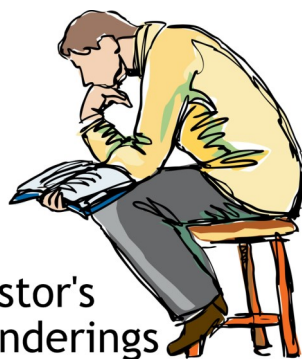


The Administrative Board met last Sunday night. The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss our proposed 2016 budget. It was an eye opening meeting for many people on the Board. Our fourth quarter of 2015, which is usually the strongest, is not turning out that way this year. Add to that, a lackluster level of giving for the other three quarters and you end up with a year that is not where we would want it to be.



Pastor's Ponderings

We began the year with a more than \$10,000 cut in our budget over our 2014 budget. We felt that this would allow us to continue and hold the line on deficits. The year of 2015 has proven difficult. We have held spending to our budgeted goals. However, income has not been what we needed. Thus, as we faced our 2016 budget, we were facing some difficult decisions.

First of all, there are certain fixed costs: lights, heating, cooling, and insurance that are relatively inflexible. We incur those bills and we pay those bills. We have to in order to keep the doors open. These types of expenses, along with salaries, are paid from the undesignated funds that we receive on Sunday mornings. We should think of these types of expenses as Operational Expenses.

In addition to Operational Expenses, we also have expenses related to ministries and activities. These are not typically funded from regular Sunday offerings. They are funded from designated gifts that we have on hand in one of our various funds or from special gifts just for that event or activity.

Part of our problem has been a lack of funds for the Operational Expenses (undesignated) and more gifts to designated funds than we, perhaps, really needed. This means we have been able to fund ministries and activities with no problems, but we have experienced severe shortfalls in operational funds. It didn't help that we had to raise \$5800 for the HVAC unit that went out in January. Would some of those funds have made their way into the operational fund? No one knows for sure, but many on the Board suspect that they might have. This would have made more funds available for operations.

Faced with all that has happened this year, the Board had to make some very tough decisions in an attempt to create a workable

(Continued in the next column)

Administrative Board Actions

(Continued from previous column)

budget. We still may not have achieved that goal, but we have done our best. In doing so, we had to make some difficult decisions involving our staff members.

One of those decisions involved informing our Church Matron, Lisa Soechtig, that we would no longer need her services as of January 1st. We realize that we may need some volunteers to step forward and help with some of the tasks formerly under her purview. Lisa was responsible for the fellowship hall, kitchen and down stairs bathrooms. At the very least, we are asking that groups take a little extra time cleaning up following an event that uses the kitchen and/or fellowship hall. If you would like to help keep those areas tidy, then please contact the pastor.

A second decision involved cutting the hours of Becky Rogers from 30 hours per week to 20 hours per week beginning January 1st. Beginning January 1st, Becky's new office hours will be from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm Monday through Friday.

These were not easy decisions to make, but we had to make them in the reality of our current situation. The Board has also adopted other measures that it hopes will strengthen our church in the coming year. These will be shared with the congregation as the year begins to unfold. Please be in prayer for our church and the factors that have led us to our current situation.

Christmas Eve Service Scheduled

In past years we have held this service at 11:00 pm. This year, we will begin the service at 7:00 pm. We felt that such a time will still allow for evening meals as well as evening Christmas Eve traditions. So please note the change in time and be prepared to join us for very special holiday service. We will still serve Holy Communion and we will still have the Candles lit as we sing Silent Night. Nothing has changed, other than the time of the service.

The Trinity Companion Sunday December 20, 2015



FOURTH SUNDAY OF

Advent

Trinity United Methodist Church

203 E 1st St, South—POB 217

Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

Worship begins at 11:00 am

Pastor—Rev. Terry Goodman

Office: (276) 523-0789

Text Only : (760) 621-8264

Email: trinityumcpastor@gmail.com

www.trinityumc-bsg.net

You can sponsor a bulletin. For \$15, we can put color on one side and for \$25 we can put color on both sides. Contact the office to see if the Sunday you want is available.

This Bulletin is
sponsored
by...

Carol Rasnic



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. Please feel free to join in any of the activities or events that you see mentioned. Please come back and worship with us again!

Greeters: Alberta Mitchell and Pat Bowden

Prelude

Announcements, Welcome, and Introduction : Skip Skinner

Call to Worship: "Light the Advent Candle"

The Lighting of the Advent Candle-The Goodman Family

(The first three Advent Candles are relit)

ADULT READER 1: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. (Luke 1:46b-48a; 51-53)

ADULT READER 2: These familiar words were spoken by Mary upon greeting Elizabeth. Imagine the joy of this meeting when they can discuss their own and each other's pregnancy together for the first time. And what did they talk about first? A boy? A girl? Baby clothes? New furniture? No. Mary says,

ADULT READER 1:

"My soul magnifies the Lord; I declare the greatness of God, and my spirit rejoices."

ADULT READER 2:

Mary ... a young woman ... a teenager ... not so long before, pregnant and unmarried ... declares the greatness of God and recognizes the unique calling she has received. As with so many other mothers before and after her, she does not know what joys or sorrows may follow the birth, but she is ready to rejoice in God, her Savior.

It is for Mary that we light this fourth candle.

CONGREGATION:

Mary - blessed among women. Mary - the Lord's lowly servant. Mary - who believed that God was about to fulfill the promise made to Abraham so long ago.

ALL: COME, LORD JESUS. AMEN.

*** Opening Hymn:** "O, Come All Ye Faithful" No. 234

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

(You will be given an opportunity to share joys and prayer concerns. Please raise your hand and wait until an usher comes to you with a microphone.)

Lord's Prayer as found at No. 895

Gloria Patri No. 70

A Presentation from the Administrative Board -Dr. Larry Fleenor

The Presentation of God's Tithe and Our Offerings

Ushers: Jack Williams, Ruben Allman, Spencer Quesenberry, Phil Robbins

Offertory:

*** The Doxology** No. 95

Musical Offering: "Mary, Did You Know" Duet: David Goodman
Hannah Jones

The Presentation of God's Word

Scripture: Hebrews 10:5-10 Skip Skinner

Lector: The Word of the Lord for the people of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon : "Is that a real baby in the manger?"

*** Closing Hymn:** "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" No. 240

*** Pastoral Benediction :** "God Be With You Til We Meet Again"

Postlude:

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

Musical lyrics reprinted using CCLI # 1083130

Advent Candle Liturgy © 2015 by Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Church,
PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203.

—Sunday, December 20, 2015

—5:00 pm—Asbury Circle

—Wednesday, December 23, 2015

—Noon-Kiwanis

—6:00 pm—Prayer Circle

—7:00 pm—Choir Practice

—Thursday, December 24, 2015

—Office Closed

—7:00 pm—Christmas Eve Service

—Friday, December 25, 2015

—Office Closed



Financial Snapshot

The Administrative Board thinks that it is important that we give you a weekly Financial Snapshot. Here are some figures to ponder:

Current Balance Forward Trinity Maintenance:\$976.22

Money Given to General Fund

Budgeted Need to Date\$154,249

Actual Amount Given to Date\$142,727

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

In Memory of:

Jack and "Pete" Kilgore, Fred and Mossie Lee Ashley Given by: Dennis and Cindy Ashley

Francis Botts, Stanley Botts, Sr., James Kelley Given By: Diane and Bob Botts

Jim Bowden, Helen and Jim Ringley Given By: Pat Bowden

Patrick Heath Parsons Given by: Steve, Kim, Brandi, Lance and Scott Parsons

Gary Mahan Given By: Donna Mahan

Walter Kocher Given By: Marion Kocher

In Honor of:

Flo Kelley, Kennedy Botts Given By: Diane and Bob Botts

Rose Bowden Given By: Pat Bowden

Betty cline Given by: Nancy, Joe, Adam, Miranda and Addison Toney

Additional Memorials and Honoria Not designated with Poinsettias

In Memory of:

Edna Grainger Murphy and Earl C. Murphy, Thomas W. Murphy, Sr.

Given by: Carol Daugherty Rasnic
Margaret Burton Gallemore Given By: Charles Gallemore

In Honor of:

Dr. James K. Murphy, Mrs. Thomas W. Murphy, Sr., Mrs. R. J. Rasnic, Mr. and Mrs. R.R. Hixon Given by: Carol Daugherty Rasnic



"I HAVE NOT STOPPED GIVING THANKS FOR YOU, REMEMBERING YOU IN MY PRAYERS."

EPHESIANS 1:16, NIV

For Those with Cancer:

James Horne; Robin (Rita Nash's Daughter); Barbara Polly; Debbie Cooper; Wilma Nein; Phyllis Gilley; Melody (Mellie) Gilley; Doris Berta; Sandra Rich; Denise Qualls; Kathy Hirsch (Larry and Teddy Bland's daughter); David Burke (Bubba Burke's Dad); Karrie Compton (Randy and Phyllis Compton's daughter)

Facing or Recovering from Surgery or Hospital Stay

Beth Hagan; Becky Clark; Helen Cochran; Mary Warner; Liz Ashley; T. R Davidson; Melanie Sturgill; Mark Nickels; Ann Nickels; Patricia Redman; Jim Cooper

Non-Specific Prayers for:

Brownie Polly; Geneva Allen; Jim Gates; Fred Vanbever; Jennie Shupe; Hope Meade; Matt Carroll; Melvin Carter; Kenny Spurlock's mother; Bill & Jean Hendrick; Peggy Bates; Marion Kocher; Bob Horne

- Pray for our Pastor and the Leaders of our church.
- Pray for the Leaders of the United Methodist Church.
- Pray for those in the Church in need.

If you know that someone on the prayer list has passed away, please contact the church office.