

Between Organ Bench and Pulpit

Pastor Greg Shook

Dear Flock,

Why bother about Advent? I mean, really. Long before Halloween, Christmas was evident at local merchants'. It seems each year the countdown begins earlier and earlier. What was the topic of discussion around your Thanksgiving table? Remembering and being thankful for blessings of the year or making plans for Christmas and planning the Black Friday events? So . . . why bother at all about Advent?

I grew up in a faith community where we went from Thanksgiving to Christmas. I learned about Advent from the Lutherans. Actually, it was during my early organ study with Dr. Clair Johannsen that I heard about this season of Advent and how it was a time of waiting and watching and how important it was for us to have this time. When he first explained it to me, he said something like, "Advent is a time of preparing. It prepares you for something (exam, recital, *et cetera*), and, as you prepare, you watch, and wait. This is the season where we prepare our hearts to make room for Christ in our lives." This is why we bother.

Advent comes to life in the readings of prophecy and in the accounting of events leading up to the "Main Event." It gives us a time to ponder and to put our minds and hearts in check to receive this marvelous gift from God. Since about the mid 11th century, Christians have spoken of the "three comings of Christ: in the flesh in Bethlehem, in our hearts daily, and in glory at the end of time." The most profound reading of the Advent season for me is the Magnificat (Song of Mary; Luke 1:46-55). This reading is a not-so-subtle reminder that great things can, and do, come from the least likely of places. It's great testament that the possible really can be birthed from the improbable or improbable.

"The Kingdom's Ours Forever," the recent Reformation 500 Hymn Festival that was led by Dr. Wayne Wold, took us through the liturgical year, starting with Advent. Wayne compiled this summation of Advent that was read at the festival:

Luther and his circle of reformers put great emphasis

on having the people to sing at worship and to sing texts and tunes that were theologically and musically sound. Published in 1524, "Savior of the Nations, Come," is one of the earliest Lutheran hymns, but its origins go even farther back in history. Luther valued greatly the musical traditions of the Church, and many of the earliest Lutheran hymns were adaptations of traditional chants. Luther crafted a German language version of the Latin text and even borrowed the chant melody and made it into a rhythmic version so the people could more easily sing it together—which we are doing still, 500 years later.



Take some time; ponder, reflect, watch, prepare, and wait . . . with patience and anticipation! "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no heart has imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9)

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin

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Christian Education & Family Ministry

Stephanie Angles



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

We will go Christmas Caroling the afternoon of Sunday, December 3rd. We will have lunch following the 11 a.m. church service and then head out to sing to our shut-in members around 1 p.m. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this rewarding family ministry event this year! Look for the sign-up sheets or email Stephanie Angles at sangle@tlchag.org to let us know that you plan to attend.

CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN

Please let Stephanie Angles or Jane Drawbaugh know if you would like to help our youth shop for the children we are adopting this Christmas using the funds from our Children Helping Children donations. We plan to shop the evening of Friday, December 1. Thank you all for your generous donations to the Children Helping Children fund! We have adopted a family of seven this year.

PRAYER BLANKETS

The Christian Education Committee is accepting prayer blanket sponsorships. Blankets can be sponsored in several ways: a monetary donation, a gift card to Jo-Ann Fabrics or Walmart, or two matching pieces of fleece fabric (usually one print and one solid), 48 by 60 inches or 60 by 72 inches). Please indicate on your donation that it is for the prayer blankets and provide your name. Please see or email Stephanie Angles (sangles@tlchag.org) with any questions regarding the prayer blankets. Since September 5, 20 blankets have been donated to Washington County Public Schools' homeless coordinator to distribute to students in need right here in our community. Our goal was to donate 20 blankets before Christmas and we made it before Thanksgiving! We will continue donating prayer blankets throughout the winter season.



Social Ministry News

Carol Brashears

The Social Ministry Christmas Project this year is to provide gift cards to our veterans. Last Christmas, the response from the veterans to the gift cards was overwhelmingly positive. The cards enabled them to buy items they needed, as well as to provide the ability to shop for their loved ones.

Your donations will go toward the gift cards that we purchase. That way we can provide equity in the cards we give.

Please put your donation in one of the envelopes located in the Narthex and in Fellowship Hall on the table by the entry from the alley. Your gift will give great joy to those who have served our country so well.

Thank you for your generosity.



Senior Ministry Team

Karen Spessard

There will be no Senior Ministry Team meeting in December 2017.

Team meetings in 2018 will be first Tuesday of month in the Parlor at 1:30 p.m.

Between Organ Bench and Pulpit

Continued from page 1

that would obstruct our perception of your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Greg

Calendar of Events for Advent, Christmas, & Epiphany

Sunday, December 3—First Sunday of Advent

- ✚ Contemporary Worship at 8:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
- ✚ Traditional Worship at 11 a.m. in the Nave
- ✚ Lighting of the first Advent candle
- ✚ Pastor David's first Sunday with us!
- ✚ Christmas Caroling following 11 a.m. worship. Please join us!

Wednesday, December 6

- ✚ Labor of Love service at 7 p.m. in the Nave

Saturday, December 9

- ✚ Hagerstown Choral Arts Concert at 7 p.m. in the Nave

Sunday, December 10—Second Sunday of Advent

- ✚ Contemporary Worship at 8:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
- ✚ Traditional Worship at 11 a.m. in the Nave. Smithburg High School Orchestra will present special music
- ✚ Lighting of the second Advent candle

Sunday, December 17—Third Sunday of Advent

- ✚ Contemporary Worship at 8:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
- ✚ Traditional Worship at 11 a.m. in the Nave
- ✚ Lighting of the third Advent candle

Sunday, December 24—Fourth Sunday of Advent

- ✚ One unity service at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
- ✚ Lighting of the fourth Advent candle

Sunday, December 24—Christmas Eve

- ✚ Christmas Eve Family Service at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- ✚ Christmas Eve Candlelight Festival. 10:30 p.m. musical prelude, 11 p.m. worship in the Sanctuary

Monday, December 25—Birth of Christ

- ✚ Christmas Stories and Carols at 10 a.m., Unity Service in the Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 26

- ✚ Tour of Historic Houses of Worship, 3 to 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 31—First Sunday of Christmas

- ✚ Contemporary Worship at 8:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
- ✚ Traditional Worship at 11 a.m. in the Nave
- ✚ Private Communion, 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Nave. Pastor David and Pastor Greg will be available for prayers and quiet communion to bring in the New Year.

Volunteers Sought for Historic Houses of Worship Tour

Junior Michael

The annual Historic Houses of Worship of Hagerstown will be held on Tuesday, December 26. This year the tour will be from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Trinity will be open again this year. We are in need of host and hostess for this event. Please volunteer for an hour or more to greet visitors and tell them about our beautiful sanctuary. We will be serving refreshments, so we are asking for donations of homemade Christmas cookies.

Sign up sheets are located in Fellowship Hall and in the Narthex. For more information contact Junior or Scarlett Michael at (301)739-0170. Thank you.



Congregational Meeting Update

Judy Conrad

Our annual Congregational meeting was held on Sunday, November 19. We had great attendance, just under 100 people! The minutes from last year were approved as submitted. Brian Hammond reported that the plans for the renovation of the Sanctuary air conditioning are moving along and construction could begin the second week of January after the Hand Bell Concert. Bids are due by December first. A congregational meeting will be held after both services on December 10 to decide on funding for this project. More information will be forthcoming.

Council elections were held and Lisa Conrad, Ginny Doarnberger, Pastor Chris Ramsey, and Maggie Stone were elected to the Church Council. Ed Drawbaugh and Junior Michael were elected to the Endowment Board. The budget for 2018 was reviewed and a motion was made to amend the budget submitted by Church Council and to approve Pastor Greg Shook for 40 hours per week in 2018. It was seconded and passed.

We also voted to decrease the Synod Benevolence to \$5,000 for 2018.

We said good bye and thank you to the departing members of Council, Judy Conrad, Brian Hammond, Erin Harman, and Mike Mowen.

It was a good meeting with lots of energy and passionate discussion. It would be wonderful if that kind of enthusiasm would carry over to 2018.

Suggestions on How to Welcome Our New Pastor

Judy Conrad

These suggestions of how to welcome our new Pastor, David Eisenhuth, are condensed from the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, by Robert Crossman.

1. Open our hearts and decide that we are going to love him.
2. Begin praying daily for him, and his ministry here at Trinity.
3. Send cards of welcome and encouragement.
4. Know that welcoming him in a genuine and effective way will lay the groundwork for a healthy and vital relationship and the development of a stable ministry together.
5. Plan for transition time.
6. Make his office clean and welcoming. It does not need paint or carpet, but we do need some cleaning time and some furnishings.
7. Make the church building clean, organized, and welcoming.
8. Pastor Eisenhuth lives alone. Make some food to tide him over for the first couple of weeks until he gets settled. Better yet, invite him to your house for a homecooked meal.
9. Provide him with maps, local info, the name of your dry cleaner *et cetera*. A welcome basket has been started and will be given to him on his first Sunday, December 3. Please add something to it!
10. Give him gift certificates to your favorite restaurants and invite him to join you there.
11. Invite him to your Trinity Tasters group outing, breakfasts, Choir Christmas parties, your own Christmas party, lunches after church *et cetera*.
12. Continue to remember him in your prayers.
13. Invite him to Christmas caroling, the Tour of Historic Houses of Worship, the Hagerstown Choral Arts Concert, any holiday activities.
14. Introduce yourself to him repeatedly, he has many names to learn. Let him know what team you serve on. Do you sing in the choir? Play or sing with the praise band?
15. Provide him with a pictorial directory and a list of teams and their members.
16. Be sure that he has a list of our homebound and anyone else needing or desiring a visit. Pastor Greg will be a huge help in accompanying him and introducing him. If you know of someone in need of a visit, *please* let the office know.
17. Introduce him to other local Pastors and organizations, the Hagerstown Area Religious Council (HARC), our Lutheran Pastors' Organization, and others.

18. Colleen will orient him to the phone systems, office routines, where things are, *et cetera*.
19. Pastor Greg and Andy will be a huge help to him as he finds his way around the building, our worship services and our congregational needs

The success of Pastor David's ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church is a group responsibility, his, yours, council's, and staff's. It is up to each of us to work with him and to move Trinity along to its future.



Mutual Ministry Team

Peg Hardinge, Team Chair

Update on your Mutual Ministry Team's activities.

For our November meeting, we invited incoming Pastor David Eisenruth, and he graciously attended. We brought him up to speed with our activities from the last two years, namely our Listening Posts and the manner in which Mutual Ministry operates to serve the congregation.

After the first of the year, we have decided to offer one after-service Listening Post every quarter, alternating between the early and the late service. We are finishing Jim Lehr's book, *Clergy Burnout*, and will continue to meet the second Tuesday of the month.

As always, if there are concerns you wish to bring to the team prior to the first Listening Post of 2018, please feel free to contact me or Hunt Hardinge, and we can arrange for you to speak with the team during the next meeting. We encourage you to present your concerns so that we may take them to council for possible resolution.

We wish you a very happy holiday season and pray for blessings of peace throughout the new year.

TLC Outreach Ministry

June Habeck

It is getting busy this time of year in Trinity's Clothing Bank and Food Pantry. Two weeks ago, Dottie and I served food to ten families. At least this many also asked for clothing, especially winter coats.

I would like to share the extent to which hunger and homelessness is growing in our great nation. I will quote authorities then write *some personal notes about our outreach guests in italic type.*

DRUG USE

From *FeedingAmerica.org*: "We fed a drug addict and his family. I didn't want to give money to him because he uses what money he has on drugs. Then I saw his kids in the car and I was overwhelmed because I knew if he had money those babies wouldn't eat because he would blow it getting high, but if he had meat then the kids would eat. I gave them 30 lbs. of burger." *One way to help a needy stranger at a stoplight is to have a few large ziplock bags in the backseat with a combination of: \$5, gloves, scarf, wool hat, tissues, granola bars, socks, a bottle of water.*

UNEXPECTED CIRCUMSTANCES

From *MdHungerSolutions.org*: "Another lady has 4 teens, but adopted her sister's kids so she added 4 more kids to her 4. Now it's a family of 10. Both mom and dad work, but struggle. We filled their freezer with 50 lbs. of burger and they were so grateful!" *We may make assumptions when we see a poor family with lots of children. At TLC we have a number of grandmothers who are raising several young children, and single mothers as well as single fathers with children.*

From *FeedingAmerica.org*: "In California one mother works full-time as a caregiver but was still having trouble putting food on the table for her five daughters. Then she found her local food bank. Now, she gets the food she needs for her family." "In Missouri, when Derek became a single dad, he didn't know how he was going to make ends meet. But he was determined to care for his family—and that's where his community's food pantry made all the difference." "In Texas, Priscilla, a Navy veteran, can't afford childcare, and so she takes care of her daughters on her own—which keeps her from working full-time. Her local food pantry helps put food on the table and provides hope for her daughters' futures." "In Texas, Victoria and Steven moved their family to take care of an aging parent—but to do it, they spent their savings and suddenly found themselves starting over. But thanks to their local food pantry, they were given the support to create a new life for themselves and their son." *Some fathers can't afford child care*

while they work, so they find free daycare help or are limited in the hours on their job. Some mothers stay home with their children. Grandmothers may struggle with limited mobility, energy, and means. Sometimes health concerns or taking care of a family wipes out a family's savings and they are no longer able to buy even the basics.

HUNTERS AND FARMERS FEEDING OTHERS

From Farmers & Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH): "The Christian Ministry in North Carolina is grateful to the Blue Ridge FHFH chapter for the donation of 400 pounds of venison which they have been providing for a number of years. Our clients are always pleased to get fresh meat that is low in fat and high in protein. We currently have 3,300 clients who have been helped over the past four years. Without community support we could not help those in need." *Numerous guests request venison each month, especially during hunting season. If you know someone who hunts and has the meat properly processed, please ask them to contribute some to our Food Pantry.*

RUDE/ UNGRATEFUL PEOPLE

From the Food Action Center in Baltimore: "Knowing that we've provided for hungry people is the most rewarding, children in particular. We both have a heart for the child and the elderly, and there are a lot of people out there that don't have food. Stats say one in five children go to bed hungry, and feeding hungry people is the most rewarding thing." *Guests who come to the TLC Food Pantry without a Food Bank card are given food, but it is primarily the USDA food, which we have in limited amounts. We believe that babies should not be deprived due to the actions of their parents. This also applies to parents who enter with a foul attitude with children in tow. (Those under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or who are emotionally out of control are escorted out.)*

THE ELDERLY POOR

From *FeedingAmerica.org*: "Donna lives on a farm in rural Maine where she supports herself. And even though she's worked hard her whole life, she still finds it hard to make ends meet. Thanks to her local food pantry, Donna has the freedom to enjoy her golden years." *Many retired persons haven't the means to stop working. Many have sold their homes, bought a trailer, and travel around the country working at part-time jobs to support themselves, often at camping parks. Many who are unable to work, and rely on food and clothing banks to get the basics.*

HUNGER AND HEALTH

From *MdHungerSolutions.org*: "Many individuals experiencing food insecurity are forced to make the difficult trade-off of food versus medical care to stretch the monthly budget. For people who have the additional burden of liv-

Continued on next page.

Outreach Ministry, *continued from previous page.*

ing with diabetes, these trade-offs can be particularly harmful as one works to manage their disease.” *We many, women mostly, who come in who are injured, ill, or needing/ recovering from surgery. They are frustrated with failing health, an inability to afford healthcare, or they show a stoic attitude and put up with pain rather than lose the their job or leave their children with someone else; they would rather deal with the pain daily than be “laid up for months” recuperating from surgery.*

CHANGING TRENDS

From *FeedingAmerica.org*: “Emergency food from pantries is no longer being used simply to meet temporary or acute food needs. A majority of the clients being served by the Feeding America network (54%) have visited a food pantry six or more months during the prior year.” *We have mostly regulars who come faithfully once a month on a particular week. New faces are usually those who get food once but don’t get a Food Bank card, those who have just moved here, or have just been released from prison, or who have heard we give out the best variety of food.*

THE FOOD NEEDS OF THE HOMELESS

They have no place, obviously, to prepare and cook food or to clean up. What do we give them when they come into our church hungry? Here are some comments from a survey: “Anything that you can either eat completely in one meal or store in any condition or temperature for a few days. Think about the packaging too. Cans need can openers. Does the packaging reseal so that dry goods don’t go stale? Even better, individual packaging. Don’t give anything that needs to be cooked. A box of cereal isn’t a bad idea, as some can snack on it, but for many it needs milk. Granola bars, dried fruits with nuts, often come in sealed containers. Plain bread is boring so maybe get flavored bagels or something. Fruit is a decent idea but not filling. Imagine you are camping out, but not able to make a fire and might not have water to wash utensils. What would you bring with you?” *Granola bars, mini boxes of cereal, bottled water, beef jerky, fruit, protein bars, crackers and nuts or pretzels work well. We buy simple can openers at the dollar stores for these people so they can take some canned food. But we run out regularly, so this is an item we could use as a regular donation.*

THE CLOTHING NEEDS OF THE HOMELESS

Currently, we need winter coats you no longer use or need, lots of warm socks, warm wool hats, warm scarves, and gloves for all ages. And don’t forget to provide items like toothbrushes and tooth paste, soap and deodorant.

God bless you, Trinity congregation, for your heartfelt ministry to God’s suffering children, for all you contribute and for reading this article.

Moller Reed Organ Given to Trinity

Pastor Greg Shook

Trinity is pleased to be the recipient of a reed organ from the estate of the late Edwin “Red” Benchoff. Red passed away in February 2017 and was a retired employee from the M.P. Moller Organ Company here in Hagerstown.



Photo by Colleen Gildee. Used with her kind permission.

For more than 40 years Red worked at Moller building, installing, and maintaining the many instruments built by Moller. In his “retirement” he continued to work with Hagerstown Organ Company, tuning and maintaining church organs in the tri-state area. Red and his friend and colleague Leon Cross helped to maintain Trinity organ until Leon’s death in 2011.

The reed organ (also known as a pump organ, harmonium, or melodeon) generates sound by air passing over a vibrating piece of thin metal in a frame. This piece of metal is called a reed. These instruments were popular in the 19th century in homes and churches. Their tonal range and volume are limited. The organs have one (rarely, two) keyboards, and rarely a pedal board. Sound is made by “pumping” two foot pedals. The cabinets of the organs are almost more valuable than the parts that make music. The organs are often excellent pieces of furniture, as is the one restored by Red Benchoff.

These instruments were made in the United States and in Canada from the 1850s through the 1920s. The first free-reed instrument is credited to Danish physiology professor Christian Kratzenstein in 1780. The art of making organs evolved, and the Boston company of Mason & Hamlin improved on the original design. By 1885, they were the premier builder of these types of organs.

Red Benchoff restored this organ and was very proud of his accomplishment. Its cabinet is stunning, and the organ is functional. It was built by the M.P. Moller Company here in Hagerstown. The Moller name is on the instrument just above the keyboard and also on the foot pedals. The instrument’s new home is the extended narthex outside Memorial Hall. We appreciate this marvelous gift from Red’s widow Dorothy, and son Philip.

Council President's Report

Judy Conrad



LABOR OF LOVE CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL SERVICE

Trinity will once again host this special service for families who have experienced miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant loss. This service began at the old Washington County Hospital more than 25 years ago with five families represented. Last year there were 175 people in the Sanctuary, celebrating their baby's short life and finding comfort with families who have been in their shoes. This year, Dr. David Baker will lead the service and the topic is "Infinity." If you have had an experience with pregnancy loss or would like to support someone who has, please contact Judy Conrad at (301)992-5855 for more information. Two years ago Dick Hershey attended and gave such a loving tribute to his sister, Sarah, who died as a newborn when he was a young child. It is never too late to honor a life.

NATIVITY DISPLAY FOR TOUR OF CHURCHES

Last year Trinity hosted a wonderful Advent Tea that was enjoyed by many. It was lovely, but involved a lot of work to prepare. In the same spirit of sharing, this year we would like to have a Nativity Display for the Tour of Historic Houses of Worship on December 26. If you have a Nativity that you would be willing to share, please let Carol Brashears know at (301)992-5016. We would like to have some information about where you got it or why it has special meaning to you and your family. In order to have them arranged carefully in the midst of a very busy season, please have them at church by December 18.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PASTOR DAVID!

On November 29 in the midst of his move to Hagerstown, Pastor David Eisenhuth will celebrate his birthday. Let's welcome him with a shower of birthday cards as he starts with us on Sunday, December 3. They could easily be added to his welcome basket.

SANCTUARY AIR CONDITIONING

Congregational meetings will be held after both services on Sunday, December 10, to decide about financing for the air conditioning repair. This has been a long process. Bids for the project are due on December 1 and at the regular Property Team meeting on December 5, the team will make a decision on which firm to use. The next decision will be to decide how to finance the project. We basically have two choices: a commercial loan or a withdraw

from the Endowment. Details will be presented as soon as we have them, so an educated decision can be made by the congregation. Work could begin on January 8, 2018, and be completed by Easter of 2018.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

December 3 will be Pastor Eisenhuth's first Sunday with us and we welcome him to Trinity! He has purchased a townhome in Northgate and is very excited about joining us here in Hagerstown. He, Greg, and Andy have already been in discussions about their plans for Advent worship, so it should be a smooth transition in services. December is a difficult time for anyone to leave a place they have enjoyed for 17 years and to move to a new one. Please welcome him to Trinity warmly and with open minds and open hearts! Please read the article in this issue of the newsletter, "How To Welcome Your New Pastor" for some good ideas.

At our Congregational Meeting last week, a motion to amend the budget as recommended by Church Council was made and was approved. This vote will give Pastor Greg Shook a full-time position at Trinity as he continues his candidacy to be ordained in the Lutheran Church. He will continue his music ministry and assist Pastor David with visitation and other things here at Trinity. With two full-time pastors in house, just think of the opportunities for worship and other areas of growth: Bible study, community involvement, outreach, attendance at team meetings, volunteering, personal counselling, men's and women's groups, *et cetera*. The possibilities are truly endless, and limited only by our imagination and interest.

There was also discussion at the meeting about exactly where our Synod Benevolence goes. A separate sheet is included with this newsletter, on page 5, outlining exactly what is done with that money. Please take time to read it. Our Synod Benevolence was reduced to \$5,000 for 2018.

As always, December is a very busy month here at Trinity. Starting with decorating our two worship spaces, we go right into Advent and Christmas caroling. Please consider joining this very important outreach to our homebound members. Last year we had only seven or eight people going out, which made it very difficult to see everyone who would have liked a visit during the season of Christmas. Please try to join us this year, it's very important to them.

On Wednesday, December 6, we will host the Annual Labor of Love Memorial service.

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- 1 Gladys Hipp**
- 2 Andrew Bitner
Douglas Stull
- 3 Brent Toms
- 5 Cathy Gorsuch
- 7 Gary Hammond
Helen Ludwig**
James Rohrer
- 8 Fred Garrett**
Genevieve Rochefort
- 9 Angel Stull
- 11 Jean Kendle**
- 13 Anne Mowen
- 14 Vi Carlson**
- 16 Addie Hardinge
- 21 Thomas Anthony
Keith Scheer
- 24 Patrick Anthony
Matthew Stull
- 25 John Hershey, III
- 28 Ronald Kershner
Rob McCoy
- 29 Joel Pryor
- 31 Junior Michael
Donald Sommerfeld**
Maria Winebrenner
- * Indicates under 10
- ** Indicates over 75



- 2 Shane & Stephanie
Angles
- 12 Kenneth & Erma
Leedy, Jr.*
- 17 Kenneth & Judy
Purdham
- 22 Ralph & Judy Conrad
- 28 Michael & Cathy
Gorsuch
Ronald & Sue Kershner*
- 30 Jeff & Lezlee Sabo
- * Indicates 50 years or more

Thank You!

I would like to thank everyone who organized and attended my 30th year party. It is truly appreciated.

—Ricky Stoner

During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us. . . . Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

I would like to thank everyone for the beautiful flowers and cards. I really appreciated everyone who came to the viewing and the funeral for my beloved husband, Elmer.

Pastor Greg did a wonderful funeral service and my family and I were very pleased with his uplifting words of comfort.

Sincerely,
Carole Gibney

Altar Guild,

Thank you for the beautiful flowers you sent to me for my birthday.

I also enjoyed the visit with Ricky who delivered the flowers.

Sincerely,
Helen Rohrer

Council President's Report

Continued from page 8

The Choral Arts Concert will be Saturday, December 9th at Trinity. Many of our members sing with Choral Arts and Pastor Greg is the Musical Director. You may not know that this group was created in 1993—25 years ago—by our own Greg Shook and Ned Wetherald. Since 1994, Greg has become the sole musical and artistic director and has been the principal conductor at every concert they have presented! What an accomplishment and what a wonderful way to share a God given talent with the community! Bravo, Greg! Please don't miss this event but come early, seats fill fast!

On December 26 Trinity will participate in the Annual Tour of Historic Houses of Worship. We are still looking for volunteers to greet visitors as they arrive and to bake some cookies to share with our guests. We are also looking for Nativities to display during the Tour.

This is my last newsletter update as President of your Church Council. It has been an honor to serve you. I have been asked to stay on for 2018 but that decision will be up to Pastor David and the incoming Church Council. I cannot tell you what an experience it has been to work with this year's Church Council. It has been an interesting and unexpected year, but the council kept its eye on its goals and did a wonderful job of serving this congregation. Difficult decisions were made with the best interests of Trinity in mind.

I especially thank Mike Mowen, Erin Harman, and Brian Hammond for their assistance over the last three years. I also thank the Congregation for all of their support.

God's Blessings to all of you and best wishes for a beautiful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Trinity Lutheran Church
15 Randolph Avenue
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

Phone: (301)733-2878 www.tlchag.org

Sunday Worship at 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages at 9:55 a.m.
Church Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

MAKING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST

Food Pantry and Clothing Bank: (301)733-5651
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Washington County Literacy Council: (301)739-4208
Tuesday and Thursday: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

