



Trinity Times

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of the most fascinating characters of the great super hero era was the arch-villain Two-Face from the Batman series. If my memory is correct, Two-Face was the district attorney of Gotham City, Harvey Dent, who had an industrial accident which left half of his body physically scarred. Harvey developed multiple personalities to match his half normal face and his half scarred face. Sometimes he would behave as the good and just district attorney and sometimes he would behave as the maniacal Two-Face and the reader never knew at which time which personality would have control. He was needless to say double-minded about everything. We too as Christians are double-minded. We believe but we also doubt. We obey but we also disobey. We hope but we also despair. We love but we also hate. We bless God with our tongues but we also curse one another. We are spiritual but we also are material. We could add to this list until our list rivals that of the average child's Christmas wish list.

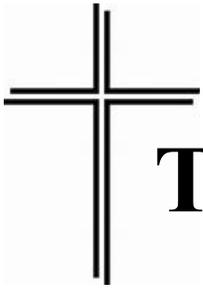
The Christian is both sinner and saint, wicked and righteous, living in the light and darkness. We all have our very bad moments and we all have our very good moments. We all make terrible mistakes and we all make wonderful contributions. All of this is possible only through the continuing work of our Lord and Brother Jesus of Nazareth. The only reason that anything of lasting value is present in us is because Jesus was mindful of us to give it; and the only reason that everything of temporary value is leaving us is because Jesus was mindful of us to take it away.

The path of discipleship is a path of duality, a path of conflict, a path of struggle, between the sinner in each of us dying a long, slow death, and the saint in each of us growing into a long, slow life. The same tongue which blesses God will curse men and women made in the image of God. The same brain which seeks after wisdom from above also seeks after wisdom from below. The same hospitality which feeds the poor, visits the sick and clothes the naked is the same hospitality which excludes some people based on their religion, ethnicity or class. The same heart which believes the Word of God is the same heart that doubts that God will ever keep his Word. We are people who struggle every moment of every day with our double-mindedness. The only hope for disciples following Jesus Christ lies in the power of Jesus himself. Jesus is the end of our Christian journey because he is God. Jesus is also the way of our Christian journey because he is a human being. A human being born like us in every way, with the struggle to believe, the struggle to obey, the struggle to curb the mind and the tongue, the struggle to discipline the desires, a struggle to be the human our Father made us to be. But he might be human like us, but unlike us he is no sinner. Jesus is not double-minded as we are he is only single-minded on the will of our Father.

Who better to help us with our daily struggles than the Brother who struggled every day of his humanity and won? Who better to help us overcome our doubts than the Brother who struggled every day and believed? Who better to aid us in our humanity than the Brother who in his humanity lived the life we should have lived but never could? Who better to aid us as it is written in the Gospel of Mark, *Lord we believe, help our unbelief!*

Therefore, this Christmas season let us remember that the Word of God became this human Jesus of Nazareth to help us humans needing help. Since God became the fully human Jesus to remove the evil and to grow the righteous within us human beings, let us with Jesus live a human life as he continues to live a human life, a life single-minded on the will of our Heavenly Father. This Christmas let us remember that *Emmanuel*, God is with us, Alleluia, Alleluia!

In Christ,
Rev. Mark



Trinity Times

A Note From Session

The year has (once again) flown by! How did we arrive at Thanksgiving and now head into Advent?

Well, we held our winter Congregational Meeting, attended Town Hall meetings with Rev. Mark to discern what we felt is important for Trinity to work on, the Deacons led us into Lent with their Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner. We prayerfully traveled through the Lenten season to the trials of Maundy Thursday, the passion of Good Friday, and the joy of Easter.

Trinity moved on through the year reaching into our neighborhood with Community Outreach leading us with meeting the folks involved with Youth Opportunities, sending baby gifts to HIP, welcoming Bike and Build, and having a great time with our neighborhood Halloween party, and sharing Christmas gifts with kids in Ashtabula.

Trinity, led by our Christian Ed. Committee and numerous volunteers, served our young folks with a fun-filled week of Vacation Bible School. They also lovingly work with our young folks each week during Faith-Builders time.

Trinity is blessed during our worship services with music, greeters, liturgists, elders and deacons serving communion all organized by our Worship and Music Committee.

Our Fellowship Committee helps us share in dinners and serves our family and friends following funeral services, as well as helping with VBS.

Trinity's Memorial Committee helps us share our blessings and honoring our loved ones.

Other committees that contribute to the business of Trinity through the year include Personnel, Nominating, and Property and Finance. Without their diligent perseverance, Trinity would not be able to function.

Trinity is YOU, and session is your leaders who prayerfully lead in sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Thank you Trinity for another blessed and giving year.

Blessings,

Mary Belding, Clerk of Session

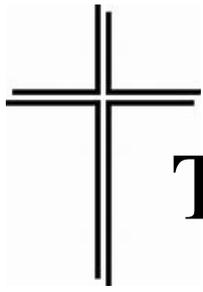
Note from Scrip

The Scrip program has had a successful year. We will be making a contribution of at least \$1200 (total amount depends on results of sales in December) to Trinity before the end of 2019.

Thank you to all who support this mission project. Your thoughtfulness in planning your daily expenditures for gas and groceries, your large home projects, gift giving, and meals out help make Scrip a viable means of contributing to Trinity.

Dee Fassett

Mary Belding



Trinity Times

From the Classrooms of Christian Education

Christian Ed is at work spreading some Christmas cheer!

On November 30th, while everyone is busy decorating for the upcoming Christmas season, we will be partnering with our talented Card Group for our first Cards and Cocoa morning. The kids will have an opportunity to make some special cards to be delivered to our Homebound congregation. As the long winter settles in, we'll be planning more coffee hours for our SPY's and their buddies to have the opportunity to catch up. We're also hoping to organize a very special SPY outing in the new year.



MAKE NEW FRIENDS



Getting to Know You!

We have new friends in church!

In effort to get to know others, a bulletin board in the fellowship hall will hold photos of family & friends, places we love or anything dear. Slip a photo in the clear plastic envelope provided and put your name on the plastic. Photos can be great conversation starters.

A friend loves at all times.

-Proverbs 17:17



Trinity Times

PROPERTY AND FINANCE

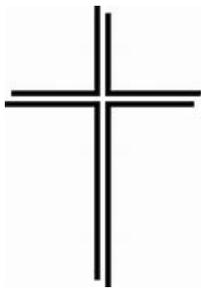


Capital Improvement Fund

\$14,580.83

Happy, joy, love, and gladness
Let all these be your guide this holiday season!

~The Property and Finance Committee~



Trinity Times



Bethlehem Project

Once again this year Trinity Presbyterian Church is one of about 21 area churches bringing the Christ story to life.

This event is scheduled for **Friday, December 6th from 5pm to 9pm** and **Saturday, December 7th from 2pm until 6pm** at the Town Square Mall.

Trinity is responsible for the scene where Elizabeth and Mary are talking. The parts require you to wear a costume but you do not speak. We need older women to play the part of Elizabeth and younger women to play the part of Mary.

Aside from our scene many are needed to be greeters, readers, musicians, choirs, singers, parking lost attendants, hostesses among other jobs.

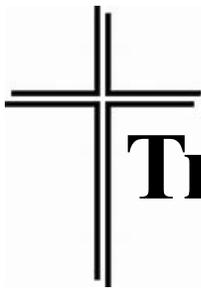
You may learn more about this project at [Facebook.com/followthetartobethlehem](https://www.facebook.com/followthetartobethlehem)

You can also see Mary Belding or Joyce Kren for information or call Bridget at 998-6835 or Pat at 998-3891



Community Outreach

Since we have started building a relationship with Youth Opportunities, we are looking forward to providing a Christmas Dinner/Gifts on December 9th for the young adults there.



Trinity Times

IS2 Andre' Hanna is Staff Sailor of the Month for the Coastal Riverine Group Two Detachment Bahrain.

Andre' is the grandson of Karen and Craig Reiter and son of Christina Bratzel.

Do you ever wonder if there is a way to serve that requires no experience and little of your time?

Do you feel the need to praise and honor God more than you already do?

Do you sing Sunday's hymns in the shower or while driving or to your pet or plant?

You could sing in Trinity's choir!

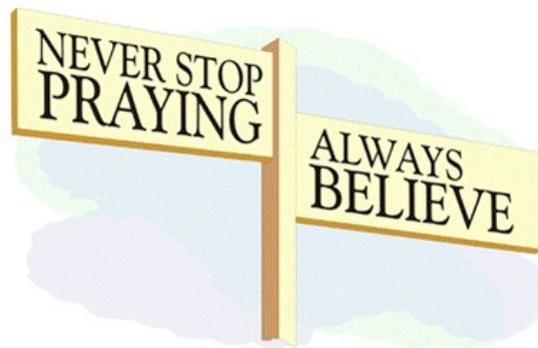
We've been praying for someone just like you to sing with us!

We're a friendly group and Marj never, ever yells at us.

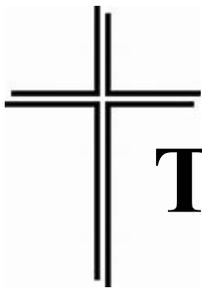
Absolutely beautiful is the only way to describe the Advent and Christmas music Marj has chosen, so now is the perfect time to join.

*Free uniform to the first 15 volunteers!

Beth Adams



United States Armed Forces, Kip Adkins, Fran Apltauer, Family of Vein Archer, Mary Lou Askey, Cathy Jordon-Baker, Lynda Bennett, Shirly Bogner, Donnie Brunnel, Hilda Cook, Fairmont Presbyterian Church, Gail Frenz, Judah, Larry Haines, Pam H., Keith Haynes, The Hiles Family, Laurie Hogle, Mike Hubbard, Jennifer and Nico, Peg Ladu, Barb Licate, Paul Miller, Demaris Mollick, The Northrup Family, Bruce Prohaska, Ryan Scarcella, Kyle Scollo, Karen Scott, Donna Shiflet, Brian Smith, Christi Stroud, Jess Sterbutzel, Britney Strong, Chip Titus, Missy Tobias, Trinity Shut-ins, Marybeth Vramley, Jean Waldron, Genny Wallace, Fran Wilson, Family of Ken Zaebst



Trinity Times

Worship and Music

With joy, the year for Worship and Music is coming to an end. I have enjoyed the privilege of planning events and music for the church.

The church will be adorned with poinsettias given in memory or to honor loved ones. They will add to the beautiful Christmas decorations-but lest we not forget the true meaning and glory of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

I would like to thank everyone who faithfully served as ushers, liturgists and communion servers this past year.

Hobart Shiflet will deliver a message on the Sunday after Christmas as Rev. Mark has a well deserved vacation.

May His blessings and love be yours this Christmas and through the New Year.

Respectfully,
Susan Hogle



The Ashtabula County Choral Music Society

Sunday December 15th at 4pm

Christmas Concert

St. Peters Episcopal Church

4901 Main St., Ashtabula OH

—Directed by Paul Shellhammer



I have 2 warm winter coats size 4X free to a good home.

Maryann Jordan

440-789-6201

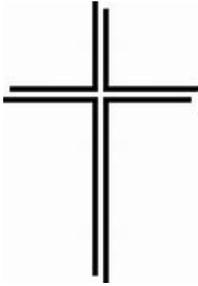
Elder on call for December: Beth Dougherty 440-661-1416

Deacon on call for December: Barb Jeffries 440-645-7834

Liturgist for December: Hobart Shiflet

Ushers for December: The Planiseks

Email for Trinity: trinitypres04@gmail.com Website: www.trinityashtabula.org



December 2019

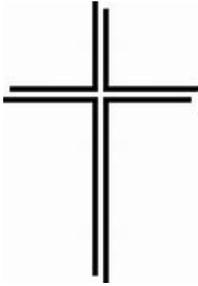
Elder on Call: Beth Dougherty 440-661-1416

Deacon on Call: Barb Jeffries 440-645-7834

USHERS: The Planiseks

LITURGIST: Hobart Shiflet

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <u><i>1st Sunday of Advent</i></u> Communion Choir 9am Adult Study 9:15am Worship/Faithbuilders 10:30am CE Mtg. After Worship	2 Women's Dinner Crow's Nest 5:30pm	3 Game Day 11:30am Al-Anon 8pm	4 Adult Study 10am Cro-Knit Club 11am Deacons Mtg 6:30pm	5 Card Ministry 6:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm	6 Bethlehem Project 5-9pm	7 Cluster Mtg. 10am Bethlehem Project 2-6pm
8 <u><i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i></u> 2¢ A Meal Collection Choir 9am Adult Study 9:15am Worship/Faithbuilders 10:30am	9 Youth Opportunities Dinner	10 Romeos 8am Al-Anon 8pm	11 Adult Study 10am Cro-Knit Club 11am	12 Property & Finance Mtg. 6:30pm Card Ministry 6:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm	13 Brown Bag Lunches 10am	14
15 <u><i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i></u> Choir 9am Adult Study 9:15am Worship/Faithbuilders 10:30am	16 MRC Mtg. 6:30pm	17 Game Day 11:30am Al-Anon 8pm	18 Adult Study 10am Cro-Knit Club 11am Community Outreach 6pm Session 7pm	19 Card Ministry 6:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm	20	21
22 <u><i>4th Sunday of Advent</i></u> Choir 9am Adult Study 9:15am Worship/Faithbuilders 10:30am	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7pm	25 	26 Card Ministry 6:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm	27	28
29 Choir 9am Worship/Faithbuilders 10:30am Hobart Shiflet Guest Speaker	30	31 Al-Anon 8pm				



January 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day	2 Card Ministry 6:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm	3	4
5 Communion Choir 9am Adult Study 9:15am Worship/Faithbuilders 10:30am C.E. Mtg after Worship	6	7 Al-Anon 7pm	8 Adult Study 10am Cro-Knit Club 11am Deacons Mtg 6:30pm	9 Property & Finance Mtg. 6:30pm Card Ministry 6:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm	10 Brown Bag Lunches 10am	11
12 2¢ A Meal Collection Choir 9am Adult Study 9:15am Worship/Faithbuilders 10:30am	13	14 Game Day 11:30am Al-Anon 7pm	15 Adult Study 10am Cro-Knit Club 11am Community Outreach 6pm Session 7pm	16 Card Ministry 6:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm	17	18
19 Choir 9am Adult Study 9:15am Worship/Faithbuilders 10:30am	20 MRC Mtg. 6:30pm	21 Al-Anon 7pm	22 Adult Study 10am Cro-Knit Club 11am	23 Card Ministry 6:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm	24	25 Trinity Card Group Make & Take 9-11:30am
26 Choir 9am Adult Study 9:15am Worship/Faithbuilders 10:30am	27	28 Game Day 11:30am Al-Anon 7pm	29 Adult Study 10am Cro-Knit Club 11am	30 Card Ministry 6:30pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm	31	