

The Good News

Pastor's Corner—Pastor Wendy Taylor

Dear Friends,

We've just celebrated a lovely Thanksgiving and now are entering into the sacred season of Advent and Christmas; and as I write this I'm so mindful of the many, many things we have to be grateful for and celebrate together!

Here are just a few of the things I am giving thanks to God for:

- The **Nominating Committee** has done a great job and are bringing nominations for **incoming Elders & Deacons** this coming Sunday. Thanks to this important committee and to those who prayerfully said "yes" to this call on their life!
- The **Jubilee Singers!** WOW! What joy they are bringing to our whole congregation in our worship services!
- Our pianist, **Samantha** is such a blessing to us! Not only is she an accomplished musician, but she is a generous one as well as she freely shares herself with our congregation! Make sure to thank her when you get a chance!
- Our **Life & Faith Stories!** We have launched on our website short video clips of members & friends sharing their personal reflections on their life of faith. It's so encouraging to hear these brief, but powerful stories of God's love and presence! Check out our website: www.trinpc.org/life-faith-stories to tune in to these stories AND! YOU are invited to share yours! Just pop me a note at wendy@trinpc.org or talk with me any Sunday. We would love to post your short reflection on your life of faith!
- Our newly formed **Chancel Committee** headed up by **Nancy Mickel!** She along with **Tina Williams & Brenda Williams** are doing such a beautiful job of beautifying our worship space.
- **Se Oh** our custodian who has served us for the past 15 years has moved on to a new chapter in his life. Be sure to sign a thank you card to him in the narthex.
- Thankful too for **Ric Heideger & Ron Hecht** as they're interviewing potential new custodians. Not only are they interviewing but they're taking care of the cleaning of the building which gets a lot of use every week!
- Our **Prayer Team** who meets every single Sunday night to pray for us! What a gift! If you want to join them contact **Kris Coggin** at: kris@gmail.org. We are grateful for their faithful prayers and for leading us in a prayer focus each month that you'll find on your worship bulletin Sunday mornings.
- Our **Prayer Chain** is also very faithful to pray for each and every prayer request! If you are not part of the prayer chain, and would like to be, contact our prayer chain coordinator, **Mitzi Limesand** at: mitzandal@gmail.com

These are just a few of the things I'm grateful for! We have so many things to thank God for as he continues to draw us together in love & unity.

As we move into Advent and Christmas focusing on the greatest gift of all, **Jesus Christ** we are especially grateful for his love and presence in and among us and for the joy of serving him and the world he loves so much!

Blessings & Peace,
Pastor Wendy

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Winter 2023-2024

A Look At What's Ahead

Ladies' Christmas Brunch



Ladies, our **Trinity Ladies' Christmas Brunch** is on Saturday, **December 9**, from 10 AM until Noon in the Fellowship Hall and you are invited! Bring your favorite doll, and feel free to invite family and friends. *Please RSVP to Sherri Officer, or the church office at office@trinpc.org, by Sunday, December 3.* We hope to see you there!

Congregational Meeting

Trinity will hold a **Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, **December 3**, after worship in the Sanctuary, for the purpose of electing new officers.

Advent Daily Devotional & Adult Bible Study

This Advent, Trinity will be using a Daily Devotional from Frontier Fellowship. Our Advent Bible Study groups, which will meet via Zoom on Mondays at 7:00 PM, and Tuesdays at 1:30, will be following along with this Daily Devotional. You can contact Kris Coggin to received the Zoom invitations. *Whether you participate in the Bible Study or as a part of your own personal devotional time, everyone is encouraged to take a Devotional and follow along throughout the Advent season.*

Christmas Eve Service of Stories and Carols

Join us for our **Christmas Eve Service of Stories and Carols**, Sunday, **December 24**, at 5:00 PM in-person in the Sanctuary or virtually on our website after 6:30 PM. We'll sing carols, hear a beautiful children's story, the story of the birth of Jesus through Scripture, and a special Message from Pastor Wendy. We're excited to share this special worship service with you!!

New Year's Eve Worship Service

On Sunday, **December 31**, we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall at 10 AM for an informal worship service and continental brunch. Look for more information soon!

Deacons-Hosted Italian Dinner

On Saturday, **January 6**, the Trinity Deacons are hosting an **Italian Dinner Event** at 4 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Look for more information coming soon!

Book Group

The Trinity Book Group meets on the second Thursday of most months, at 1:00 PM via Zoom.

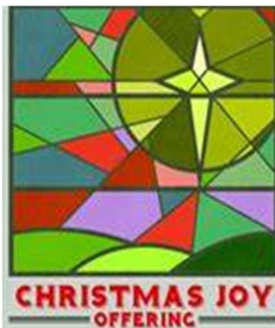
- **December 14:** Lessons in Chemistry, by Bonnie Garmus
- **January 22:** The Children's Blizzard, by Melanie Benjamin
- **February 8:** The Murmur of Bees, by Sofia Segovia

All are welcome, even if you haven't read the book, but just want to hear about it. Contact office@trinpc.org if you are interested in participating in the Book Group discussion.

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Missions Update

Christmas Joy Offering



Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Through the PCUSA Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us in Jesus with generous support of leaders among us — past, present and future.

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need, which can lead to relief for church workers and their families when these critical needs arise. Your gifts open doors of opportunity which lead to hopeful futures for young people at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Each year the Session asks you to give above and beyond your usual gift to Trinity to support this important work of the church through the Christmas Joy Offering. To give you may designate a gift to Christmas Joy on the memo line of a check mailed to the church. You can also donate online by going to our website at trinpc.org and clicking on the online giving tab. Then select under Missions - Christmas Joy.

Special envelopes for this Christmas Joy offering can also be found in the church narthex on the big table. Look for the display.

You can give at any time in December, but the final collection date is Sunday, **December 17**.

When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. Thank you.

Trinity Christmas Eve Offering

Trinity Christmas Eve Offering will be split between "The Oaks Enhanced Shelter" and "Vision House," both located here in Shoreline, and both work to help people rebuild their lives and exit the shelter into housing with the resources and resiliency needed to remain housed and move forward with their lives. You can give for Christmas Eve in the offering plate or you may designate a gift to **Christmas Eve - The Oaks and Vision House** on the memo line of a check mailed to the church. You can also donate online by going to our website at trinpc.org and click on the online giving tab. Then select under Missions **Christmas Eve – The Oaks and Vision House**.

All funds given directly at the Christmas Eve Service will go to "The Oaks and Vision House" unless otherwise designated.

Haiti Mission Update

Greetings friends of Chardonniere! Last month, on behalf of the Missions Committee, Doug Williams presented an update from our sister church in Haiti. We shared some letters from Chardonniere Baptist Church, and an update on the roof project as well as an end of the year summary of our Hope for Kids sponsorships. What a glorious year you have provided for this mission!

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Here is a recap of the presentation:



- **Roof project updates** - In April the church reported that the construction has currently stopped due to depletion of funds. They report they are ready to pour concrete over the roof but the RMI project management estimated they will need an additional \$36k to prepare and complete the roof.
- With that said, since we have already sent over \$25k, we are looking for other funding to help assist. It's important to realize that there is no expectation on us to fund this, but naturally if we are able to find ways to assist, this will ensure the project will be completed.
- **Naturally if you are looking for an end of the year tax write off to a good cause, please feel free to write a check or donate online designating the funds for Chardonniere Building Fund.**
- **H4K** - The kids are back in school, deliveries of items that sponsors have paid for are being delivered. The hot lunches have begun for both Chardonniere & Boca schools. The final sponsorship for school year 2023 is **53 children spread over 3 school!** We were able to sponsor all of the children that were available to sponsor! Over the period of 5 years, we have raised our sponsorships from 23 to 53 a year!

One of the most incredible demonstrations of your love and support for this program is that over the past 5 years your generosity has provided over **270,000** hot lunches for school kids and staff. That is amazing Trinity! Thank you all for your support this year. You truly made a difference in many lives!

Community Connections—Kathy Tinoco, Elder

At our Trinity/Rehoboth leadership meeting we asked our friends from Rehoboth what holidays they celebrate in the fall and winter. Here's what they told us.

- In America they celebrate Thanksgiving, and encouraged us to talk about it with the TR3K kids and focus on being Thankful. On Sunday, Nov. 26, we told the Thanksgiving story and the kids made turkey pictures. The kids loved it!
- There are 2 Christmas celebrations for Ethiopians in America—December 25 and January 7
- They do many traditional American things in December—gifts, trees, etc. In January the Ethiopian traditions are giving cards and cookies. They do not celebrate on December 25 in Ethiopia.

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- There are 2 New Years celebrations for Ethiopians in America—Dec. 31/Jan. 1 with fireworks and Sept. 10/Sept. 11 the Orthodox tradition is to celebrate with a bonfire.
- Epiphany is January 19. The Ethiopian tradition is to wear new clothes this day.
- Ethiopia is on a different calendar than United States. For us it's 2024; for them it's 2016.
- Rehoboth is actively looking for nursery care. If you know of anyone who might like to earn some extra money on Sunday morning let them know.

Rehoboth prayer requests:

- To find childcare for Sunday mornings
- Pastor Alex's cancer treatments
- Ethiopia

God-Sighting—Brenda Williams, Deacon

I would like to share a living, breathing “God-sighting” I was privileged to experience at church. After our service, I enjoy time with the TR3K kids and then go directly to my car parked outside the Fellowship Hall. This past Sunday though my routine changed and I went upstairs to the narthex where one of the Rehoboth leaders and another man asked where Pastor Wendy was. I told them that she must have left already because she's usually in the narthex after church. The Rehoboth leader said that the man with him, “Jeff” was troubled and needed a fluent English speaker to talk with about his need for Christ. We started a conversation and I told him that I could see he was burdened. I also shared that God was bigger than any burden we carry. Jeff replied, “I doubt that!”

God gave me words of response and I told him about my brother's miraculous journey to faith (ask me about it sometime!). His eyes widened and I could see I had his attention. So again, God gave me words and I asked him if he would like to receive Christ. He wasn't ready just then but he did say that he needed prayer. Mitzi had just come up the stairs and she joined us as we laid hands on him and prayed.

He did not accept Christ then and there but I believe that he's not far from this most important decision.

After I left church, I realized the impact of our conversation and that God had placed me in Jeff's path to share the Good News. It was such a natural and uplifting experience for me! It has been many years since I have had the opportunity to lead someone to Christ and experience the joy that brings.

Since then, I have prayed for Jeff, and also that God would bring me more chances to share the Hope within me. So many times evangelism becomes a dirty word and we have been led to believe it's not “politically correct.”

We know that God is bigger than any political etiquette, cultural divide or even our white-knuckled fears. Perhaps this is what Jesus is referring to in the parable when He tells us to “trim our lamps to be ready for the bridegroom's arrival.” This experience in the Narthex has reminded me that I am ready! And, so happy to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those who need him so much!

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BIRTHDAY CORNER

May your birthday bring you all life's simple joys . . . wrapped in God's love for you!

Please let us know the date of your birth so we can celebrate with you!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Abara Ijiomah	12/2	Carol Paige	12/12	Rebecca Birch	12/21
Ed Mercado	12/11	Fred Rutherford	12/14	Andrew Good	12/22
Marlis Fisher	12/12	Betty Parkhurst	12/21	Cindy Wilson	12/22

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Ron Hecht	1/1	Karen Johnson	1/16	Susheel Immanuel	1/27
Emily Butler	1/2	Brenda Williams	1/24	Ruth Zinovich	1/27
Theodore Timbrook	1/4	Tina Williams	1/25	Kathy Tinoco	1/31
Joe Tinoco	1/8				

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Julie Aubrey	2/3	Marilyn Heideger	2/13	Beth Paul	2/22
Wendy Taylor	2/10	Ed Kellison	2/13	Kay Doxey	2/24
Harold Berge	2/11	Gordon McPherson	2/14	Larry Johnson	2/25
Kathy Howson	2/12	Kathy Fletcher	2/18		

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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Please submit your articles by the newsletter **deadline of the 15th of each month.**