



Saturday December 24 at 7:00 pm

Everyone is invited to join us for this special Christmas Eve celebration. It's been a tradition for many years and we look forward to seeing you at this worship event. There will be music as well as the lighting of the candles as we sing "Silent Night" and Holy Communion will be served. We hope to see everyone there and remember to invite along a friend as well.

Poinsettias for Christmas

In Loving Memory of Paul B. Gillespie by Debbie Gillespie, Sue Isaac & Kathleen Gillespie

In Loving Memory of Walter Kocher by Marion, David & Linda Kocher

In Loving Memory of David Tipton by Angie Tipton

In Honor of My Christian Family at Trinity UMC by Anonymous

In Honor & Gratitude of the Music Ministry by Anonymous

In Loving Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Jack Kilgore & Mr. & Mrs. Fred Ashley
by Dennis & Cindy Ashley

In Loving Memory of Brownie & Barbara Polly by Wes, Lisa, Wesley & Colston Polly

In Loving Memory of George Cline & Anne Hunter by Betty Cline

In Loving Memory of Kelly Toney by Joe & Nancy Toney

In Loving Memory of Patrick Heath Parsons & In Honor of Savana, Trinity
& Serenity by Steve & Kim Parsons

In Honor of The Goodman Family by Kenny & Martha Spurlock

In Honor of the Choir & Robert Holbrook and Cathy Galyean by Rick
Galyean

Christmas Memorials & Honoraria

Carol Daugherty Rasnic and R. Jackson Rasnic gave in memory of Edna Grainger Murphy, Earl C. Murphy, and Thomas W. Murphy, Sr.

Carol Daugherty Rasnic and R. Jackson Rasnic gave in honor of Jane Murphy Hixson and R. Reginald Hixson, Linda Murphy, and Dr. James K. Murphy.

Carol Daugherty Rasnic and R. Jackson Rasnic gave in memory of Carolyn Fugate Hobson.

Some Thoughts from the Pastor...

Grace and Peace to you this Christmas. It's been a while since I actually wrote one of these columns. I have a few things I need to share. First of all, as to my health. I will be undergoing surgery on January 5th to repair damage to my wrist caused by the fall last April. It is not resolving on its own and the doctor says that this is the best way to relieve the pain and soreness that I am experiencing. I will be in a splint/cast for about 6 weeks and then need to undergo more therapy on the wrist. I continue to build strength in the left knee, but am still not back to where I was prior to the accident.

Secondly, I will be moving my office to the parsonage basement as I recover from the surgery. I will be unable to come down the stairs at church, since I will not be able to grasp the rail with my right hand. I can get up to the office, but would not want to venture back down the stairs on a regular basis.

Thirdly, some of you may have noticed a moldy/mildew smell in the fellowship hall area. The Trustees are addressing this issue. We think it is from moisture in the basement. Please bear with us as we seek to resolve this situation.

Fourthly, the Administrative Board met this past week and approved a budget for 2017. The increase was less than 1 percent over 2016. Our biggest increase came from higher anticipated insurance rates. Copies will be available in the church office on January 1st.

Finally, at the Administrative Board meeting, we discussed our year end giving. Our church has traditionally been one that waits until the last few Sundays of the year to sort of catch up. We are hoping that this will be the same this year. Over the last three years, we have received an average of about \$20,000 in December. It would be great if we could once again do that this year. For the first two Sundays of December, we have received about \$9,000 towards that total. If we could receive the remaining \$11,000 then we would be able to finish the year at approximately the same level we began the year. Our dream goal, however, would be \$16,000 by years end. This would put us in the best financial situation that we have had in several years. So, if you were wondering if we need that extra year end gift from you—the answer is YES. We do. So please give generously as we close out 2016 and prepare to begin 2017.

The Trinity Companion Sunday December 18, 2016



Trinity United Methodist Church

203 E 1st St, South
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

Worship begins at 11:00 am

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Let me tell you how glad we are to have you at our worship service today. We hope that you will encounter the presence of the risen Christ. We'd really like to get some contact information. Would you please text your email and name to 80123 and we'll get back in touch with you.

Greeters: Paul Clark and Ruben Allman

Announcements, Welcome, and Introduction : Martha Spurlock

***Prelude:** "He Shall Feed His Flock"

George Frideric Handel, AD 1685-1759

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We look for an extraordinary sign of hope for our world but God's sign is most ordinary of all:

All: A young woman is with child.

Leader: We look to power for strength in our world but God points to the most vulnerable:

All: She gives birth.

Leader: We look far and wide for a key to God's mystery, but God points us home:

All: She calls this child Immanuel: God-with-us!

Leader: Let us rejoice, and worship our God

All: in our ordinary, vulnerable lives: God-with-us!

INVOCATION

Surprising God, you make your presence known in unexpected ways, and challenge our comfortable assumptions about how you work. Meet us here today and open our hearts to recognize you in our midst calling us to live into your new thing: a world where your love takes shape in justice and peace. In the name of the One who is coming, we pray:

Amen!

A Reading for the Fourth Sunday of Advent— LOVE (Luke 2: 1-14)

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. **8** In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Lighting the Advent Candle—The Higgins Family

One: Elizabeth was barren with no hope for a child, but then a baby filled her womb. The presence of new life filled her with hope.

All: May the light of Christ fill us with hope.

(Light the candle of HOPE)

One: Elizabeth did not know why Mary came rushing through her doors, but the leap of her unborn child filled her with the knowledge of the Lord. The knowledge of the Lord filled her with peace.

All: May the light of Christ fill us with peace.

(Light the candle of PEACE)

One: John the Baptist, while in the womb of his mother, expressed the joy of generations to come. The faith of Mary filled the unborn babe with joy.

All: May the light of Christ fill us with joy.

(Light the candle of JOY)

One: In a moment filled with hope, in a moment filled with peace, in a moment filled with joy, Mary opened her mouth to sing, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..." Mary rejoices in the God who loves the oppressed; Mary rejoices in the God who loves the hungry. Mary a maiden, Mary unseen by the powerful of the world, is filled with the light and made powerful by a God bent on overturning the world with a teenage girl and newborn babe.

All: Like the first disciple Mary, let the light of Christ fill us with love.

(Light the candle of LOVE)

One: Please join me in prayer.

All: God of Love, we thank you for bringing the light of Christ into the world. May the love shared by Elizabeth and Mary serve as a beacon for our own affections. May we, like Mary, create love that exalts the lowly and makes low the proud. May we all bear the light that changes the world. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" No. 216

A Time for Morning Prayer

CALL TO CONFESSION

In this last week before Christmas, The busyness and the anxieties of this holiday season may overwhelm us, and keep us from feeling the wonder of these days. Let us take a moment to re-order our lives in this reality: In Jesus Christ, the Love, compassion and Justice of God is breaking into our world.

(Silence)

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth: Stir up your might, and come to save us!

People: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, and change our lives with your justice.

O God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have fed us with the bread of tears, and given us tears to drink in full measure.

People: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, and heal our lives with your compassion.

Reveal to us your Promised One, the one whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.
People: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, and delight our lives with your love.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ALL SHALL PRAY: In Christ, the light of God's love shines in our hearts, and we are forgiven and given strength to forgive. Let us give thanks that in Jesus, Emmanuel, God is truly with us. Let us celebrate this great grace by offering to one another a sign of Christ's peace.

A Sharing of Our Joys, Concerns, and Thanksgivings

(Please raise your hand and an usher will come by with a microphone so that everyone will be able to hear your joy, concern or thanksgiving. After you state your concern, everyone will join together and say: Lord. In your Mercy. Hear our Prayer.)

The Lord's Prayer

(as found at No. 895)

Gloria Patri

No. 70

Children's Message

Diane Botts

Call to Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Ushers: Jack Williams, John Hagan, Bennie Turner, Spencer Quesenberry

CALL TO OFFERING

The Love of God is born anew in the world as often as we embody that love in the works of compassion, peace and justice. Let us offer our gifts in a spirit of generosity and hope.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ALL SHALL PRAY: With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts, which rejoice in your goodness and love. Let our gifts point to your presence in the world, and further your dream for the world through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.

Offertory: "And the Glory of the Lord"

George Frideric Handel, AD 1685-1759

*** The Doxology**

No. 95

***Special Music:** "Oh Children Come"

The Presentation of God's Word

Scripture: Matthew 1: 18-25

Kenny Spurlock

Lector: The Word of the Lord for the People of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Sermon: "What's in a Name"

*** Closing Hymn:** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" No. 218

*** Pastoral Benediction :**

***Postlude:** "Unto Us Is Born a Son"

Piae Cantiones, AD 1582

****Please stand, as you are able***

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