



## PASTOR'S PEACE

With Advent we begin singing “hymns of hope.” Not that a lot of the hymns we sing at other times do not speak of hope. But Advent and its hymns stir in us a sense of urgency about the hope we place in Christ and the nature of God to break in to our existence and transform, not only our suffering, but also our since, into the very presence of God. *O come, O come, Emmanuel.*

*Emmanuel* means “God with us.” God *with us*. God *with us*.

The expectation seems to be that God will be with us in a way that is somehow different than the way we have previously experienced God. That God will deliver us from our worry and fear is a worthy expectation any time of year. This year we feel more urgent about the need for God’s reassuring presence among us. But there is a catch.

There is also an urgency concerning God’s expectation of *us*. God expects us to prepare for God’s presence. “In the wilderness,” John said, “prepare the way for the Lord.” Our lives are often an open wilderness, lacking fertile ground for the presence of God. At least it often seems that way. It takes great faith and courage to expect God’s presence to transform even the wilderness of our soul.

Harry Emerson Fosdick spoke of our need for courage long ago in a verse of his hymn, “God of Grace and God of Glory.” He writes,

*Rich in things and poor in soul:  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
Lest we miss thy kingdom’s goal;  
Lest we miss thy kingdom’s goal.*

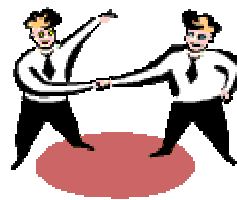
More than ever before the time is ripe to not miss the kingdom’s goals. I pray God grant us wisdom and courage to expect God’s presence in our lives this Advent.

But there are two sides to this expectation. There is the expectation for God to be present in a way that God has perhaps not been present before. There is also the expectation that our reception of God’s presence might be different than it has been before. Maybe this Advent will lead to a Christmas which is poor in things and rich in soul, with sins and suffering transformed into the abiding, infinite and healing presence of God. And maybe we will find ourselves transformed by *our wildernesses*.

I wish for you a meaningful and fulfilling Advent, a courageously gracious Christmas and a New Year full of God’s transforming love.

Nathan

## New Member Sundays



### WELCOME!!!

Trinity will be open to receive new members on **Sunday January 7th**. Let Pastor King know if you want more information about how to become a member of Trinity United Church of Christ.

# YOGA



Trinity UCC is proud to offer Hatha Yoga classes. They are held Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9am and on Tuesday evenings at 6pm. There will be a per-class fee.

The classes begin again in January.

Contact instructors

Robert & Priscilla Ritchie at (704) 782-2936 for more information

and Pastor Nathan King on completing the form!!

Teacher Moose is to be presented with a gift from the graduation class. Unfortunately, the gift has not yet arrived.

A new beginner class has begun. Teacher Gerald Moose is also available for personal instruction on Thursday afternoon at 6pm at Little Feather on Union Street.

Free Introductory Classes are available the first Saturday of each month -- **December 2<sup>nd</sup> and January 6<sup>th</sup>**. The introductory class is at 8am every first Saturday at Trinity UCC in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Teacher Moose for more information at 704-463-1535.

## First Sunday Fellowship



December's "First Sunday Fellowship" will be held **December 3rd, 2006**.

Invite a friend to church and plan to stay for the fellowship and a discussion with the delegation that attended worship at UC Chapel Hill!



## T'ai Chi Class

Photo by Nathan King

The advanced class of 7 students has completed the entire Yang Style Short Form!



At a review class on November 30<sup>th</sup>, students were presented with graduation certificates. Congratulations to Phil Rollins, Lori Jones, Steve and Jeanne Murdock, Barbara Gagliardo, Pat Cress,

## CHURCHMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Trinity Churchmen's Fellowship will not meet in December... but we will host the **Annual Christmas Breakfast** which will be Sunday, **December 17 at 8:30 a.m.** in the fellowship hall. This delicious breakfast includes biscuits, eggs, country ham, rice, grits and other tasty treats. ALL Trinity folks and friends are invited. The costs are \$5 for adults, \$3 for ages 11 and under.

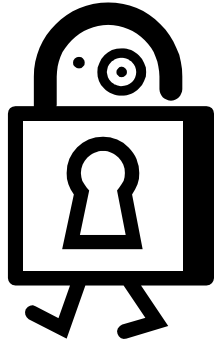
**Tickets are on sale now!**

Contact **Lewis Eddings** or **Ray Monks** for purchase. Purchase tickets by December 10th.

## Time for a Break

The usual Churchmen's Fellowship meat smoking fundraiser Christmas will not be conducted this year. Thanks for your support in all the years past.

**Remember to set the security system before you leave the building. Thanks.**



## Women's Healing Rhythm Circle

Women are invited to join in celebrating the Divine Feminine through West African rhythms and movement meditation. This spiritual exercise is led by Caren Knox-Hundley, a drummer and healer who has been fully trained in traditional rhythms and Reiki healing.

Drums and percussion instruments will be provided. All that is needed is a



willingness to participate and a desire for healing. Women and girls of all ages are encouraged to attend. The

classes will be held on the first and third Sunday evenings from 6:30pm until 8:30pm in the fellowship hall at church.

The intention of the circle is to help heal the fragmentation of the spirit and bring wholeness and empowerment to each woman as she emerges into her true self and heals her relationship with her body through playing traditional rhythms, dance and free movement.

## CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?

Still Speaking Items are on sale:

- Red Comma lapel pins \$3
- Bumper stickers \$1
- Writing pens \$1
- Coffee mugs \$6

See pastor King for these items. They are a great way to advertise our church!

Shirts and other items are available at [www.stillspeaking.org](http://www.stillspeaking.org).

## Little Feather – Art, Gifts, Jewelry & Other Treasures



In addition to jewelry, handmade soaps, and art by local artists, **Little Feather**, 42 Union Street South, Concord also has a great selection of women's clothing. Most of the clothing is handmade locally.

The art includes beautiful pottery locally thrown. Jeanne's own art features distinctive "pit fired" pieces, born from a very labor-intensive process detailed in each piece.

Little Feather also stocks a great selection of music for meditation, instruments, incense and BOOKS!

See Jeanne Murdock for details or call 704-786-5005. Even better, **visit the store at 42 Union Street South** and go shopping!

December's  
Acolyte:  
Grace Puckett

HAVE LUNCH....  
RAISE MONEY  
FOR TRINITY!!!

Many of our church family met at Bear Rock Cafe' on Sunday November 19th and enjoyed a meal and fellowship while Trinity received 20% of the total sales for that day. When you present a bulletin from the Sunday service 20% of the sale will be given to Trinity. Our sales totaled 364.00 for that day making our profit about 74.00. Some of our church members even introduced themselves to other people coming into the cafe and offered them one of our bulletins and they graciously took it. There again we not only got 20% from that sale also but now that person has a Trinity bulletin and who knows maybe we will see them in church on Sunday. Our next opportunity to eat together and at the same time raise money for the church will be December 10, 2006. Remember, you can eat anytime between 11:30am and 7:00pm. All you need is that Sunday's bulletin. Give a bulletin to family and friends.

Crossroads – Trinity

We really had a good time. We spent most of the time talking about what we would be ordering next. **HOPE TO SEE YOU AT BEAR ROCK CAFE' on December 10th..**

## Calling All Readers!!!

EVERYone reads. Right? That means EVERYONE has books they would like to share with others.

Right? Look no further! Trinity's book exchange is in full

swing. Just stop by the box in the

Fellowship hall... it's labeled **"BOOK EXCHANGE."**

Take a book, leave a book. The books are *exchanged*. That is, the books are given away to each other without charge and without return.



God is still speaking -- and the Southern Conference is listening."

CONFERENCE MINISTER: Rev. Stephen W. Camp

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 216 South Antioch Avenue, Elon, NC 27244

MAILING ADDRESS: PO BOX 215, Elon, NC 27244-0216

TELEPHONE/VOICEMAIL: 336-222-8771  
FAX: 336-222-8773

EMAIL: [SOCNEWS@soc-ucc.org](mailto:SOCNEWS@soc-ucc.org)

WEBSITE: <http://www.soc-ucc.org>



# MUSIC NOTES



By Theresa Woody-Rhodes

## ADVENT MUSIC

The new liturgical year begins with the season of advent, a time of hope, anticipation, and of urgency. Our hymns and service music will reflect that mood, from the warning of the famous tune WACHET AUF (Sleepers, Wake) to the beautifully introspective "O How Shall I Receive You?"

## AND, OF COURSE, CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Some churches stick strictly to advent music before December 24, but we like to sing and hear Christmas music before that date. Our services in December offer the opportunity to hear and sing the sacred music often missing from our radio dials and shopping malls. So, hear and sing we shall, with abandon and delight. The hope of the



music department is that every worshiper will find at least one piece of music meaningful

during every service. Maybe you'll leave the service humming a 16th Century carol. Perhaps a chant from 1300 will move you. Or, it could be the more contemporary music in the Kingsmore medley. or the organ chorale played as a prelude, or the arrangement for piano during an offertory. We, the musicians of Trinity, offer many styles

and moods of music to God, in the hope that you will enjoy our offerings, too.

## MUSIC SPECIAL

Our big Christmas presentation is Sunday, December 17 at 10:55. The chancel choir is working on two larger works, both medleys of familiar Christmas tunes: Carol Fest by James Laster, and a Christmas Package of Praise, by Richard Kingsmore and Carey Dean. Extra brass instruments, timpani and bells will add their timbres to the



festive music by the choir and organ. Bring a friend and enjoy!

## CHILDREN

### AND BELLS

The Trinity Ringers of 2006-2007 rang a stunning "debut" during our Reign of Christ service on Sunday, November 26. The bells and the children will be heard at times throughout December, including the 5:00 service on Christmas Eve. Our BIG thanks to these dedicated musicians.

### THANKS

In fact, here's a big THANK YOU to all Trinity's musicians: singers, ringers, and occasional instrumentalists, who, at last count, numbered 32. These musicians represent 25% of the active membership of our church. We are grateful.

## SPECIAL EVENTS IN DECEMBER

- Sun. Dec. 3 First Sunday of Advent  
Consecration Sunday for  
Financial Stewardship  
Congregational Meeting re:  
2007 Budget Proposal  
First Sunday Fellowship  
Discussion with Delegates  
from United Church  
Chapel Hill
- Fri. Dec. 8 Piedmont Choral Ensemble  
Concert 7pm
- Sat. Dec. 9 PANCAKES!!!!  
7:30am -10:30am
- Sun. Dec. 10 Second Sunday of Advent  
Lunch at BEAR ROCK!!  
Welcoming Team Meeting  
Piedmont Choral Ensemble  
Concert 3pm
- Tues. Dec. 12 Sisters In Christ  
Wendy Columbus, host
- Sat. Dec. 16 Choir Rehearsal 10:15am
- Sun. Dec. 17 Church-wide Christmas  
Breakfast 8:30 a.m.  
Choir Music Special  
10:55 a.m.
- Sun. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve  
Sunday morning follows  
Usual schedule  
Veterans of the Cross  
Offering  
Christmas Eve Candlelite  
Service – 5 PM
- Mon. Dec. 25 Christmas Day

Crossroads – Trinity

## Trinity Programs Break for the Holidays

The following programs are taking a  
break for the holidays and will resume in  
January:

**Yoga** – Tuesday and Thursday mornings  
9am

And Tuesday evenings 6pm

**Bible Study** – Monday evenings 6:30pm  
Resumes January 15th

**Dream Process Group** – Monday  
Evenings 7:35pm resumes  
January 15th

When Spiritual Cinema Circle **WILL MEET**  
on **December 6 and 13** before taking a break.  
After December 13, the circle resumes on  
January 3<sup>th</sup>, We are viewing “An Inconvenient  
Truth.”

**T'ai Chi**, on Thursday evenings is continuing a  
limited schedule in December. Please contact  
teacher Gerald Moose at 704-463-1535 for more  
information about the T'ai Chi classes.

## Piedmont Choral Ensemble Christmas Concert Dec. 8 & 10

The Piedmont Choral Ensemble will  
present its annual Christmas concert on Friday,  
December 8 at 7pm and on Sunday, December  
10<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.

The ensemble is supported by a grant  
from the Grassroots Arts Program of the North  
Carolina Council and the Cabarrus Arts  
Council, Inc.

Both concerts will be at St. James  
Lutheran Church, 104 South Union Street,  
Concord. A freewill offering will be received.

## Try MORDECAI'S

MORDECAI'S *Personally catered fine dining* serves exquisite meals in your home for 2-12 people. Once the meal is scheduled and the menu set, all you have to do is relax. From setting up to washing the dishes, MORDECAI'S does the rest. Call Mark or Pam for more information on letting MORDECAI'S *Personally catered fine dining* make your next event really special!

Pam: 704-933-9018; Mark 704-795-1523

## Like a Jigsaw Puzzle



By Marion Duncan

I have spent so much of my life trying to work a jigsaw puzzle. I wanted the pieces to fit just perfectly.

The corner pieces were not so hard. They were my parents, my husband, my children, and me. The rest of the pieces often did not fit correctly, so I

tried to force them to fit. Those were jobs, friends, prayer, reading, writing, health, finances, etc. Sometimes, they would fit in place with little effort. Sometimes, the same ones that seemed to fit perfectly shifted when the table tilted. Finally in exasperation, I threw down my head, cried, and begged for help.

Then the Master Puzzle Fitter came to my rescue. He gently moved my hand and led me, and the puzzle piece, in another direction. He often just worked with me to get the piece that was crooked to fit. He would sometimes look for hours, even days, weeks, months, or years to help me find a fit. Still, He warned me, "There is no such thing as a perfect puzzle. Sometimes you just have to accept the way things fit. And, when they shift badly, as when the table tilts or the wind blows, call on me. "

"I have a better idea," He said with a wink. "Just call on Me anyway, even when things are fitting together very nicely!"

*Marion Duncan lives in Concord, NC, with her husband, Ed, and their beautifully diverse family. She leads food and clothing drives for homeless and displaced families. Her writing has also appeared in The Upper Room devotional guide. Her family has been attending Trinity UCC for the past 2 months.*

### Trinity Volunteer Office Staff:

General Office.....	Kathy Rummage	Crossroads Newsletter:	
Worship Bulletin.....	Mark Johnson	Julianna Willis.....	Editor
	Floryne Misenheimer	Juanita Hathcock .....	Mailing
		Pam King.....	Copy Editor

THANK YOU!

## December Birthdays & Anniversaries



1	Nancy Rummage
2	Tara Odom
4	Robin Ray
5	Lib Talbert
8	Mike Monks Zach Monks
9	Dan Barrier Elsie Bonds
10	Tracee Miller
12	Lorna Colson
14	Annie Rhodes
18	Michael & Gayle Hansen
20	Jeanne Murdock
25	Katherine Barrier
26	Giles & Dot Kindley
28	Amanda Miller
29	Judy Barnhardt



---

## Trinity Reformed UCC

### *Mission Statement*

---

#### **Who we are...**

Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ is an open, loving, growing church committed to welcoming persons of all ages, races, life status, and beliefs, engaging all in worshiping God, and in serving others while seeking to know God's will.

---

#### **Our mission is...**

To honor God and celebrate the intrinsic worth of each person as created in God's image.

---

#### **We seek to accomplish this by...**

- Engaging members and newcomers in a regular practice of developing spirituality, including private prayer, Sunday worship,
- Proclaiming the Word of God by offering worship experiences engaging worshipers in visual arts, contemporary music, creative movement, drama, mime and clowning, while continuing a strong ministry through a variety of music and preaching of the Word
- Developing a welcoming attitude toward persons who are different and learning to honor these differences as a path to Christian spiritual growth
- Being intentional in inviting others to engage with Trinity Reformed UCC in membership and ministry and publicizing our church's ministry opportunities
- Exploring and discovering our individual gifts for ministry
- Helping others outside our own faith community, careful planning for generous missions support, and making connections through service to others, fellowship in a group and financial stewardship
- Providing opportunities for lay leadership development in the areas of church school leader, worship leadership, consistory service, youth & children's ministries, pastoral visitation, evangelism and spirituality

Trinity Reformed  
**UNITED CHURCH**  
O F C H R I S T

38 Church St. NE  
Concord, NC 28025-4756  
[www.trinityuccconcord.org](http://www.trinityuccconcord.org)  
[www.stillspeaking.com](http://www.stillspeaking.com)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*REMEMBER TRINITY UCC IN YOUR WILL AND TRUST*

**Crossroads**  
**December 2006**

**December 2006**

“Never place a period where God has placed a comma” —Gracie Allen

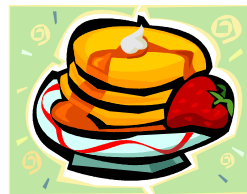


God  
is  
still  
speaking,

Crossroads – Trinity

REMEMBER

*Pancake Breakfast*



**Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup>**

7:30am – 10:30am