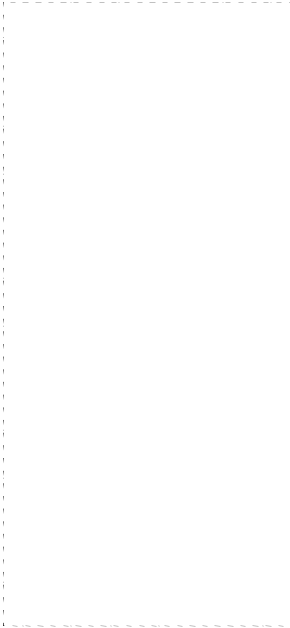
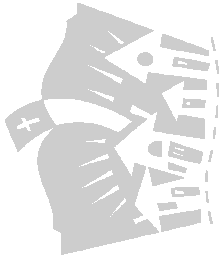


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The Trinity Messenger
Trinity United Methodist Church
590 Elma Ave SE
Salem, OR 97317-2696



Loving our neighborhood,
Loving God.

Volume 19 Number 23 December 4, 2007



Next Newsletter Deadline
Wed., Dec. 12, 10:00 a.m.
Dates covered:
Dec. 22, 2007-Jan. 5, 2008

The Trinity Messenger

Where in the World

By Rev. Jim Monroe

It is the start of the Advent season. Bells are ringing by the kettles, lights are twinkling in the neighborhood, and you can hear a muffled “Ho-Ho-Ho!” seeping from inside the malls. Christmas cheer is coming—for most of us but not for all. Do you know that Christmas is *the* most difficult time of the year for millions of people? Some of it is living in a society awash in material goods but not having enough money to afford food. Some of it is watching movies and television shows depicting happy families, Christmas carols in the background, while estranged from family and feeling alone. And much of it is remembering loved ones who are not with you this Christmas because of death, overseas service, and hectic schedules that somehow cannot work you in. Churches are in a unique spot at Christmas. They celebrate the pageantry, rituals, and traditions, but they are also community, comfort, and support for those who find this a difficult time of year. That is why The United Methodist Church invests so much in

providing ministry in small settings—sometimes urban and sometimes rural. A portion of every dollar sent to Ministerial Support, one of our denomination’s apportionments, goes to support congregations in settings that cannot afford a pastor on their own. Your financial support keeps the voice of Christ alive in lives that find this a difficult time of year. Your support of Ministerial Support is the greatest gift you can give hundreds of people this Christmas. Thank you for caring enough to give the very best! You are the ribbon on the gift of love!

**Farewell Party
for Michael Rowe**

Michael Rowe, our praise band director, will be soon be moving out of the area. December 23 will be his last Sunday with us as he leads SoulFire at *the River* Service at 11:00 a.m. We will have a farewell party for Michael that day, 10:00-10:50 a.m. in the fireside room. Please come to wish Michael well and to thank him for his excellent leadership these past six years.

**Trinity
United Methodist Church**

590 Elma Ave SE
Salem Oregon 97317-2696

e-mail: tumc@qwest.net
www.trinityumcsalem.org
Phone: 503-585-8851
Fax: 503-585-4319

Rev. Janet Burkhart, Pastor
503-585-8852
pastorjanet@trinityumcsalem.org

Jerry Rempel, Lay Leader
503-393-8875

Caroline Cummins, Office Manager
Office Hours:
Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m.-noon and 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Tim Bulletset, Custodian

Lord's Cupboard
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
1:00-3:30 p.m.

Western District, OR-ID UMC
Kate Conolly, Superintendent
680 State Street, Suite 200
Salem, OR 97301
503-581-3969
wdumc@wvi.com

OR-ID Annual Conference
Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata
1505 SW 18th Avenue
Portland, OR 97201
1-800-593-7539
bishop@umoi.org



December 9, 16, & 23
Wesley Worship Service, 9:00 a.m.
Christian Ed. Classes, 10:00 a.m.
River Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.

December 24
Christmas Eve –
Candlelight Service, 7:00 p.m.

December 30
the fifth Sunday of the month
One blended service, 9:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hosts

Our thanks to the following groups
for hosting fellowship time on
Sunday mornings:

December – Finance Committee
January – Board of Trustees

Prayer of Heart Services

Prayer of Heart Service will be
celebrating Advent for three weeks
in December. You are invited to
join us on December 5, 12, and 19
in the chapel from 5:00-6:00 p.m.
to prepare yourself for Christmas.

United Methodist Women

Lydia Circle will meet for our
annual Christmas luncheon at Sizzler
Restaurant (on Lancaster) at 11:30
a.m. on December 11. We will be
collecting coats, sweats, etc. to
donate to Four Corners Elementary
School.

Report on the Successful 2007 Holiday Faire Bazaar

Each year at the Holiday Bazaar time
we are amazed how the chapel and
fireside room are transformed into
a delightful wonderland. We would
like to extend special thanks to Larry
Rhoads and his grandsons, Brian and
David, for getting the tables and
booth areas set up the Friday before
the bazaar. Other thanks go to Larry
Rhoads, Roger Hagededt and Jack
Thornton for returning the tables
and other wooden items back
upstairs after the event.



A big thank you goes to everyone who
donated hand crafted items, baked
goods, candy, other food items, those
who helped set up, those who packed
up after the bazaar was over, and those
who helped get the building back to
“normal.”

The days before the bazaar there were
busy workers in the kitchen preparing
food for the snack bar and ham dinner.
During the bazaar tempting aromas
filled the air. What a hard working
crew!

Many thanks also go to all the workers
who gave their time to help in the
various booth areas and cashiering.
Thanks to all who came, purchased,
enjoyed the delicious food, and great
fellowship. In spite of the wind and the
rain brave people came and made the
bazaar a success.

More information about the bazaar
was given at the women's Christmas
program on December 4. At the
February UMW unit meeting the
women will decide what mission
projects the proceeds from the bazaar
will go to.

Most Sincerely,
Rose Rhoads and Marilyn Sams
From Trinity Women's Unit,
in service to our Lord

Advent Crafts and Dinner
December 7
Fellowship and Fun

All are invited to Trinity for soup and homemade rolls, 6:00 p.m., Friday, December 7. Christmas tree decorating, ornament making, and Christmas card making will begin at 6:45 p.m. We will be decorating the tree in the front entry of the church.

If you need a ride please contact Ed Zacharias, 503-363-7757.

Big Evening for JOY Group

Join the JOY Group on Saturday, December 8, 5:00 p.m. to decorate the sanctuary. At 6:00 p.m. there will be a pot luck dinner followed by a game night. Bring your favorite food and game to share.



**Holiday Message
from Our Bishop**

Bishop Bob Hoshibata would like to speak to you and your group—via DVD. His 13-minute message can be played in its entirety, or in two shorter parts. Consider listening to his message at your next committee meeting or group gathering. You can see it online—go to www.youtube.com and search: Bishop Hoshibata. To reserve the DVD, contact the church office.

MerriMakers Christmas Party

The annual MerriMakers Christmas party will be Saturday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m. Join the group in the church chapel area for a fun time. Everyone is invited. Marge Severson will provide the program. Desserts will be provided and Ruth Thornton Falby will lead the gathering in Christmas carols.

Pastor's Message

Janet Burkhart



Last Sunday marked the beginning of the season of Advent—the season of hope. As we approach Christmas, we hope again for the appearance of our savior. We hope for the fulfillment of God's promise. And, let's face it, many of us hope for really great Christmas presents! But more than that, we long for peace—in our families, in our world, in our own troubled souls.

Astonishingly, in this season of increasing darkness and cold, we hope. Hope is not a feeling, or a personality trait. It is a choice. It is a decision we make that affects every part of our life and directs how we will live. It is perhaps the most critical decision facing people in our world today. Will we choose cynicism or will we choose hope?* Quite frankly, cynicism is much easier. It lets us off the hook. Nothing will ever change, so why try?

People of faith—people who believe in God and the power of love—always chose hope. And when we choose to

hope, we choose to act. What we do, what we say, how we use our time and our money, does indeed make a difference. No act of kindness is too small. No proclamation of the Good News is too bold.

In this massive commercialization of the season, we can easily become numb or succumb to equating love with expensive gifts (if I see one more commercial for diamonds, I'm going to scream!), or we can choose hope. We can choose to focus our energies on hopeful, intentional acts of compassion, peace and justice.

What do you choose?

With Advent hope,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet".

*I am grateful to the thoughts expressed by Jim Wallis on "Speaking of Faith," a radio program produced by American Public Media and broadcast on KOPB (Oregon Public Broadcasting) on December 2. Wallis founded *Sojourners* and now advises presidential candidates and world leaders in what he calls the "post-Religious Right" era. He is determined to put poverty at the top of America's "moral values" agenda.

Pledge Results *The Garden of Faith*

A great big “Thank you!” to everyone who turned in a pledge form indicating your financial support of Trinity in 2008! Your pledges help the finance committee plan how we will fund the ministry at Trinity in 2008.

A total of 77 pledges were received: 72 were repeat pledges; 5 pledges were new. Last year 95 pledges were received. The decline in the number of pledges is, in part, due to deaths and issues of health and aging.

Twenty-nine pledges were an increase from the previous year, 39 remained the same, and nine reduced their pledge. We also want to thank five responders for letting us know they are unable to pledge for 2008. And thank you to those of you who continue to give faithfully without pledging!

An initial budget of \$267,396 was approved by the Church Council in September. In order to fully fund that amount, \$234,861 was needed in pledges. Unfortunately, the total pledges received total \$162,668—a shortfall of \$72,193. The Finance Team met and reshaped the budget in order to balance it, based on the projected income. The budget revision will be presented to the Church Council on December 6. The

largest reductions were in Shared Giving (\$20,168) and building improvements requested by the Trustees (\$23,000).

Again, thanks to everyone who turned in pledge forms! We ask you to continue to pray for Trinity and its ministries.

The Finance Team

Rev. Joe Andrew Harding

Rev. Joe Harding, founding pastor of Trinity, died on Monday, November 19 in Corvallis where he resided. A memorial service will be held at the Central United Protestant Church in Richland, WA in January, and another memorial service will be held at Trinity on February 23 at 2:00 p.m.

Friends may contact Rev. Harding’s wife, Carol Harding, at 5542 SW Redtop Place, Corvallis OR 97333. Memorial gifts may be made in Rev. Harding’s name to Central United Protestant Church, 1124 Stevens Drive, Richland WA 99354, 509-943-1143. Gifts may also be made to Kenya Methodist University Development Association c/o Central United Protestant Church.

A more complete obituary is posted on the bulletin board in the front hallway.

Hosts Needed for Youth & Government Program

Each year, the YMCA sponsors a Youth and Government Program for high school students across the state, offering first-hand experience with the legislative process. The students come to Salem to learn about government processes, discuss issues important to youth and to the community, and most importantly, to build confidence and self-esteem.

Fees are kept low in order to ensure participation of students regardless of income level. One way to minimize costs is by asking people from the community help feed and house the students who come from out of town. Hosting can be a rewarding experience! Please consider hosting two or more students for two nights during the mock legislative session.

Here is the list of responsibilities for hosting students for the 2008 session:

**Thursday, March 6,
8:30-9:00 p.m.:**

Pick up guests at the IKE Box (former YMCA Teen Center).

Friday, March 7, by 8:30 a.m.:
Provide guests breakfast; drop off guests at the IKE Box.

Friday March 7, 10:00 p.m.:
Pick up guests at the YMCA.

Sat., March 8, by 8:30 a.m.:
Provide guests breakfast, drop off

guests at the Capitol Building with all belongings.

For more information please contact Cassy Brown (AmeriCorps Member, Salem YMCA, Youth and Government), cbrown@youry.org, 503-399-2762 ext. 796.

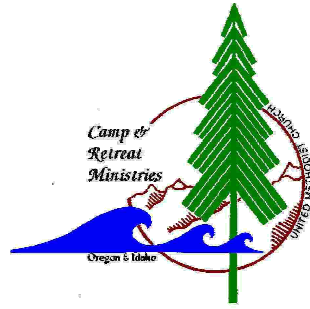


UMVIM Training at Alton L. Collins

There will be a UM Volunteers In Mission training at Alton L. Collins Retreat Center on January 12, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Collins is located 15 miles west of Gresham, just off Hwy. 26. Anyone interested in knowing more about the Volunteer In Mission program, both within the U.S. and elsewhere, is welcome. If you have been on a team before, come and learn new skills. If you have never been on a team, come and learn what opportunities await you. The cost is \$40—including the workshop, training manual and lunch. Conference UMVIM Coordinator Brenda St. Clair, from Idaho Falls, will lead the training. Come and learn how to be a missionary in your community or around the world. Contact Donna Waltman, dgwaltman@juno.com, or Brenda St. Clair, jgbrndr@cableone.net.

Ned Clark's New Address:

McKillop Residence
500 Conifer Circle
Apt. C21
Sublimity, OR 97385
Phone: 503-769-0804



A Gift That Lasts a Lifetime Give the Gift of Camp

Each holiday season, we are all are faced with the hard decision of what gifts to give—toys, ties, or the latest MP3 player? This season, consider giving the gift of camp. Camp provides organized activities, a nurturing and safe environment, and essential time in the outdoors—a great experience that offers extraordinary learning opportunities and enduring memories. This year give a gift that lasts a lifetime—give the gift of camp.

If you'd like to give the gift of camp this year at Collins, Latgawa, Magruder, Sawtooth, Suttle Lake, or Wallowa Lake, go to www.gocamping.org to fill out the form, and mail to our friendly Santa's Elf Registrar, AKA Geneva. Or call 1-800-593-7539 X 43 to speak directly to Santa's Elf! You may choose to have the gift certificate sent to you, so you can tuck it into a special stocking, or you may have it mailed directly to the lucky recipient.

Bread Youth Group

Saturday, December 8

2:30-8:30 p.m.
Annual *Giving Tree*
Shopping Trip **Plus**

Shopping for children whose families need a little help at Christmas, plus dinner at the food court (bring money) and ice-skating (\$9 extra). All this is taking place at Lloyd Center, Portland. Meet at Morningside UMC.

Sunday, December 16

6:30-8:00 p.m.
Annual Christmas Party at Chris Kester's home, 2785 Bolton Terrace S. Bring a "white elephant" gift and a snack to share.

Sunday, December 23

No Youth Group

Generous Donation for Lord's Cupboard

We give a huge "thank you!" to Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for their generous donation of \$500 (in addition to the \$53+ in loose change they collected last month) to the Lord's Cupboard Food Bank. With the short supply of food for the cupboard and a large need in the community for food boxes, this is a much welcomed donation—the hands and feet of Christ at work in our midst!

There have also been individual donations coming in for help with the purchasing of food for the cupboard. Somehow the gifts appear at just the right time to help those in need. Thank you all for your support of this vital ministry in our community.

Lord's Cupboard Needs:

Please help! The cupboards are bare.

- Canned Soup
- Top Ramen noodles
- Canned Tuna

Follow-up on the Marion County Work Center Garden

Do you remember the *Garden Shower* early last spring for the Marion County Work Center garden? Thank you, Eddie & Judy Wilson and the JOY Group, who sponsored this event April 18, at Trinity. Over \$300, plus seeds, plants, gloves, and tools were donated. The four-acre garden, located off the Aumsville Highway adjacent to the Marion County Work Center, is tended by residents from this minimum security facility. The produce harvested was given to Marion-Polk Food Share. The garden was a huge success this summer! Over 48,950 pounds were donated to the food bank from this garden alone. Other local gardens produced the following: Roy Skinner – 753 pounds, Oregon School for the Deaf – 700 pounds, Ivanhoe Garden – 201 pounds. The shower of food has had a huge impact on those in need!

