

Greetings Everyone!

Christ Has come, Christ Will Come Again!

In the midst of planning and preparation for the holidays, the reality of life and death is upon us. On November 16, 2011 our beloved Elder Janis I. Beach was called home to be with our Lord. Jan served the church for many years as our church treasurer, as lay preacher, bible teacher, youth director, choir member and on the pastor nominating committee just to name a few. Personally, Jan was instrumental in making our transition to Flint a smooth one. She was a good and loyal friend and we will miss her greatly.

Jan's passing, along with Sue Gladding and the many others we have lost in the past few months, is a reminder to us that this season of Advent and Christmas is really one about preparation—preparing for when we come face to face with our Maker. As we prepare for family, for meals and for gift giving and receiving, we must remember that we are preparing also for a

(Continued from page 1)

soon coming King. Christ is coming! We can rest assure that he will surely return. While in our preparation, let us remember to pray for those who are alone and less fortunate. Let us remember all those in our church family who need a helping hand this season, a friendly phone call, a holiday visit or a nice home made meal. As we sit with our families and experience the joys of Christmas, encourage each another to spread the joy around. May the Lord bless you and keep you well during this Christmas Season.

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Lawson

~~~~~

### Updates from the Session

- **Treasurer:** Elder Sharron Alexander has agreed to serve as interim treasurer. We want to extend our grateful appreciation for the hard work and dedication of Sharron as well as all the members of the Finance Team. (Waldo Bronson, Sharon Thomason, Maxine Storey, Betty Shaw, Jerry Auger, Chris Lyttle, Charles Atwater and Pat Miller.
- **New Member:** In the midst of our loss, we do have much to celebrate. We will be presenting our newest members of Trinity United Presbyterian Church on December 4,

*Continued from page 2)*

- 2011: Donna Jones, Linda Jones, Steve Long, Fred Turner, and Pam Terrell. Please join us in welcoming them.
- **Annual Reports:** The church office has begun the process of collecting reports. Denise Clay, church secretary, has asked all those responsible for writing annual reports to turn them in at your earliest convenience. She is planning to have the reports available to the congregation for review at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting which is scheduled for January 29, 2012. The deadline for receiving reports is December 31, 2011 with the exception of the financial reports. Denise has requested that all reports use the following guidelines: Times New Roman font, 12 point with one inch margins. If your report needs to be typed, please get it to her as soon as possible.
- **Baptism:** On December 18, 2011, we will welcome back the Offrink family for the baptism of Maeve Offrink, daughter of Ben and Shelby Offrink and granddaughter of Rev. Jim and Sally Offrink.



# *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

Clayton Brack.....07  
 Jean Lyttle.....07  
 Jerry Kamrath.....13  
 Mary Krist.....15  
 Griffin Henderson (Child).....17  
 Carolyn Scott.....18  
 Marcus Lomax.....19  
 Roberta Hardy.....26



## **Merry Christmas**

Sandy & Joyce Topham.....09  
 Gary & Rosaline Brown.....31

## Special Care Members & Friends

Ron Auger  
Peggy Brack  
Celestine Bronson  
Betty Elford  
Violet Flaming  
June Foltz  
Dr. Alfred Gwillim  
Connie Hutchins  
Helen Johnson  
Ann Lomax  
Roy Olson  
Marjorie Rutherford  
Phyllis Scales  
Larry Shoup  
Joan Shirey  
Larry Tilley  
and  
Charlie White

***Please Keep our Special  
Care People in Your Prayers.***



## **FROM THE DEACONS**

The Deacons have their schedule for the Soup Kitchen for this month.

### **SOUP KITCHEN**

Friday, DECEMBER 2, 2011

2-5pm



### **SUPPORT OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM**

Iran, Afghanistan, Germany, Korea, or right here in the United States, young men and women have put their lives on hold, so that we can be protected from the evils in the world. We need to support the troops wherever they are serving. We can make their lives a little more like home, by sending them some small items from home. Check out the list that is available and please make a donation. Thank you!!

Remember Our



Military

## Nursery

The Nursery still needs 2-4 adults to care for children every 6th week. The adults need to be caring and trust worthy, as our children are precious to all of us & to God. If interested, see Delphine Holland, Sharon Auger or Rev. Desiree Lawson.

### DECEMBER

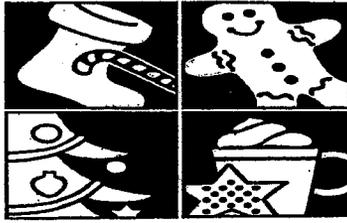
- 4—Karen Fischer
  - 11—Sharon Burton
  - 18—Roberta Hardy
  - 25—Mary Krist
- 



*The Family of Janis I. Beach  
Treasurer, Member and Dear Friend  
Of Trinity United Presbyterian Church  
You will be truly missed*

---

**Trinity United is once again selling different kinds of nuts and candies for the Holiday Season. Hurry and get yours before they are all gone!!!!!!!!!!**



## **Joy's Of Christmas**

The "Joy's of Christmas" will be held on December 10th from 2-5pm at Trinity United Presbyterian Church. They will have cookies to decorate, crafts to make, a cake walk, foods, exhibits of Christmas decor, share in a get-together with music and explanations of the Christian Christmas Tree decorations known as Chrismons.

If you would like to donate a cake for the cake walk, please see or call Georgia McCall.

If you have a unique collection for the Christmas exhibits, please call Phyllis Scales.

The Christian Education Department will present a Children's Program during the Sunday Service on December 11, 2011.

Please come and join the fun and delight of our children.

There will be a short Advent Service and lighting of the Advent Candles at the beginning of each Sunday Service. Please come join us.

## **Mission Project on Domestic Violence**

Many of you may know that my family and I have been personally affected by domestic violence and how it has changed the shape of our lives. Our daughter, Patricia Brown, was violently murdered by the father of her child, our granddaughter, Makenzi. I have shared my story once on Domestic Violence Sunday and then again in greater detail at the Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering. I spoke about the need to become informed and involved because domestic violence is very prevalent and the effects are long lasting deadly.

In May of this year, the Session, at my request, gave permission to allow Domestic Violence to become a mission project of our church. The very essence of what it means to a church is to be mission minded. The Church is called to participate in God's activity in the world through its life for others by healing, reconciling and binding up wounds. We must minister to the needs of those who are powerless and engage in the struggle to free people from oppression and injustice. The Church is called to undertake mission. In today's world, church mission resembles a form of modern day social work. Just as the social workers are called to get involved in the lives of the poor and the sick; in a similar way, the church is also called to get involved to make a difference.

Trinity United's commitment to get involved must begin with us. What would mission work in

## **A Song with a Message?**

According to modern folklore, the song "The 12 Days of Christmas" was written to help young believers learn about their faith.

Although no evidence proves that claim, some say the popular carol contains these codes:

The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.

Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.

The four calling birds are the four gospels:

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The five golden rings are the law: the first five books of the Testament.

The six geese a-laying represent the six days of creation.

The seven swans a-swimming represent the gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophesy, serving, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership and mercy.

The eight maids a-milking are Jesus' eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing are the fruits of the Holy Spirit:

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control

The 10 lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments

The 11 pipers piping stand for the 11 faithful disciples.

The 12 Drummers drumming symbolize the 12 Statements of belief of the Apostles' Creed.



You are invited to a Christmas Eve  
Candle-light Service  
With Communion

Starting at **4:30pm\*\***  
Trinity United Presbyterian Church  
5151 Lennon Rd. Flint Twp.

Everyone is invited to attend this  
Last Communion of this year.

**\*\*Please note the time change. Thank You!**

*(Continued from page 9)*

domestic violence look like for us? We are in the beginning stages of pursuing this mission project and would welcome your prayers and your suggestions for moving forward. We are exploring uncharted territory and will need to take small steps, yet timely ones, because each day women and their families are in danger and need of our support. Please contact me if you are interested in being part of the conversation and the planning. I would like to share with you some thoughts and ministry ideas and would welcome your support. Thank You.

Rosaline Brown



**Domestic Violence**  
**AWARENESS**

**NEWLETTER DEADLINE FOR  
THE JANUARY  
NEWSLETTER WILL  
BE WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER 17, 2011**



---

**ATTENTION!!!**

**Presbytery Meeting—December 6, 2011  
At Midland Memorial**

**Children's Christmas  
Program—  
December 11, 2011  
during worship service**



**Christmas  
Pageant**

**Choir's Christmas  
Cantata—  
December 18, 2011  
during worship service**



# Dates for December

December 4, 2011—Second Sunday of Advent  
Purple Candle  
Celebration of the Lord's Supper 10:30am

December 10, 2011—Joys of Christmas 2-5pm

December 11, 2011—Third Sunday of Advent  
Pink Candle 10:30am

December 18, 2011—Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Purple Candle 10:30am

December 24, 2011—Christmas Eve  
(White) Christ Candle  
**4:30pm**

December 25, 2011—Christmas Day 10:30am



## **“Christmas is proof!”**

Christmas is a time to be happy!.. A time for celebrating and sharing. For God stoops down to be one of us, born as a poor baby, so that we can be rich. He does not leave us to get along as best we can. He joins us where we are. God is committed to us. Christmas is proof that God cares. That is why we celebrate—and show our care in turn to those who need it.

F. Hebart

## **“O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

In 1865, a young American preacher named Phillips Brooks spent time in and around the fields of Bethlehem. On Christmas Eve, he attended worship in the Church of the Nativity, located on the site where traditions says Jesus was born.

Brooks was so spiritually touched by the experience that he later wrote a hymn for children to sing on Christmas Eve in his Philadelphia church. Lewis Redner, the church organist and Sunday school superintendent, composed the music for the beloved hymn, “O Little Town of Bethlehem.” Today it appears in most denominational hymnals. Brooks, a giant of a man physically (6’6”) was known throughout America as an eloquent and dominant force in the pulpit.

There is a large statue of the gifted man of God in front of Boston’s famous Trinity Church, where Brooks last served. His death in 1893 was a major event to Boston. Upon learning of his passing, a 5-year-old girl exclaimed, “Oh, Mama, how happy the angels will be.



O Little Town of Bethlehem

# LECTIONARY READINGS

---

**December 4, 2011**

*Mark 1:1-8*

**“Unwrap Your Forgiveness”**

**Rev. Desiree Lawson**

---

**December 11, 2011**

*Luke 1:46b-55*

**“Unwrap Your Fruits”**

**Rev. Desiree Lawson**

---

**December 18, 2011**

*Luke 1:26-38*

**“Unwrap Your Favor”**

**Rev. Desiree Lawson**

---

**December 24, 2011**

*Candle Lite Service with Communion*

**“The Night Before Christmas”**

**Rev. Desiree Lawson**

---

**December 25, 2011**

*John 1:1-14*

**“Unwrap the Word”**

**Rev. Desiree Lawson**