

## **Happy New Year!**

“Happy New Year!” This greeting will be said and heard for at least the first couple of weeks as the new year gets under way. But the day celebrated as New Year’s Day in modern America was not always January 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Ancient New Years

The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 200 B.C., Babylonians celebrated the beginning of a new year on what is now March 23, although they themselves had no written calendar.

Late March actually is a logical choice for the beginning of a new year. It is the time of year that spring begins and new crops are planted. January 1, on the other hand, has no astronomical nor agricultural significance. It is purely arbitrary. The Babylonian new year celebration lasted for eleven days. Each day had its own particular mode of celebration, but it is safe to say that modern New Year’s Eve festivities pale in comparison.

The Romans continued to observe the new year on March 25, but their calendar was continually tampered with by various emperors so that the calendar soon became out of synchronization with the sun. In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 B.C., declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year. But tampering continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 B.C., established what has come to be known as the Julian calendar. It again established January 2 as the new year. In order to synchronize the calendar with the sun, Caesar had to let the previous year drag on for 445 days.

### New Year Traditions

Traditions of the season include the making of New Year’s resolutions. This tradition also dates back to the early Babylonians. Popular modern resolutions might include the promise to lose weight or quit smoking. The early Babylonian’s most popular resolution was to return borrowed farm equipment.

The Tournament of Roses Parade dates back to 1886. In that year, members of the Valley Hunt Club decorated their carriages with flowers. It celebrated the ripening of the orange crop in California. Although the Rose Bowl football game was first played as a part of the Tournament of Roses in 1902, it was replaced by Roman chariot races the following year. In 1916, the football game returned as the sports centerpiece of the festival.

The tradition of using a baby to signify the new year was begun in Greece around 600 B.C. It was their tradition at that time to celebrate their god of Wine, Dionysus, by parading a baby in a basket, representing the annual rebirth of that god as the spirit of fertility. Early Egyptians also used a baby as a symbol of rebirth.

Although the early Christians denounced the practice as pagan, the popularity of the baby as a symbol of rebirth forced the Church to re-evaluate its position. The Church finally allowed its members to celebrate the new year with a baby, which was to symbolize the birth of the baby Jesus. The use of an image of a baby with a New Years banner as a symbolic representation of the new year was brought to early American by the Germans. They had used the effigy since the fourteenth century.

### Luck in the New Year

Traditionally, it was thought that one could affect the luck they would have throughout the coming year by what they did or ate on the first day of the year. For that reason, it has become common for folks to celebrate the first few minutes of a new year in the company of family and friends.

Foods are also brought to bring luck. Many cultures believe that anything in the shape of a ring is good luck because it symbolizes “coming full circle”, completing a year’s cycle. For that reason, the Dutch believe that eating donuts on New Year’s Day will bring good fortune. People in the South consume black-eyed peas, hog jowls or ham and cabbage for their “good luck”. ~ from the Internet

## Circles

**The Morning Circle** will meet on Monday, January 3 at 9:30am at the church. The group will then leave to make calls to homebound members. Please note the change in time.

**The Mildred Suther Circle** will meet on Monday, January 3 at 7:00pm. Check with your chairperson for the location.

**The Sisters in Christ Circle** will meet on Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Check with your chairperson for the location.

## Churchmen's Fellowship

The Churchmen's Fellowship will meet on Sunday, January 2 at 8:30am for their regularly scheduled breakfast meeting.

## Second Saturday Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, January 8, 2004  
Time ~ 7:30am until 10:30am

### Volunteers Needed

- 4 Cooks – arrive at 6:30am
- 2 Cashiers – arrive at 7:15am
- 4 for Clean-up – arrive at 10:15am
- 4 for Set-up – Friday evening 6pm
- 5 Servers – arrive 7:00am



**A SIGN-UP SHEET IS LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX**

## “God is Still Speaking” Bible Study

The Monday night Bible study will not meet in January but will begin again on the second Monday in February, the 14<sup>th</sup>. Anyone wishing to begin attending in February is welcome and encouraged to attend.

## All in the Family



Bill Keane, creator of the *Family Circus* cartoon strip, tells of a time when he was penciling one of his cartoons, and his son Jeffy asked, “Daddy, how do you know what to draw?” Keane replied, “God tells me.” Jeffy said, “Then why do you keep erasing part of it?”

## Our Gifts, Attendance & Service

2004 Budget	\$ 164,310.02
Needed to Date	164,310.02
Offering to Date (as of 12/28)	143,706.00
Average Attendance	72
2005 Budget	146,679.50
2005 Pledges	65,000.00

### Children's Message

JoAnna Cupp

### Sound System

Dan Barrier

### Acolyte

John Roberts

### Maintenance

Brian Cranford & Keith Eagle

### Liturgists

- 1/2 David Bowles
- 1/9 Mark Johnson
- 1/16 Ann Rollins
- 1/23 Phil Rollins
- 1/30 JoAnna Cupp

### Nursery

- 1/2 Lorna Colson & JoAnna Cupp
- 1/9 Leanna Howard
- 1/16 Pam King & John Roberts
- 1/23 Dawn McHale
- 1/30 Floryne Misenheimer  
& Elizabeth Wagner

## Undergraduate Scholarships for UCC Members

Scholarships are available for UCC members enrolled in an accredited college or university in the United States for the 2005-2006 academic year. Participants must be under the age of 25, must have maintained at least a C average or equivalent and be entering the sophomore, junior or senior year of study. For applications and information, contact Minister for Grants, Scholarships and Resources, Local Church Ministries, 216.736.3839 or [scholars@ucc.org](mailto:scholars@ucc.org).

## First Sunday Fellowship

Sunday, January 2, 2005

Fellowship Hall

Immediately Following Worship

Take a friend with you!





## Trinity Church

by Harold Holste

On January 1, 2006, Trinity Church will be 125 years old. But who were the first people of the church? Where did they come from? Trinity Church was organized on January 1, 1881. Charter members will be listed later.

Why was Trinity Church organized as Trinity Reformed Church? It was because the people who made up the first congregation were German descendants. A German Reformed pastor was assigned by the German Reformed Clossis in 1880 to organize a congregation in Concord, North Carolina. His name was the Reverend Peter M. Trexler. You can see his picture in the History Room at Trinity Church. The History Room is located in room 204, behind the sanctuary.



German descendants give us a hint of who these people were. Germans immigrated to this country to Pennsylvania beginning in 1707. During this century many came to North Carolina. Trinity's descendants came through the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia in wagons, pulled by oxen, horses and mules. But why did they leave Germany in the first place? It was because their homes and land and possessions had been destroyed in the Thirty Years War and a French Revolution into Germany. They came from Germany and Switzerland. They were Protestant people. They came because all was in devastation. Queen Anne of England gave them refuge.

If all was destroyed and they had nothing left, how did they ever afford to get here? Why were they Protestants? Is there anyone in Trinity Church who can trace their family history back into Germany? Was your family Reformed in Germany?



## Epiphany ~ January 6th



Epiphany is derived from the Greek word, *epiphaneia*, and means "an appearance." Centuries ago, the church set aside January 6<sup>th</sup>, the 12<sup>th</sup> day after Christmas, and called that day Epiphany, intending for it to refer to the revealing of Jesus as the Christ to the Wise Men who were Gentiles. The very first followers of Christ were Jewish. The story of the revelation of Christ to the Wise Men, who were non-Jewish, is a reminder that God meant for Christ to be the Savior of the whole world. As an old hymn put it, "The light of the world is Jesus." The whole world! Have a Merry Epiphany!

~Charles Ferrell

## 2005 Flower Chart

The 2005 flower chart has been placed in the Narthex for you to reserve a date or dates to provide the altar flowers for Trinity's Sunday worship services. This is an excellent way to remember or honor a loved one or friend while participating in a much-needed ministry of trinity. When your week to provide the altar arrangement arrives, you will need to place your order with Harrisburg Florist at 704.455-2294 and let Sallie in the church office know how you would like the wording in the bulletin. Harrisburg Florist will no longer automatically place flowers in the church. Check out the Flower Chart this Sunday!

## The Work of Christmas

by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among all,  
To make music in the heart.

*Trinity Reformed*  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

38 Church St. NE  
Concord, NC 28025-4756  
www.trinityuccconcord.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**REMEMBER TRINITY CHURCH IN YOUR WILL AND TRUST**



**God  
is  
still  
speaking,**

**January Birthdays  
and Anniversaries**

- 2 Joe Suther Jr.
- 3 Gaby Palm\*
- 6 Shirley Suther
- 7 Lucille Hiatt !!!
- 8 Pam King
- 12 Kristen Evans  
Dawn Hucks
- 16 Doug Christiansen\*  
Nathan King at Trinity Church 4 Years
- 17 Betsy Graham
- 18 Hailee Evans
- 21 Shane McHale
- 22 Pearl Kobylarz !  
Garrett Pell
- 24 Linda Swallow
- 25 Estelle Ferraro

! 80 (or 80+) !!! 90 (or 90+) † Anniversaries \* Non Member

**Second Saturday  
Pancake Breakfast**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 8**

**7:30AM UNTIL 10:30AM**

**\$5 ADULTS**

**\$4 SENIORS**

**\$3 CHILDREN AGES 4-11**

**FREE FOR CHILDREN 3 & UNDER**



**THE PUBLIC IS INVITED!**

# January 2005

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<i>It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do little – do what you can. ~ Sydney Smith</i>						<b>1</b> New Years Day
<b>2</b> 8:30 Churchmen's Fellowship Breakfast Meeting 9:00 Worship & Arts Class 10:55 Worship with communion 12:15 First Sunday Fellowship	<b>3</b> 9:30 Morning Circle in Parlor 7:00 Mildred Suther Circle 7:00 Family Promise Meeting	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 8:00 HHW Recycling 'til 4pm 7:00 Chancel Choir Practice	<b>6</b> Epiphany	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:30 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday Pancakes 'til 10:30am
<b>9</b> 9:00 Bell Practice 10:55 Worship 6:30 Consistory	<b>10</b> No Bible Study Tonight	<b>11</b> 7:00 Sisters in Christ Circle	<b>12</b> 7:00 Chancel Choir Practice	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 8:00 HHW Recycling 'til 1pm
<b>16</b> 9:00 Worship & Arts Class 10:55 Worship	<b>17</b> Martin Luther King Jr. Day No Bible Study Tonight	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:00 Chancel Choir Practice	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:00 Bell Practice 10:55 Worship	<b>24</b> No Bible Study Tonight	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:00 Chancel Choir Practice	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:00 Worship & Arts Class 10:55 Worship	<b>31</b> No Bible Study Tonight					