

Continued from the front page

a great biblical concept is that of Lament. Lamenting means to weep, to feel the sadness of the world and the conditions that run contrary to the love and life offered by our gracious God. Jesus knew how to lament and so should we.

Yes, we should be happy and laugh and certainly rejoice with shepherds and angels and friends and family at Christmas. But remember, it is also ok to weep. Sometimes it is through our tears that our souls are nourished and cleansed and our faith is renewed. Sometimes in our weeping, we come alongside others in a solidarity that is real, not contrived, a solidarity that can only happen in weeping. Sometimes in our weeping, we commune with the heart of God who still weeps over a world that refuses to fully embrace God. Lamenting, weeping can actually be good for us.

Still, and this is also a pastoral word for us all to hear, still let's remember to rejoice. It is possible to find joy even in sadness. Romans commands us not only to weep, but also to rejoice. At Christmas we can rejoice over many things. We can remember that the One who loves us above all else chose to come to our world as a child and he grew up among us to teach us, love us and to bear all our sins away. We can rejoice that this same Jesus will get the last word on all things. Despite the stuff that causes us to weep now, there will be more to come. This is not all there is. We can rejoice because there is so much good to see in our lives and maybe the very act of rejoicing in the midst of pain can be a holy protest that rises deep within us to overwhelm the sadness and darkness. Maybe rejoicing can remind us of who we really are. We can never fully stay on the mountain of laughter. Likewise, we were not created to exist solely in the valley of tears either.

This season I hope you will rejoice (and weep). Both are commanded, and both are appropriate. As you do, remember to take meaning from the words of Isaiah 9:7, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

~Mike



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Trinity Tribute

Your Story, Our Story, God's Story, Coming Together at Trinity.

Trinity Baptist Church of Madison, Alabama

December 2018

Rejoicing (and Weeping) This Christmas

In the book of Romans, chapter 12 verse 15 we read these words: "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn." It is a command more than a suggestion, which I think runs contrary to what lots of folks think about when we come to the Christmas season. So, why would this be in the Bible, a command to rejoice and to mourn, and why would we want to think about it during this wonderful season of the year?

The fact is that for many people, Christmas and the New Year are times of deep sadness. There really is no way to gloss over it. Almost nowhere is there anything that would signify this grief, but everywhere there are reminders of what is lacking, missing, what is amiss for many people. Griefers find sorrow in the pain of the past year and it can come to a head, somewhat oddly, in the holiday season.

Perhaps there is grief because someone whom we love deeply is no longer with us or is simply unable to be with us. Christmas without that loved one is almost unbearable and the grief swells within us. Perhaps grief rises in us because we sometimes see the end of the year as a time to take stock in where we have come in life. As old Scrooge famously said, "What's Christmas-time to you but a time for paying bills without money; a time for finding yourself a year older, and not an hour richer; a time for balancing your books, and having every item in 'em through a round dozen of months presented dead against you?" His statement can ring true to us in areas beyond finances. Perhaps grief comes when we contemplate the state of the world. The Prince of Peace has been born, but there is so little peace in our world it seems, and we lament it. What are your reasons to grieve this Christmas?

We often run away from grieving, from weeping. It can be compounded at Christmas when everywhere we look we see and hear that we should have only one emotion—happiness. Of the four "themes" of Advent, one is called Joy. None of the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love say anything about crying our eyes out. No store of commercial will have anything to do with grief. It's all just happiness and joy. And so, we try to keep our grief at bay, to be happy, to cheer up, to not be sad, we try to always smile and laugh. And yet, everything in us is trying to weep.

It may be of some comfort to know that Jesus wept. He wept, not only in the shortest verse of the Bible when his friend Lazarus was dead and Jesus wept, but he also wept over the city of Jerusalem. He longed for the people to receive the embrace of God and they would not. Hebrews 5:7 reports, "During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission." Tears from Jesus. And besides this,

Continued on the back page



Dr. Mike Oliver
Senior Pastor



Rev. Glenn Bowers
Minister of Education and Missions



Rev. Taylor Johnson
Minister of Worship & Young Adults



Rev. Teresa Bowers
Minister to Families



Jessecca Green
Youth Director



Our next craft night will be Friday, December 14th, at 5:00 p.m. We meet in Room C-100. Come join us!



Each month a group from Trinity works in the kitchen and delivers meals for the Salvation Army. This month we need kitchen help and food delivery on December 14th, at 5:15 pm and kitchen help only on December 28th, at 5:15 pm. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Mike Rogers for details.



December 3rd at Kim Rehage's house 132 Southwood Drive at 6:00 p.m. Luncheon Chicken will be provided. Please bring an ornament to swap and a side dish or dessert. Please email crehage@knology.net what you will bring so we can avoid duplicates.

Blessing When the World Is Ending

Look, the world is always ending somewhere.

Somewhere the sun has come crashing down.

Somewhere it has gone completely dark.

Somewhere it has ended with the gun, the knife, the fist.

Somewhere it has ended with the slammed door, the shattered hope.

Somewhere it has ended with the utter quiet that follows the news from the phone, the television, the hospital room.

Somewhere it has ended with a tenderness that will break your heart.

But, listen, this blessing means to be anything but morose. It has not come to cause despair.

It is here simply because there is nothing a blessing is better suited for than an ending, nothing that cries out more for a blessing than when a world is falling apart.

This blessing will not fix you, will not mend you, will not give you false comfort; it will not talk to you about one door opening when another one closes.

It will simply sit itself beside you among the shards and gently turn your face toward the direction from which the light will come, gathering itself about you as the world begins again.

~ Jan Richardson, "Circle of Grace"

As we begin this Advent season, so many of us feel as if we are sitting among the shards of our shattered lives. Let us remember that as the year begins again, it is a time for us to begin again as well. A time to remember that when Jesus came into the world as God incarnate as a child, he ushered in a new world. He showed us what it means to be people who embody hope, peace, joy, and love. The blessing of Immanuel, of Christ With Us, turns us again and again to the light of God's kingdom, to the light of something better; the blessing of Advent is that Christmas is coming, that Jesus is with us, that no matter what has been broken, it can always become something new.

~ Taylor



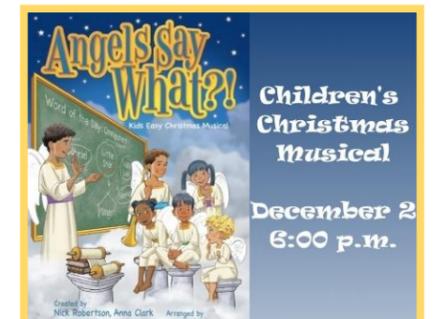
Preschool Birthday Party for Jesus!
December 9th (9:40-10:15 am), our 2-3 year old class will join our 4yr-K class for a special Birthday Party for Jesus in room B-108!

Thanks to all of our VIP's!

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Laresa Boersma | Jackie & Frank McCall |
| Carrie Anne Cooley | Julie Reyburn |
| Bekah Dewitt | Chris & Kristin Rosson |
| Christine Foster | Lisa Screws |
| Nancy Foster | Nicholas Segraves |
| Beth and Ronnie Francis | Mitzi Taylor |
| Hallie Kenny | Sandra Taylor |
| Charlie & Maria Marshall | Julie Wills |



Children's
Choir



College Ministry

Christmas Party @ the Rehages'!
132 Southwood Drive, Madison
Monday, December 17, 6:00 p.m.
Chili and Hot Wings
Bring a side or dessert and a gift for the Santa Game!

Christmas Takedown and Lunch!
Thursday, January 4
10 am – Noon
Help us take down the church Christmas decorations. Followed by lunch – our treat!

Christmas at Merrill Gardens

On Wednesday, Dec. 19, we will gather at Trinity in the Fellowship Hall for some hot chocolate and then head over to Merrill Gardens for some Christmas activities with the residents! Johna Brazeal and Tina Crull are planning our activities. All church members and families are invited to help us celebrate with our neighbors at Merrill Gardens!

Happy Holidays from the Weekday Preschool Ministry

The Christmas spirit is everywhere in the Weekday Preschool Hall! The children are busy practicing for their Christmas programs, making Christmas decorations and gifts for their families. The Christmas story and the birth of Jesus will be our focus during Bible story time. We are blessed to share the true meaning of Christmas with the children.

If you would like to warm your heart and get ready for the holidays, we would love for you to join us for

one or both of Trinity Baptist Preschool's Christmas Programs. The children will perform on Thursday, December 13th and Friday, December 14th, both programs will be at 12:00. The children have been working very hard to put on a wonderful performance for all that attend.

The Weekday preschool would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!
~ Nancy

Youth Ministry

Our **Fall Retreat at Camp ToknowHim** was chilly but great fun! And we are so grateful our adult leaders who made this special event possible – Noel and Dixie Paschal, Ben Miller, Steve Horn, Janna Patrick, Jeremy Kenny and Chris Rosson.

Our **Affirmation Stockings** are up! The stockings are hanging up in the youth hallway and there are plenty of strips of paper and lists of youth that can be used to write your affirmations. The stockings will be up until the **Youth Christmas party** on Sunday, December 9.

Be sure to catch our youth **Christmas music and drama on Sunday, December 9!** It will be at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary and the Youth Christmas Party will be afterward in the youth room until 8:00 p.m.

~ Teresa and Jessecca

Fall Blitz!



Fall Retreat



TBCY

Trinity Baptist Church Youth

Youth Calendar

December 9

Youth Christmas Party, 7-8:00 p.m.
Cost is \$5 & bring a Dirty Santa gift!

December 12

Youth Pancake Fundraiser, 4:45 p.m.

December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight &
Communion Service

January 27

Sharing of the Keys, 10:30 a.m.

February 10

Valentine Banquet Fundraiser
5-7:00 p.m.

February 24

Youth Sunday

March 10

Youth Parents Lunch Meeting
11:30 a.m.

March 15-19

Perry County Family Mission Trip

April 7

Jam Nite, 5:00 p.m.

Youth Sunday Nights

December 2

Children's Christmas Music, 6:00 p.m.
SNF and Late Nite @ LaPlacita,
7-8:00 p.m.

December 9

Youth Christmas Music, 6:00 p.m.
Youth Christmas Party, 7-8:00 p.m.

December 16, 23, & 30

No pm activities

Praise Team, Choir, and Drama

Schedule:

December 8

Dress Rehearsal, 10:00 a.m.

December 9

Youth Christmas Music and Drama,
6:00 p.m.

Mission, Ministry, Fellowship, and Education

MISSIONS

Perry County Mission Trip March 15-19

- We will be installing playground equipment in Uniontown, working on access ramps, and partnering with a local church on a community meal. Children/families will be building birdhouses, painting, and building crafts for the playground. We will be staying at the Sleep Inn in Marion. Sign-up sheets are available.

MINISTRY

Angel Tree Gifts Deadline is December 2

- Please have your gifts returned to the Gathering area by that Sunday.
- Thank you for providing this needed ministry!

FELLOWSHIP

Adult Sunday School Christmas Party Childcare at Trinity

- December 16, 5-8pm
- **Committee Catch-up, January 13, 6:00pm**
- All Committees are invited to come out and plan their events for 2019!

Building Maintenance Work Day:

- December 1 from 9am-noon.
- Projects include installing new gutters, cleaning light fixtures, replacing lights, steam cleaning carpets, cleaning/vacuuming return vents and other projects.



Baby Shower

In honor of Kathryn and Edward Brown

Sunday, December 16th

1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

They are registered at Target & Amazon.

They are having a boy!

EDUCATION

Gifts and Interests Surveys:

- Will be distributed starting January 6-January 27, 2019.

Trinity University

- Winter term will resume on Sunday evening January 13th at 6pm.

Discipleship Lunch

- Sunday, December 16, at 11:30 a.m. in the youth room – come learn more about our discipleship groups
- Exciting New Groups Forming!! We are projecting two groups. There will be a group for folks who have never been in a discipleship group and just want to learn more about the basics of following Jesus on a daily basis. There will also be a group that will be formed for individuals that will require some extra assignments each week to enhance their spiritual life.
- These groups will begin on January 13th. They will meet for about 5 weeks this winter during TU.
- Sign-up for the lunch in your Sunday School Class or the Gathering Area.

~ Glenn

Fall Blitz!



~ December 2018 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9:00 Building Maintenance Workday 10:00 Children's Choirs Dress Rehearsal
2 Angel Tree Deadline 4:30 Children's Choirs Rehearsal 5:00 Deacons Meeting in C-102 6:00 Children's Christmas Program 7:00 Youth SNF @ LaPlacita	3 9:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Ladies Night Out at Kim Rehage's	4	5 4:45 Fellowship Supper 6:00 Kids Mission Groups, Youth Bible Study 6:15 Adult Bible Study 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	6	7	8 10:00 Youth Dress Rehearsal
9 9:40 Birthday Party for Jesus 6:00 Youth Christmas Music 7:00 Youth Christmas Party	10	11	12 4:45 Youth Pancake Fundraiser Dinner 6:00 Church Conference, Kids Mission Groups 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	13	14 5:00 Craft Night 5:00/5:15 Salvation Army Kitchen Help/Food Delivery	15
16 8:30 & 10:30 Lessons & Carols Service 1:30 Brown/Spencer Baby Shower 5-8:00 Sunday School Class Parties, Childcare Provided	17 6:00 College & 20s Christmas Party at the Rehage's	18	19 6:00 Christmas at Merrill Gardens Meet at Trinity 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	20	21	22
23 No 8:30 Worship No Sunday School 10:30 Worship Only 30 No 8:30 Worship No Sunday School 10:30 Worship Only	24 Church Office Closed 4:30 Pre-service Meditation Music 5:00 Christmas Eve Communion 31	25 Church Office Closed 	26 No evening activities	27	28 5:15 Salvation Army Kitchen Help	29

Happy Birthday!

- 2: Beverly Claunch, Emily Johnson,
David Reagan, Kristin Rosson
- 3: Mark Boersma, Ben Cobb,
Cathey Collinworth, Brad Perkins,
Rebecca Winks
- 4: Allen Bennett, Mae Crumbley,
Jennifer Dennis, Ronnie Francis,
Laura Newquist, Ashley Rehage
- 6: Elizabeth Dunaway
- 7: Isaac Cooley, Claire Reagan
- 8: Jessica King
- 11: Bill Claunch
- 12: Taylor Griffith, Jeff Hammett,
Delaney Horton, Elisabeth Streeter
- 13: Larry Forrest, Ashley King,
Jan Valentine

- 14: Megan Sheehan, Ed Valentine
- 15: Arho Ikoba, Hunter Lavish
- 16: Brad Johnson, Charles Lyons
- 17: Braden Koler, Noel Paschal
- 18: Elloise Stass
- 19: Luke Parks, Jeanie Pearson
- 20: Derek Odom, Charlotte Shelton
- 21: Becky Boggs, Kayley Horn, Roma Turner
- 22: Melissa Bullard, David Rodgers
- 23: William Farkas, Cana Farr
- 26: Cassie Rehage
- 27: Ronnie Blair, Martha Dougherty,
Carolyn Heston, Vicki Lynch, Mary Oliver
- 28: Linda Kingsley
- 29: Piper Winks

- 30: Corrie Cooley, Beth Francis,
Chris Rosson
- 31: Dorothy Blackburn, Savannah Blackwell,
Ryan Colson, Claire Horton



If your birthday is incorrect or missing, please contact Cheri at: cheri@trinitymadison.com



TBC Together!

If you have questions about TBC Together, you may simply go to www.trinitymadison.com and click on "TBCTogether" under "Wednesday Dinner Menu" on the right side of the main page. This link will take you to the main sign in page for TBCTogether, as well as a step-by-step manual on how to register for an account and how to use the different features offered.

**October 2018
Financial Report**

Weekly Events

Sunday	
Bible Study	9:40 a.m.
Worship	8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday	
Children's Missional Classes	6:00 p.m.
Youth Bible Study	6:00 p.m.
Adult Bible Study	6:15 p.m.
Adult Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Thursday	
Morningside Ministry	2:00 p.m.

Monthly Information

Target Income	\$77,836.00
Actual Income	\$71,302.18
Actual Expenses	(\$67,756.78)
Monthly Gain/ (Loss)	\$3,545.40

Year-To-Date for 2018

Target Income	\$778,360.00
Actual Income	\$682,052.14
Actual Expenses	(\$798,381.05)
YTD Gain/ (Loss)	(\$116,328.91)

Account Balances

General Fund	\$127,557.61
Mortgage Balance	(\$451,379.18)
30 for 30 YTD	\$21,045.51
30 for 30 All Time	\$39,657.51



Advent Schedule

December 2

Morning Worship, Hanging of the Green ~ 8:30 and 10:30 am
Children's Christmas Program ~ 6:00 pm

December 9

Morning Worship ~ 8:30 and 10:30 am
Youth Christmas Program ~ 6:00 pm

December 16

Lessons and Carols Service ~ 8:30 and 10:30 am
Sunday School Class Gatherings 5:00 pm
Childcare provided at Trinity 5-8:00 pm

December 23

Worship at 10:30 am only
No 8:30 Worship and no Sunday School

December 24

Pre-service Music ~ 4:30 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion ~ 5:00 pm

December 30

Worship at 10:30 am only
No 8:30 Worship and no Sunday School