



Trinity UCC

101 East Main Street, Thurmont, Maryland 21788

www.trinityuccthurmont.org T: 301-271-2305

From the Pastor

We have just left the Christmas season, we have experienced Epiphany, and we will soon enter into Lent and Easter. We remember the story of how a poor couple gave birth to a baby in a manger and how that family was forced to flee to a foreign land. We recount the story of that little baby and find him as a grown man living with the poor and down trodden; eating dinner with the sinners and outcasts; feeding the multitude with a few fish and a couple of loaves of bread. We retell Jesus' Sermon on the Mount where he teaches us that the poor shall inherit the earth. Jesus, the savior of the world, lived and taught, fed and healed the poor both in body and the poor in spirit.

Continue on page 6

Council News

by Ross Lillard

The Trinity Council met for their regular monthly meetings in November and December.

One item of discussion has been the replacement of the stairlift down the steps to the social room. The stairlift we currently have is about 15 years old and has needed numerous repairs the past several years. Last month it stopped working again. We've talked with several repair companies and they tell us it is an old model which they no longer make parts for. They say it is not worth putting money

Continue on page 5

Upcoming Events

January 16

Slippery pot pie and ham sandwich sale.

January 20

Annual Meeting and lunch immediately following the worship service

January 26

Family, friends and fellowship. 4:00pm

January 29

Christian Ed/Worship/Fellowship Committee Meeting at Allice Stambaugh's house. 6:30pm

March 2

Annual ladies tea. Save the date! More information to come.





Worship/Fellowship and Christian Education

The Worship/Fellowship committee would like to thank everyone who helped to decorate the church for Christmas and also for taking down and putting everything away.

We had a wonderful time caroling to the shut-ins on December 9 and we all say a big thank you to Alice Stambaugh for providing a delicious lunch to the group before we went out to sing. This is always a highlight for the committee and is especially appreciated by those we visit. Please consider joining us next year – everyone is welcome!

Christi Grandstaff and Mary Matovich are planning the first Family, Friends and Fellowship afternoon on January 26 at 4:00pm at Trinity. Come and join in the fun. There will be games and refreshments and time to socialize with one another.

Once again the committee will have their annual St. Patrick's Day Tea on March 2. This is a day to honor the women and it is a privilege for the men to serve the delicious treats on this day. Mark you calendar – more information will be provided soon.

For further information about any of the activities please see Lindsay Tokar, Sally Tokar, Alice Stambaugh, Pastor Sean or any of the committee members.



Happy Birthday!

January

Lee Stambaugh– January 3

February

Clarabelle Despeaux–
February 6

Christi Grandstaff – February
7

Russ Delauter – February 10

Sarah Tokar – February 13

Meghan Tokar – February 13

Happy Anniversary!

January

Christi and Ken Grandstaff –
January 7

February

Mary and Bob Matovich

February 23

Marlene and Russ Delauter

February 27

News From the Kitchen

by Tootie Lenhart

Since the last newsletter, we had lots of work to have food ready for Colorfest weekend. As usual, a large turnout was experienced, with Sunday being our larger day, as Saturday the weather was not very accommodating for people to be out walking around in the rain. We had a larger than expected crowd, great repeat helpers, and our gross for the weekend totaled \$10,727. We were indeed very pleased.

Then on November 7th we held our first of the season chicken and ham pot pie with country ham sandwiches sale. It seemed that our regular customers just couldn't wait for our



pot pie. The gross amount on these items totaled around \$3,500.

And right behind these sales came our Thanksgiving sale of desserts of pies and cakes. The last few years we have had real estate sales

people ordering our pies as special treats to give their customers for Thanksgiving. Again this year, the phones just kept ringing with orders and the final total of pies ordered was a little over 800. That also included 125 pies ordered by Creagerstown Church for their annual Thanksgiving dinner. As you may guess, our work was really cut out for us getting all of this ready for delivery and pickup. For the month of November the pies and cakes alone grossed over \$13,000.

As I am typing this report, we are deep into Christmas orders. It appears lots of people prefer cakes to pies for this holiday as we have approximately 200 cake orders placed. Even with that, there is approximately 200 fruit and cream pies ordered also. So again, we are in the church kitchen working many hours to be able to accomplish all of this. *Continue on page 4*

All in Fun!

Q: What do they call pastors in Germany?

A: German Shepherds.

Q: What's the best way to read the bible?

A: You Luke into it.

Q: How do you make holy water?

A: Get some regular water and boil the devil out of it.

Q: Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

A: Because Noah was standing on the deck.



council – continued from page 1

They say it is not worth putting money into trying to repair it. A new stairlift may cost about \$5,000.00. The council would like to discuss this to get the congregation's opinion on the stairlift at our annual congregational meeting on January 20th.

The council reviewed the proposed budget for 2019 at our December meeting. The budget will be reviewed and voted on at the annual congregational meeting in January.

We discussed new council members for 2019. Andy Tokar completes his 3 year term this year. He has agreed to stay on the council since he is the church treasurer and needs to attend the council meetings regardless. Tootie Lenhart has one more year on her term, but she has decided she wants to go off the council this year. She has been on the council about 32 years and has decided she has done her share. Tootie will still be the church secretary, doing bulletins, the annual report, kitchen reports and other secretary duties. We want to thank Tootie for all her years of service on the council and all she does for the church. It is really amazing all the work she has done so many years for the church.

The council decided to offer the open council position to Mary Matovich. Mary has graciously accepted to be nominated to the council and will be voted on at the annual meeting in January.

Kitchen- continued from page 3

We get many people saying what a wonderful outreach we are doing for our community and it gives one a really good feeling to know we are a part of this outreach. We can't say enough about the wonderful people who so willingly come to help and be a part of all of this. They come in the door saying "what can I do" and as they are leaving say "when is the next time and be sure to call". We are so blessed!!

In addition to the very large orders on holidays we are also open every day from 5-11 am. It is amazing just how many people walk in or call to order each day to pick up some of our many available food items.



Pastor – continued from page 1

As we make our New Year's resolutions, let us prayerfully ponder in our hearts what it means to be a Christian. How are we to show the world that we believe in the Good News of Jesus Christ? How can we spread that message throughout our community and even the entire world? So often we try to do this with words, but you know the saying, "actions speak louder than words", so let us use our actions to show our Christian faith. St. Francis of Assisi is attributed with saying, "preach the gospel at all times, and when necessary use words".

Sometimes it seems like a daunting task, there is so much to be done and so we become overwhelmed to the point where we do not do anything at all. This happens to individuals and it happens to churches. But remember, one person and one church does not have to solve all of the community's or world's problems. We can all make a difference if we just begin to take simple actions and to be a presence among the poor in body and in spirit. This may be through a card or phone call, this may be through the mentoring of a child, this may be through a donation to a food bank or this may be through the act of checking in on a neighbor during the cold winter, and this may simply be through a smile to a stranger. A simple act of kindness can lead to healing of the spirit and the body and in this way, as we sing in one of our hymns, they will know that we are Christians through our love.

May we all respond to those who we encounter – in whatever way that we can. As Christians, let us just respond.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Sean

Council – continued from page 5

The Fuse group had an active time during November and December. Four education majors from Mount St. Mary's came to Fuse one evening to interact with the teens, and hopefully they will be back this winter. They had an open mic night with about 25 teens and parents in attendance, and they had a local guitarist one night to learn some basics on the guitars. The Fuse leaders took about 7 or 8 teens to play laser tag one evening. The leaders provide good adult examples and support for the teens and introduce Christian concepts in a nonthreatening way. Susan Crone had the Fuse rooms open one Saturday in December for Thurmont's downtown Holiday open house. Many families stopped by to talk to Susan and see the Fuse room. The photo attached is of Susan painting a Christmas tree on the face of a young lady at the Thurmont Holiday tour.

