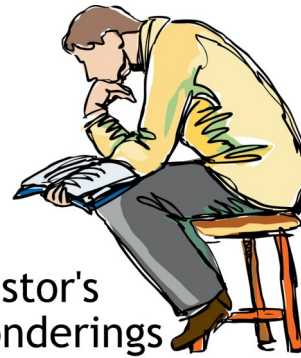


Last Chance to Donate to Staff Christmas Fund

Each year we take a special Christmas offering for our staff. The amount gathered will be divided among the following persons: Becky Rogers, Joyce Palmer, Rick Galyean, Robert Holbrook, Jan Tate, David Barker, Steve Guerreant, and Lisa Soechtig. PLEASE NOTE: You will not be able to receive a tax deduction for this gift. Please make your checks out to CASH or enclose cash in an envelope clearly marked Staff Christmas Gift. We will collect these gifts through Sunday December 13th. On behalf of the staff, let me say thank you for your generosity to this cause.



Pastor's Ponderings

Christmas Eve Service Scheduled at an Earlier Time

As we talked about our Christmas Eve Service back in January or February, one of the things we discussed was the time of the service. The tradition has been for the service to begin at 11:00 pm. The NOW Team felt that it was time to move the service to an earlier time. Although attendance had been good at the 11:00 am service, it was getting harder and harder for choir members and musicians to attend and it was difficult for families with children to attend such a late service. 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.

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...

Jack and Janette Kennedy

The Means of Grace

The Bread of Life

Otterbein United Methodist Church of Spry is located near York, Pennsylvania. Its average worship attendance in 2010 was 95. Today, the average worship attendance is more than 165. How did that growth happen?

A small group of members had been meeting weekly for Bible study on Wednesday nights. Their pastor, The Rev. Dr. Ken Loyer, suggested adding a brief (25-minute) prayer service before the Bible study time, and the group welcomed the addition.

As Advent drew near, Dr. Loyer suggested they add Holy Communion to the Wednesday evening prayer service. The regular Wednesday night attenders liked the weekly sacrament so much that they didn't want to give it up after Advent. The weekly 25-minute midweek prayer and Holy Communion service has now become an important part of the congregation's life.

Dr. Loyer says, "The service has been key to God's work of bringing new life to this church. While in some ways it's difficult to quantify the precise effect, I know that it has been used by God, and that God has answered our weekly prayers for renewal and more fruitful ministry for this church to the community."

Gathering at the Lord's Table every Wednesday night led Otterbein members to serve Christ among hungry people in the community. ("For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me" -- Matthew 25:35, NRSV.) Dr. Loyer said, "I don't think it's a coincidence that two of the people who regularly attend this service approached me after several months and shared their sense that, following Christ's calling to serve, our church should increase our efforts in feeding the hungry of our community. Out of those conversations emerged a new food ministry that supplements our weekly food bank and monthly food program. This new ministry now has us sending out teams from the church, with food prepared at the church, to downtown York, once a quarter, to serve those in need."

A simple 25-minute prayer and Communion service is helping members of Otterbein United Methodist Church of Spry see what God is up to in their neighborhood. The Holy Spirit is equipping them to participate in God's mission where they live.

Question: Is there something in this story that we might need to consider? Let me know what you take from this article. -TDG

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The Trinity Companion Sunday December 13, 2015



THIRD 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



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 Kennedy Family

LEADER: Rejoice in the Lord always.

LEADER: And again I will say, rejoice.

LEADER: Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7)

Jesus is near. Despite the busy-ness, the pressure, and the assault of our senses that so often passes for Christmas, we have the promise of scripture that

CONGREGATION: ... **Jesus is near.**

When the shopping drains us physically, and the spending drains us financially,

CONGREGATION:

...when we forget which party we're supposed to attend on which day,

...when we think we can't stand to hear "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" one more time,

...then we will remember to REJOICE.....and again.....REJOICE.

LEADER: And we will light a candle to help us remember that Jesus is near. The peace of God will keep us in Christ Jesus.

ALL: COME, LORD JESUS. AMEN.

*** Opening Hymn: "Angels from the Realms of Glory" No. 220**

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

Children's Message Christy Smith

(Following the Children's Message, those children 2nd grade and younger will be able to go to Children's Church held upstairs.)

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: "The Hallelujah Chorus"

The Presentation of God's Word

Scripture: Philippians 4:4-7 Pat Bowden

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon : "Are You Happy?"

*** Closing Hymn: "Take My Life, and Let it Be" No. 399**

*** 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 13, 2015

—5:00pm—UMYF

—7:00 pm—Administrative Board Mtg.

—Monday, December 14, 2015

—6:30 pm—UMM Mtg.

—Tuesday, December 15, 2015

—Noon-3:00 pm-PVMS Christmas Party

—Wednesday, December 16, 2015

—Noon-Kiwanis

—6:00 pm—Prayer Circle

—7:00 pm—Choir Practice



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\$149,095

Actual Amount Given to Date\$139,504



"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.