

The Cross and Flame

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

QUICK LOOK:

- Pledge Cards need to be in by Dec 12th
- Have unused/unwanted greeting cards- feel free to send them our way
- Keep the Food Pantry in mid while grocery shopping.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Prison Ministry	2
Book Review	3
Prayer List	3
Upcoming Events	3
Calendar	4

Dear Church Family,

Advent is upon us and it is a time of actively waiting for Christ to be born anew in us and among us! I recently received this 'warning' about the 'Advent virus'. It's really clever and I wanted to share it with you. I only wish I knew who had written it originally, so I could give them credit!

Some signs and symptoms of The Advent Virus:

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- A loss of interest in conflict.
- A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling.
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
- An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

Please send this warning out to all your friends. This virus can and has affected many systems. Some systems have been completely cleaned out because of it.

May we have all our systems completely cleaned out, restored and redeemed because of the love of Christ in our lives!

God Bless us every one!

Kelli

BOOK REVIEW

SIMPLY CHRISTIAN
BY N.T. WRIGHT

& PRAYER
BY RICHARD FOSTER

This month's book recommendation is to give us a head start on the new calendar year and ways we can learn to live with God and each other in fruitful and life-giving ways. The first book is Simply Christian by N. T. Wright. So often, we feel challenged to share our faith because it seems too personal or inadequate. Tom Wright does a great job in this book of outlining how our faith is a response to, what he calls, the 'echoes of a voice'. Powerful, moving and elegant, Simply Christian is a wonderful book that reminds us of the foundations of our faith. The accompanying

DVD-based study would be a great way to initiate a new group study in the New Year.

The second offering is Richard Foster's book, Prayer. Foster is one of the founders of Renovare, a group dedicated to the revitalization of the church. His book on prayer has become a classic for its depth and wisdom. This book and others Foster has written have become classics in the interpretation of how we practice spiritual disciplines and become better disciples in the 21st century.

PRISON MINISTRY

We're still collecting unused greeting cards for all occasions that will be distributed to inmates at Southern Correctional. The donated cards/envelopes are available for the women to choose when they want to send birthday and other cards to their children or other family members and friends. If you have cards you bought and never sent or a supply that no longer suits the tastes of your own family and friends, please bring them to Linda B, who will get them to Kairos Ministry volunteers in Biscoe.

BACK PACK PALS

9:00 AM

RUTHIE'S BASEMENT

December 7, 2011

March 7, 2012

January 4, 2012

April 4, 2012

February 1, 2012

May 2, 2012

FOOD PANTRY

Food pantry donation are still very important. Watch the bulletin for weekly/monthly items and keep them in mind when at the grocery store.

YEAR END GIFT AND 2012 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

Don't you hate it when you're listening to your favorite song on the radio and, right at the end, someone changes the channel? There is always that sense of something being incomplete or missing out on the best part. That's true of our life in the church as well. Year-end is a time for us to take stock, to sustain our commitment and focus to the end and look ahead with anticipation and hope. As we look to the end of 2011 and look forward to 2012, it is important that we be a good steward of all God has given us. Part of good stewardship is participating in the global mission and ministry of the United Methodist Church through our missional giving or apportionments. This is money that we forward to the Annual Conference that supports the work of the larger church across North Carolina and the world. Trinity UMC is behind on its missional giving and we have a little time to catch up in December.

Also, it's important to be able to plan for next year, for the vital mission and ministry that will take place here with people of all ages inside and outside the church building. There is so much going on and so much potential as we watch God move among us and look for ways we can connect, commit and participate in new creation with God and each other.

In order to do that, we are asking that each of you consider prayerfully how you will be in covenant with God and each other around the financial support of the church now and in 2012. Pledge and gift cards are available for you to make that commitment. On Sunday, December 12th, you will be able to bring your gift and your pledge by returning your card in the offering plate or bringing it to the altar during Holy Communion. This is literally your chance to obey the call of God in your life as described for us in the book of Malachi:

Malachi 3:10 Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.

Remember that old song "There shall be showers of blessing?" Let's sing that song all the way to the end...

There shall be showers of blessing,
If we but trust and obey;
There shall be seasons refreshing,
If we let God have His way.

Showers of blessing,
Showers of blessing we need:
Mercy-drops round us are falling,
But for the showers we plead.

Nursery

**There has been a change,
Dec. 18th-Mrs. Anna Kennedy
Dec. 25th-Mrs. Laurie McIntyre**

OCTOBER PRAYER LIST

- Clarice Garner
- Mary Ruth Wood
- Earl Stanley
- Ellen Garman
- Rev. William Turnmire
- Jane Kearns
- Alice Lee Deaton
- Deidra Steed
- Villie Morris
- Patsy Maness
- Linda Beaulieu
- Mildred Smith
- Fern Owen,
- Ruth Leach
- Nancy Brown
- Madge Kearns
- Winnie Dorn
- Mary Elizabeth Poole
- Gene Clodfelter
- Diane and Juanita Callicutt
- Barbara Garman
- Cindy Dohra.
- Lisa Wood
- Goldie Wallace

UPCOMING EVENTS

Youth Fundraising Luncheon

12:00pm Dec 4th, Fellowship Hall

Shiloh Open House

2-5:00pm Dec. 4th

Memorial Service

4:00pm Dec. 4th, Sanctuary

Worship Committee Meeting

10am Dec. 6th & 20th, Library

Back Pack Pals

9:00 am Dec. 7th Ruthie's Basement

TMA Board

7:45 Dec. 8th

Circle 2 Ladies

7:00 pm Dec. 12th in the Parlor

XYZ

11am Dec. 13th, Fellowship Hall

Scouts Round Table

7:30pm Dec. 13th

Preschool Christmas Party

9:00am-1:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Rotary Club Christmas Party

6:30 Dec. 15th, Fellowship Hall

Christmas Communion

5:00pm Dec 24th, Sanctuary