

Trinity Christian UCC

Advent Newsletter

Skippack, PA



What Is Your Goal?

I recently finished a seven week Weight Loss Challenge, coming in second. We gathered once a week to weigh, check-in with one another and to hear healthy eating guidelines. The exercise has me eating healthier and exercising more; that and drinking lots of water. The entire experience made me wonder what it is that you want to get out of your membership in the body of Christ, particularly the body of Christ called Trinity Christian UCC.

What makes you want to get involved at church?

What makes you get out of bed on Sunday, get dressed and come to worship?

For St. Paul, as we read the five chapters of I Thessalonians during Oct/Nov, the goal was to do everything possible to prepare for the Second Coming of Christ. (*Read this for yourself. The book is only 5 short chapters.*) His belief that Christ was coming soon made all the sacrifices he was making to share the Good News of “Emmanuel With Us” worth it and more. He was delighted in the response of the believers in the town of Thessalonica. He cheered them on from his own captivity in prison in Philippi. He encouraged them to stay the path in word and deed. Their community of faith was the most important witness to the outside world of the life-changing power of the risen Christ.

Is your faith a rallying point in your life? Does your relationship with him who became flesh in the babe of Bethlehem, died on the gallows, and was raised to immortal life, make all other events in your life relative?

As we enter the church year season of Advent we will meet John the Baptist and hear of the prophecies of the birth of the Son of God. Preparing for the celebration of Christmas we hold forth the belief that Christ is coming again – soon. Are you ready? These are the End Times in a very real sense. The end of our lives will come like a thief in the night (to quote Paul). What will be your last day? Will it be a day, a week, a year, several years? Only God knows how long you have in this body. This life is a divine gift as God works for the salvation of all people.

Once, Martin Luther was asked what he would do if he knew tomorrow would be his last day of life in this body. He answered, “*I’d plant a tree.*” In this time between Thanksgiving and Christmas do something that makes you smile to yourself. A simple pleasure. A word of love and acceptance to someone for whom you care a great deal. An act of kindness. Something you’ve always wanted to do. Jesus comes to you in the Christ child to open all sorts of possibilities to the way you live your days.

Pastor's message continues.....



I am quite excited to share my first Christmas with you here at Trinity. Any Christmas is a highpoint in my year but this one will be especially joyous as I share it with you. When I was growing up we heard Christmas carols on the radio and in the department stores in the weeks before December 25. This will not be the case in 2011. You will hear all kinds of Christmas/holiday music everywhere you go. It has already begun. I daresay you will hear the carols of faith ONLY if you come to Church. I don't know about you, but this is some of the most inspiring music of the year for me. How about for you? You will have four Sundays in Advent; two worship services Christmas Eve and another service Christmas Day (*which falls on Sunday this year*).

There is a rhyme and reason to your life. All is not aimless wandering. God is leading you as the star led the Wise Men to the infant Jesus. There is a point to your existence. The greatest gift is the gift you give of offering yourself to the service of those around you each day. May the holy angels fill your heart with a song of eternal birth. Some folks believe this world spins on endlessly and in the meantime you'd better grab all the gold and leisure that you can manage because that's what life is all about. This is NOT the story of Christmas.

We are told that Jesus came in the fullness of time, just at the time in history that the Creator deemed perfect. Jesus has touched you in baptism and through others in the Church over the years. Your goal can be to give thanks to the best of your ability in all situations. Rejoice with the angels. Set your burdens down at the feet of Christ. Allow the Holy Spirit to fill the breath of your lungs and you will be the body of Christ in 2011 following. The goal is to be the best you can be in the faith. It is a new year in the Church. Christ is coming. There is no news greater to you than this. Ponder in your heart its meaning. Take up your cross and follow and you will experience a *peace of God which is beyond all human understanding*.

I'll see you this season as we offer ourselves to the God of our salvation. Sing. Rejoice!!!!

Michael Evans



**For your prayers and preparation for
Sunday worship:**

Dec. 4 Isaiah 40: 1-11; 2Peter 3:8-15; Mark 1: 1-8

Dec. 11 Isaiah 61: 1-11; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24;

John 1: 6-28

Dec. 18 Luke 1: 26-55; Romans 16: 25-27

Dec. 25, Christmas Day Isaiah 52: 7-10;

Hebrews 1: 1-4; John 1: 1-14

(The most common version of Christmas is Luke 2: 1-12)

Once again *Poinsettias* will be available for purchase and to decorate the Church this holiday season. This year the cost is \$ 6.50 for a 6" pot of either white or red. If you wish to order these Christmas plants please fill out a form located on the table in the Narthex. All orders must be in by December 6, 2011.



For more information or to place an order by phone, please contact Joann Davis @ 215-513-6265. Thank you!



Jerusalem Community Food Pantry

Our Angel Christmas Tree in the Narthex will have 25 requests for Teenage gift suggestions for Jerusalem Food Pantry.

Please take an Angel off the tree and make a wish come true for those in need this Christmas.

If you do not want to go out and purchase a gift, please consider buying a gift card through the Scrip program by the 11th of December!!! Nancy Gallagher will make sure the cards will be given to Jerusalem and they will in turn purchase gifts for the teenagers. You will not only be helping those in need, but your purchase thru Scrip will also benefit Trinity.

If you have any questions.....please contact

Nancy @ 610-584-1468.

Advent Workshop

Christmas will be here before too long!

Each year the Women's Guild hosts a workshop where children can make fun crafts. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun.

Please bring a dessert/snack to share.

If you are interested in helping by manning a craft table, please call

Pam Morris for more details

@ 610-935-4454.

The workshop will be Friday, December 2 @ 7PM



**Celebrate Trinity Christian UCC Church's
150th Anniversary
Join Pastor Michael and Annemarie Evans for
A Guided Tour of the Holy Land**

June 18-26, 2013

What is included:

- Round Trip Airfare—overnight, direct from Philadelphia to Tel Aviv, including Airline fuel surcharges of \$514, subject to change
- 7 Nights Accommodations in twin rooms with private baths
 - 4 nights at Prima Royal Hotel in Jerusalem
 - 3 nights at Kibbutz Nof Ginosar Guest House on the Sea of Gallilee
- 16 meals, including 7 breakfasts, one lunch and 8 dinners
- Sightseeing per itinerary (on reverse) in air-conditioned motor coach
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Services of English-speaking tour guide, Ezra Eini
- Porterage of one suitcase per person upon arrival and departure at each hotel
- Tips to hotel staff and waiters

What is not included:

- Airport taxes, estimated at \$100 per person
- Personal expenses, including alcoholic beverages, food, souvenirs, etc.
- Tips to tour guide and driver

What will it cost (estimated based upon 2012 prices):

- Cost per person based upon two adults sharing a room with private bath
 - Between \$2828.00 for 15-19 people and \$2428.00 for 35-39 people (prorated depending upon the number of passengers)
 - Single Supplement = \$590, subject to availability
- Terms of Payment require an initial deposit of \$50 per person for a minimum of ten people. (Michael and Annemarie are the first two!)
(This is due by December 30, 2011 to reserve the hotels and tour guide.)
- Air Deposit of \$100 per person within 21 days of confirmation (Airfare is based upon the entire group traveling together on the same flights and same class of service.)
- Second Deposit of \$200 per person due 180 days prior to departure
- Final Payment due 60 days prior to departure
- All prices reduced by 5% if paid by check or bank transfer. \$25 per person reduction for on-line reservations for groups that request Web page.

Who is going: The trip is open to Trinity members and friends and their family members and friends. The tours require some walking, but are not strenuous. Adults and mature teenagers are welcome.

Count me in! To reserve your space please draft a check for \$50 payable to Annemarie Evans. You can leave your check at the church office or send it to Annemarie directly at 468 Harbour View Drive, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948.

Questions? Call Annemarie at 252-715-1346 or email her at: annmarieevans@bellsouth.net.



Cont....

Itinerary for Trinity to Israel

Tuesday, June 18, 2013: Depart Philadelphia Airport about US Airways nonstop flight to Tel Aviv.

Wednesday, June 19, 2013: Arrive Ben Gurion Airport. Meeting and assistance through customs. Meet your guide Ezra Eini and your driver. Make your way up to Jerusalem. Stop for your first view of the "Golden City" from atop Mt Scopus. Drive to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

Thursday, June 20, 2013: We begin this day after breakfast, driving to the top of the **Mount of Olives**, for a majestic view over all of ancient and modern Jerusalem. We walk down the "**Palm Sunday Road**" to the **Garden of Gethsemane** and the Church of All Nations where Christ prayed on the night of His betrayal. Next we enter the Old City make our way to the **Temple Mount**. See the Dome of the Rock and ElAsk Mosque before visiting the **Pools of Bethesda** and walk along the **Via Dolorosa (Way of the Cross) to the Holy Sepulchre Church**. Continue to **Mt Zion** where we will visit the **Room of the Last Supper, King David's Tomb** and then on to the **Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu**. Return to your hotel at day's end for dinner and overnight.

Friday, June 21, 2013: After breakfast we will drive through the New City of Jerusalem to the **Israeli Museum**. Here we will visit the **Model of the 2nd Temple** from the time of Jesus and the **Shrine of the Book**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are on display. Next we will make our way to **Yad Vashem** memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. Our next visit is to **Bethlehem**, City of David and the Shepherds' Field, where the Angel of the Lord proclaimed the birth of Jesus. Returning to Jerusalem we visit the **Garden Tomb** and Gordon's Golgotha before returning to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Saturday, June 22, 2013: Early departure from Jerusalem this morning as we drive through the Judean desert to visit the Mountain fortress of **Masada**, the site of the last Jewish resistance against the Romans in 73 AD. Ascent and descent by cable car. Next there will be an opportunity to bathe in the waters of the Dead Sea - the lowest spot on the face of Earth, followed by a visit to **Qumran**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were written over 2000 years ago. Return to Jerusalem for dinner. After dinner make your way to the **Tower of David Museum** to see the Sound & Light Show telling the story of Jerusalem.

Sunday, June 23, 2013: After breakfast we will make our way out of Jerusalem driving north to the Galilee. Driving along the Jordan Valley to the ancient city of **Beth Shean** for an overview of this remarkable archeological site. Continue to **Ein Harod Spring** where Gideon chose his army to fight the Midoanites. Drive via **Mt Tabor**, regarded as the Mount of Transfiguration, we will stop at **Yardenit**, the traditional site of Jesus' baptism by John before we make our way to our kibbutz guest house.

Monday, June 24, 2013: After breakfast at the kibbutz we will drive north to the **Golan Heights**. Enroute we will stop to visit **Safed**. This mystical city has winding streets filled with galleries and ancient synagogues. We will continue north and stop to visit **Banias** and the site of ancient **Caesaria Philipi**, where Peter made his confession of faith in Christ. Driving through Druze villages in the Golan Heights we make our way to **Kunetra** also known as **Mt. Bental** and overview of the Syrian border. We visit the ancient city of **Katzrin** before returning to our kibbutz for dinner and overnight.

Tuesday, June 25, 2013: After breakfast we will visit the **Museum of the Ancient Boat** and then board a replica for a sail on the **Sea of Galilee**. We will visit **Tabgha** to see the **Church of the Primacy of Peter**. Then we will proceed to **Capernaum** to see the remains of an early church, the ruins of the Peter's house and an ancient synagogue. After we stop for the famous St. Peter's Fish lunch, we will continue the **Mount of Beatitudes-Sermon on the Mount** and see **Kursi** where Jesus cast the demons into pigs that ran into the sea, before returning to our kibbutz guest house.

Wednesday, June 26, 2013: Following breakfast we will load our coach and begin the last day of our journey though the holy land. Drive through Cana to visit the city of **Nazareth**. Then on to Megiddo and the Valley of Armageddon. After exploring magnificent archaeological excavations at Megiddo, we go through the famous water tunnel through the mount to our bus which awaits us at the other side. Then visit the **Muhraka**, site of Elijah's prayer and fire from heaven on the top of Mount Carmel. Proceed to **Caesaria** - the remnants of the city and ancient port built by Herod the Great. After our tour of Jaffa we will make our way to the Tel Aviv beach for our farewell dinner before heading to the airport for our return flight home.

The Youth Group cooked a Thanksgiving Meal for our Shut-ins and special Seniors on Sunday, November 20th. The Youth Group will also be participating in the Advent Workshop on December 2nd in the evening.



New 2012 Trinity Photo Directory



It is time for a new pictorial directory! Harry has taken the lead and met with a representative from Lifetouch publishing and decided to continue with them again this year. Friday, December 2, 2011 from 3-9 PM and Saturday December 3, 2011 from 10 – 2, photos will be taken. The times might change slightly but the dates are set. This would be perfect for getting family photos in time for Christmas. All participants will receive a free church directory and a free 8x10 photo. There will be activity pages so anyone with pictures of church functions from the past year or so please see that they get to the office. If anyone would like to be a part of the planning and compilation of the church directory, Harry would welcome the help. More information will follow as we get closer. Say Cheese!!!!



The Children's Christmas Program

*Sunday morning,
December 18 the children
of the church will be lead-
ing us all in a joyous cele-
bration of the Christmas
story. Practice is held at
9am each Sunday morn-
ing. Come to the rehears-
als. Join the celebration of
the 18th @ 10:15 am.*



December 4th is the **Guild Potluck** luncheon! Everyone is welcome to attend. Please bring something to share and your own place settings.

Hot dishes will be kept in the warmer and cold dishes will be kept in the fridge. The fun starts after the service, around Noon.

For more information please contact Pat Dannerth,
@610-584-4630.

Dates to Remember:



- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| December 2 | 7PM Advent Workshop |
| | Photos for the Directory |
| December 3 | Photos for the Directory |
| December 4 | Pot Luck Luncheon after service |
| December 6 | 7PM Worship Committee |
| December 8 | 7 PM Consistory |
| December 9 | 6PM Christmas Caroling |
| December 13 | 7PM Finance Committee |
| December 17 | 6PM Social Dinner Bethlehem Christmas |
| December 18 | 10:15 AM Children's Christmas Program |
| December 24 | 5:30 PM Family Service |
| December 24 | 7:30 PM Candlelight Service |
| December 25 | 10:15 AM Christmas Carol Service |



For the month of December

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 12/06 | Paul Becker
Kathy Gorski |
| 12/07 | Erin Dickey |
| 12/17 | Rita Dickey
Peggy Hood |
| 12/20 | Fred Nowark
Christopher Hayes
Janet Crossgrove |
| 12/22 | Tom Cunningham |
| 12/25 | Bob Davis
Martha Alderman |
| 12/27 | Penny Walker |
| 12/28 | Taylor Heaps |



Happy Birthday to All!!!!

*Trinity Christian UCC
P.O. Box 538
2009 Church Road
Skippack, Pa. 19474
610-584-4054*



Christmas Services

<i>December 24</i>	<i>5:30 PM</i>	<i>Family Service</i>
<i>December 24</i>	<i>7:30 PM</i>	<i>Candlelight Service</i>
<i>December 25</i>	<i>10:15 AM</i>	<i>Christmas Carol Service</i>