



DEC. 14      THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.    S.S. Christ. Prog. 10:30 a.m.

Reception in fellowship hall    11:30 a.m.

Health Check, in Church Library    11:30 a.m.

DEC. 15      Church Council Christmas Party / Meeting    6:00 p.m.

DEC. 17      Midweek Advent Service (Supper - 6 p.m.) 7:00 p.m.

DEC. 21      FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.    Holy Communion - 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Caroling to homebound    12:00 p.m.

DEC. 24      Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion    7:00 p.m.

DEC. 25      Nativity of Our Lord - Communion    10:30 a.m.

DEC. 26      Church Office Closed

DEC. 28      FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.    Lessons & Carols    10:30 a.m.

“The Lutheran Hour” is aired every Sunday on WMC (790AM) at 8:30 a.m.

## News of Members and Friends

### Congratulations To:

Kathleen Hill and William Long, on the birth of William Tanner Hill, October 27.... Matt Grant who graduates from the University of Memphis on Dec. 13th with a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education., at 10 a.m. at the FedEx Forum....

### May God Comfort The Bereaved:

especially the families of Nell Jarrett (Doug Reed's aunt), who died Oct. 24; Willie Gill, Jr. (father of Melinda Pulliam) who died Nov. 8; Natalie Elder, who died Nov. 11 in West Virginia; Ruth Anderson (Dale Anderson's aunt), who died Nov. 13....

### Remember In Prayer Those Who Are Ill:

Bruce Pulliam (Americare), Gertie Eddleman, Kay Seek, Susan Weatherall, Ryan Williams, Ed Winkelmann, Dale Anderson, Helen Denio, Jeffrey Dennis, Beulah Montgomery, Hank Mowry, Doug Oldham, Ruth Purdy, Doug Reed, Edie Ringger, Marie Schmidt, Ben Wessels, Tom Wright, Louise Alspaugh, Lovell Barger, Gene Breimon, Rev. Elwood Bush, Maude Chuha, Susan Coffman, Harriet Davis, Rosemarie Davis, Adele Harrison, Mary Jo Ibrahim, Idell James, Terry Karnes, Mary Kilburn, Shirley Laster, Kimberly Lee, Kathy Liebman, Carla Mathena, Barbara McCreedy, Cam McDonald, Paul Norman, Jean Ramey, Charles Scott, Kathy Stracener, Carrie Szumila, Joyce Thuftedal, Donald Thuftedal, Barbara Westberg, Betty White....

### Homebound:

Hazel Barnett, Florence Carter, E.W. Helms, Herta Kumitz, Marjorie Parham, Dannie Lee, Ray Pulliam, Walter Ringger, Nettie Snapp, Irene White....

### Memorial Service:

There will be a memorial service at Trinity at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6th, celebrating the Christian victory of Natalie Elder. All are welcome.

### December 2008

DEC. 3 Midweek Advent Service (Supper - 6 p.m.) 7:00 p.m.

DEC. 6 Memorial Service for Natalie Elder 2:00 p.m.

DEC. 7 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sunday School - 9:15 a.m. Holy Communion - 10:30 a.m.

30th Annual German Christmas Service 4:00 p.m.

DEC. 10 Young-at-Heart, Von Bora Christmas Party 10:00 a.m.

Midweek Advent Service (Supper - 6 p.m.) 7:00 p.m.

DEC. 13 Children's Christmas Program rehearsal 10:00 a.m.

Naomi Circle Christmas party, at Sheely's 6:30 p.m.

## Homebound

Drop a card, make a phone call, or visit one of our homebound members or friends this Christmas season. They'll appreciate hearing from you!

Miss Hazel Barnett, Wesley Manor #228,  
3549 Norriswood, 38111  
Mrs. Florence Carter, 230 Airline #211, Columbus, MS 39702  
Mrs. Dot Copeland, 6259 Thrushcross Dr. 38134 // 382-3707  
Mr. Fred Deckard, 1914 Poplar #A36, 38104 // 238-7787  
Mrs. Gertie Eddleman, 1630 Dolan Dr., 38116 // 332-8516  
Mr. E.W. Helms, 2865 Main Street, Humboldt, TN 38343  
Mrs. Dorothy Homann, Carestone #80,  
3345 Kirby Whitten Rd., 38134 // 379-1884  
Mr. Dannie Lee, 3435 Northwood Drive, 38111 // 321-1964  
Mr. Hank Mowry, 5145 Darlington Dr., 38118 // 365-9165  
Mrs. Marjorie Parham, Waverly Glen, Box 51,  
6551 Knight-Arnold Ext., 38115 // 692-9260  
Mr. Ray Pulliam, 223 W. Cooper Ave.,  
West Memphis, AR 72301 // 870 735-3981  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ringger, 4284 Gwynne Rd., 38117  
// 761-744  
Mrs. Nettie Snapp, 3663 Fredonia St., 38127 // 358-9899  
Mrs. Irene White, 668 Burdette Ave., 38127 // 353-5586  
Their families will appreciate your care, too!

## Christmas Caroling

Everyone is invited to go Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 21st, after the worship service. We plan to visit some of our homebound members, and bring them some musical Christmas greetings. Afterwards, we'll gather for refreshments and fellowship. Everyone, young and old, is encouraged to come along. This is a great way to share some Christmas cheer!

## The Stock Market or the Bible: Where Best to Invest?

There was a cartoon booklet produced several years ago about the concept of stewardship. The delightful thing about the booklet was the turn of phrase which accompanied each pair of cartoons. For example; on facing pages were a picture of a Bible and a newspaper listing of the stock market closings. Under the stock listing was written, "These are the daily quotations in which I invest my resources." Under the Bible the caption read, "These are my resources - the quotations require my daily investment."

The booklet concluded with a picture of a stamp redemption center on one page and a church on the facing page. Under the redemption center was written, "This is a redemption center; I receive valuable gifts here." Under the church was written, "This is where the gift of redemption may be received."

Let us all join in being trustees and good stewards of God's many gifts to us, so that the redemption of Jesus Christ may be broadly shared with a broken and suffering world!

*All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.* (I Chronicles 29:14).

- Kevin Baskette, Board of Finance

## Stewardship Forms

As of November 15th, we have received over 90 Personal Ministry Pledges and over 60 Secret Financial Pledges. Any member of Trinity who has not received Pledge forms, please phone the church office and forms will be sent to you. Offering envelopes for 2009 will be mailed in December.

## January Birthdays &amp; Anniversaries

## Birthdays in January

- 2 - Jon Dennis, William Lewis
- 4 - Wanda Cooper
- 6 - Mike Grant
- 7 - Kendra Cox
- 9 - Christine Klauser, Robert Wisniewski
- 10 - Clare Owen
- 11 - Sean Stewart, Carter Turner, Anna Wilkens-Reed
- 12 - Jeff Fry, Branden Spaniol
- 13 - Taylor Jones
- 14 - James Oldham, IV, Reagan Ryder
- 15 - Skip Hayes
- 16 - Lydia Wilkens-Reed
- 17 - Rachel Zoeller
- 20 - Richard Hardin
- 22 - Brandy Daly, Kelley Stoker
- 23 - Ray Pulliam, Daniel Reilly
- 24 - Tracie Chakraborty, Chance Gentry, Lisa Koehler, Sharon Wright
- 25 - Jerry Anderson
- 26 - Vera Martin, Caroline Sheely
- 27 - Hank Mowry, Paige Schwartz
- 28 - Vanessa Hays
- 29 - Helen Denio
- 30 - Alan Johnston, Eileen Sander
- 31 - April Anderson, Amanda Johnston, Margo Wilkens

## Wedding Anniversaries in January

- 4 — Jerry & Penelope Fuller (12th)
- 4 — Carl & Donna Mathena (6th)
- 15 — Jim & Clare Owen (60th)
- 22 — Terry & Anita Johnson (28th)
- 23 — Travis & Stacie Pulliam (10th)

## December Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays in December

- 1 - Lois Knight
- 3 - DeAngelo Beverly, Angela Laughlin, Johnnie Mowry
- 5 - Derek Koehler
- 6 - Elizabeth Burns
- 7 - Cynthia Ramsey
- 10 - Jasmine Pulliam
- 11 - John Konnerth
- 12 - Garrison Eble
- 13 - Donna Reed Mathena
- 14 - Jordan Curtis
- 15 - Greg Seek
- 16 - Skylar Eble
- 17 - Elizabeth Brondos
- 18 - Nettie Snapp
- 19 - Michael McCormack
- 20 - Tiffany Poe
- 21 - Angela Waterhouse
- 24 - Fred Blank, Christie Eddlemon
- 26 - Dale Anderson
- 27 - Emily Oldham, Lindsay Schwartz, Mary Walls, Juanita Wininger
- 31 - Ana Oswald

### Wedding Anniversaries in December

- 7 -- Jeff & Adrienne Fry (12th)
- 8 -- Fred & Francine Heyer (58th)
- 17 — Mike & Deborah Wales (31st)
- 28 — Roy & Sylvia Keith (56th)
- 29 — Mitchell & Esther Wood (6th)
- 31 — Ray & Bettye Hilton (27th)

Wednesday, December 31st: New Year's at Noon, at the Ronald McDonald House!!  
(This event is for ages 14 & up.) 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Come ring in the New Year with some deserving families!

-Rosie

## Von Bora

The Von Bora Circle met in November and tended to Altar Duty. Everyone is invited to our Christmas gathering Wednesday, December 10th to do a few pre-Christmas tasks and share a festive holiday meal. Come at 10:00 a.m. A special holiday program will be presented at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will follow around 11:30 a.m., and afterwards we'll enjoy more Christmas games. All are welcome! Please note the date change - just for this month.

## and... Young at Heart

The Seniors and retirees of "Young-at-Heart" will join with the Von Bora Circle Wednesday, December 10th for a Christmas Party and Luncheon. Come at 10:00 a.m. to help with a couple of special projects, enjoy a program at 11, with lunch at 11:30 a.m. and Christmas fun and games afterwards.

## Naomi Circle

The Naomi Circle met at the church and enjoyed a program by Dan Hesse and Mike Kinard of Thrivent Financial about the economic crisis, and financial planning for our future.

We will help with the Fish Fry, and will also assist with the German Christmas Service reception. It has been a busy year with several excellent programs and projects.

Our Christmas party will be held Saturday, Dec. 13th, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Caroline and Ed Sheely, in Bartlett.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 7th at the church, to make plans for 2009. All women are invited!

- Jean Schmidt, Reporter

## Youth News

"Clean-out your closets!" for the needy...

Jr. versus Sr. Youth, bring in your gently used clothes, coats and shoes to the bins in the Youth Room. \*deadline is December 21.

Annual Sunday School Christmas Service – Sunday, December 14  
& Youth Christmas Lunch downtown,  
and bringing Christmas to Wesley-Highland Manor.  
(Saturday Practice: December 13, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

\*Jr. & Sr. High will have speaking parts and serve as worship assistants.

## Nov. Church and Sunday School Attendance

CHURCH	AVG.	S.S.	AVG.
2007	447 (4)112		228 (4) 57
2008	458 (4)115		194 (4) 49

## Communion Attendance

MEMBERS	GUESTS	TOTAL	
11/4/07	80	9	89
11/18/07	84	10	94
Private 11/07	10	2	12
174	21	195	
11/2/08	88	8	96
11/16/08	98	6	104
Private 11/08	10	4	14
196	18	214	

## Official Acts

## FUNERAL

Willie Gill, Jr., died November 8, 2008 and received Christian burial November 11, with interment at Crittenden Memorial Cemetery.

## MIFA Plus-1

People on limited income are having a hard time covering rising energy costs. MLGW President Jerry Collins, Jr. along with Mayors Wharton and Herenton have issued a special plea for gifts to "Plus-1." Check your MLGW bill for information on how to make a special gift to "Plus-1."

## Free Firewood!

Shirley Bell has several downed oak trees in her yard, and you are welcome to help yourself to firewood. Bring your own axe or saw, and chop away! Shirley's address is 885 Palmer Road. Call her at 346-7682 with any questions.

George Jock, 1012 S. 24th St., Omaha, NE, 68108  
Steve & Julie Schmidt, 6936 Carrolton, Bunker Hill, IL 62014  
Sharon Wright, 1530 Monroe #9, 38104 // 274-5797

#### Parish Nurse Notes

Are you the victim of holiday stress when what you really seek is holiday peace? Check out the Parish Nurse bulletin board in the fellowship hall. It offers some helpful tips for stress relief, as well as food for the soul from some holiday devotionals suitable for individual or family time. Please take any copies that you find helpful. If we take time to set priorities, we can, indeed, get our tasks done while still placing our focus on the reason for the season.

May Christmas bring you blessings of family and friends, and may your New Year be filled with God's goodness and peace!  
- June Wiese, Parish Nurse

Christmas Offering

Each year, Trinity’s **Christmas Offering** is given to several worthy agencies of mercy as a Christmas gift from Trinity congregation. All church envelopes marked for “Christmas Eve” and “Christmas Offering,” together with all cash contributions given at Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services will be given to these agencies:

- Downtown Food Pantry** (First Works), at First Methodist Church;
- Habitat For Humanity Of Greater Memphis**, building homes;
- MIFA**, providing help to the poor and elderly;
- Calvary Street Ministry**, helping the homeless;
- Memphis Union Mission**, ministering to transients and homeless.

Fish Fry A Winner!

On a beautiful November Saturday, we had our 19th Annual Fish Fry! The wonderful food that was prepared by several dedicated members made this meal a great success. We had a good attendance and collected over \$400 in profits for the Tuition Assistance Fund.

The Silent Auction, spearheaded by John Konnerth and Gary Schwanke, brought in over \$1,200. With matching funds from Thrivent, that means a total of over \$3,200 that will be used to assist Trinity’s children attending area Lutheran day schools.

Thanks to all who gave of their time and effort to make this Fish Fry and Auction an overwhelming success! Much appreciation and God’s blessings to all!

Gifts & Memorials

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In memory of **Ernest Hays**, a gift was given to Trinity by Mr. & Mrs. L.V. Schmidt.

In memory of **Bonnie Seek**, a gift was given to Trinity Ministry by Miss Louise Oswald.

In memory of **Willie Gill**, a gift was given to Trinity by Mrs. Dorothy Martens.

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Directory Update

A new church directory will be printed early next year. In the meantime, please make these changes to your directory.

Corrections:

Downtown Study at the home of Dr. Ron and Brenda Pfeiffer meets Monday, Dec. 1st, 7 p.m., continuing a study of *Mark*.

Tuesday Morning Covenant Seekers Bible Study, led by June Wiese will meet at 10 a.m. on Dec. 2nd.

Tuesday Evening Bethel Study will meet at the Wieses on Dec. 2nd at 7 p.m. and then resume in January.

Tuesday Evening Study, led by Pastor Wiese, meets for a dutch-treat supper at Piccadilly Restaurant on Dec. 9th at 6:30

The other weekday Home Bible Studies are taking a break in December and will resume in January.

#### 2009 Floral Calendar

The 2009 **Floral Calendar** has been posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Trinity members and friends are invited to place flowers on the altar or stands for Sunday services. Please put your name beside the date of the service for which you wish to provide the flowers. Cost of altar flowers is \$30.00, and the stand flowers \$40.00, payable to the Altar Guild. Individuals or families can share the same date. The first person listed has the altar flowers and the second the stand flowers. By mutual agreement, the two vases of altar or stand flowers may also be shared.

#### Hanging of the Greens

Anyone who would like to help decorate the church for the upcoming Christmas services is cordially invited to come at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 2nd to help set up the tree and generally get the sanctuary ready for the German Christmas Service. "Many hands make for light work."

#### Wheat Ridge

Wheat Ridge Ministries is able to help more than 120 ministries of health and hope reach out to people around the globe in the name of the healing Christ. Give a generous donation to Wheat Ridge so they can share God's healing love.

#### Christmas Poinsettias

Trinity's members and friends are invited to help provide poinsettias for Trinity's Christmas services. Cost is \$10.50 per plant. Orders for poinsettias need to be made by Wednesday, December 10th. Christmas gifts to the Altar Guild to aid them in their work are also most welcome, and may be made through Dec. 21. Plants and gifts may be designated in honor or memory of a loved one, and that will be noted in our Christmas bulletins. Use the insert in the Sunday bulletins or call the Church Office to place an order.

## Church Council News

The Council met November 9th. Reports were given by the Pastor and Board Chairmen. The General Fund had a surplus for the year through October. The Board of Elders appointed Mark Eble to the new position of Building Manager. The Fish Fry had a profit of \$448.81. George Jock is remaining in Omaha, Nebraska, looking for full-time employment.

In Old Business, the job description for the new Building Manager/Custodian was approved. The 2009 General Fund budget was also adopted. In New Business, the Council approved the transfer of Jonathan and Amy Welden and children to Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis, and the release of James Rushing to St. John the Evangelist Church in West Memphis.. A Tanzania mission group plans to be at Trinity's Mid-week supper and service on December 10. The December Council meeting will be held Monday, Dec. 15, 6:00 p.m. at the home of Kevin and Ashley Baskette.-  
Kevin Baskette, Secretary pro-tem

## Voters Report

Trinity's Church Luncheon and **Annual Voters Meeting** was held Nov. 16th. Various new members signed the constitution and became voters. The voters received an annual report from all the church boards. (For a copy of these reports, phone the church office).

In new business, the voters approved the 2009 General Fund budget, set at \$278,875. The voters also expressed thanks to the officers who are retiring this year (Barbara Sharp, Paul Koehler, Jim Hofer, John & Melody Konnerth, Virginia Hill, and Barbara Spahn). New officers for 2009 were elected, and the pastor's Housing Allowance set for the new year. The voters approved the calling of an intentional interim pastor the end of 2009, and the creation of a new position of Building Manager/Custodian. The meeting adjourned with prayer.

## Sunday School

## Christmas Program

This year's **Children's Christmas Program** will be presented by the Sunday School classes on Sunday, December 14th, in the morning worship service, with Vicki Grant as director. Work has begun, and there is much to do. Everyone will practice during Sunday School Dec. 7 and dress rehearsal will be

Saturday, Dec. 13th, beginning at 10 a.m., with pizza lunch following. Please make every effort to attend all the rehearsals so we can have a successful program. And invite your family and friends to come with you for this special event!

## Education News

### **Sunday Adult Classes:**

The Fellowship Hall Bible Class, led by Pastor Wiese is studying "Fruit of the Spirit."

The New Covenant Class and the Library Class have adjourned until after the Christmas holidays.

### **Weekday Home Bible Studies:**

voice that “holds the church up.”

- Martha Israel

December Worship

Mid-Week Advent Services

Wednesdays - December 3, 10, 17

Church Supper at 6 p.m. // Communion Service at 7 p.m.

Thirtieth Annual German Christmas Service

Sunday, December 7th at 4:00 p.m.

(Pre-service music begins at 3:30 p.m.)

Traditional carols & hymns sung in German by congregation

Choral works sung by a combined choir

Reception following

Annual Children’s Christmas Program

Sunday, December 14th at 10:30 a.m.

“A Christmas Surprise” by Sunday School

Christmas music sung by children and congregation

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Candlelight Communion Service

Service of carols, readings and Christmas message,

with Holy Communion

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25th at 10:30 a.m.

Service of carols, readings, message and Holy Communion

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 28th at 10:30 a.m.

Service of scripture and Christmas hymns

Everyone is cordially invited to all of these events!

even if there was a delay, the Church should remain prepared.

Both presidential candidates expressed optimism for the new day, that tomorrow will be better. While this positive outlook is comforting, Jesus reminds the Church that the future is not so bright for the 50% who didn't have enough oil for their lamps. They found themselves locked out. In the midst of delay, some responded foolishly and some wisely. Jesus was teaching his followers to keep their lamps full of oil.

Isn't that still a valid message? Where can we get that oil? Drill, baby, drill? I don't think that's the way. The people of God gather week after week to fill their lamps. Politicians may promise new hope, but those promises are often forgotten or empty. Jesus, however, keeps coming new to us, year after year, surprising us with grace and hope.

The parable teaches us to wait with responsible behavior. Hear His words, fortify your soul with His body and blood, so that your lamp may shine brightly, filling the darkened world with Christ's promise to remain with us to the end of the age - whenever it may come.

- Phil Schmidt  
Holding the Church Up

One of the joys of serving Trinity is that people are so ready with compliments about the music. Several years ago, as I said my goodbyes to Vicar Michael and Joan Okine, she said nice things about the organ, the instrumentalists, and the choir. Most of all, she said she would miss the congregational singing, because, as she phrased it, "when we sing we hold the church up."

Her comments have stayed with me because she recognized that, beautiful though the instruments and choir may be, the foundation of worship music is what the congregation does. Within the congregation lies the real life of the Church.

As we enter Advent and approach the Christmas holiday, a number of wonderful hymns await us. What songs speak to you? *On Jordan's Bank? O Come, Emmanuel? From Heav'n Above? Joy to the World? Silent Night?* We all have our favorites, and we'll sing many within the next weeks.

But there's more to worship than just singing my personal favorite. What happens when we, as a community in Christ, sing? How does our singing "hold the church up?"

I can think of several ways. First of all, our singing proclaims our faith – to our families, our church family, the visitor in the pew, even to ourselves. Also, the singing of these hymns unites us with believers of all times and places. We identify with the people of Israel as we sing, "O come, o come, Emmanuel." We offer our praises with the angels, singing "Gloria in excelsis Deo." We stand at the manger and pray, "Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled within my heart."

Finally, singing as a congregation helps to form and refine our faith, as we find new expressions of belief in the words and music of faith-full poets and composers.

Trinity's choir and instrumentalists are hard at work preparing special music for the season; but, this Advent and Christmas, remember that it is your

## Preparing for a Change

At the beginning of November, I announced to the members of Trinity my intention to retire as Trinity's pastor, God willing, in early 2010.

There are a number of reasons in my making this decision at this time. First, this change will be good for Trinity congregation. The congregation is strong and healthy, and has a dedicated and united lay leadership. Second, after being Trinity's pastor for 32+ years, it's time for me to consider some new ministry opportunities for my retirement years, now that I have reached age 65.

The reason why I am announcing this so far in advance is to give Trinity congregation sufficient time to plan the transition between my retirement and the arrival of a new permanent pastor. Trinity's Board of Elders presented a resolution to the Annual Voter's Meeting on November 16th that called for a full-time intentional interim pastor who would spend a year or two assisting the church during the transition. This pastor would begin his duties in 2010 after an orientation with me. I was glad that the voters approved the resolution. I believe this plan will assure that there will be an orderly transition and that there will be no disruption in pastoral leadership or care during this important change at Trinity.

There are some important advantages to calling an intentional interim pastor. This pastor will put needed time and space between my leaving and the arrival of a new permanent pastor. In addition, an interim has the experience to guide the leaders and members of Trinity through the extensive self-study and sometimes lengthy call process.

This decision to retire is one of the hardest decisions I have ever made. I love being a parish pastor, and even more, I love being Trinity's pastor. My family and I have always felt deeply loved and supported by this congregation. All three of our daughters have grown up at Trinity. This has been our church home and family for over 32 years.

I believe, however, that when 2010 comes, I will be leaving Trinity congregation in good hands. And I know that God will continue to bless Trinity congregation in its crucial ministry based in the heart of Memphis. In the meantime, we have much work to do together. - Ron Wiese  
Surprise, Surprise!

Surprises can be positive: a room full at a surprise birthday party, a phone call from a friend. Yet, not all surprises are welcome. No one wants to hear of a friend's death, find that a health problem has arisen, or watch the stock market fall.

This past election provided a few surprises. Most people thought it would take 12 to 24 hours after the polls closed before we knew who won. Surprise, surprise! By 10:00 p.m. we knew – and half the country was filled with hope and joy, and half were disappointed.

The church calendar closes with surprises, too. The early Christians expected that Jesus would return within a generation. Surprise, surprise! We still are waiting for the parousia (second coming). What should we do as we wait?

Jesus told a parable about 10 maidens to help the disciples understand that the day of his return would be a surprise. He wanted them to know that