarely on mine. He said in a firm commanding voice, 'You take care of this baby.' Somehow I managed, 'I will,' from a throat that contained a stone. He pried Erik from his chest, lovingly and longingly, as though he were in pain. I received my baby, and the man said, 'God bless you, ma'am, you've given me my Christmas gift.'

I said nothing more than a muttered thanks. With Erik in my arms, I ran for the car. My husband was wondering why I was crying and holding Erik so tightly, and why I was saying, 'My God, my God, forgive me.' I had just witnessed Christ's love shown through the innocence of a tiny child who saw no sin, who made no judgment; a child who saw a soul, and a mother who saw a suit of clothes. I was a Christian who was blind, holding a child who was not. I felt it was God asking, 'Are you willing to share your son for a moment?' when He shared His for all eternity. The ragged old man, unwittingly, had reminded me, 'To enter ..., we must become as little children.'

Sometimes, it takes a child to remind us of what is really important. We must always remember who we are, where we came from and, most importantly, how we feel about others. The clothes on your back or the car that you drive or the house that you live in does not define you at all; it is how you treat your fellow man that identifies who you are.

'It is better to be liked for the true you, than to be loved for who people think you are.....' John 3: 16-17

TRINITY HI-LITES "ABOUT US"

First Edition

January 2014

Published by:

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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:

Kyle Lefler	April Ellis	Karen Saylor
Boots Eccard	Della Greenlee	Sissy Miller
Kenny Semler	Dixie Patton	Dave Butcher
Matt Fortese	Marsha Leach	Ed Reddick
Laurie Metz	Judy Koontz	Susan Toms
Mina Greenfield	Bev Banzhoff	Charlie Ratigan
Christopher Nally	Faith Pike	Debbie Cramer
Madelyn Fitzgerald	Preston Miller	Kristin Toth
Holly Strayer	Peggy Lewis	Johnny Juan
Linda Treher	Lib Cline	Linda Shaff
Kaylee & Ian Horteis	Rylan Ruse	Matt Iager
Patsy Haupt	Linda Donovan & family	
Gaffney Family	Allison Flynn	Peggy Costion
Conda Slick	Beth Travis	Crystal Knode
Wendy Caputo	Family of Jacob Miller	

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
	5	Brady Semler
	6	Bradly Hoffman
	6	Laura Iager
	7	Brian Fouche
	8	Donna Ford
	8	Jerry Landsman. Jr.
	8	Jeff Himes
	11	Nathan Semler
	11	Leonard Summers
	12	Lauren Mann
	13	Brad Ireland
	15	Cathy Landsman
	15	Judy Single
	19	William Garrison
	19	Jeff Hoffman
	19	Seth Hutchinson
	19	Bernard Kave
	20	Jared Tribett
	21	Angie Deater
	21	Beverly DeBaugh
	25	Edwin Itnyre
	25	Dale Karraker
	25	Ashtyn McDowell
	26	Debbie Frew
	26	Beth Thomas
	27	Tammy DeBaugh
	28	Samantha Frew
	28	Zachary Secrist
	29	Susan Layos
	29	Hunter May
	29	Christian Stanton
	30	Connie Cline
	31	Melissa Hinlicky
	31	Garrett Ward



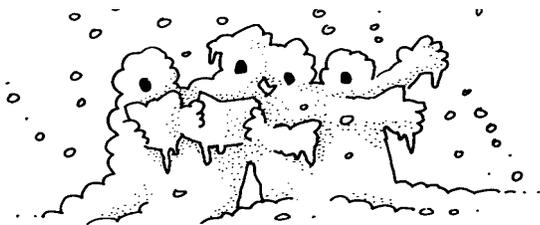
JANUARY ALTAR FLOWERS

- Jan. 5
- Jan. 12
- Jan. 19
- Jan. 26

The above 2014 dates are for flowers to be placed on the altar. The 2014 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.



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 5 & 19. We always have room around the table for a few more men. Join us as we gather over pastries and coffee to discuss scripture.



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)

There will be no First Friday in January



CHILDCARE

NURSERY SCHEDULE FOR 10:15 WORSHIP

January 5	Karen Cunningham
January 12	Jennifer Poffenberger
January 19	Theresa Foster
January 26	Julie Hartman

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.



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.

Children's Church Volunteers

- January- Jen and Mark Poffenberger
- February- Karen and Jared Tribett
- March- Julie Hartman
- April- Andrea Smith
- May- Laura & Noah Iager
- June- Need a volunteer
- July- Need a volunteer
- August- Need a volunteer
- Thanks for volunteering!



Joyful Noise Choir

Children ages 3 and older are encouraged to participate in the Joyful Noise choir. We practice the last 15 minutes of Sunday school and sing to the congregation on the 4th Sunday of each month. If you have any questions, please call Jen Poffenberger at 301-432-0456



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

I wish to thank the Out Reach Committee for taking on the 2013 Cookie Walk as a Fundraiser for Micah's Backpack. The following lists are the people I know that contributed to the Walk by baking or physically being there to help in some way. If your name does not appear, you must have helped anonymously. THANKS!

EXTRA THANKS to Bill Dellinger, our Christmas Decorator Extraordinaire. With Christmas music in the background, he made the social room look quite festive!

Again we earned over \$800 for Micah's Backpack. I am so proud to be a part of Trinity. You always come through in the end. THANK YOU!
-JJ

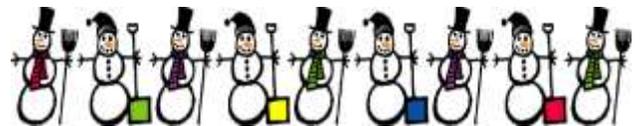
BAKERS

- Skip Poffenberger
- Ashley Strickland
- Barbara Holder
- Beth & Jessie Thomas
- Beth Rockwell
- Bev Debaugh
- Brenda Dellinger

- Brian Bain
- Cindy Banzhoff
- Connie Cline
- Roxanne Coe
- Elaine Scrivener
- Helen Foster
- Irene Ellis
- Jen Poffenberger
- Jenny Garver
- JJ Bain
- Jenny Jamison
- Julie Hartman
- Kayla Strickland
- Kristin Bowl
- Lisha Bikle
- Megan Strickland
- Melissa Schwalbe
- Neida Otto
- Tammy Panther
- Theresa Foster
- Vicki Dellinger

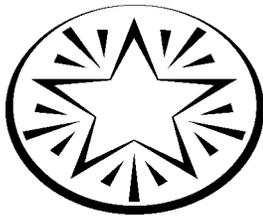
HELPERS

- Audrey Poffenberger
- Barb Holder
- Cameron Donovan
- Christina McClellan
- Connie Cline
- Elaine Scrivener
- Karen Cunningham
- Laura Kangas
- Martha Harshman
- Roxanne Mullendore
- Susan Layos



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 2013, please contact the church office or Tony Nally at 301-432-4431 or tnally@myactv or Christina McClellan at 240-461-4225 or whatever@myactv.net.



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 5, and will explain the significance of the star prior to the distribution.

Installation

The Congregation Council Installation is Sunday, January 5 during the 10:15 AM service. We ask all council members to attend this service.

The following members are the 2014 Congregation Council: **Matt DeBaugh, John Everline, Dale Ford, Jenny Garver, Ruth Howell, Susan Layos, Christina McClellan, Tony Nally, Chip Rockwell, Chuck Schwalbe, Jean Talley, John Talley, Beth Thomas, Karen Tribett.**

We will elect the council officers and appoint the committee chairs and liaisons at the January 7 Council meeting.



Prime Timers is Trinity's ministry of and by senior citizens ("seasoned" citizens) to meet some of the needs of middle aged and older adults in our community. Our January get-together is **Wednesday, January 15**. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. in Trinity's social room for a fried chicken and covered dish luncheon followed by a January birthday celebration. We ask participants to bring with them either a **vegetable, salad or dessert covered dish**. Joe Howell graciously offered to provide the fried chicken! In addition, please bring a **few**

favorite family photographs you would be willing to share and talk about with the group. This is a fun way for us to get to know each other more intimately. Every senior age 50 to 115 is invited to attend. Please contact **Larry Dalton** by **Wednesday, January 8** at **301-432-2061** to **RSVP (we need a count for food preparation)** or with any questions about the event.



Date Night at Trinity!

Dinner and Dancing will be on tap for Saturday, January 25th here at Trinity.

Enjoy a meal of salmon or steak with all the accoutrements, and a dance lesson by our own stars, Kim and Tony Nally.

Cost is \$35 per couple. A limited number of tickets will be sold beginning January 5th. Plan ahead! Proceeds benefit Trinity's Sunday School Programs.

See Kristy Smith for more details.



The Outreach Team seeks to help our Trinity congregation excel in:

- Carrying out social ministry and outreach to the local community
- Befriending visitors to our worship services and other gatherings
- Reconnecting with absent members
- Increasing fellowship opportunities in our church community

Members of our congregation devote themselves to a **wide range of outreach activities**, including providing prepared meals, companionship, transportation, gift cards, groceries, toys, household assistance, words of encouragement and prayers. We will never know the full range or consequence of this work, but we can be sure that many, many members of our community have been comforted by these touches of God's love. The Outreach Team offers its support and assistance to all such endeavors by members of Trinity.

Especially during this Christmas season, we are asking all members to **stay alert for any needs** of food, transportation, companionship, housework, yard work or other assistance by individuals or families in the Boonsboro area (and especially in your neighborhood) and bring this to the attention of the Outreach Team.

Everyone is invited to join in on our regular **First Friday fellowship and dinner**. The food is delicious and the conversation and fellowship is enlivening.

The Outreach Team meets in the Funk Center monthly at 7:00 PM on the 4th Tuesday. All are invited to participate.



Would you be interested in participating in the chili cook off and open mic in late February/early March? We need 10 committed cooks to proceed with plans. Let Kristy know if you would like to enter the fray and wrestle the coveted trophy from Scott and Susan Gahs.

kristyathome@hotmail.com 301-432-8615



Gaggle

At Trinity, a Gaggle is a group of women who, well, Gaggle. The group meets every other month or so for fellowship, food and laughter, not necessarily in that order. Rules for Gagging include no bashing of your spouse or partner; no bashing of yourself; and no bashing of someone else. Otherwise, it is a free for all conversation that begins with a brief sharing of joys and concerns and ends with new connections, new insights, and watery eyes. Other activities include walking or jogging, and some community service. The next Gaggle is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 4th** at the home of Kristy Smith. Doors open for fellowship at 6, and we will enjoy a baked potato bar at 6:30 PM. Please see Kristy or another Gagglers for more information. All women ages 18 and up are welcome.



ATTENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRS & TREASURERS: All committee chairs, heads of organizations and treasurers should have their **year-end reports** for 2013 into the church office **no later than Sunday, January 26**. 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 jenjpbaskets@aol.com. This usually involves a few hours one evening in January, if we have several volunteers.

The Bulletin Board

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 1-3 PM Food Pantry 7 PM AA Meeting	3	4
5 8 AM Men's Bible study 9 AM SCS 10:15 AM Worship – Communion - Install Congregation Council members	6 7AM Young Life	7	8 7 PM Contemporary Choir	9 1-3 PM Food Pantry 7 PM AA Meeting	10	11
12 9 AM SCS - 10:15 Contemporary Worship	13 7AM Young Life	14 7:00 PM Council	15 11:30 AM Prime Timers 7 PM Adult Choir	16 1-3 PM Food Pantry 7 PM AA Meeting	17	18
19 8 AM Men's Bible study 9 AM SCS 10:15 AM worship – Children's Church – 11:30 AM Coffee Call	20 7AM Young Life	21	22 7 PM Adult Choir 8 PM Music and Worship Committee	23 1-3 PM Food Pantry 7 PM AA Meeting	24	25 Date Night
27 9 AM SCS 10:15 AM worship Children's Church/Joyful Noise Choir Year End Reports Due	27 7AM Young Life	28 7PM Outreach Committee	29	30	31	