Trinity BEAMS

the newsletter of Trinity Presbyterian Church Manhattan, Kansas December 2020



People of God... seeking, growing, and serving through Christ.



The gospels present us with two stories of Jesus' birth and each has its own form of trauma. Luke tells of Mary's unsettling encounter with the angel and of the difficult passage, late in pregnancy, from Nazareth to Bethlehem, a distance of ninety miles. Luke is not specific as to the means of travel, but it is doubtful Mary walked so she must have ridden an animal. Imagine riding an animal from Manhattan to Lawrence in the last month of pregnancy. When they arrived, Luke tells us, there was no room for them in the inn. Mary gave birth to her first born in a stable, laying him in a manger. Although Luke does not tell us about it, it is presumed that Mary and Joseph returned to Nazareth the way they had come, only this time with a newborn.

Matthew's nativity story is much darker. Jesus is born easily enough, it is what follows that shocks us. The wise men tip off Herod that "the king of the Jews" has been born. Herod, casting a wide net, orders that all males under two be killed in order to root out this competing king. Although Joseph is warned in a dream to flee into Egypt, no such angel comes to the other mothers and fathers. Herod's orders are carried out and an untold number are slaughtered. Jesus is able to return safely but there is no consolation for the parents of the innocents.

Although I enjoy a merry Christmas as much as the next person, it is important to remember that the events around which Christmas revolve were not particularly merry. In one instance they were precarious and in the other downright horrific. It is important to bear this in mind as we approach Christmas in a time of pandemic. As I write this, Covid cases are spiking throughout the country, especially in the central region. Hospitals are full. ICUs are full. Doctors and nurses are at the limits of their endurance. A vaccine shines like the star in the east but the journey to get there is long. These are not just precarious times, they are horrific.

As we remember the details of the Christmas story, we need to also remember the point of the Christmas story. In both instances, the angel's appearance to Mary and the angel's appearance to Joseph, the message is the same. Jesus is the one who will save the people from their sins. Jesus is born into a time of tyranny and occupation. Jesus is the savior of the world. Although John does not tell us a birth story, he does tell us an inception story. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Jesus, says John, is the light that shines in the darkness which the darkness has not overcome. Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Our merry Christmas is not dependent upon the environment into which it comes. To borrow a secular illustration, The Whos sang regardless of the boxes and bags that had been removed by the Grinch. Christmas is not the repression of our troubles, but the answer to them. Christmas is the proclamation that Jesus Christ has come into the world to save sinners, to redeem creation, and to inaugurate the Reign of God. A white Bing Crosby Christmas is nice, but in times such as this, especially in times such as this, we sing the reassuring chorus that Christ, the Savior, is born.

- Jim Hawley



Each month we publish a listing of members and their immediate families, and guests of Trinity who are living in health care, assisted living facilities, semi shut-in at home, hospitalized, or recuperating from surgery or illness. We encourage you to pray for these friends, send them a note, call or visit them. Addresses and phone numbers **PRAYER** can be obtained from the church office.

> Those in nursing centers, assisted living, or semi shut-in at home

Wayne Bailie - Meadowlark Hills Bernice Brighton - Meadowlark Hills Mary Lou Kenworthy

- Presbyterian Manor, Wichita, KS Erma McManis - Stoneybrook Joe Ann Wood Moore - Meadowlark Hills **Delores Nash** - Home Mary Smith - Meadowlark Hills

December Birthdays

- 14. Mary Lou Kenworthy
- 18. Delores Nash
- 19. Steve Doughty
- 28. Orlan Buller

Trinity Presbyterian Women Calendar December 3

> Circle/Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. Meet in the sanctuary. Pastor Jim leading the study.

December 14

TPW Coordinating Team Meeting Moderator: Marilyn Gobel



Trinity Presbyterian Women will not be holding their annual Goodie Sale this year. Instead, a surprise for you is coming December 20! Our "Random Act of Kindness" will be for the members of our congregation — our gift to all of you!



Sundays—10:00 a.m.

We ask that you social distance and wear a mask. Masks are provided for those without. Entrance will be limited to the double doors outside the sanctuary. There will be no fellowship time following worship.

The service can be viewed on YouTube. If you are not receiving the link to the service by email on Mondays, contact the church office with your email address.



Christmas Eve Service Candlelight & Communion December 24 5:30 p.m.

CHANGE IN OFFICE HOURS 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday

2020 Annual Reports Due January 4

2020 annual reports are due in the church office January 4. Chairpersons of committees and organizations within the church are responsible for these reports. Email, bring or mail your report to the church. If you have questions, contact Berneda.

> Deacons Meeting. December 1, 6:30 p.m.

Session Meeting is scheduled for December 9, 6:00 p.m.



The Finance Committee is grateful for your contributions. On Sundays you will find offering plates by the sanctuary doors, or you may continue to mail your contributions to the church at 1110 College Ave., Manhattan, KS 66502. As a Presbyterian Church all of our financial information is available for members. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact our Treasurer, Karyl Croft, or Financial Committee Chair, Arlo Biere.

<u>October 2020</u>	<u>January-October 2020</u>	
Income	\$11,837.03	Income \$ 97,432.98
Expenses	\$11,434.77	Expenses \$113,610.53
Net Income	\$ 402.26	Net Income (\$ 16,178.55)

The Perfect Gift

One of the most powerful things that Christians claim is that God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift in response, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God's perfect gift, Jesus Christ. "Emmanuel, God is with us!" our Advent dream proclaims, as God joins in human life, and draws us together as a result. "God is with us" shows God values togetherness and relationship with us, leading us to value togetherness and relationship with one another. When we are all together — and even when we are apart.

During these past months, many of us weren't able to be together in person, but we have always been together in spirit, and in faith. We have missed seeing faces we love, but the physical distance has also revealed, for us, the importance of those things which bring us together, even when we are physically far apart.

We offer our gifts during this Advent Season to the Christmas Joy Offering because God shows us the power and importance of being together. We might not be able to meet face to face with those who need the support that our gifts provide, but we are very much still together. We see the potential of students of color who will become our leaders and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, to be together with them. And we see church workers who have critical financial needs and we come alongside them to assist them—we are with them. And we see the witness of the whole Church, either gathered in buildings or connected home to home, member to member, sharing what we have, together. We thank God for being "with us" through the gift of Jesus and for joining us together as the Church and, through our gifts, with those who have need.

Let us share our gifts and be with those who have need. Offering envelopes are on the credenza in the sanctuary's foyer, and will also be inserted in the Sunday worship bulletins. We will dedicate this offering in our worship service on December 20.

2020 Christmas Joy Offering

9th Annual Manhattan Community Christmas Dinner



A Christmas gift for you, the tradition continues!

Christmas Day, December 25, 2020 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. Drive through to pick up your FREE holiday meal at St. Thomas More Church 2900 Kimball Ave

All are Welcome!

Enjoy a FREE Christmas day dinner, December 25. This year we are adjusting our approach due to the pandemic health concerns. Dinners will be handed out to guest as they drive up to the Parish Hall behind St. Thomas More church, 2900 Kimball Ave.

The generosity of local businesses, churches, organizations, schools, and individual volunteers make this Christmas gift possible.

Volunteer needs are fewer this season, but still appreciated. On Christmas day, opportunities to volunteer include food line servers, cooks, dishwashers, curb-side delivery, traffic ushers, and clean-up crew. Advance volunteers are needed for food prep, delivering flyers, and venue set up.

Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator if you would like to help out:

Kathleen Jones kathleenhj@cox.net 785-313-1330

Physical distancing, mask-wearing, minimal contact and sanitation protocols will be followed by all volunteers



Thank you for your participation in the deacon's Christmas mission project to benefit residents of the Crisis Center. All the gift tags have been taken. Please bring your

wrapped gift with the tag attached by December 13. The deacons will deliver the gifts to the Crisis Center prior to Christmas.

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Trinity's Blessing Box

During this Advent Season, let's keep our Blessing Box filled! As you shop for your groceries, remember those who do not have the means to purchase food and pick up a few things for our Box. Canned or boxed items that need little to no other items added are the best as some people do not have a fully equipped kitchen, or no kitchen at all for preparation of a meal. No glass containers or over the counter medication, please. The Box is located in the parking lot near our street sign. Thank you for supporting this mission project!



The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World — he brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so do our hope and joy.

December Church Activities

1 - Tuesday 6:30 p.m. Deacons' Meeting

2 - Wednesday 1:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting

3- Thursday 9:30 a.m. TPW Circle/Bible Study in sanctuary

6 - Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion/ 2nd Sunday of Advent

9 - Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Session Meeting

13 - Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship/ 3rd Sunday of Advent

Deadline for Caring Tree Christmas Gifts to be returned

14 - Monday 1:00 p.m. TPW Coordinating Team Meeting 17 - Thursday 7:00 p.m. Men's Garden Club in Fellowship Hall

20 - Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship/4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Joy Offering Dedication

24 - Thursday 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Office Closed

25 - Friday Christmas Day — Office Closed

27 - Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship/1st Sunday of Christmas

31 - Thursday New Year's Eve — Office Closed



A fond farewell to the USD#383 Early Learning Center who used our church basement as their school site for the past 18 months while their building on Kimball Avenue was being renovated. Our thanks to Dick Green for being the liaison with the district and making this relationship possible. We will miss the staff and children, but wish them the best in their new spacious building!

Find Us On **f**

"Like" Trinity Presbyterian Church on Facebook to get the latest announcements, worship services, and other items of interest throughout the week.

Church Staff/Strategic Personnel

Pastor - Rev. James Hawley - 785-577-9330 (cell) Secretary - Berneda Jewell Music Director - Susan Tolley Accompanist - Amanda Arrington Custodians - Steve & Elaine Johannes Treasurer - Karyl Croft KSU Campus Pastor - Rev. Christian Watkins TRINITY BEAMS is published monthly for Trinity Presbyterian Church 1110 College Ave., Manhattan,KS (785)539-3921 FAX (785)539-3095 Website: trinitypemanhattan.com Worship - 10:00 a.m. Office Hours 9 a.m.— 3:00 p.m. (Mon-Thurs.) Pastor: Rev. James Hawley Cell: 785-577-9330 Email: jimandaj@mac.com Secretary/Editor: Berneda Jewell Email: trinity1110@sbcglobal.net

This Year

I wonder if God comes to the edge of heaven each Advent and flings the Star into the December sky, laughing with joy as it lights the darkness of the earth; and the angels, hearing the laughter of God, begin to congregate in some celestial chamber to practice their alleluias.

I wonder if there's some ordering of rank among the angels as they move into procession,

the seraphim bumping the cherubim from top spot, the new inhabitants of heaven standing in the back until they get the knack of it.

(After all, treading air over a stable and annunciating at the same time can't be all that easy!)

Or is everybody — that is, every "soul" — free to fly wherever the spirit moves? or do they even think about it?

Perhaps when God calls, perhaps they just come, this multitude of heavenly hosts.

Perhaps they come,
winging through the winds of time
full of expectancy
full of hope
that this year
perhaps this year
(perhaps)
the earth will fall to its knees
in a whisper of "Peace"

- Kneeling in Bethlehem Ann Weems



Poinsettia plants will grace the sanctuary on Sundays beginning December 6th.

The Deacons will be purchasing the poinsettias and are offering them to you at a cost of \$10.00 each.

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia, please complete the form below and return it to the church office, along with \$10.00 by Tuesday, December 1st. You may place this form, along with a check or cash, in the offering plate or mail/bring it to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Trinity Presbyterian Church and noted "poinsettia."

If you would prefer, you may make a donation to your favorite charity and have a memorial listed in the bulletin. Simply fill out the inscription section and on the line that reads "Other" put the name of the charity you contributed to.

Memorials and other expressions will be printed in the bulletin on December 6th. Those purchasing a poinsettia may take it home following the Christmas Eve worship service on December 24th or Sunday, December 27th.

NAME	
BULLETIN INSCRIPTION (*Delete that which is not applicable)	
*In Memory of	
*In Thanksgiving of	
*In Appreciation of	
*Other	