

Cloverleaf

Trinity United Methodist Church

December 2019

Volume 31 ♦ Number 11



Savior

EMMANUEL | GOD WITH US

Christmas Eve Services

LESSONS AND CAROLS

3:30

LIVE NATIVITY

6:00 & 8:00

CANDLELIGHT

11:00



Mission Statement

In obedience to Matthew 25 (31-41), Trinity's mission is to challenge both ourselves and our communities to share the Good News of the Kingdom of God through acts of mercy and justice, compassion and love, piety and intentional faith development.

Vision Statement

Make disciples for Jesus Christ, transform the community and world.

From the Pastor's Desk...

The central core of Christian teaching is expressed in one of the most wonderful stories of the New Testament: the nativity. Through this story we see the work of an awesome God who would not rest to reach out to us, seeking us so that we can be in relationship with God. As Paul says in Philippians: *...rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself... (2:7-8a)*. Or, as Paul says in 2 Corinthians: *[I]n Christ God was reconciling the world to himself. (5:19)*

In this powerful story we have been told how a loving God came to be with us because of God's great love for us (John 3:16); this is truly The Wonder of Christmas, the study we are pursuing for this season of Advent.

For the past 80 plus years, we have been hearing people talk about putting Christ back into Christmas, and as great as that sounds we must be wise about its meaning. What does it mean to put Christ back in Christmas? Is it a matter of just having the name on the celebration or really celebrating Jesus' words and life for a hurting world? Many times when I hear the expression of putting Christ back on Christmas, I am reminded of the **words of Jesus in Matthew**: *You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules."* (15:7-9; see also Isaiah 29:13).

A season that should be one of the highest holidays of Christendom has become just a mere commercial enterprise where the only vestige of Christ left is in the name for the season: Christ/mas. At this point, of course, we start blaming the atheist, the secularist, the liberals, (media, pastors, politicians, etc.), store owners, and anyone else that we think has anything to do we co-opting or corrupting the holiday.

The fact of the matter is that we need to recover the message of Jesus for a broken world, we must recover the teachings and actions of Jesus, as we seek to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God that he proclaimed (*Luke 4:18-19*). We, the Christians of the 21st Century, who have inherited the message and teachings of Jesus, we have forgotten that faith in the living Messiah is not an intellectual ascent or a cultural celebration, but rather, a life gripping commitment to live, and act like Jesus. The steadfastness of our faith in the Christ of Christmas is not shown in a description of one's orthodox beliefs, but rather, in the way one lives life in the world, in the way we love each other (*see Matthew 25:31-46*).

This year, I decided that it will be great to be reminded of this event we call Christmas as we participate in "*The Wonder of Christmas: Once You Believe Everything is Possible*." This program seeks to help us reflect on the meaning of Christmas by helping us to respond to the question of why is God mindful of us today?

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Do the ways we celebrate Christmas honor the message of Jesus, or glorifies God? We will seek to answer these questions during this season.

In our Advent journey we will explore the key points of this study: the star, the name, the manger, and the promise. Every week during Advent we will unravel what each of these points teach us about Christmas, and about God's amazing, never ending, and reckless love.

At the heart of The Wonder of Christmas is a challenge to us about how we really feel about the season. During Christmas our lives should show the love of God for the world. Our actions, our way of being, our commitments should reflect this love of God, and our values should reflect the values of the one we proclaim to be our savior. The Christmas celebration is not simply a way for us to remember that Jesus was born, but rather, the story of Christmas should help us remember what God has done, is doing, and will continue to do to bring us to a personal relationship.

Therefore, this Advent season let us come to worship our God more fully, let us surrender our lives completely to him just like the shepherds and the wise men did. Let us spend less in things we do not need, things that are trivial and of fleeting value. Let us give more to those causes that will make a difference in people's lives, let us, like Jesus, save lives by helping those whom God loves. For it is by loving like God loves that the world will know that putting Christ back in Christmas is more than a political slogan, *it is a way of life (John 13:35)*.

Come join us in The Wonder of Christmas, and may you have a Christmas fill with hope, peace, love, and joy.

Your servant in Christ,



Rev. Eliezer Valentín-Castañón



Dear Members & Attendees of Trinity Church,

The Christmas season is almost here. As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded of our many blessings. We thank God for friends, family, and loved ones who support us with kindness and guidance.

Our tradition at Trinity Church has been to express our appreciation to our pastors and professional staff with a monetary gift. These gifts are but a small token of our appreciation for all the work, leadership and service our staff and pastoral leadership has done over and above that which is required. All gifts will be consolidated and shared among the church administrative/office staff.

If you wish to contribute, please put your gift into an envelope clearly marked: "Staff Christmas Gift, ATTN: Staff Parish Relations Ministry Team", and either place the envelope in with one of the upcoming Sunday offerings, or mail it to the church office.

The mailing address is: Trinity United Methodist Church ATTN: SPRC
703 West Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701-4029

We ask that all contributions to this year's collective staff gift be received at the church office no later than Sunday, December 8. We also ask that you remember that your gift is in addition to, and not a replacement for, your regular offering to Trinity Church.

Thank you for your contribution and expression of appreciation to those who help lead us at Trinity throughout the year. Peace and blessings to our entire church family!

Aaron Hastie

Chair, Staff-Parish Relations Team



Churches Adapting to a Changing Community

By Wanda Osborne

Recently, I attended a conference that provided me the rare opportunity to combine my faith with my work. (I am an auditor and all my clients are involved in the affordable housing industry, whether they are non-profit developers or a multi-family housing property). The conference was developed by the **Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND) and Enterprise**, and it was part of a Faith-Based Development Initiative focusing on the affordable housing crises in America. The conference was titled Houses of Worship in a Changing Community: The Suburbanization of Poverty and Urban Displacement. The conference brought together the faith-based community and the business community to discuss how to work together to address poverty in the region as well as the dire need for affordable housing.

In one of the panels participated the *Rev. Dr. Wanda Bynum-Duckett, Baltimore Metropolitan District Superintendent of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church*. It was a blessing for me to hear the insight from different clergy from the various denominations, speaking to the challenges that churches face, in addition to discussing ways for churches to address issues of poverty and affordable housing. Each panel member discussed the various ways in which the local church is working to address the issues.

Some churches worked with developers to build affordable housing apartment properties on the vacant lots that were adjacent to the church property (*there are approximately 800 vacant lots owned or affiliated with houses of worship*). In addition to providing much needed housing, the churches offer training or other programs to the residents. One church discussed partnering with another church to pool together their assets and limited resources to address poverty in the local area.

During one of the panels' discussions we were told that dealing with affordable housing for congregations, and the community at large, is a social justice issue, which they all thought was a part of the church's role and mission. No one in the audience or the panel saw a negative connotation for the term "social justice." Most churches do not have the financial resources to help but they do have many assets that can work to care for those impoverished in our communities. Some churches are building multi-family housing apartments, some are using the space in the building for different community programs such as food pantries to feed the poor, clothing closets and job training skills among other things. Also, church members are an asset, with knowledge and skills that can be used.

As individuals working together, there are many things that a church can accomplish. As one Pastor said, "Faith leaders change through faith". In other words, with our faith we can work together to make changes that make a difference. I believe that for Trinity to continue to be a part of the solution in Frederick will require that we re-think our understanding of social justice. We know that helping those who live in poverty is not a bad thing. *Jesus loves everyone and taught us to share that love with all, especially those who live in poverty (Matthew 25: 31-46)*.

The common theme was that the church needs to have a relationship with the local community and respond to the real problems people are confronting. Within the Frederick area, there are many in need. I believe that as followers of Jesus, we must be involved in helping and be intentional about local missions. There are many ways to help, we just need to find our way to respond to God's calling on us. Trinity's community is changing and, therefore, we need to change in order to respond to the new challenges we are being asked to address as God's people. We can only grow as we seek to strengthen our relationship with our surrounding community. Trinity needs to challenge itself in order to grow, and in order to strengthen its relationships in the community. Churches can no longer sit and wait for people to come to them as demonstrated in many recent studies. We must rethink our role without sacrificing our core values and beliefs. This work belongs to all of us.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 21 from 5-



7PM

Come to watch the movie

ALL ARE WELCOME

Charlie
Christmas

Are you able to help out?
Donations needed for food, snacks, etc.

Brown

To volunteer or with any questions, please call the office at 301-662-2895 or email Curtis at children@trinityfrederick.org.

TRINITY PASTORAL COUNSELING CENTER

December brings with it *shorter days and longer, colder nights*. I often imagine how wonderful it is to have a warm, safe place to go to when the winter whip up, often while doing mundane things like picking up trash that is blowing around or getting the mail or decorating for the holidays. Wouldn't it be nice to have a shelter that protects me from the harsh elements – right now!

Then my thoughts turn toward the **humble shelter that Jesus was born in then, and God's love now** –and how this impacts the Counseling Center. How can the Counseling Center serve as a shelter for those needing emotional care and support during tender, transitional times?



In preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth representing the Light of the World, there is a tradition of lighting candles during Advent. Those candles represent *hope, peace, joy, and love*. The Counseling Center strives to provide such a shelter for people suffering with personal issues - that hope, peace, joy and love are gifts waiting for them there.

From Pam and myself, may your days and weeks be lived in a way that illuminates Christ's love for each and every one of us.

Thank you to Trinity for the many gifts you provide to continue this ministry.

Merry Christmas, Diane Younkins, LCPC, NCC
TPCC Director and Pastoral Counselor

Recycle Your Christmas Cards

What to do with all your Christmas cards? Why not recycle them for a good cause? The ARC of Carroll County uses the fronts of Christmas, birthday and all sorts of cards for various projects throughout the year. If you would like to donate your cards, please cut off the fronts and place them in the Collection Center in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Wayne Buckingham at 301-473-5563.

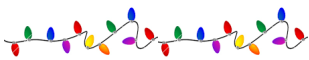


Blue Christmas Service

Thursday, December 5
7:00 - 8:00 pm

Trinity United Methodist Church
703 West Patrick St. Frederick
www.trinityfrederick.org
301 662 2895

*an evening of worship for
those experiencing
loss, sadness or grief*



THE COMMUNITY LIVING CHRISTMAS PARTY

WHERE THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS COMES TO LIFE



Community Living is an organization dedicated to serving persons with intellectual & developmental disabilities, enabling them to be happy, healthy, safe, and to *LIVE LIFE!* You can help make this year a holiday of hope and joy for these people by your participation at the **Community Living Christmas Party here at Trinity on Sunday, 12/8**. The gifts collected from the *Holiday Hope Tree* will be distributed to the Community Living Residents at the party. All members of Trinity are invited to attend this wonderful event.

If you can help in any way, please contact Laura Welker at 301-788-0048 or yardwelk@aol.com.



TO GOD BE
THE GLORY!

Trinity's Operation Christmas Child Packing Party Rocked over 1000 Boxes

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU FOR 1000 BLESSINGS

On Sunday, November 3rd, sixty people from Trinity and the community spent the afternoon packing 1000 shoeboxes full of school supplies, hygiene items, toys, love and prayers that will soon bless children all over the world.

THANK YOU to everyone who purchased, sewed and crafted items throughout the year!! And much gratitude for those who came and stuffed shoeboxes full of joy. 1000 children will not only receive these precious gifts but will hear the Good News of the Gospel. Praise be to God!



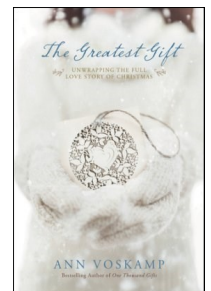
Women's Advent Bible Study Starts Dec. 4

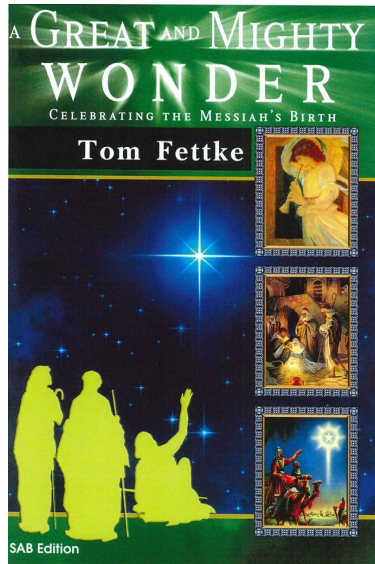
Wednesdays at both 9:30am & 7pm

"I get something meaningful every time I do this advent study. It gets my heart ready for true CHRISTmas." - Study Participant

Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot--yes, a new branch bearing fruit from the old root...In that day the heir to David's throne will be a banner of salvation to all the world. The nations will rally to Him, and the land where He lives will be a glorious place. Isaiah 11:1, 10

The nativity story didn't start with a journey to Bethlehem, an emperor's decree, or a virgin conception---it began with Adam! Exploring the lineage of Jesus through the Advent tradition of the Jesse tree, Voskamp retraces the epic pageantry of mankind from Genesis to God's greatest gift---his Son. A timeless reminder of the true meaning of Christmas!





2019 CHRISTMAS CANTATA **“A GREAT AND MIGHTY WONDER”**

Sunday, December 15, the combined Chancel Choirs of Trinity UMC and Walkersville UMC will present this year’s Christmas cantata, *A Great and Mighty Wonder* by Tom Fettke. The familiar Christmas story leads us to a profound sense of awe and wonder. It is a love story conceived in the heart of a great and mighty God before the creation of time. Travel through time to Bethlehem and experience, through song, the fulfillment of God’s plan in a humble manger. Set aside time to *worship* at either service and *celebrate* the great and mighty wonder of God’s love!

A Holiday Concert with

THE TRINITY BRASS



Saturday, December 21, 2019
 at 3:00pm

Trinity United Methodist Church
 703 West Patrick Street Frederick, MD 21701

Free Admission



Come listen and enjoy a collection of secular & sacred holiday music performed by members of Trinity Church’s very own brass choir.

Participate in the audience Christmas Carol sing-along!

A free-will offering will be collected to help offset expenses associated with The Trinity Brass travelling to Minneapolis in May 2020 to participate in the United Methodist Church’s General Conference

info@trinitybrass.org



The Seven Tenets of The United Methodist Social Creed

Dorothy Granberry, Church and Society Committee

The United Methodist Church (UMC) is a connectional church that affirms the gospel of Jesus Christ to be both social and personal. This belief is clearly expressed in the UMC Social Creed. The seven (7) tenets of the Social Creed are:

1. We believe in God, Creator of the world, and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.
2. We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.
3. We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family.
4. We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities, to improvement of the quality of life, and to the rights and dignity of all persons.
5. We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress.
6. We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world.
7. We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world. Amen.

TRINITY YOUTH . . .

are grateful for the opportunity to have served in our worship service on Sunday, November 17. They worked hard to prepare a service that was meaningful, relevant and fun. We hope you found it meaningful.

Speaking of service, our youth are sponsoring a family in need for the holidays. On Sunday, November 24, they are taking a field trip to the grocery store, to purchase Thanksgiving dinner for our family, which I will deliver, to ensure anonymity to the family.

The youth have 2 parties coming up, as well. The Christmas party is on Sunday, December 22. The youth will go shopping, a scavenger hunt, for items on the children's wish list. It's great fun! The youth divide into teams, and scatter to find the best deals. Once they return, they will have a potluck dinner, wrap presents, and play a few games. If you are interested in helping our youth by driving/chaperoning, or donating, please contact Wendy Huff: huff.wendy@gmail.com. The following Sunday, December 29, our youth will have their New Year's Party potluck, looking forward to great things in 2020.

Here's a quick look at a few upcoming highlights:

- Sun, December 22: Youth Christmas Party
- Sun, December 29: Youth New Year's Party
- Fri-Sun, February 7-9: ROCK Retreat: Ocean City
- Sat, February 29: ASP Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction
- Sat, May 9: ASP Spring Yard Sale
- Sun-Sat, July 5-11 ASP Mission Trip

Trinity's youth are blessed to have the support of our greater Trinity community. Thanks be to God for this ministry and its impact on our youth. This allows them to have a positive impact on the greater community.

Blessings, Wendy Huff, Director of Youth Ministry





James Chamblee, Praise Band Director

Trinity welcomes Jim Chamblee as our new Praise Band Director. Brother Jim has been helping us with our contemporary service here at Trinity for the past month. Before coming to us, he worked as the contemporary worship leader at Centennial Memorial UMC in downtown Frederick for over 12 years. From 2006 until November 2018 he served as the Worship Leader at Centennial where he led the Saturday night contemporary service.

Since attending Credo #17 (something similar to the Emmaus Walk), Jim has been participating in the music teams of 48 Credo retreats. In this ministry, he has played between 80 to 100 songs per retreat. Clearly this has been an experience that has given him the opportunity to work well with different churches and ministry groups.

Jim's "day" job is as a Maintenance Mechanic at Skycroft Conference Center, a ministry of the Maryland/Delaware Southern Baptist Convention. He is also the leader of a band in Frederick, and, in addition, he is the *co-owner* of Carroll Creek Guitars on Carroll Creek in Frederick which makes solid bodied electric guitars. Jim is excited for the opportunity to be with Trinity at this time of his ministry journey, and he is looking forward to helping our congregation continue in praise God in a way that is inspirational, and Spirit-filled.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Christmas Centerpieces

Large \$25	Small \$15
2 candles, evergreens, and fresh flowers	1 candle, evergreens, and fresh flowers

Make sure to order yours today and pick up Sunday, December 15. All proceeds will benefit the flower fund for special arrangements at Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Please pay at pick-up on Sunday, 12/15. Contact Gene Runkle at 301-834-4679 with any questions

Order Your Poinsettias

You still have time to order Poinsettias to honor or memory of your loved ones. You will be available to take your order home after our 11 pm service on Christmas Eve. Please contact the office to place your order. You have a choice of red or white at \$10.00 each. Please make checks payable to TUMC and drop in the offering or at the church office. **Orders must be received by Sunday, December 8.**



DECEMBER GROW TIME

WHERE FAITH MEETS LIFE

Sunday mornings at 9:55
Two Adult Gatherings for Advent
Study in Rooms 108 & 109

The Wonder of Christmas: Once You Believe, Anything Is Possible

Be part of this meaningful Advent experience that explores the true wonder of Christmas through the lens of four elements of the Christmas story: a star, a name, a manger, and a promise. As we look to these aspects of the Christmas story, we will rediscover that the true wonder of Christmas is found in the love of Christ made real in our hearts when we share that love with others.

DECEMBER 2019

(MT=Ministry Team)

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>		
1 <i>Holy Communion</i> 6:30 pm Youth Group	2	3 8:00 am Men's Bible Study	4 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	5 7:00 pm Blue Christmas Service	6	7		
8 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 12:30 pm Children's MT 2:00 pm Community Living Party 6:30 pm Youth Group	9 11:30 am J.O.Y. Club 7:00 pm Church Council	10 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 2:00 pm STATS Training 6:30 pm Altar Guild	11 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Women's MT 6:00 pm Taizé Service 7:00 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	12 6:00 pm Fellowship & Hospitality MT 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision	13 4:00 pm Cookie Walk Prep	14 9:00 am Cookie Walk 2:00 pm Hospice Prayer and Praise		
15 9:15 am Blood Pressure Screening 12:30 pm Church & Society MT	16 1:00 pm Spiritual Director's Support Group	17 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Member Care & Nurture MT	18 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	19 6:30 pm Stewardship & Finance MT	20	21 2:00 pm Trinity Brass Concert 4:00 pm Children's Christmas Party		
22 4:00 pm Youth Christmas Party	23	24 3:30 pm Lessons and Carols 6:00 pm Live Nativity 8:00 pm Live Nativity 11:00 pm Candlelight service	25 <i>Office Closed</i>	26	27	28		
29 6:30 pm Youth Group-New Years Party	30 1:00 pm Monthly Newsletter Collating	31 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm Trustees MT	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>SUNDAY SCHEDULE 8:45 am - Contemporary Worship 9:55 am - Grow Time for ALL ages 11:10 am - Traditional Worship <i>Staffed nursery care provided all morning</i></p> </div>				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>SUNDAY CHOIRS 5:10 pm Youth Choir Room 206 6:00 pm Trinity Brass Sanctuary</p> </div>	

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Date	Drivers	Lay Readers	Ushers
12/1	Lars DeSalvio 301-471-7466	Wayne Buckingham	8:45 - Wayne Buckingham 11:10 - Larry Boyer, Glenna Green, Pam Lesperance, Adrian Winpigler
12/8	Matt Stegle 301-694-2649	Denise Blasewitz	8:45 - Larry Smith 11:10 - Larry Boyer, Judy & Michele Pickens, Pam Lesperance
12/15	David Eisentraut 301-371-3534	Bob Kripowicz	8:45 - Dave Romer 11:10 - Jerry Ryan Sr., McKayla McNamee, Dave Romer, Barb Ellis
12/22	Bill Etzler 301-865-6026	Magda Morales	8:45 - Margaret Lukens 11:10 - Jerry Ryan Sr., Doug & Mary Wallick, Rachel Kenny
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 12/24		TBD	3:00 - Pam Lesperance, Glenna Green, Wayne Buckingham 6:00 - Larry Boyer, Dave Romer, Doug & Mary Wallick 8:00 - Larry Boyer, Jerry Ryan, Barb Ellis
12/29	Lars DeSalvio 301-471-7466	Peggy Rowley	8:45 - Chip Jewell 11:10 - Larry Boyer, Bill & Kay Etzler, Barb Ellis

NEWSLETTER COLLATING DATES

Monday December 30 1pm
Tuesday January 28 1pm
Tuesday February 25 1pm

These dates are subject to change. We are always looking for more volunteers. If you can help, please call Ruby Fine at 301-371-5617.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Please submit your information or article for the monthly Newsletter in one of the following ways :

- mail or deliver to the church office
- email to **TUMC@trinityfrederick.org**.

Information for the January 2020 newsletter will be due the second Sunday of December– December 8.



The church office hours are 9am - 4pm, Monday through Friday.

Pastor Eliezer's day off is Friday. He is normally in the office Monday through Thursday. Your pastor is ALWAYS available by phone.

Eliezer: 301-662-2895(work) and 240-285-9623(cell)



Trinity United Methodist Church
703 West Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701

301-662-2895
tumc@trinityfrederick.org
www.trinityfrederick.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Frederick, MD 21701
Permit #12

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Trinity's Annual Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 14

9am - until the cookies are gone!

Start warming your ovens. We need elves to bake yummy and delicious Christmas cookies. We need help on Friday evening for setting up and on Saturday to assist with the sale. Invite friends and neighbors to come buy our cookies!

calling
all elves!



Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

BAKE: I will bake approximately _____ dozen cookies.

Cookies should be delivered to the Multipurpose Room on Friday, 12/13 between 4-7 pm. On delivery, please indicate the type of cookies, your name, and if they contain nuts (relating to allergies).

HELP: Set-up on Friday evening, December 13.

Serve on Saturday morning, December 14 starting at 8:15 am.

BUY: I would like to pre-order:

_____ small platters at \$18.00 each

_____ large platters at \$30.00 each

Questions? Contact Jenna at tumc@trinityfrederick.org or 301-662-2895.