

December 2012

Trinity Press



Sunday Worship Services

9:00 am Family-Friendly
Contemporary

11:00 am Spanish Language

11:00 am Blended/Traditional

Child care at all Worship Services

Nursery (0—2.5) — Room 11

Preschool (2.5 to K) — Room 10

Sunday School Classes

Grades K-5 — Rooms 4, 6

Advent Festival

Sunday December 2 *** 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Soup Supper, Advent Wreath Making, Crafts
Mini Posada, Turn on the Lights

Pajama Party

Sunday December 9 *** 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Christmas Stories, hot chocolate, cookies
Dress: Pajamas optional

Bring new children's books for Book Drive

Food Packing

Sunday December 16 12:30

Bring home-made cookies to pack

Food Distribution

Thursday December 20, 6:30 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE (Dec 24)

Family Worship 7:00 PM

Candlelight, Choir
Family Friendly

Worship 11:00 PM

Candlelight, Choir

CHRISTMAS DAY (Dec 25)

Dinner 6:00 PM

Bring a dish to share

E-Mail
(Eric's Mail)

And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ~ Isaiah 9:6

As the Christmas season approaches we will become inundated with shopping ads, holiday parties and family events. In some ways the Christmas holiday promises us a time of peace, good feelings, and family joy. Yet in other ways Christmas time can be a reminder of our loneliness, our debt, limited abilities and the sheer stress of life.

When Isaiah prophesied of the coming Christ child he said, *And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*

As we prepare to receive the One that Isaiah speaks of, which of the above names needs to be received by you this Christmas? Do you need the Wonderful Counselor to address old wounds? Perhaps the Mighty God to lift you up in a time of need. Will the Eternal Father help you look beyond the obstacles of today or is it Peace you seek?

Wherever you may be this Christmas, know this. God has crossed every barrier in order to bring himself to you; to meet your need, to be the presence in your life that your soul desires.

As Jen and I travel across the country this season we feel God's blessings as he brings us the gift of a future together with you. We look forward to worshipping the Gift of God with you.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Eric

ESQUINA LATINA – LATINO CORNER



As we celebrate Advent and the Christmas season, remember that it doesn't end on December 26th. In many parts of the Spanish-speaking world, including Mexico, the season continues through January 6. Some of us also know this date as Epiphany on the Presbyterian church calendar.

This is the day that we remember and celebrate the Biblical account of the Wise Men, found in Matthew 2:1-12. These learned men traveled from far away - probably for several months - following an unusual star. That star finally led them to the place where Mary and Joseph and Jesus were living. These men were overjoyed to finally find Jesus and worshipped him and gave him valuable gifts.

This visit by men from afar marked an important milestone in God's unfolding revelation in the Bible. It shows a group of people from outside of Israel (God's chosen people) who are led to the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ. This confirms God's original plan - in God's promise to Abraham - that "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:2). Salvation came by way of the Jews, but it is for every single person on earth - from every race, language, culture and nation. **Gracias a Dios!** Thanks be to God!

So it is fitting that we celebrate this Christian holy day by having a cross-cultural event - Three Kings Day. And it will be an exciting day for the whole family.

If you haven't been to it before, don't miss it this time! We're going to present a **pastorela**, which is a play about the arrival of the Three Kings. We'll also enjoy the typical bread for that day - **rosca de reyes** - and hot chocolate. We'll also have piñatas for the kids.

Come join us. Since it is mainly an outreach event which focuses on the Latino community in West Sac, it will be primarily in Spanish. But... you will be able to join in on the fun even if you don't speak the language. There is communication that goes beyond words - and we look forward to sharing this special holiday with you.

See you there!

In the love of Christ - en el amor de Cristo, Pastora Tina 916-995-5105

Reflections from Linda Brooks

I'm sitting here at the computer trying to organize my thoughts for the December newsletter. It occurs to me it is difficult to grasp how we were all feeling just one year ago. The point of that sentence was not to go back in time but to focus on the next few months with hope, gratitude and thanks to God for having led us through a difficult year and to now fill us with joy and hope as we anticipate the arrival of Pastor Eric and his wife, Jen.

I am sure each member of the Pastor Nominating Committee groans (me too!) as they think back to all those meetings and discussions before we reached the conclusion Eric Keller was the pastor for us and the one we could all support. You reaffirmed this decision with your unanimous vote to call Pastor Eric on October 14. That wonderful day had many of us shedding tears of joy. Watching Eric and Jen walk into the sanctuary to your thunderous applause is a moment in Trinity's history I'll never forget.

However, the truly remarkable thing to me is the continuing excitement that has translated into wonderful acts of preparation for the big day when Pastor Eric arrives and preaches his first sermon as the pastor of our church. So many of you have stepped forward to help spruce up the church, donate extra cash to buy items needed, such as paint, carpet cleaning and so on. Cora Hocker and Glenda Dahms cleaned up the Pastor's study, and Al Dahms added shelves to one of the closets, fixed the couch, hung new blinds at the windows, etc. Tim Summy has been swinging the paint brush and fixing up many other areas. Nola Goeden and Carol Davis renewed the back flower bed, and are continuing into the north bed, as well as joining me in looking at our whole facility to figure out how to have adequate space for all our needs. A big thank you to all of these people who are helping to put our best foot forward!

Back in Illinois, Eric is packing up his office as well as his home. They have rented a place not far from the church so they can move in, then take their time learning the ins-and-outs of our community before purchasing a home. We all can appreciate the excitement they feel as well as their realization they are leaving behind a part of themselves. We all pray their home sells before they begin the journey out to California.

I can't end this note without saying we must give special thanks to Pastora Tina for the tremendous effort she put forth during the last couple of years to hold us all together. Whatever would we have done without her? I so look forward to watching her and Pastor Eric begin their work together. What a wonderful team they will make!

So as we look forward to the New Year and January 6, please take a moment or two to give thanks to God for the richness of our life here at Trinity as we anticipate the glorious years to come!

With love and admiration for all of you,

Linda Brooks, Chair
Pastor Nominating Committee

Greetings,

The Youth Ministry is moving forward in 2012 and had a fun-filled time on October 19, 2012, at Dave's Pumpkin Patch in West Sacramento. The youth went through the corn maze, jumped and wrestled on a huge rectangle jumper, buried each other in the sandbox, and continuously scared the new Youth Director throughout the night at his first corn maze experience followed by a hot cocoa around the outdoor fireplace. We encourage all youth at Trinity and in the community to attend our Wednesday night bible study at 6:30 pm.

The Youth Ministry would like to thank Trinity for funding our youth outing last month; and would like to encourage all youth at Trinity and in our community to participate in the Youth Ministry. However, active attendance and participation, appropriate behavior and language, along with respect for the house of God (inside and out) are a must to attend all youth outings. Youth who miss two consecutive Wednesday night Bible studies without providing the Youth Director with a reasonable explanation for their absence, will be considered unqualified to attend youth outings for the month. However, youth can be reinstated by simply attending two consecutive weeks of Bible study, which then qualifies them to attend the next youth outing. Each week at bible study the Youth Director takes attendance to note which youth are qualified to participate in youth outings for the month. We want to encourage our youth to be responsible for their actions, and reward them for participating and following reasonable rules here at Trinity. ***Proverbs 22: 5-7 says, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."***

The youth are actively studying God's word and taking notes at our youth Wednesday night bible studies. Our 1st Annual Bible Question and Answer Extravaganza will take place on December 12, 2012, from 6pm to 8pm. The winners will be announced on Sunday, December 23, 2012, during the services. You do not want to miss this glorious day, so, please mark it on your calendar. The Question and Answer Extravaganza is designed to encourage our youth to study God's word and retain the information they learn. Let's encourage all our youth to participate and show the Lord how much they love him by demonstrating their ability to study His holy word. ***II Timothy 2:15 says, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."***

To God be the glory,

Glen Godfrey Jr.

Youth Director



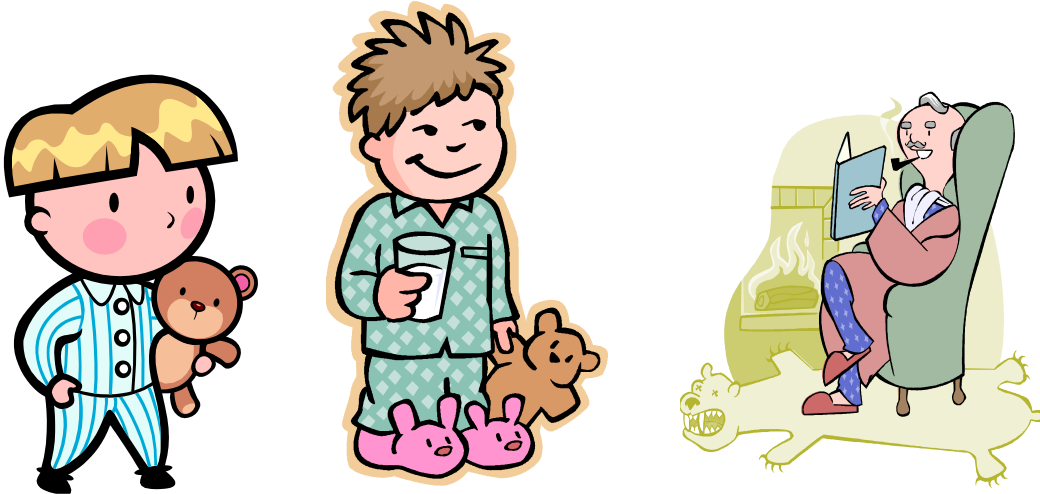
Sunday December, 2nd, 5:00 -7:00 p.m.

Join your Trinity Church Family as we kick off our Christmas season with our fabulous Advent Festival. We will enjoy a meal of soup and flatbread prepared by Nancy Henrikson.

We will also have all of the materials necessary to assemble your very own Advent Wreath, as well as the story for each candle and why we light them. There will also be craft stations where you can make ornaments for our church Christmas trees or your home! We will “wrap up” the evening with the lighting of our cross and other outdoor Christmas lights.

If you would like to help with this event in the kitchen, help with the crafts, putting up lights, contributing supplies (such as fresh greens, candles, ribbons and shiny decorations) or of course, set-up and clean-up crews, please contact Robb Perrine at trintychurchlife@hotmail.com or (916) 502-3867.

PJ Party



Sunday December, 9th,

5:30 -7:00 p.m.

Calling all kids, young and old, to an evening of Hot Chocolate, Apple Cider, Popcorn, Hard Candy, and your favorite Christmas Stories!!! We will be celebrating our Grace Night service project for December by collecting donations of new books while we enjoy listening to favorite Christmas stories! So get out your favorite jammies and make plans to attend this awesome Advent event!!!

If you would like to be a story teller, kitchen helper, kid helper, supplier of cider, cocoa, hard candy, popcorn, or especially new books to donate to our book drive; please call Jane Gentry at 371-5875 or Robb Perrine at 502-3867, or drop an e-mail message to: administrator@trinitywestsac.org or trintychurchlife@hotmail.com.

Grace Night at Trinity

You are invited to join us for Grace Night at Trinity. We meet twice a month on Wednesday, and each month has a specific theme. We meet in the Café at 6:00 p.m. for dinner and fellowship, and our program begins at 6:30 p.m. The first meeting of the month features a guest speaker who shares valuable information with us. The second meeting of the month is a service project related to the information we heard previously.

Our December themes are Christmas and Promoting Reading. We will meet only once in December, on the 12th. At this meeting we will share a meal, fellowship, sing Christmas Carols and complete our service project.

We will recess till January 2013 when we will begin a study of the biblical book of Ephesians.

Please join us or be in prayer for us!

Hope to see you at Grace Night!

One of the Best Things About Christmas Is Sharing With Others

Once again Trinity members will have a chance to help some families connected to our church have a brighter Christmas. On Sunday, Dec. 9th, our paper Christmas tree will be loaded with ornaments. Each ornament will say what a child or youth would like for Christmas. Members can take an ornament then buy what they choose from the items listed on the ornament. Then on Sunday, Dec. 16th, they bring back the item(s) along with the ornament. A group of dedicated “wrappers” will wrap all the gifts during the following week so that our Youth Leaders, Deacons, Latino Ministry Team and others can take them to the families. Last year, we received a number of heart-felt thank you notes. The generosity of our members always helps make Christmas brighter for a lot of our young people. Christmas is indeed a time of sharing & love!

December Birthdays



Kim Sharon	5
Pamela Avery	7
Jennie Massello	9
Wilbur Curtis	17
Pam Disney	17
Gloria Curtis	19
Melinda Quick	24
Linda Whitney	27
Karen Smith	28

Out of the Box

December's message is short, simple, and true. In a year full of your own challenges, your own tribulations, and your own uncertainty you faithfully kept your Inn doors open and your Inn lights on. On behalf of a grateful community, we thank you for your faithful and steadfast commitment to "the least among us". Merry Christmas, Trinity Presbyterian Church.

This December, we celebrate Cookie-Palooza 3. If you like baking cookies, why not bake an extra dozen or two, or sixteen, and bring them to December's packing? We will be mixing and matching plates of cookies and giving them away as part of our normal distribution. If you are having trouble deciding what cookies to bring, we have ~~trained~~ highly trained volunteers willing to sample and offer advice and opinions.

Sunday December 16, 2012 12:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. – Pack Groceries / Assemble Cookies [Fight off "highly trained" volunteers offering to taste test said cookies.]

Thursday December 20, 2012 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Distribute Food.



Kevin Hansen



HEIFER

PROJECT

Trinity PC has

A long tradition of

supporting the Heifer Project.

Each Christmas instead of purchas-

ing and sending Christmas Cards to our

Trinity Family we purchase and write a single

card and hang it on a tree in the Lounge. With the

money saved, each family writes a check to Trinity PC for

the money saved (or more) and the money is given directly

to the Heifer Project. The Heifer Project uses the donation to provide

livestock and training to underprivileged needy people around the world.

So instead of just feeding the hungry, Heifer helps the hungry

feed themselves.

Hang your card,

write your check.

(more info) Heifer.org

Stay tuned for more opportunities to support the Heifer Project.



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And Many , Many Volunteers

Trinity's Vision Statement

Trinity Church is a Spirit-filled, loving, and life-transforming community of believers, who experience Jesus Christ and grow in faith together, challenging each other to serve with compassion and creativity. In response to God's grace, we bring the hope of life n Jesus Christ to the community and the world, inviting them to join us on this journey of discipleship.

