



# The Trinity Times

*Following Christ, we equip, energize and nurture all  
God's people to transform the world*

**January 2012**

**Welcome to Trinity** United Methodist Church

6800 Wurzbach Road  
San Antonio TX 78240  
210-684-0261

*As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives\* in him, <sup>2</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. Colossians 2:6-7*



## *Unification Invitation*

Conversations between the Rio Grande Conference and the Southwest Texas Conference are in progress to unite the two as a brand new conference. The new conference will be neither Rio Grande nor Southwest Texas. If or when this new conference is formed, the primary mission would be to better reach and serve our common mission field. The Unification Steering Team is seeking your input as a means to assess the practical realities and missional possibilities involved in this transition. Lay delegates to Annual Conference 2012, along with anyone who is interested in the challenges and opportunities presented by unification, are strongly encouraged to attend one of the learning and listening sessions being held by the Unification Steering Team.

Sessions that will be in the San Antonio area are at Bulverde on Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am and at University UMC on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 pm. Pastor Margaret will be attending the session on January 19<sup>th</sup>. If anyone would like to go to that session, please, let her know. If anyone wants to attend the session at University UMC, please, let Pastor Margaret know. She may attend that one also with members from Trinity.





## 'Margaret's Musings'

*Rev. Margaret Decker, Pastor*



**January 8<sup>th</sup>** will be a BIG day. The day will begin with celebrating the arrival of the wise men to see the Christ Child. Part of that celebration will be Holy Communion. The service will be centered on gifts to the Christ Child. The wise men brought expensive gifts. Today, one of the most expensive gifts that can be given is the gift of time. In October and November, we talked about Faithful Lives through prayers, presence, witness, service, and gifts. On November we had the opportunity to pledge our financial support to Trinity and thereby show our gratitude to God for all of our blessings.

On **January 8<sup>th</sup>**, we will have the opportunity to share with the Christ Child how we will show our faithfulness through prayers, presence, service, and witness. An *Estimate of Giving* card will be provided to help focus on giving of time. Some of the options may be like the following options. For faithfulness in prayer, you might spend a designated time each day in prayer. For faithfulness in presence, you might spend time either in study or attend worship more frequently. For witness you might share with someone every month either about the grace of God or what Trinity means to you. For service, you might commit to working either as a volunteer at the church or volunteer in a non-profit agency.

Following the 11:00 service, the Missions Committee is hosting a potluck lunch. Everyone is invited to bring one of their favorite dishes and the recipe for the dish. Help will be needed to set up probably on Saturday. Help in the kitchen on Sunday taking food to the serving line, etc., washing dishes, and cleaning the kitchen. Help will be needed to take down tables and chairs on Sunday. Finally, make sure that the gym is ready for school the next day. If you can help in any way with the work in the gym, please, call the church office and let us know what you will do.

On **January 15<sup>th</sup>**, we will take another step in our 11:00 service. The bulletin will become a road map for the service. In other words, there will be a listing of what will happen during the service. If a song comes from either the *United Methodist Hymnal* or *The Faith We Sing*, those titles and numbers will be listed. Beyond that, prayers, Psalms, responsive readings will be on the screen.

There may be other ways of serving and witnessing highlighted in upcoming bulletins. As a community of faith, we will all grow if we practice consistent praying and take part in worship and study.

I look forward to serving with you in 2012.

Yours in Christ,  
Margaret



A **big thank you** to our Trinity UMC parents for making Sunday school a priority for their family. Just a reminder for 2012 that Children's Sunday School begins promptly at 9:45 a.m. We start our singing/worship time at 9:45 with Maria Medrano, our Children's Sunday School Song Leader, in the Primary Classroom, then we break up into our two Sunday School classes.



Becky Thaxton  
Director  
TUMC  
Children Ministries

'Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.'  
Proverbs 22:6

Let's Remember to be Green in 2012 - Children's Ministry is still collecting computer inkjet cartridges. We recycle them throughout the school year and we receive a small rebate for doing so. A little bit helps and we are happy to do our small part to keep our planet green.

Glenoaks Elementary School - has made an appeal to us for warm clothing (coats, jackets, sweaters, etc.) for the children. Most children come from warm countries and do not have anything for cool/cooler weather.

Vacation Bible School 2012 - Pastor Margaret and Becky Thaxton will be co-leading Vacation Bible School this summer. If you are interested in helping, in any way (arts & crafts, singing, snacks, storytelling, or teaching) please contact Pastor Margaret or Becky at the Trinity Office (684-0261).

### *The Story of the Three wise men*

After Jesus was born, wise men came to look for Him, from an area which is now in either Iran or Saudi Arabia. Although they are often called the "Three Kings", the Bible does not say how many there were, or that they were kings. Three is only a guess because they brought with them three gifts.



Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

They were certainly men of learning - probably today we would call them philosophers or scientists. They had seen an unusual new star in the sky, and knew that it told of the birth of a special king. They followed the direction of the star- East - and eventually found the place where Mary, Joseph and Jesus were staying. To bring honour to the child, they brought rich gifts: gold, frankincense (a resin which burns with a beautiful smell), and myrrh (plant oil with a very strong sweet smell). These gifts tell us in pictures three key things about Jesus:

**Gold: a gift fit for a King**

**Frankincense: burnt in worship of God**

**Myrrh: a sign of mortal human-ness - it was used to bury the dead**

Herod, the evil king of the area, heard about the child He saw Him as a threat, and sent soldiers to kill Jesus. But God told Joseph in a dream to take Mary and the baby and escape to Egypt. They lived there till King Herod died and then went back to live in Nazareth.

You can read this Bible story in Matthew 2: 1-18

Epiphany falls on Friday, January 6, 2012

- Ateneopress.org



Since my youth, God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.  
Psalm 71:17

**Sunday School** - We meet every Sunday morning at 9:45am in the Youth Room.

**Youth Choir** - The Youth Choir rehearses every Sunday after church services 12:15-12:45 pm during the school year.

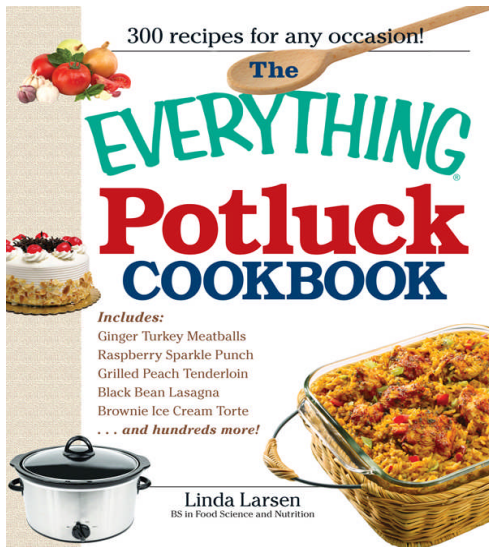
**Youth Group** - We meet each Sunday afternoon at 12:45-2:00pm to eat lunch after youth choir in the youth room to have a worship time and small groups.

**Attention all youth! Come and join...it's never too late**



Jared May  
Director  
TUMC  
Youth Ministry

# Missions Committee



300 recipes for any occasion!

## The EVERYTHING Potluck COOKBOOK

Includes:  
Ginger Turkey Meatballs  
Raspberry Sparkle Punch  
Grilled Peach Tenderloin  
Black Bean Lasagna  
Brownie Ice Cream Torte  
... and hundreds more!

Linda Larsen  
BS in Food Science and Nutrition

**Following the 11:00 service, the Missions Committee is hosting a potluck lunch. Everyone is invited to bring one of their favorite dishes and the recipe for the dish.**

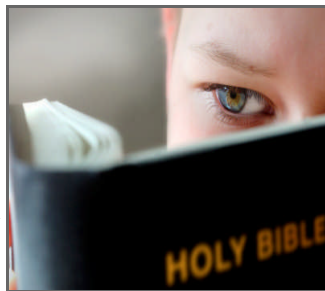


**Free!**  
**Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper**  
starting at 5:30 p.m. on February 21st  
in the gym.  
Sponsored by the Family Life Committee.

**Thank you and Happy New Year.**

## One Year Bible Study

Everyone is welcome to join us as we read through the Bible in 2012. Using the One Year Bible, each day we will read a little from the Old and New Testaments, the Psalms, and Proverbs. On Sunday mornings you are welcome to join us in discussing the highlights of what we read during the week. What better resolution for the coming year? For more information, please call Don Ketchum at 210/827-2527.



**It's just around the corner!**  
**!February!**  
**Super Bowl Chili Cook Off!**



WHEN WE GIVE FROM THE HEART,  
WE RECEIVE  
UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS—  
ESPECIALLY THE JOY OF MAKING  
A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE.

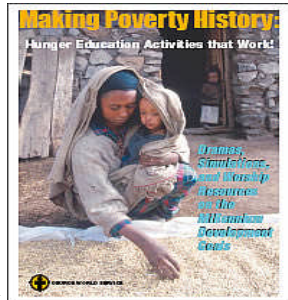
**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY  
JANUARY OFFERINGS**

Church World Service, Blanket Fund #982810 (3011)

Blankets+ is a special mission opportunity that can involve all ages. Some 8,000 congregations and groups across the U.S. hold CWS Blankets+ events, providing funds to help people in need around the world, including the U.S. For over 60 years, Church World Service has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including:

- **Blankets, tents, food** and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster
- **Tools and seeds** for refugees returning home to replant their fields
- **Wells** for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens

**Literacy training and microcredit** for women struggling to realize their potential. Thank you for your generous giving. May God bless you.



| Our Presence in Worship |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| December 4              | 123 |
| December 11             | 120 |
| December 18             | 172 |
| December 24             | 163 |
| December 25             | 80  |

Thank you Lord!



| Anniversaries      |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| DON & CINDY GERTH  | 12-Jan |
| JOHN & AMELIA REED | 16-Jan |

| Birthdays          |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| JOE MEDRANO        | 1-Jan  |
| MONA BRANDT        | 2-Jan  |
| CONNIE GERMANN     | 6-Jan  |
| JIM PRYOR          | 9-Jan  |
| HELEN TOOLE        | 12-Jan |
| LORRAINE RALLS     | 15-Jan |
| BYRON BURGE        | 16-Jan |
| BETH SAFLEY        | 17-Jan |
| JULIE SCHMIDT      | 17-Jan |
| TARA DYE           | 18-Jan |
| MARJORIE CLENDENIN | 19-Jan |
| DARRYL ROBERTS     | 19-Jan |
| TED ADAMS          | 21-Jan |
| JOE SMITH          | 21-Jan |
| JULIE VINCENT      | 23-Jan |
| STACY HILLEGAS     | 24-Jan |
| KRISTY CRABTREE    | 26-Jan |
| ALLYSEN DYE        | 27-Jan |
| RICKY LANDERS      | 29-Jan |
| JIM CHAMBERS       | 31-Jan |

(If we have missed your special day, please notify Cynthia in the Church office.)

**Intercessory Prayer**  
We at Trinity UMC take seriously our Ministry of Prayer. The Prayer Ministry team continues to pray for your loved ones even if their names are not on this list.

Trinity UMC Members and Constituents: Eugene and Tina Azbill\* Jan Bates\* Betty Dysard\* Don Hardin\* Brian Phillips\* Trinity UMC Staff\* Trinity UMC Prayer Ministry Team\* Trinity UMC Ministries and Committees\*

Other Personal Requests:

Helen Gafford\* Cynthia Harris\* Leslie Kalmbach\* John Morgan\* Michelle Rocha\* Jerry Ruhnke\* Zachariah Arnold Samuel\* September\* Rev. Tony Brantley\* Bishop Jim Dorff \*District Superintendent Rev. Carl Rohlf\* our Nation and its leaders\* our troops\* all the sick and the lonely\* all those who go without means\* other nations which are going through oppression, hardships and struggles.

*Lord, hear our prayers. Amen.*

**Thank You!**



November 28, 2011

Trinity United Methodist Church

Dear Church Family,

I'm writing to thank you for your very generous donation of \$765.41 to Jireh House Community Development and Resource Center. We are humbled by your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Please be assured we used your donation to continue serving the working poor on San Antonio's west side—predominantly residents of Cassiano Homes public housing projects. Specifically, your donation helped feed 103 families a Thanksgiving dinner they would not otherwise have enjoyed.

Thank you again for your generous donation. May God Bless you.

Very Sincerely,

*Elizabeth Vega*

Executive Director



December 21, 2011

Trinity United Methodist Church

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your recent gift of \$165.00 to Christian Assistance Ministry! We are always grateful for your faithful and generous support. As you know, your donation will help make a difference in the lives of many clients who are in crisis situation in their lives.

Again, thank you so much for supporting CAM and the good work being done in the community.

Sincerely,

*Dan White*

Executive Director

## What's going on?

- ◆ **Funds are needed** for the dinners we serve at SAMM'S. If you give for this extended ministry, please, mark your gift so that it will go to the correct place.
- ◆ **January 8<sup>th</sup>.**  
Holy Communion.  
**Missions Committee is sponsoring a potluck luncheon.** Congregation is encouraged to bring their favorite dish or recipe.
- ◆ **Saturday, Jan 14, 2012—**  
**SPRC/Lay Leader Training**  
Helotes Hills UMC will host both of these training sessions.  
SPRC training check in at 8:30 am begins at 9:00am.
- ◆ **January 19<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
The Southwest Texas Annual Conference and the Rio Grande Annual Conference are considering unification.
- ◆ **January 19<sup>th</sup> session, Thursday,** will be at Bulverde UMC at 9:30am
- ◆ **January 22<sup>nd</sup> session, Sunday,** will be at University UMC from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.
- ◆ **2012 Advanced Lay Speaker Course,** March 2-4 at Mount Wesley.  
If you are interested in going, Pastor Margaret can get you an application blank.
- ◆ **Please** bring your recyclable plastic bags to the church office.—*Meals on Wheels*

- 
- ◆ **Trinity UMC looking for Volunteers !!!**  
**"Meals on Wheels"**  
If you are interested in delivering or coordinating, please contact  
Mona Brandt  
at 833-0975  
(for Trinity UMC volunteers)  
or Christian Senior Services at  
210-735-5115.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."  
-Matthew 25:40

### **Glenoaks Elementary School**

will celebrate their 50th year this year. They are looking for former students, teachers, principals and memorabilia. Their celebration will be Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.. For more information, please contact 210-397-2300

### **'UN-DECORATE ' THE SANCTUARY**

On Saturday, January 14 at 9 AM, it will be time to take down the Advent decorations and lovingly pack them away. Please help. A big crew will make it go faster! Thanks to those who came to decorate in November. Please call Mary Shoemaker for information (684-4873).

**Donations to missions and help** on the third Tuesday of every other month at the SAMM's transitional living center dinner are welcomed. Please call John Reed 296-8866. Next one is on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 5:15 p.m.

### **F. I. P. S. (Fun in Progress Seniors)**

Will meet on Tuesday, 24 January at Café Milano Restaurant on 7530 Bandera Rd Ste 102, San Antonio, TX 78238 at 5:30 p.m. More information, please call Louise Lyle at 684-6329



When we joined the church, we pledged to uphold it with "our prayers".


**\*Please pray for our church every day at noon\***




Prayerfully consider joining your church's prayer ministry. I invite you to meet with us or pray from home, as part of the prayer chain. We lift up our church and all its joys and concerns and as Pastor Margaret said, "talk to our best friend" who is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*Sandy Keyser, Mary Hale, Jean Bell.*

'if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.' 2 Chronicles 7:14



**Can you carry a tune?**  
TUMC Chancel Choir needs you. Please come to the choir practice on Wednesday at 7:30pm in the sanctuary.

*New*  
  
**Choir Members**  
*Welcome!*



## Thank you for joining the Trinity United Methodist Church.

You are always welcome here.  
Our Staff is here to help you.  
Our Ministers are every member of the Congregation.

*... praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*  
**Acts 2:47.**

Rev. Margaret Decker  
*Pastor*  
[revmargaret@trinityumcsa.org](mailto:revmargaret@trinityumcsa.org)

Cynthia Galang  
*Administrative Assistant*  
[ofcadmin@trinityumcsa.org](mailto:ofcadmin@trinityumcsa.org)

Debra Schneider  
*Director of TUMS*  
[tums@tumcsa.org](mailto:tums@tumcsa.org)

Jared May  
*Director of Youth Ministries*  
[jmay8@satx.rr.com](mailto:jmay8@satx.rr.com)

Becky Thaxton  
*Director of Children's Ministries*  
[bt@trinityumcsa.org](mailto:bt@trinityumcsa.org)

Connie Medrano  
*Kitchen Coordinator*  
[medrano4@att.net](mailto:medrano4@att.net)

Jason Brown  
*Youth Choir and Chancel Choir Director*  
[doispacote@yahoo.com](mailto:doispacote@yahoo.com)

Stacie Brown  
*Handbell Director*  
[eicats3719@att.net](mailto:eicats3719@att.net)

Layne Kerley  
*Organist*  
[ctylane@aol.com](mailto:ctylane@aol.com)

Maria Medrano  
*Sundayschool Song Leader*  
[maria1614@att.net](mailto:maria1614@att.net)



**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**  
Monday through Friday,  
8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.  
closed for lunch  
(Noon-12:30 p.m.)  
Church phone : 684-0261  
Church fax: 684-5489  
School phone : 684-5214  
Church website:  
[www.trinityumcsa.org](http://www.trinityumcsa.org)



Jesus said, "Come follow Me and I will make you fishers of men"  
Worship Services: Sundays 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School for all ages: Sundays 9:45 a.m.



**Trinity** United Methodist Church  
6800 Wurzbach Road  
San Antonio, TX 78240-3830  
Address Service Requested