



Welcome to **Trinity Today** - monthly e-news and opportunities at Trinity UMC

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My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I hope and pray all is well with you, your families and all GOD has entrusted to you. Here we are in the first week of Advent, entering into the last month of the year with much on our minds and plates. We approach the most wonderful time of the year, the most demanding time of the year, Christmas - which always causes me to think about that first Christmas.



It was a time of darkness and despair. Over the past centuries most of the world had been dominated by the fierce nations of Babylon, Assyria, Greece and now Rome taking their turns at world dominance. Israel had certainly suffered brutally and mercilessly at the hands of each of those conquerors and staggered under stifling Roman rule. People were abused. People were taken advantage of. People were more often than not treated as things rather than as priceless works of art from the Divine Creator. Hatred and injustice and evil seemed to abound without limit. And yet there remained hope...

Interesting enough scholars tell us that in the preceding decades leading up to that new millennium that a strong sense of expectancy rose throughout the world, not just in Judah but in Rome and elsewhere - a strong sense of expectancy that He was coming, that the Messiah would soon arrive. There was hope. And the darkness, the despair, the hatred, the abuse, the evil unsuspectingly welcomed a baby in to their midst; a baby who brought light and joy and love and peace and holiness, a baby who was light and joy and love and peace and holiness. Hope had arrived!

And now as the people of Hope we find ourselves many, many years later here on an earth which is marked far too frequently and far too deeply by darkness and despair and hatred and abuse and evil. But, we are the people of Hope. May we live in such a way this year in Advent that we remind the world of that baby born in the manger because there wasn't room for him in an inn. May we allow God's Holy Spirit to move through us in such a way that light and joy and love and peace and holiness are shared with all peoples everywhere whatever they look like, whatever they sound like, whomever they may be by the way we love and serve and





welcome them. Christmas is here! Immanuel, God with us is here! May we live like that is so! May GOD richly bless you as you richly bless all those around you by living, loving and leading like Jesus the Christ, the Wonderful, the Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace! Merry Christmas!

Pastor Brian

Happy birthday to the matriarch of Trinity UMC - Louisa Stewart - who celebrated her 103rd birthday on November 12th. Congratulations, sweet Louisa. We love you!

PASSIONATE WORSHIP

Birthdays

December 1	Eleanor Griffin
December 2	Lisa Palmer
December 3	Stan Lilly
December 4	Mary Jane Boring
December 6	Vanessa Beaty
December 6	Dail Helms
December 7	Dawn Trullinger
December 12	Frank Knight
December 13	Jerry Autry
December 13	Payton Ann Ebanks
December 13	Olivia Salinetto
December 16	Lorena Carr
December 16	Rick Jones
December 18	Gale Gately
December 19	Jamie Moor
December 19	Tyler Temperly
December 21	Brian Fuller
December 21	Jackie Westlake
December 23	Harvey King
December 27	Robert Cox
December 28	Lidia Carr
December 28	Roy Trullinger
December 30	Patty DeWeese
December 30	Jan Lilly
December 30	Carol Plummer
December 31	Taylor Griffin

Worship Team News

On December 4th, **Music Makers** will perform a children's musical titled *"All About That Baby"* at both the 8:30 and 11 a.m. services.

On December 6th, everyone is invited to help decorate the church for the Christmas season. Start time is 6:00 p.m.

On December 10th, the poinsettias will be delivered. Consider joining us as we finish decorating and enjoy the beauty of our Sanctuary. Time to arrive is 10:00 a.m.

On December 16th & 17th, Trinity's Choir will present its annual **Candlelight Concerts** at 7:00 p.m. nightly. The title of the work to be performed is *"Invitation to a Miracle."* Join us as we celebrate Faith, Hope, Peace, Love, Joy, Light and Life, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and experience the wonder of grace.

On December 18, the Carr Family will open the parsonage for our annual **Christmas Open House** from 2-4 p.m.

On December 21, a special service will be held for those who have lost loved ones. Some people may be grieving for a loved one with whom they shared Christmases past. Some may be going through a divorce, abusive situation or other family trauma. Still others simply may be stressed because of holiday expectations. If you are simply "not ready" to deal with the stress of the holidays, consider coming to this service.

On the afternoon of December 24th, Trinity Youth will be putting out our beautiful luminaries. Stop by to help, if you can, or simply gaze at the beautiful sight as the sun goes down.

Later that evening, we will hold the first of three **Christmas Eve** services:

- Children's Candlelight at 5:30 p.m.
- Family Candlelight at 7:00 p.m.
- Candlelight with Communion at 9:00 p.m.

On December 25th, **Christmas Day**, we will hold a combined service preceded by brunch beginning at 9:00 a.m. followed by the service at 10 a.m.

Make plans to join us during this most joy-filled time of year. We will look forward to seeing you!

Carla Rhoderick
Worship Team Leader

Anniversaries

December 3	Leon & Betty Hamilton	56 yrs
December 20	William & Leanne Adams	19 yrs
December 20	Cecil & Linda Chester	52 yrs
December 22	Alex & Vincetta Ford	37 yrs
December 22	Terry & Debby Williams	43 yrs
December 27	Taylor & Eleanor Griffin	57 yrs
December 27	Jon & Karen Robbins	30 yrs
December 28	Mike & Carolyn Nicholson	31 yrs
December 30	Brian & Melissa Fuller	

Trustees' Update

Trinity's Trustees, along with a dozen volunteers, conducted the annual **Inventory Workday** last month. Teams of two and three meticulously moved from room to room, carefully documenting all of the assets that the church owns. Noah Brunning video recorded every room and its contents for insurance purposes. This was no small undertaking and we want to especially thank Rick Jones (who coordinated the activity) and the cadre of volunteers who helped to make it happen!

Charlie Daniels, Chair



Pastor Brian gave a most passionate report at our **Charge Conference** last month which gave us much *food for thought*. He said the conference posed several questions to all churches for the coming year and we

have been asked to prayerfully consider our answers on an individual and corporate basis. Brian decided to go first and relayed his thoughts and responses in a written report. To read his report in its entirety, click [here](#).

Trinity's **Church Council** will take a brief break for the Christmas holiday and start back in January

with a renewed focus on our mission, vision, values and implementing new and exciting plans for the coming year. The **2017 Leadership Team** is comprised of a highly-motivated group dedicated to helping our church grow God's kingdom. We are blessed to have great leadership at Trinity. To learn who is on the team, click [here](#) to view and/or download the listing.

Merry Christmas everyone!

John Campbell, chair

Master Calendar

The church's master calendar can be seen online at anytime 24/7. Visitors can view both previous and coming months. [Click here to view](#).

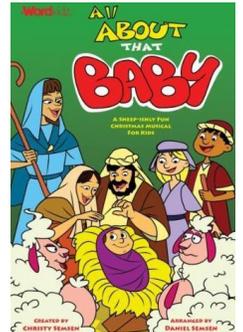
Hard copies will be available in the church office or in the Narthex on Sundays. To add or correct information seen on the calendar, contact Lori Jones at trinitymar@cfl.rr.com or 734-4425.

Sermon Topics for December

- December 4 **Music Makers' Sunday**
"All About That Baby"
- December 11 **"The Wonder of a Name"** - Matthew 1:18-25
- December 18 **"The Wonder of a Manger"** - Luke 2:1-7
- December 21 **The Longest Night: A Blue Christmas Service**
"The Wonder of the Sufferer" - Isaiah 52:14-53:6
- December 24 **Christmas Eve**
"The Wonder of a Promise" - Luke 2:1-20, Isaiah 7:14, Galatians 4:4-7
- December 25 **Christmas Day**
"The Wonder of a Savior"

All About That Baby!

Please join us for another outstanding performance by our Music Makers, Sunday, December 4th at both services.



An Invitation to a Miracle



Make plans to *invite* (and bring!) your friends and neighbors to this inspirational musical event - guaranteed to get everyone into the Christmas spirit! Trinity's Choir, accompanied by Larry Graham on organ and keyboard, will bring the story of the miraculous birth of our Lord to life in song and narration. The performance will be held on Friday, December 16 and Saturday, December 17 at 7 p.m. nightly. For more info, see Conya.

INTENTIONAL DISCIPLING

Advent Devotionals Available



Best wishes for a spirit-filled and very Merry Christmas to all our members and friends!

HOPE Team Update



The HOPE Team is comprised of members from several area churches who are actively working against human trafficking, especially in Volusia

County. You might not think human trafficking is happening here, but ask any state or county official who works with children and you will find out differently.

The team sponsored its annual **Night for Freedom Banquet** back on October 1 at Orange City Methodist Church. It was a lovely dinner with a silent and live auction, aimed at raising money for **Ruth House**, a proposed "safe house" for trafficked girls and women in the Volusia County area.

Dr. Donna Sallee' is the founder and president of Ruth House and she has set a goal to raise \$400,000 to turn this concept into reality.

The **Night for Freedom** event raised \$11,475 toward this worthy project. Dr. Sallee' was the keynote speaker and spoke from her heart about the Ruth House project and the girls that she hopes to help.

At this time, there are only six safe houses in the state of Florida, not nearly enough to handle the physical, spiritual, and emotional healing needed by these girls. On Sunday, January 15th, Trinity will be honored to have Dr. Sallee' as a speaker during both worship services. She will share with

Let's all give Cindy Fox a smile and word of thanks for preparing this year's **Advent Devotional**. She has done this faithfully for many years and we are so very grateful!



Pick up your hard-copy today or join our mailing list to receive daily emails by clicking on this link!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

The Advent Wreath



Four candles in a circle with a big one in the middle? Do you know why we are lighting candles in the Advent Wreath every Sunday between now and Christmas? Take a moment to learn about the history of the wreath and why the one in the middle is different. Watch and smile as you preview this short "**Chuck Knows Church**" video with your kids and grand-kids while learning about this time-honored tradition in the church.

Click [here to watch](#).

Youth News

"Enjoy your youth. You'll never be younger than you are at this very moment."

Schedule for December

December 4th	Regular Youth 3-5
December 11th	Youth Ice Skating and Party 12:15-7:00
December 18th	Carr's Reception-No Youth
December 25th	Merry Christmas-No Youth

Merry Christmas to all youth and their families. We hope that 2017 will be a good year for all.

Blessings,
Mrs. Lori, Mr. Jeff, Mrs. Lorena
Mr. Brian and Mr. Frank

RADICAL HOSPITALITY

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SWAP

COME JOIN THE FUN! The Women's Ministry will hold an old-fashioned "**Christmas Cookie Swap**" on



us her vision for Ruth House and her plans for helping trafficked women and children. Make plans now to attend worship that day. You won't want to miss it!

Lana Saxon
HOPE Team member

United Methodist Women News



To recognize a **Human Trafficking Awareness Day**, we have invited Dr. Donna Sallee' to speak at both services at Trinity on January 15. Dr. Sallee', D.Div., is an ordained minister and an experienced Conference/Retreat speaker. She ministers on inner healing topics and also brings education and awareness to the horrible evil of Human Trafficking to the local community. She loves to share her personal testimonies of healing and victories.

She and her husband, Dr. Paul Sallee', have three children. They have been Senior Pastors for many years in Central Florida and are now ministering in other venues since his retirement in 2013.

Dr. Sallee' is the Founder/Director of The Ruth House Ministries which was founded in 2008. The Ruth House will be a transitional safe home in Circuit 7 (the counties of Flagler, Volusia, Putnam, and St. Johns), for women over 18 rescued from Human Trafficking. She is in the process of raising money to buy property and build The Ruth House.



Citrus Grove Elementary Update

Sneakers for Kids Project

Citrus Grove Elementary teachers identified 37 children in need of sneakers. Letters were sent home and parents have given permission for us to give them new shoes! (We are now waiting for a fitter from **Shoe Carnival** to go to the school and measure each eligible child.)

As you know, we also provide two pairs of socks for each child. We have funds left over from last year's campaign and should have enough to purchase the shoes but may need a bit more for socks and the giveaway party. If you want to

Saturday, December 3rd at 10 a.m. in the Wesley Room. (Okay, men can come too!!)

Here are the rules: If you bring one dozen cookies, you can swap to your heart's content but you will only go home with one dozen cookies. Same with two dozen and so on.

If you would like to join in the fun, RSVP your spot by calling or emailing [Debbie Bennett](#) or calling Lori in the church office. Don't delay! Reservations must be in by Friday, December 2nd at 4 p.m.



We are considering a new initiative that will involve writing a simple word or two of encouragement and signing your name to a beautiful postcard that will be mailed to members and friends of Trinity not seen in a while.

Would you like to be a part of such a ministry? If so, give me a call or send me an [email](#). Thanks and best wishes for a wonderful Christmas with your family and friends!

Dave Ross, Hospitality Team chair

SALTY SERVICE

December 9th - next Breakfast at Trinity

On December 9th, our **Breakfast at Trinity** program will complete its fifth year of serving the community! This past year, we have served fewer people than in the past, but we have recently implemented some new promotional strategies and our numbers are picking up again - praise God!



Grounded in Faith
Growing to Serve

With your help, our December 9th breakfast will be a special one. Plans are to give each guest a bag containing four large, home-baked cookies. If you like to bake and can help us with this project, let me know.

On a personal note, I want to thank each and every Breakfast volunteer for their help, their kind hearts and their faithfulness to this ministry. Our 30+ volunteers are a respectful, loving group and the people we serve are always appreciative. It is truly a pleasure working with each of you!

Lana Saxon, Coordinator

ME STRONG GET READY, GET SET - - LET'S GO!

Want to get in better shape? Ever think about walking or running in a 5k? This month, members of Trinity (including our very own Pastor Brian!) will begin training to participate in one of DeLand's most popular walk/run events - the **ME STRONG 5k** to be held on

socks and the giveaway party. If you want to make a contribution, place your check in the offering plate made out to Trinity and add "For Sneakers" in the memo line.

Any amount will be appreciated. Thank you for helping to put bright smiles on the faces of so many children (and their parents.)

Lana Saxon and Kathy Clark, Sneakers Coordinators

Faith Partners' Ministry of DeLand

If you haven't heard, the **Faith Partners' Ministry of DeLand** will be hosting a **Children's Christmas Party** at the church on Saturday, December 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Special guests to be invited are the children of families served through the ministry.

Members of Trinity will purchase a gift for each registered child and there will be lots of good food, fellowship, fun and love to go around! Volunteers may still be needed. To volunteer or to learn more about the Faith Partners' Ministry and how the partnership is changing lives for the better and forever, contact [Steve and Karin Roland](#).

Stetson Wesley House Update

Wesley House Board members are still selling Scrip cards for Christmas. To learn more about how you can order gift cards for your family, friends (and even yourself!) contact Lynn Thompson or Conya Hartman.



Also, the next Wesley House **Lunch Crunch** will be held on Tuesday, December 6th beginning at 10:30 a.m. Home-baked goodies like cookies and brownies are needed. Please bring your goodies to the church - marked "Wesley House" no later than 9:30 a.m. on the 6th. Thank you for supporting this great ministry!

Building Committee Update

Trinity's Building Committee has met with our architect and narrowed the list of prospective civil engineers to two. Both candidates will be interviewed over the next two months.



Original plans and drawings for the new facility

Saturday, January 28th in and around the downtown and historic district.

Join Pastor Brian to get in shape for the new year. The December 3rd training will be held at Freedom Playground from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. If this is your first 5k or if you plan to walk/run in the full event, make your plans now to join with him at the training. Let's all strive to get healthy and have fun - together!

For more information on the **Me Strong** run/walk or to reserve your spot at the December 3rd training, email Dona Butler at TeamTrinityStrong@yahoo.com.

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

Alternative Giving Idea for Christmas



This Christmas, instead of buying a gift for your church friends, why not donate money in their honor to either **Faith Partners' Ministry of DeLand** or **UMCOR** (United Methodist Committee on Relief) for flood relief. You may also give your contribution as a memorial gift in memory of a relative or someone from the church who was special to you.

Click [here](#) to download a special form to complete and bring or mail the completed form to church with your payment. Forms will be inserted in the bulletin this Sunday and next, as well.

If you wish, we will send a card to the person being honored or the family of the person being memorialized, to let them know of your gift (not the amount.) Please know, such gifts must be received by Finance no later than December 19th. Again, place your completed form along with your cash or check in the offering plate or drop off/mail to the church office.

Thanks and blessings for a very merry Christmas!

Trinity's Finance Team Leaders
Warren Saxon, Buster Hunt and Carolyn Linder

End-of-Year Giving

As December quickly approaches, we begin to reflect upon the many blessings bestowed upon us in 2016. The end of the year provides a great opportunity to thank God for these blessings by making a special gift to Trinity United Methodist Church.



There are many different ways of contributing a gift. However, two of the easiest and most direct methods to gift are donations of cash and appreciated stock or other investments.

Original plans and drawings for the new facility have been revised, according to the suggested changes members have made over the last year and the committee members are pleased with the revisions.

To learn more about the plans for our new church facility, contact Alex Ford or Bob Kellogg.

Looking forward to 2017? We sure are!

In 2017, there will be five **Fifth Sundays** in the months of January, April, July, October and December. And, if you didn't already know, we will be combining both services on those Sundays and precede each with a spectacular brunch, as only our Kitchen Team can serve up.



What a wonderful tradition we have started! Circle your calendars on those dates and make plans to join us. Better yet, invite your friends and neighbors to one of our **Fifth Sunday Brunch & Worship Services**. (It's the best, proven way of getting new folks to visit. And who knows? They might just like it enough to come back!)

Don't forget to check and make sure both your Annual Giving and Building Fund pledge commitments are up to date for 2016. Call the church office anytime at (386) 734-4425 to find out more.

Did you know that we can receive your tithes and offerings electronically online? More and more of our members are taking advantage of this option. Visit our website and look for the "Giving" tab (or click on this [link](#)) and follow the directions on how to set up your direct-pay option.

Did you also know that we now accept gifts of stock and other types of securities? We have set up an account at Morgan Stanley for this purpose and can provide you or your financial planner with

the account information needed to make secure electronic transfers of securities.

You can also make other financially advantageous gifts such as designating Trinity to receive a gift from your IRA distribution.

Please don't wait until December 31 to make this important decision. A stock transfer, for example, can take up to ten business days to complete. For more information on how you can help make a difference by contributing a year-end gift to Trinity UMC, please contact Pastor Brian or Anita Campbell, chair of the Planned Giving Committee at (386) 734-9224.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Georgia Cowan

"Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord." - Colossians 3:23

Delightful to be around this lady with her vivacious personality, **Georgia Cowan** is another long-standing member of Trinity. She was baptized 88 years ago as a Methodist in Mexico, Missouri. She graduated from Central Methodist College in Lafayette and taught 7-8 years of history at the high school level. She and her husband, Chad, moved to Merritt Island when Chad was transferred with JC Penney. While checking out different colleges for their son Mike, they came to DeLand and fell in love with our city, although Mike ended up at Florida Southern in Lakeland.



"We were told by friends to 'go to Trinity.' It was here we met Wilda Westervelt and Eva Jerome, and Chad and I joined the Friendship Sunday School class. Chad and I felt so included." She joined the Hospitality Committee, Christ's Closet, Altar Guild, Priscilla Circle and Greeters. Georgia is also a member of P.E.O. and the DeLand Garden Club, and she was on the Long Leaf Homeowners' Association Maintenance Committee for years.

Georgia loves Trinity for its friendliness, small groups, and Pastor Brian. She actively gives out toys and booklets for the children during the monthly breakfasts. "I love to smile at everybody. I'm a very ordinary person. I try to listen to other people and set a good example," she said.

Friends over the years have included Evelyn Warren, Charles Cropper, Dick Pearce, Ellen McGehee, Wilda Westervelt and their spouses who got together to play cards. They all traveled together every summer to North Carolina to visit Dick's home in Lake

every summer to North Carolina to visit Dick's home in Lake Junaluska. After her husband died, Georgia remained in her home until she recently moved to the Cloisters. "They have a chapel

there with a husband and wife from Indonesia who direct a service every Tuesday and I really enjoy that time with them." Lana Saxon described Georgia beautifully: "Georgia is the most effervescent person I know. She always has a smile, she hugs everyone (young and old), and treats them as if she's been wanting to see them all day. She carries sunshine with her wherever she goes."

Comments from other friends include "she is an outstanding and charming person, she's very loyal and dependable, a good friend to have."

Her happiest times were when she and Chad were raising the children in Colorado, renting a cabin and enjoying their time together. She is most proud of her three children: Cindy, Mike and Susie. "They all are good Christians and have good jobs." She has six grandchildren, two great grandchildren and a brother, Dick Gall, in Billings, Montana.

June Shearin, December, 2016

Postscript: This will be my last biography after ten years of meeting with the most interesting people I have had the pleasure of interviewing. It began with the death and funeral of Robert Fox. I realized the church was full of people from DeLand and the surrounding area and I knew nothing about this gentleman. I felt it was time to recognize our members. I thank all who have supported me through the years and especially the confidence you place in me with your most inner thoughts and trust during these interviews.

Thank you,
June

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Trinity Today, our e-newsletter, is published the first of every month. The deadline for submitting articles to the Church Office is the 20th of every month. Articles received after that date may not be published. News can be submitted to the Church Secretary in hard-copy form or by email at trinitymgr@cl.rr.com.

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