



The Trinity
December 2006
BEACON

The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin,
The light of the world is

One Small Child



As we come to yet another Christmas, we think back to the simplicity of the birthplace of the Christ-child. So often at Christmas, we think only of the Babe in the Manger, the cattle lowing, the shepherds in the fields, the angels announcing the birth, and the wise men coming to see Jesus. We often forget that that *“One Small Child”* is the Creator of the universe, the promised Messiah, the King of kings, the great I AM.

Join us on December 17th as the Trinity choir brings to you the cantata, *“One Small Child”*. This year, we will be starting the day with a single worship service, starting at 9:00 a.m. There will be congregational singing, a children’s message, and then the cantata. Pastor Jim will conclude with a brief message. The fellowship time will be from 10:30 to 10:50. The Sunday School hour will follow, from 11:00 to 12:00. Invite family and friends for this exciting celebration of the birth of our Savior!

From The Pastor's Heart



Dr. James Guenther

“And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” (Matthew 2:11)

On the concluding night of our 2006 Global Impact Celebration, Clayton and Charlotte Rock, missionaries to Argentina, and Cevin Sweeney, missionary to Germany, presented certificates to me from the International Mission Board. These recognize Trinity as having given the largest total contribution to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the largest per capita LMCO in the Hudson Baptist Association in 2005. (The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is the name of our International Missions Offering.) We are the largest church within the association so having given the largest total offering was no surprise. But being the largest church also makes it difficult to lead in per capita giving. Congratulations for being the example to others of what it means to be a church with a heart for missions!

Our increase in giving has been a direct result of many of you designating a monthly amount to “Missions” in addition to your tithe. 28% of the amount so designated goes immediately each month to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. An additional 22% is given to other missions offerings (17% to the North American Missions Offering, 3% to the Baptist Convention of New York Offering, and 2% to the World Hunger Offering). The other half of the “Missions” giving goes to “On Mission” projects including international and domestic mission trips and local outreach.

Once again this year, you will be given an opportunity to make a faith pledge to this “Missions” offering and commit or recommit to a regular gift to the Building Fund. As in the past, you will be asked to record only an amount to be given without a signature. This assures that the amount of your gift is between you and the Lord only. These commitments will be received at the conclusion of the Christmas Eve service this year along with financial gifts to this year’s Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by those who give directly to the offerings rather than to the “Missions Fund.” This is a wonderful way to give a gift to Christ as we celebrate His birth.

As always, I rejoice to be . . .

Your Pastor,

Jim Guenther

**Volume 19, No. 12
Church Leadership**

Pastor

Dr. James Guenther

Youth Pastor

Jeff Collier

Minister of Music

Ken Cunniff

Church Office Manager

Barbara Dabravalskas

Deacons

Bud Newcomb - Chairman

Rick Bentley

Mark DeQuoy

Eric Hine

Steve Lizotte

Larry Noyes

John Thomsen

Administration

Eric Hine

Missions

Dr. Shawn Buice

Evangelism

John Thomsen

Education

Gerrie Moriarty

Support

Lynn Caterina

AWANA Commander

Jerry Crisci

Prayer & Encouragement

Caleb Chuchta

Newsletter Staff

Caroline Bly

Gloria Buice

Lois Remis

Mary's Journey Into Motherhood

Picture with me for a few minutes the story of Mary.

The Bible says that many years ago, in the village of Nazareth, lived a young virgin named Mary. She was about fifteen and engaged to a carpenter named Joseph.

Alone in her room one night, as she was gazing at the stars and talking to God, a bright light suddenly filled her little room. A deep strong voice said "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women." She slowly, fearfully, turned around, her heart pounding in her chest. She was confused about the words she had heard. Fully turned around, she saw the large mighty angel that was speaking to her. Her thoughts were racing, "What do these words mean? I know he is talking to me; I'm the only one here! "Highly favored one, the Lord is with you." Me? I know that God has blessed me in many ways but what does it all mean?" The angel continued speaking softly to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God." Gradually, a quiet peace settled in her heart. "You will conceive a son and His name shall be called Jesus. He will be great and be called the Son of the Highest. He will reign forever and His kingdom will have no end". "But how can that be, Joseph and I are not married yet?" The angel explained that the "Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of God will overshadow you. Because of this, the Child, the Holy One, will be called the Son of God". All sorts of thoughts raced through her mind... "Joseph could leave me, I could be stoned to death! But wait, the angel said that this Child is to be from God! That He will be my Child's Father! Am I to be the mother of the long awaited Messiah? The Messiah, my son! Where is my faith? Why am I so hesitant? I must trust God even more now." Despite all the uncertainty of what lay ahead, Mary surrendered herself totally to God. "I am the servant of the Lord. Let it happen as you say."

Now let's fast forward past the morning sickness. Joseph and Mary are married and she is about eight months pregnant. Augustus ordered that each person was to go to his own city to be counted. For Mary this meant a donkey ride of about seventy miles! Now imagine what Mary is thinking... "Dear Joseph, he is working so hard to make sure I am as comfortable as possible on the trip to Bethlehem." She never complained, or did she? "Joseph is trying so hard to make the ride on the donkey comfy". Comfy? Riding on a donkey? I don't think so! Besides, my back hurts, my feet are swollen now, what will they look like seventy miles from here? I won't be able to put them up! I'm tired. I don't feel well and what about restrooms? I hope they are close together!!! I don't want to go and I really don't want to ride this stupid donkey!"

Finally they arrived in Bethlehem. But guess what? Joseph forgot to make hotel reservations and the Camel Inn and the Star Inn are full! Mary thinks "What do we do now?" Things couldn't get any worse, or could they? "Um, um Joseph. Joseph! Come here! I need to lie down. NOW!!! Joseph goes and explains the situation to the desk clerk at the Camel Inn and is told that there may be some space out in the stable with the animals. As he leads her to the stable, Mary is thinking, "a stable, it's so dirty and smelly and there are animals all over. I can't give birth to God's Son in a stable!" To Joseph she says "Couldn't you have found something a little nicer?"

As they settled in, Mary thought back over the last nine months. She remembered the angel, her joy as the Baby grew and moved, and the excitement of waiting for His birth. Now the time is here. She relaxes because she knows that God is in control. Soon it is over. As Mary watches her tiny, precious little baby asleep in her arms, she is so full of love she could burst. But she is also thinking and wondering what the future holds for her Son "What does God have in store for Jesus?" So began Mary's journey into heartbreak.

Sandy Gauthier

QUARTERLY BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Wednesday, December 13th
7:00 PM



Please participate in the December quarterly business conference as we consider adopting the budget for 2007, which is to be presented by the Stewardship Committee. Other very important matters will also be discussed. Business cannot be transacted without a sufficient quorum of our active resident members.

You are invited as well to a fellowship dinner at 6:00 PM.

Living Nativity

Saturday, December 16th at 6:00 PM

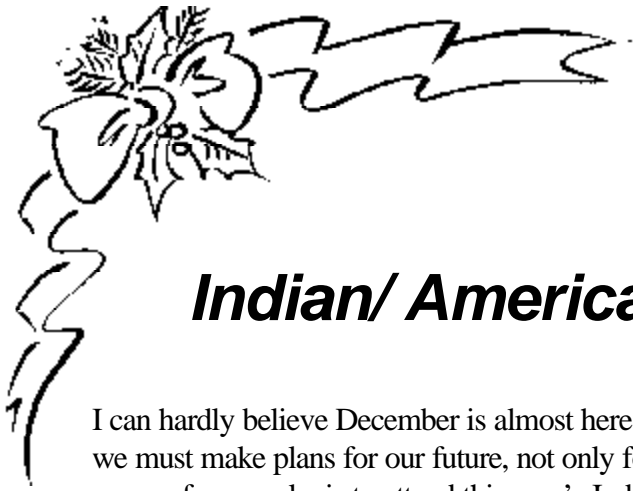
Jerry Burrell Park (at the top of Hamilton Hill)



What would our Christmas preparation be without taking time to experience that first Christmas . . . Joseph seeking lodging in Bethlehem for himself and his pregnant wife, Mary . . . the wonder of the Shepherds as they were the first to hear the angel's announcement of the good news that "a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord" . . . and the Magi that came some time later bearing gifts of gold, incense and myrrh.

There will be live animals, "actors", and of course Baby Jesus . . . and, included within the story, there will be singing of familiar carols.

Come and see the re-enactment of that first Christmas, and be a part of reaching out to our "Jerusalem", working in conjunction with Hamilton Hill Fellowship. Refreshments will follow right there at the park.



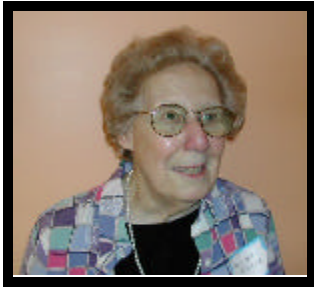
Indian/ American Christmas Program

I can hardly believe December is almost here again! Time seems to pass by quicker than ever. Because of this, we must make plans for our future, not only for later in life, but month to month. One plan I would love to see many of you make is to attend this year's Indian/American Christmas Program. Christmas is such a rushed time of buying and busi-ness, but how much of that really serves our Lord. How about making a new friend this December. In making a new friend who doesn't know about our Lord, you can bear witness to him and perhaps win him to Christ. What a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas!

Our Christmas program will be on December 8th at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church. Admission is free, although donations will be accepted. We will be having many Hindu friends from around the area joining us. There will be a catered Indian dinner following the program of singing by Chris Hale in Hindi and speaking by Danesh Manik. Many of our Christian Indian friends will entertain us with singing in different Indian languages.

The purpose of this program is to share the true meaning of Christmas with our Indian neighbors. Won't you come and join us? If you have never attended, you have missed a great opportunity to learn about the Indian culture and to know some of the most loving people God has created. Come and represent Christ to a people who don't know Him.





Marilyn Ennis
2740 Myrtle Avenue
Schenectady, NY 12306
377-4296

Membership by Statement of Faith/Transfer of Letter



COMING SOON

NEW TRINITY PICTURE DIRECTORY

PHOTOS



Now being taken for the Church Directory

We are excited to announce that we are going to create a new pictorial directory of our church family. **All we need is you!** We want to have 100% membership participation so our directory will be complete. The directory helps us connect names with faces and helps to bring our congregation closer. It has been three years since our last picture directory was completed, and many changes have taken place over that time. A new directory every few years helps keep us in touch with each other, is a great way to introduce new members to our church family, and also captures the history of our church congregation.

Please participate! All we ask is that you have your picture taken by the professional photographer and meet with a portrait consultant, all right here at church. For the next several weeks, we will be making appointments before and after services. Please sign up as soon as possible to get the best appointment to fit your schedule.

- Every participating family/household will receive a free directory and a complimentary 8 x 10 Custom Natural Portrait.
- You will come to the church only once for photography and for portrait viewing.
- The program is available at no cost to the church budget.
- You will have the opportunity to order additional portraits during your scheduled appointment time.
- If you wish to purchase extras, the portraits come with a 100% satisfaction guarantee.
- Whether you decide to dress formal or casual, you will want to make the most of this opportunity.

The scheduled dates for photography and portrait viewing are:

Thursday	January 11, 2007	3:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Friday	January 12, 2007	3:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Saturday	January 13, 2007	10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If you have questions, or if you are not available during these dates, please contact Lynn Caterina at 347-2410, or at vcaterin@nycap.rr.com.

We look forward to seeing EVERYONE. **Our new pictorial directory just won't be complete without you!** 5

IT'S NOT GOODBYE...JUST SEE YA'LL SOON!

You may have heard we are moving to Virginia. Wow...at our age, moving can be a scary thought! Especially since we are leaving so many dear friends at Trinity.

However, as many of you know, we have children and grandchildren in the Virginia/Maryland area and the pull is strong to be with them.

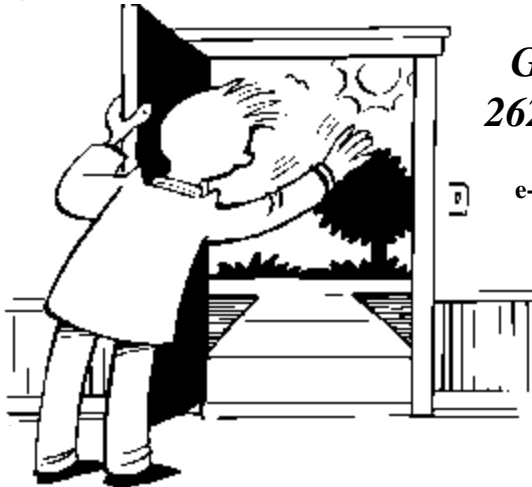
We wanted to take this opportunity to tell you how very much we love you, our Trinity Family. We have been members of this family for over 23 years, and it has been the best years of our lives. God has grown us spiritually under the Shepherding of Pastor Jim and given us an abundance of godly sisters and brothers in Christ.

We want to thank you, our Trinity Family, for adding so much depth and richness to our lives. Truly God has blessed us over and over again through your love and examples. No one can ever replace you in our hearts.

We'd like to encourage you to **"KEEP ON KEEPING ON" for Christ!** We will continue to pray for this precious body of believers for **ENCOURAGEMENT, PERSEVERANCE, FAITHFULNESS, BOLDNESS, and above all, LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER.**

Satan is always on the prowl to divide and destroy, so we exhort you to keep your eyes on Jesus and be an encourager to one another. There's still much work to be done, the fields are white unto harvest. May we all continue to be found faithful until such time we are home with the Lord.

We ask that you continue to pray for us that we will remain faithful and busy for HIM in our new location. Please keep in touch and come visit us on the farm!



Guy & Louise Bennett
26204 Spivey Town Road
Windsor, VA 23487
e-mail: gl_bennett@hotmail.com

Nursery Workers

Sunday 8:30

Dec. 3- Paula Collier & Caroline Bly
Dec. 10- Sally & Kelsey Lizotte, Erin Chuchta
Dec. 17- NO SERVICE
Dec. 24- Joshua & Jennifer Crowder

Sunday 11:00

Dec. 3- Debbie Cromer & April Wright
Dec.10- Christina Bowers & Kelly Herrera
Dec. 17- VOLUNTEERS
Dec. 24- Denise Crisci & Dawn LaPorte

Sunday 5-6

Dec. 3- Paula Collier & Susan Bentley
Dec. 10- Bobbie Rejack & Gloria Buice
Dec. 17- Christina Bowers & Kelly Herrera
Dec. 24- NO CLASSES

Sunday 6-7:15

Dec. 3- Matt & Teresa Gallagher
Dec. 10- Matt & Teresa Gallagher
Dec. 17- Matt & Teresa Gallagher
Dec. 24- NO NURSERY

Wednesday 6:00

Dec. 6- Gloria Krupski
Dec. 13- Gloria Krupski
Dec. 20- Gloria Krupski
Dec. 27- Gloria Krupski

More workers are needed for the 3rd
Sunday (11:00) and Sunday night slots.



***Just a
Reminder...***

Happy Birthday

- 2 Julianne Dabravalskas
- 2 Barbara Hine
- 2 Tim Jurewicz
- 4 Janicew Lowell
- 4 Kendra Silvestri
- 5 Gabrielle Enos
- 5 Jonathatn Watt
- 6 Kathleen Bradley
- 6 Richard Helbling
- 6 Karah Lizotte
- 6 Edith Osaheni
- 6 Julia Taylor
- 7 Jason Heinrichs
- 7 Lance St. Louis
- 9 Debra Kazmierczak
- 9 Christine Suriano
- 11 Tracey Boyko
- 12 Ruthann Kretser
- 12 Barbara Peck
- 15 Shawn Buice Jr.
- 15 Daniel Nelson
- 16 Sabrina Johnson
- 16 Jennifer St. Amand
- 19 Kelsey Kazmierczak
- 21 Mary Bouck
- 23 Michael Gao
- 24 Louise Bennett
- 24 Taylor French
- 24 Gwen McManaman
- 25 Nancy McClain
- 27 Adam Taylor
- 28 Jacob Gallagher
- 29 Christina Bowers
- 29 Lynn Nuzback
- 31 Bob Fairchild
- 31 Rob LaMora
- 31 Joseph Osaheni
- 31 Xiaolei Shi



December



If we don't have your birthday, please call the office at 393-2506 and give us the day and month.

Plan Ahead

- January 6 Men's Breakfast
7:15 to 9:00
- January 11-13 Church Directory
Pictures
- February 3-4 Lead Like Jesus Seminar
- February 17 Valentine's Banquet
- March 10 Iron Sharpens Iron
Conference for Men in Albany
- April 6 Good Friday Cantata

The following classes have graciously agreed to serve for Sunday Morning Fellowship time

- 12/3 - Jim Taylor
- 12/10 - Wendy McMahon
- 12/17 - Eric Hine
- 12/24 - Pastor/Josh Crowder
- 12/31 - Ken & Debbie Cunniff

God's Blessings

October 2006

Attendance Averages:

Sunday School:	165
8:30 Service:	107
11:00 Service:	157
Total Worship:	264
Sunday Evening:	153

Wednesday Evening: 92

Budget -	\$37,810.31
Building -	\$3,297.00
Missions -	\$2,174.14



China Mission Team Prayer Requests Can you commit?

As most of you know, Trinity Baptist Church is planning a mission trip to Beijing, China in July of 2008. We have asked Dr. Chung, the pastor of the Chinese Fellowship here at Trinity, to plan and assist us in the preparation and coordination of this exciting mission to this beautiful country that is in desperate need of Christ. Many things need to happen before we can travel halfway around the world to do God's work. That is why we, as a mission team and as members of the body of Christ, are asking you to support us in the form of prayer for some of our specific needs.

1. Please pray for the hearts of those God is leading to be a part of this mission. May His call to serve be clear to them.
2. Please pray for Dr. Chung and wisdom for him to organize and plan the preliminary details of the mission.
3. Please pray for our transportation needs as well as our housing needs while in China.
4. Please pray for preparation in the learning process of some basic Chinese language helps and cultural differences.
5. Please pray for God to work out the financial needs of all those He has called to this mission.
6. Please pray that Satan will be disarmed and turned back in defeat each time he raises his ugly head and attempts to discourage and disrupt this team from doing God's work in China.

Thank you,
The Ends of the Earth Committee

WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO
KNOW ABOUT . . .

HOMeward BOUND DOG RESCUE

Homeward Bound was formed to save happy, healthy puppies and dogs from being euthanized in shelters, because there was no one to care for them. The focus is upon finding those dogs that just need a little more time and exposure to find their way to a loving home.

Homeward Bound does not have a facility. Volunteers from all over the Capital District provide foster care for the animals until they can find a permanent home. Time spent in a loving home help the dog to feel safe and comfortable so their true personalities can emerge. There is a continual need for foster homes, as the availability of these homes is what dictates the number of dogs that can be rescued. There is also a need for volunteers to transport dogs from shelters to foster homes, or to veterinary appointments.

To learn more about volunteering with Homeward Bound or adopting one of the dogs in their program, visit their website at www.homewardbounddogrescue.com.

Carol Horn, who visits Trinity on a regular basis, is a member of the Board of Directors of Homeward Bound.



MORE THAN JUST A HUNT - Jamie Suriano

What a silly question to ask, "Is Jesus always with me?" Some of us might say, "certainly He is, where is your faith? Haven't you read God's Word?" In the Bible, the Lord reminded Joshua that just as He was with Moses, in the same way He would be wherever you would go (Joshua 1:1-9). On the other hand, some people feel like they are walking through life and doing it all by themselves as God watches from a distance, or worse yet, believe that God isn't there at all.

I was deer hunting in the Adirondack Mountains this year close to Indian Lake. There is a hiking trail that takes you to the summit of Snowy Mountain, a place I've always wanted to hunt and explore. As I hiked in with my backpack and rifle, I came upon a spot where several deer tracks had crossed the trail and went down into a dark stand of trees. I decided to track them and planned to take a stand on this small knoll. At this point, I was about 1 ½ miles from the road, in the center of the Adirondack Mountains. Just a few weeks before, the Indian Lake region received 18" of snow that left the forest a mess with downed timber, making navigating through the woods difficult. As I stood on my watch, anticipating the sight of a huge buck stepping out, my mind shifted back to the reality of how I was going to get a deer out of this tangled mess, if I could get one.

No sooner did that thought leave my mind, when a beautiful 10 point buck walked from a thicket. I was able to take him cleanly. Excited, I ran to admire the deer and field dress him. Shortly after that, reality set in... Now I would have to get the animal out of here. It was about 10 am and even though it seemed I would have plenty of time to get out of the woods before dark, I remembered that Pastor Jim was holding a special meeting for the Sunday School teachers and I was obligated to go.

I don't know if any of you talk to yourselves, but I do. I hope most of you talk to God, because I do that too. When you're deep in the mountains and alone, you can even talk out loud to God without being looked at strangely by someone. For the next 4 ½ hours I spoke to my Lord, thanking Him for this day and the opportunity to enjoy His creation, along with the health and abilities for me to experience this day. The first mile of this difficult task it didn't seem all that bad. I would carry my pack and my rifle about 50 yards, set them down, and go back and drag the deer 50 yards, then do it again, over and over. After about a mile of dragging this deer on dry ground, my arms and legs began to get fatigued. My water was gone and so was my energy. I began to cry out to God for help. I said, "Lord, I need help. I can't go anymore. I'm thirsty and tired. I don't want to get dehydrated and become ill, but I certainly can't leave this deer here because it will spoil. I need help, Lord."

I got up from the log I was sitting on and began to hopscotch my backpack and rifle up the trail, clearing brush and tree limbs in front of me so I could drag the deer more easily. I came to a small stream, and as I bent down to move a limb that was there, an unopened bottle of Poland Spring water popped up from under the water soaked leaves. Tears came to my eyes as I picked up the water and gave thanks to my Lord for being there and providing for me. My energy level was again raised as He told me to keep going and "I am with you." I kept thanking Him for that bottle of water, but I still needed help.

As I forged on, I heard a car pass by on the highway and knew I was close to the end of my journey. By now my legs and arms were cramping up, and I started to wonder how I was going to lift this deer up to get him in the trunk of my car. I made it to the road and pulled the deer over to the grass next to my car. What a relief to just sit down in the car seat, knowing that this ordeal was nearly over, but it wasn't. I still had to lift up this animal and get him into the vehicle. As I stood there by my car, several cars went by. None of them slowed down, even while seeing me standing by my vehicle. In fact, it seemed like they accelerated as they went by. Just then a pickup truck went by, and as it did, the tail lights went on and in haste, the truck turned around and pulled up beside me. A well-dressed man rolled his window down and asked me if he could be nosey. I said sure. He said that he noticed the horns sticking up in the grass and asked if he could see the deer. He was a big man, but gentle and soft-spoken. After looking at the deer, he reached out his hand and congratulated me on my catch. I had my camera in my hand and he asked if I would like him to take a picture of me with the deer. As he handed me the camera, he looked me in the eye and said, "you're going to need a hand getting this deer in your trunk, aren't you?"

Without hesitating, this big man grabbed the deer and pulled it over to the car. He had his dress clothes on so I told him that I would lift the deer up on the side that was all covered with blood. At that point, he looked me in the eye and said, "It's okay. I've been bloody before." We put the deer in the trunk, I thanked the man for his help, and we said our goodbyes.

As I drove home pondering in my heart the things that took place today, those words, "I've been bloody before" kept resonating in my mind. The Lord knew I was going to need strength to get the deer out of the woods and provided it. He knew I would need a cold drink of water and provided it. And the Lord knew that I would need help when I was totally at the end of myself and sent this man my way. A big man, gentle and caring, looked me in the eye and said, "I've been bloody before."

You don't need to be a hunter to be reminded of another person who was strong, gentle, and caring. One that was caring and concerned about you. One who holds the same testimony, "I've been bloody before", then went forth to the ultimate sacrifice and gave His life for you and for me. It's no wonder I've always wanted to hunt on Snowy Mountain. God put it in my heart to go there and experience again His marvelous love.