

November
2011

The Outlook

Fremont Trinity United Methodist Church

Something From "H"



Pastor H. Kearns
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Christmas is such a crazy time. Students are busy dreaming about the gifts they want, and parents are shopping frantically for what they want to give. We all become consumed with malls and wrapping paper. *It's a Wonderful Life* and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* play on TV and Santa Clause poses for pictures with every excited (and screaming) child. At church we tell the story about shepherds, angels and a manger, but so often the significance of the story is lost because it seems like just one more holiday tradition. Or we've heard it so much that we don't hear it anymore. Our upcoming series is going to tell the Christmas Story—but in a slightly different way.

We will begin the series by looking at the life of Herod, a man who had everything. He was powerful and in control. But when it comes to the Christmas story, Herod missed the point. When he heard about the baby born in a manger, he felt threatened. We will talk about the danger of the Christmas story. That's right, danger. Because each of us, like Herod, must determine how a little baby in a manger thousands of years ago threatens our security and shakes us out of our comfort zone.



We will talk about Simeon—a man who lived 114 years consumed with only one thought. Simeon wanted to see the Messiah. He knew that God was

We will encourage you to live like Simeon, patiently focused on the 'One' that really matters.

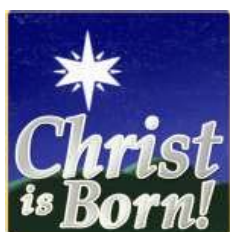
going to fulfill His promise, and he was willing to wait as long as it took to see the promise fulfilled. We will encourage you to live like Simeon, patiently focused on the 'One' that really matters.

We will conclude the series by looking at the lives of Zechariah and Mary. Zechariah, a religious professional, used all his skills and abilities for God, but somehow missed the power of God when He showed up in Zechariah's life. When God promised to work a miracle, Zechariah was skeptical. But when an angel came to tell Mary that God was about to do the impossible, she praised Him for His great plan. We will begin to see how God can use us for something bigger than ourselves, if we let Him.



Inside this issue:

Preparing Children	2
We Are a Neighborhood Church	3
Something To Try Community Christmas	4
Children's Christmas Program & Practice Discipleship SS	5
Council On Ministries Thank You's	6
Trinity Schedules Address Changes Policy on Cancellation	7
In Our Prayers Word Find	8
"A Christmas Carol" Poinsettia Order Form	
Trinity Calendar	



Preparing Children For Advent

Preparing Ourselves First

The first and most important thing we can do to prepare our children for Advent is to prepare ourselves first. After all, if we are impatient and crabby - pressured by all the busyness of this season - we won't be very good at teaching our children anything about quiet, expectant waiting. If they never hear us talk about what we long for from the Lord, how will they learn about this kind of longing? And, if they hear "the coming of Jesus" talked about at church, and perhaps at school, but never hear us talk about the meaning for us of the coming of Jesus, what kind of message will we be giving them?

Of course, our children will be watching us and listening - what we say and do, and what we fail to say and do. So, the first thing we can give our children is our own commitment to enter Advent as deeply as we can. We want to clear our own spirit so that we can be present to theirs. The graces we receive can be the graces we share with them.

Talking with Our Children

To talk with your children about your own religious experiences doesn't mean we have to know all kinds of "theology" in "teaching them," nor does it mean we have to "dumb it down" to ridiculously simple terms. We don't have to "burden" children with the burdens we have to bear in our adult relationship with God. We don't have to make their world more unsettling and scary than it already is. Just find the right time and place to talk with them about your faith.

Try not to criticize our contemporary culture's preparation and celebration of Christmas. What we tell them about Advent, will help temper the materialism and consumerism involved in the marketing of Christmas.

The Message

We can tell our children about Isaiah, the prophet. We can tell them that God wanted to be the one who would lead and take care of his people. But the people rebelled against God and were demanding of the kings, just like all the people around them. So, God let them have kings. As it turned out, there was one bad king after another. And God sent prophets to the people and the kings to remind them of the agreement - the "covenant" - God made with them: "I'll be your God and you be my people."

The way the people made someone a king was to pour a bit of oil on their head. The one who was "anointed" this way with oil became the king. Well, the prophets began to tell the people that God would send them "an anointed one" (the word "anointed one" in Hebrew is "Messiah.") In fact, they said that this Messiah would be called "Emmanuel", which in Hebrew means, "God is with us."

The message of the prophets was about a promise - that God would save his people from all that they were suffering. The prophets used wonderful images to tell the people that they could expect and hope for a day when "every tear would be wiped away." It would be a day of great peace - "the lion would lie down with the lamb" and the people will beat their spears into hooks to prune trees. And, the most unbelievable promise of all: "death will be no more." We all know now that what God was preparing his people for was the coming of Jesus, the Christ (*Christos* in Greek means "the anointed one.")

Then, of course, we can tell them about Joseph and Mary. Tell them the story from Luke's gospel. What is so surprising about the story is that Jesus comes, not like a king, but in great simplicity and poverty. Our God is truly with us, as a little baby. He knows what it is like to be a child - everything.

We can tell this story to our children in so many ways. Then, let them tell us what it means to them. Through all this conversation, the message will come through. During the weeks of Advent, look forward to celebrating his coming to live our life and to set us free - free from sins and free from death itself.

Open up Advent for them, so that they can get ready for - look forward to - Christmas in a different way. Introduce them to faith-filled meanings for light/darkness, hunger/thirsts, and all the other images of Isaiah. Let them to really know the meaning of "the Christmas story."

Advent Activities

It would be great to create a Nativity "place" in your home. Before creating a nativity scene, let the space be an empty space for awhile. Prepare setting it up, by putting things in place which represents the longing, the desire, the emptiness. Perhaps that place can begin with a basket. Children can place notes in the basket that express what they hope for, for each member in the family, their friends and people in the world. They can write special prayers for loved ones who are sick or children in their school who are difficult. Keep telling the children that it is into this special place of their longing and faith that Jesus comes. Then, when setting up the Nativity scene in that place, it can become a special place for the children.

Preparing Children For Advent - Con't

Involve children in preparing food for others. If there is a pre-Christmas party with friends or family, or even a "pot-luck" event, involve the children in preparing something for the party. And, for Christmas dinner itself, tutor the children by letting them help in making food for others, allowing and encouraging them to be happy, full, and grateful. Show them recipes they can make, and let them "in" on the big plans for the whole thing.

Make plans to visit someone who is homebound or in a nursing home at this time. Prepare your children for how to go there, how to be there, how to be grateful for the experience.

Take an Advent or Christmas song, and copy it for your family reading - perhaps a prayer to be read. Talk about what the words mean.

With older children, find a time to prepare food for a meal program for the homeless or go there to help serve and meet the families. Offer the opportunity for them to tell younger children about the experience, and why it fits so well with preparing for Christmas.

Missions Committee

By: Barb Bixler, Committee Co-Chair



Barb Bixler

We Are A Neighborhood Church



Do you remember the Workers' Home on Court Street? It was on the land now occupied by the three story educational wing. That building and two other church-owned houses were torn down in the 1960's to make room for the addition and the back parking lot. While other churches sought to build on land in more suburban areas, Trinity chose to make improvements and additions to our central location. We chose to remain a neighborhood church.

As I walked through the church neighborhood passing out Bible School fliers, I noted the many steps, porches and doors that were before me. I wondered about the people who were living there. Were they older or younger; did they own their home or did they rent? Who are these people that call my church a part of their neighborhood?

Now is a great time to claim our neighborhood as a part of who we are. We have begun to reach out to our neighbors by posting our free Friday evening family movie nights. Vacation Bible School notices were placed on doors as well as our yard sign. Ticket to the Chicken and Biscuit dinner were purchased and distributed to our neighbors. Members have made Walmart gift card available for

distribution through our church office to those in need. And people have been responding! We have given them a reason to come through our door and find out who we are and explore the possibility of becoming part of our church community. We are sharing our newsletters and our hospitality. All are welcome here. Let us continue to minister to those in our neighborhood and explore more ways that we can open our doors to them.

As I think of the people who have touched my life in fellowship at Trinity Church, I know that I have received much in return. I look forward to embracing and being embraced by the neighbors I have yet to meet. I hope that you do too.



Something To Try This Year...

Have you ever been a part of something bigger than yourself?

Maybe you were able to send food, shoes, or presents to a family hundreds of miles away. Maybe you were able to hold the hand of a grieving stranger. Our world is full of need and each one of us has been equipped with resources to meet some of those needs. When we help with other's needs, we gain in the process.

Whenever we are able to work together as a team, neighborhood or family, it is amazing how much we are drawn together. In the act of serving together, all the tension and stress of our day-to-day life seems to melt away and we walk away with a powerful-shared experience. This month, think about a project that you and your family can do together so that you can be a part of something bigger than yourselves.

You may want to consider one of the following options:

Compassion International

Compassion International is a Christian child advocacy ministry dedicated to release children from poverty. Through sponsorship programs, Compassion addresses the economic, health, environmental, social, educational and spiritual needs of these children. Currently, Compassion helps more than 800,000 children in 24 countries. Log onto their web site, www.compassion.com to find out one of the many ways your family can partner with Compassion to make a lasting difference in the life of a child.

TOMS Shoes

TOMS was born in 2006 by Blake Mycoskie out of a commitment to produce stylish, comfortable, and practical footwear while improving the lives of children around the world. Every pair sold is personally matched with a donated pair to a child in need. This Christmas have fun giving TOMS shoes and celebrating the children who will also be comforted by your donation. TOMS shoes may be purchased by going to www.tomsshoes.com.

In Your Community

Find a local women's shelter, soup kitchen or other community program in your area and see where you can help. You may want to present the idea of a project to your children and let them have ownership in the process by doing some research online.

Community Christmas Project—By Donna Thatcher

This year we have the opportunity once again to help two families. One family has two children, boys who are 6 and 2 years old. They are requesting towels, socks, clothes and toys and the mother states that she is currently laid off and living on unemployment that makes it difficult to pay bills and furnish gifts this year.



The other family has two children, a boy who is five and a girl who is three. They are requesting clothes and toys and laundry and paper products. The reason for needed help is that the mother is on unemployment, is trying to complete her bachelor's degree and only works seasonally as a server and has had extra expenses recently with her car.

If you wish to donate monetary gifts please see Donna Thatcher by December 11 so shopping can take place. Checks are made payable to the church and designated for Community Christmas families. Wrapping of the gifts will take place on December 19 at 11 AM and help will be appreciated.

Trinity has been adopting families since 1998 through this project. Thank you for making Christmas brighter for families in need in our community!

Education Committee

By: Barb Bixler, Committee Co-Chair



You are Invited to Trinity's

Annual Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 18, 2011

during the 9:30 a.m. worship service

Reception will follow the service in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Children's Christmas Program Practices

All children age 3 through the sixth grade are invited to participate in the portrayal of the birth of Jesus. Several reading parts are available. Other parts/portrayers include angels, shepherds and animals.

Practices are:

- Sunday, December 11, 2011 - Children's Church during 9:30 a.m. worship service (costume fittings)
- Saturday, December 17, 2011 - 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

The performance will be on Sunday, December 18, 2011 during the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Everyone is invited to a reception in Fellowship Hall following the service.

Discipleship Sunday School Classes

Children & Youth:

Sundays 9:30 – 11:30 AM

- **Nursery**—Ruth Elehen
(Birth through age 3) – main floor near the secretary's office



- **Age 3 through Pre-kindergarten**
Alice Jeanette & Kathy Zysk
main floor in room off the nursery



Sundays at 10:30 AM

- **Kindergarten through Third Grade** – Annette Swartz
third floor of addition off back parking lot, last door on right
- **Fourth through Sixth Grades**
Barb Bixler & Karen Aupter
third floor of addition off back parking lot,
second door on left
- **Grades Seven through Twelve** – Pastor H.
third floor of addition off back parking lot, first door on left



Adult:

- **Fellowship Class** - facilitator, Dan Secrest
(Middle-Age Adults through Retirees)
- lounge, second floor of addition off back parking lot,
second door on right



Sundays at 8:30 AM

- **CCC**—Randy Rohm
(Christ, Coffee & Conversation – Young to Middle Age Adults)
- Fellowship Hall (basement)
- **Discovery Class**—Donna Thatcher
(any Adults, short-term lessons of study)
- Discover Room -main floor near hallway to sanctuary



Nov. 8, 2011

REPORTS

Missions - The committee meets tomorrow. Barb reports that they are planning a clothing drive for Otis and Hayes schools so that students who come unprepared for the weather or for accidents can have their needs met. Barb thanked the church for sponsoring her trip to Henderson Settlement for a mission trip.

Education - A program has been selected for the Christmas pageant which will be December 18th. A reception will be held in the Fellowship Hall after the service. The committee has also chosen materials for spring and Easter.

Evangelism - Pastor H reminded the group that the yellow cards that are distributed when attendees enter the church are intended to be aware of new people and visitors.

Stewardship and Finance - The committee met and approved the budget for the coming year.

Worship—Isaac Kern and Alex Thatcher will join the acolytes.

Higher Education - Annette sent greetings to college students and those in the military for Thanksgiving and will be sending Christmas greetings soon.

Communications - Donna reminds all committee chairmen to please send the dates and times of their committee meetings for the entire year of 2012 to Diane in the church office.

Family Life - Movie Night will be November 18 at the church.

Rainbow Circle - The circle needs pies for Chicken and Biscuit dinner on November 11. Pastor H will be taking youth of the church to the neighborhood to hand out free tickets for the dinner. The Circle will be going to the Garden House for their holiday party. Please call Betty Heflinger if you are interested in going.

Old Business

1. Pastor H. praised the articles in the most recent Outlook and there was praise for the eye catching photos.
2. The Share and Care volunteers will be working an extra day due to the large amount sorting of donated clothes.

New Business

1. Donna reported that our church will be adopting 2 families for Christmas.
2. Caroling for shut-ins was discussed. There was difficulty finding a good time to do.

The meeting closed with a prayer by Pastor H.

Margie Willer, Secretary

Thank You

Dear Trinity United Methodist Church,

The clients and volunteers at Share and Care would like to thank you for your kind donation. Friends like you have enabled us to help many of our neighbors in need. The generosity that prompted this gift is known by God and appreciated by us. Thank you for this help. The needs when the weather changes always increase.

—Lynette Kusik

Trinity Schedules & Misc.



Acolyte Schedule

December 4	Adam Auxter & Jacob Wott
December 11	Gabe & Devonn Reineck
December 18	Oliver Ellis & Adam Auxter
December 24	Erin Thatcher & Isaac Kearns
December 25	Isaac Kearns



December Altar Flower Schedule

December 4	Mr. & Mrs. John Stull, Sr
December 11	Families of Maury & Sandy Gnepper & Rick & Luella Smith
December 18	Mr. & Mrs. Phil Klausz
December 25	Terry & Donna Thatcher
Flower: Helper Karen Harris	



Brittany Zyski
2550 Snowtip Ln.
Grove City, OH. 43123-1792



Happy Birthday!

December 1	Thelma Kuyken
December 3	Ted Wadsworth
December 4	Julia Collins
December 5	Roger Smith
December 9	Conni Gefeke Bud Weickert
December 10	Bev Whisler
December 11	Lissa Reineck
December 13	Luke Swartz
December 15	Connie Moore
December 16	Henrietta Weickert
December 25	John Stull, Sr.
December 26	Devenn Reineck
December 27	Alexia Eishen Cindy Gillette
December 28	Bev Stull
December 29	Jim Moyer Barbara Smith

Emily Miller
414 Croghan St., Apt D
Fremont, OH. 43420-2486

Policy for Cancellation of Church Services



Church services and or activities will be cancelled if a Level 3 snow emergency is in effect in Sandusky County.

In the case of a Level 2 snow emergency, cancellation will be discussed between the Pastor, Lay Leader, Organist, and Worship Chair.

Please see your television/radio for cancellations.

Cancellations will be posted on TV channels: 11 (Toledo), 13 (Toledo), 24 (Toledo), Eagle 99 radio station.

In Our Prayers

Jean Black, Brennen Reineck, Kaitiln Baker, Mahlon Miller, Richard Baker, Amanda Gibbs (cancer), Michael Kent—brother of Tamara Damschroder, Rev. Donald Irvin, Michael Lightner, John Stull—army, Sandy Sage (cancer), Dick Hufford, Neil Andecover, Michele Mathew, Ashleigh Souders, Abby Johnson, Beulah Sibrel, SandyTusen, Ted Wadsworth, Jeanette Conner (Alice Jeanette's granddaughter)
 John C. Aldrich -Iraq -(Gladys Aldrich's grandson), Katie Peterson (Missionary in Michigan), Adam Souders—Afghanistan (Ashleigh Mathew Souders' husband), Ruth Fausnaugh

Have a friend/relative you would like to add to the prayer list? Please ask them first, then just call the church office.
 Also If your prayer request has been answered and you would like to have the name removed from our prayer list just call.
 Church office phone number: 419-332-5032.

Word Find

Foods of Christmas Word Search

Find the hidden names of traditional foods enjoyed by people of various cultures during the holiday season.

J M I N C E M E A T J T O Y M	BUCHEDENOEL
C G D B Z G G U H T O X F C W	CANDYCANES
P W I J S X S C A U K R Y N W	CRANBERRIES
V A W N V E N E R M U G K E U	EGGNOG
Y T V V G U N T L I O I D L Z	FRUITCAKE
A U E L P E I A T A N X I L D	GINGERBREAD
M G G Z O E R C C G M A R O A	KINGCAKE
R N G Q R V A B C Y S A V T E	MINCEMEAT
E I N E C K A A R S D N T S R	PAVLOVA
Z F O L E Q K R A E T N V C B	PLUMPUDDING
H F G A M E E W F I A F A I T	PUNCH
B U C H E D E N O E L D Q C R	SHORTBREAD
G T J S E I R R E B N A R C O	STOLLEN
I S L G N I D D U P M U L P H	STUFFING
M M W U Z S M U L P R A G U S	SUGARPLUMS
	TOURTIERE
	TAMALES
	WASSAIL

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 puzzles.about.com