

# Trinotes

**The Mission of Trinity United Methodist Church is to proclaim God's love by building community and living by the example and teachings of Jesus Christ.**



## In the Secret, in the Quiet Place



*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. — Isaiah 7:14*

It's Monday. It was inevitable; Monday keeps coming around and I have to remind myself that Monday cycling back is better than the alternative (at least, I think it is). Josh is off running the Monday errands. The girls are with their mom. My two are with their dad until Christmas, which always seems to get me down in the dumps. I'm settling in for a day of writing. There's a funeral to prepare for. There's worship for the first Sunday of the new year — Epiphany — to prepare for. There's Christmas Eve. Oh, and I should probably write something for the newsletter...

The house is quiet and still. It's only me. Pepper (our pup) is outside. Max (our cat) is probably sleeping in the bottom of a closet somewhere — the only quiet place he can normally find. Eden (our bird) normally keeps quiet during the day. It's quiet, and that's strange...and welcomed.

The season can be overwhelmingly noisy, fast, and busy. Don't you dare head over to the Wolfchase area of Germantown Parkway this week. It's a mess, as folks finish up their holiday shopping. Kroger is likely over-run with people picking up their Christmas hams. There are holiday concerts, parties, and family gatherings to attend or prepare for.

And yet...

As I sit here, cognizant of the silence, I recall the lyrics to a contemporary Christian tune from my youth, "In the secret, in the quiet place. In the stillness You are there," and I give thanks.

Joy in this season can come in many different ways, from the excitement of children opening the presents they've been hovering over, underneath the tree for weeks, to gathering with family, perhaps for the first time during the pandemic. It comes in birthdays that interestingly line up with Christmas (and that first bite of beef tenderloin). Like Cindy Lou Who teaches us in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," it doesn't come, for some of us, in packages tied up with bows, but in that coming together of humanity that rarely happens for positive reasons the rest of the year.

And for someone like me, who rarely finds these silent moments of peace, joy comes in welcoming the Christ-child into the quiet times that have become a gift — moments of reflecting on his becoming one of us that we might know a joy that, too, cannot come in packages tied up with string, in holiday hams, or even hugs from family members we've missed. I do not doubt that, that night was anything but silent, but Jesus came — God came — into our world — into our chaos — even into the holiday noise that we've created in an attempt to celebrate his presence — that we might know him, and he us, better.

And so, whether your week is filled with eggnog, parties, lights, and last-minute shopping, or it comes around the table with those whom you love — whether it is filled with grief for having lost someone dear since last Christmas, or memories of Christmases past that draw sorrow, I pray that in either the noise of the season or quiet and stillness that winter welcomes, you may find hope, love, joy, and peace knowing that Christ is there, is here, and forever will be.

In the secret, in the quiet place. In the stillness You are there.

With Hopeful Anticipation,  
*Rev. Sara*

## MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

### MEMORIALS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED

IN MEMORY OF **PAT LOVINGTON** FROM CHRIS GLOVER

IN MEMORY OF **JOHN STUART** FROM CHRIS GLOVER

IN MEMORY OF **NANCY RANKIN** FROM CHRIS GLOVER

IN MEMORY OF **JERI ASHLEY** FROM CHRIS GLOVER

IN MEMORY OF **PHIL ISBELL** FROM SHIRLEY FLINT

IN MEMORY OF **PHIL ISBELL** FROM CHARLES & MELBA ABRAHAM

IN MEMORY OF **PHIL ISBELL** FROM CAREY & CAROL MILLER

IN MEMORY OF **PHIL ISBELL** FROM EDDIE & SALLY RAMSEY

IN MEMORY OF **JOHN STUART** FROM WENDEL & LINDA STOLTZ

IN MEMORY OF **PHIL ISBELL** FROM WENDEL & LINDA STOLTZ

IN MEMORY OF **NANCY RANKIN** FROM WENDEL & LINDA STOLTZ

### HONORARIUMS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED

IN HONOR OF **ROSEMARY POTTER** FROM BINGHAMPTON UMM

IN HONOR OF **DEBBY MARSTON** FROM BINGHAMPTON UMM



## What's Next?

John the Baptizer announced the coming of the Messiah. Those who heard, responded, "What shall we do, then?" And John told them!

If you heard Pastor Sara's homily on December 12, the third Sunday of Advent, you were invited to reflect on that question, both personally and as a member of Trinity. In the ups and downs of pandemic, we wonder, "What's next?" Sometimes we even long for someone to tell us just exactly what to do, even if it's an answer that is hard to hear (as John's response to the question certainly was in his day).

When we meet as a Church Council for the first time in 2022, we'll face that question as a church: What's next for Trinity? If you aren't a member of the Council, you are invited, even urged, to attend the meeting and help discover our answer. The date and time will be announced soon. As Pastor Sara said in that December 12 homily, "God isn't finished with Trinity yet! That is our good news. There's hope in the question, "What's next?"

By the way if this article makes you want to review the homily yourself, it's still available on the church Facebook page!

Kay Jordan, Incoming chairperson  
Church Council



## A Christmas Memory

This is a Christmas season memory from a long-ago year at Trinity Preschool. It was the year that we wanted Jack to play the part of Joseph in our annual Christmas play.

As usual, we had gone through several days of acting out the Christmas story. Dressed in my sons' old bathrobes, various children had made the trek to

Bethlehem as Mary and Joseph. Jack had been the first Joseph and decidedly the best, and we teachers had agreed that he should be Joseph for the big day, when we reenacted the story of that first Christmas before an audience of parents and friends. But Jack would have none of it; no manner of persuasion by his teachers or his parents could convince him to accept that responsibility. In fact, as the week before the play progressed, Jack's normally calm behavior totally disintegrated. During rehearsal the day before the play took place in front of an audience, he was banished from heaven for creating havoc among the heavenly host. Stripped of his cardboard wings, his halo decidedly tarnished, he had had to sit on the floor by one of the teachers and watch the rest of the play. To make matters worse, he didn't appear to be particularly repentant, seemingly delighted to be a non-participant, a strange little smile (was it of triumph?) on his face.

The day of the big production dawned. Prospects were bleak for selecting a Joseph who would not tap dance on stage or intentionally trip Mary on the way to Bethlehem. No one could remember to knock on the inn door without a teacher's prompting each time. This was the year that we had five children with attention deficit disorder, a year sometimes referred to by the teaching staff as our "Twilight Zone" year.

The morning sped by, and soon it was time to dress for the play. As we began to pull the costumes from the boxes, Jack came up to me, looked up at me with serious blue eyes, and said, "I want to be Joseph." My heart leaped with joy, and then it plummeted as I remembered his increasingly difficult behavior during the four days that had gone before. "Are you sure?" I said hesitantly. "Yes," he answered solemnly. With not a little trepidation, I dressed Jack in the fuzzy blue robe that Joseph always wore in the play. "Oh, Lord," I silently prayed as I adjusted his headpiece, "please let this be the right decision."

The play began. Mary and Joseph carefully made the trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem, Joseph showing tender care for his young wife all along the way. At the inn, the innkeeper had to be retrieved from among the folds of the curtain where he had excitedly wound himself. As I bent to remind Jack to knock on the inn door, he looked up at me and very quietly and calmly said, "I've already knocked."

Jesus was born again onstage that year at Trinity Preschool, just as he was every year. And he was born again in my heart, just as he so frequently was throughout the days and years that I worked with young children there – days that were filled with laughter and tears, joy and sadness, reward and frustration. "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven," Jesus said to his disciples long ago, and He continues to say those same words to me today.

There are many special moments that are etched in my memory as a teacher. These memories of Jack are among my fondest. What great joy it has been for me as a teacher for many years to see the kingdom coming in children and to know with certainty that the Spirit prompts them and nourishes them as they continue to grow in wisdom and stature.

Peace and love to all,  
*Irene*

# Church Trustees

UPDATE



## From the Trustees

With all the trials and hardships 2021 posed, there were still things for which to be thankful. In regard to the Trustees, I am thankful for a Board that was dedicated to making our physical plant better. I am also thankful for those that have agreed to serve in 2022, It will be a great opportunity for growing involvement and new perspectives.

TUMC gained a new sign, new sidewalk, improved landscaping, playground fence repairs, and a better understanding of the needs of our property. But there is still much to do, and your Trustees are looking forward to the challenge.

We hope and pray your holidays will be blessed. May God bless you and yours with a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Trustees



**FEED THE  
HUNGRY**

## BINGHAMPTON FOOD PANTRY

**Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry** at Binghampton UMM, 258 N. Merton St., is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables....people can come as often as they want for these.

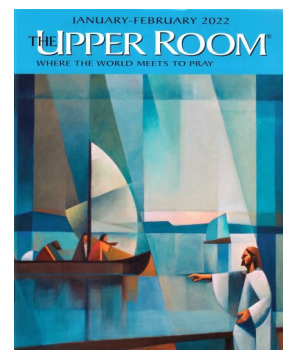
Once a month, folks can request an emergency food bag (canned goods, peanut butter, cereal, rice, dried beans, soup, etc). Neither of these options require any proof of residency or need....you ask, you receive. Individuals and families who need an emergency food bag can call Michael Anderson at (901) 503-2748.

**Trinity members:** You can bring canned goods or other non-perishable items for BUMM's food pantry. A box for donated foodstuffs has been placed in the lobby in front of the reception desk. A donation in the form of a check written to Trinity UMC, with "Fishes & Loaves" on the memo line, will help keep the food pantry well stocked and will be very much appreciated. Hunger is an ongoing problem. Let's commit to feeding our neighbors in need!

## January/February Upper Room

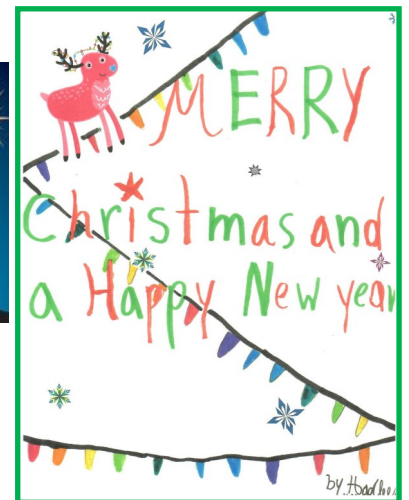
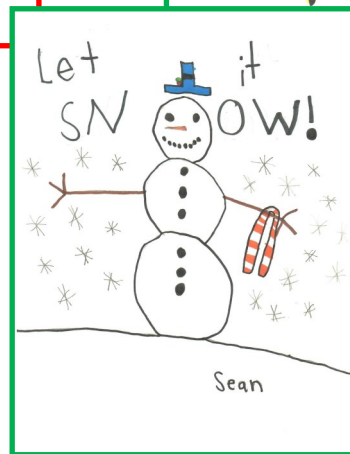
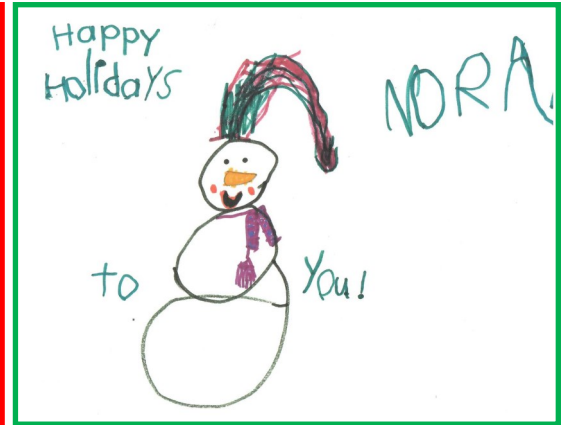
The latest issue of *The Upper Room* can be picked up from the front desk of the Worship Center. Both large & regular print copies are available. We can also mail you a copy if you cannot get out.

E-mail [office@trinityumcmemphis.org](mailto:office@trinityumcmemphis.org) or leave a message on the church office voicemail (901-274-6895). Please be sure to specify the print size: regular or large print. Both can be mailed out right away.





# Christmas Art by the Children's Class



Wishing you a  
blessed  
Christmas from  
the children of  
Trinity UMC.



## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Our country and the world** - for all those in our country and around the world still impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and now the omicron variant; for families, churches, and communities impacted by the recent tornados in West Tennessee and Kentucky, especially for those who lost loved ones in those violent storms; for Haiti in the aftermath of an earthquake and hurricane; for people of faith around the world who are experiencing persecution; for refugees seeking asylum from war and social unrest; for safe drinking water for those living in developing countries; for people around the world experiencing terrorist attacks; for the poor, homeless, and disenfranchised in our city; for immigrants who are struggling due to lost jobs and lack of resources; for persons of color who are speaking out against racial profiling and injustice, and for families who have lost loved ones due to violence; for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris—pray for their wisdom.

**The United Methodist Church** - for our Pastor, Rev. Sara Corum, her husband Josh McClurkan, and their five children; for our Bishop, the Rev. Bill McAlilly; and for our District Superintendent, the Rev. Autura Eason-Williams

**Trinity UMC** - for members of the congregation homebound due to chronic illness or age; for new visitors joining us as we worship online; for all families who are grieving; for our congregation as we deal with transitions. Wisdom for our Trustees and Church Council. Also, specific prayer requests by and for:

**Maggi Comes'** niece, **Katie Pendleton**, diagnosed with Tumefactive MS

**Bryce Sellers**, fighting Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

**Michelle Goza's** husband, **Sam**, died December 15th, just 3 days before their son's wedding. (Michelle is Chris Glover's niece.)

**Kanyon Glover**, now 3 years old, can lift his left arm and giggles at his daddy when he gives him a high five.

**Donnie Glover**, now on oral medication, as well as chemotherapy; needs blood & platelets weekly, but back to driving a truck. (You can't keep a good man down!)

**Bobby Glover**, Chris' brother, who had moved to assisted living, is now back home in his tiny house!

**Jacob Foreman**, son of **Caley & Alyson**, hip/leg/back and nerve damage issues, doing PT & showing some slow improvement

**Gene & Irene Opel**, ongoing health concerns

**David Harrison**, Carol Miller's brother, recovered from broken hip; dialysis going well

**Don Culpepper**, Carol Miller's brother-in-law, has lung cancer, but doing better.

Joan Smith's cousin/mom, **Gigi**, aka **Kathryn Ellis**, receiving in-home care

**Peggy Kinney**, Charlotte Comes' 95 year old cousin, now residing permanently in rehab center; had to sell home and store her possessions.

**Val Coates**, serious heart condition; still in constant pain and undergoing testing to discover the cause; grieving the loss of her mother, sister, and father this year

**George Marston**, still undergoing dialysis; congestive heart failure; COPD; improved mobility

**Jean Moss**, now in hospice care

**Margaret Rucker**, Irene Dycus' sister, moving to nursing home care

The family of **Phil Isbell**, who passed away December 14th

The family of **Hugh Stuart**, who died December 14th at the age of 101

Pray for the family of **Lee Hutchinson**, who passed away October 26th [friend of Carol & Carey Miller]

**Rosemary Potter**, soon to discard her walker for a cane!

*(Please contact the church office if you have additional prayer concerns, need a concern removed, or need to make a change or correction.)*