

CONTACT

TRINITY CHURCH REACHING OUT

Christmas 2018



"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift" 2 Corinthians 9 v 15



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William in Romania

Desmond's take

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Editorial

The past few months have just flown and we have seen God's goodness, yet again, in the lovely summer we have enjoyed. Far off places seem less attractive when we spend time around our own coastline, and the lovely views and scenery cause us to take a deep breath and inhale the wonderful provision of God's creation. However our faith in God and what He has done should be as real, in our experience as His creation which we can touch and see. Many see the Christian today as a person living oblivious to the needs of a modern society. We live in a changing world where the born again Christian has to make an impact for good in a world which struggles with knowing the difference between good and evil. Also we are touched by the same problems and difficulties as the unbeliever, yet we have a God who is there for us. Like me, I am sure you have enjoyed the studies in Colossians taken by Rev. Irvine in our midweek meetings. We have learned so much about God's sovereignty, our own faith, our love and the hope that we have. We have been blessed through his ministry and look forward to what God will continue to bring to us through him now and in the New Year.

As we come to another Christmas let us remember the famous words



of Robert Louis Stevenson written in a bygone age, yet as fresh today as when it was first written:

*Oh God,
Help us rightly remember
The birth of Jesus, that
We may share in the songs
Of the angels, the gladness
Of the shepherds, and the
Worship of the wise men.
May Christmas morning
Make us happy
To be your children.*

Thanks again to all our people in the congregation who have had an input into this edition and to Doreen for her assistance with the children's page.

Yours in Christ,

Kenneth McAuley

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The Minister's Desk

Christmas 2018

Dear Friend



Nine months have passed since my installation as your minister. During this time I have been greatly encouraged by good attendance at worship services and the mid week meetings. I have been thrilled by the enthusiasm and commitment of many people in the congregation, both young and old, and also by the vision of those in positions of leadership. When I came to Trinity, I came with the expectation that God would work in our midst – and I have been delighted to discover that there are many people here who share my expectation and are praying to that end.

Since I've been here I have got to know quite a number of you and have been made to 'feel at home' in many homes throughout the congregation. I look forward to continuing my district visitation and to building and deepening friendships throughout 2019.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the warmth of your welcome and the great kindness you have shown to my family. Our son James was married in Glasgow on 3rd November and we are grateful to you for your prayers on that special day.

Thank you for the many Christmas messages we have received over the past couple of weeks and as a family we look forward to spending Christmas among you.

As I reflect on the meaning of Christmas in the year 2018, it seems to me that it is becoming increasingly difficult for Christians to maintain a biblical approach to the Christmas season. In fact, Christians have become divided in their thinking about Christmas. Some are so tired of its commercialisation that they want to give up on it and hand it over to the shops. Others want to salvage it and use it to say something important about the birth of Jesus to a weary secular world. I, for one, take my place with the second group.

The story is told of how many years ago an old American pioneer travelled westward across the Great Plains until he came to an abrupt halt at the edge of the Grand Canyon. He looked in awe and wonder at the sight before him – a vast chasm one mile deep, eighteen miles across and stretching out towards the horizon. He gasped "*Something big must have happened here!*"

Contd.,

At this Christmas season, anyone who stops to look or listen, must ask the same question about what all the hustle and bustle is about. A thoughtful man or woman, seeing the Christmas lights, the decorations, hearing the Christmas Carols or attending worship might also conclude, “*Something big must have happened here!*”

Of course something big did happen, and the world needs to hear about it. God, in the person of His son Jesus came to this world. This is what John says ‘*The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*’ (John 1:14). And the reason why he came was to die for our sins....*that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.* (John 3:16)

It’s the best news ever! God became one of us that we might live forever with Him. The angels described this as being ‘*good tidings of great joy....to all people*’(Luke 2:10)

It is my prayer that you will know God’s blessing this Christmas and throughout 2019 as we seek to make Christ known.

Yours in Christ’s service

David Irvine



Missionary Weekend

Saturday 16th Feb - Sunday 17th Feb

2019

“After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb”. **Revelation 7 v 9**

- **Missionary breakfast on Saturday 16th - speaker from the International Meeting Point, Belfast**
 - **Missionary Rally on Sunday 17th evening**
 - **Updates from Missions at home and overseas**
 - **Missionary displays in the hall**



Romanian Reunion

In 1993, 25 years ago this year, William McDowell and others from Northern Ireland were involved in a building project in Romania.

This project involved renovating an orphanage for children in Targu Mures. William was involved in the plumbing and heating of the orphanage where many children lived for most of their young lives and a short time after.

William and a number of other men used their practical, God given skills to ensure that a secure building was in place for these homeless children.

To mark the occasion, these men were invited back to Romania to share in the 25th Anniversary celebrations. They were away for eight days. They attended a service in the Hungarian Reformed Church to mark this. Over the years, William has been there 13 times to see the work progress and to see how the orphanage continues to operate, offering opportunities for the children to learn and make something of their lives which in the early days was, to say the least, difficult.

The orphanage was known as Lidia Children Home, called this after the girl who was a founder member and initially ran it and also the Bible character.

This was a particularly poignant time in William's experience, as he made contact with Betty, one of the children he knew, now 30 years old. She had done well for herself and was now working in a nursing home in Reading, England.

So often people are involved in projects that we don't know about and we would like to thank William for sharing with us this time around.



Lidia Children Home 25 years Anniversary

1993 - 2018

"The Lord has helped us all the way" 1 Sam 7 v 12

主は私のペースセッターです

The Lord is my Pace-setter

The Lord is my Pace-setter, I shall not rush;
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals.
He provides me with images of stillness,
which restore my serenity.

He leads me in ways of efficiency
through calmness of mind,
and His guidance is peace.
Even though I have a great many things
to accomplish each day,
I will not fret, for His presence is here;

His timelessness, His all importance,
will keep me in balance.
He prepares refreshment and renewal
in midst of my activity,

By anointing my mind with His oils of tranquillity.
My cup of joyous energy overflows,
surely harmony and effectiveness
shall be the fruits of my hours,
for I shall walk, in the pace of my Lord
and dwell in His house forever.

When I worked in Banking, I, together with a few of my colleagues who were Christians shared “a thought for the week” each Monday morning by email. One particular week one of my colleagues shared the version of the 23rd Psalm quoted above. This really resonated with me at the time as I was undergoing a pretty stressful period at work and it has stayed with me some 15 years later, so much so that when asked if I would contribute to the magazine I felt lead to share it. It is attributed to a Japanese Christian lady called Toki Miyashina, little else is known of her other than that her interpretation of the psalm was written around the mid-1960s. It is not a direct translation but a reworking of the psalm to reflect our need to rely on the Lord in the everyday bustle of our lives.



Contd.,

Over the years I have revisited it regularly and it helps me to step back, take stock of what is driving my life and where my focus should be. I really love the lines;

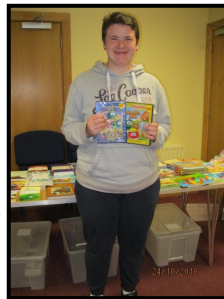
**“Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day,
I will not fret, for His presence is here.”**

There is such a strong message that whatever our pressures are each day, no matter what our daily routines are, we have no need to worry if we have committed our lives and are in step with the Lord as he will be walking with us.

I trust that as you read the words they will impact you and that you may reflect on the balance of your life, who you are relying on for your peace and if you are walking “in the pace of the Lord.”

Desmond Glendinning

Sunday School Prizes



Friendship Outing

Happy Friendship Day
Happy Friendship Day





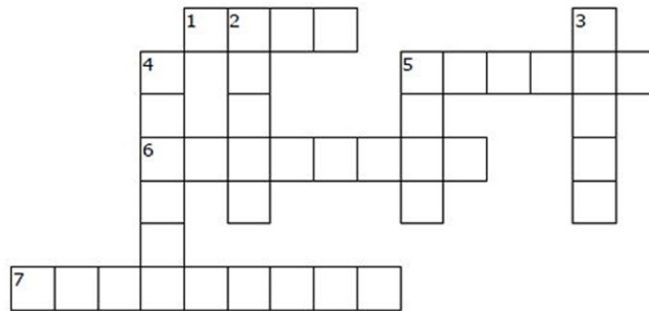
***SURROUND YOURSELF WITH PEOPLE THAT BUILD YOU UP AND
ENCOURAGE YOU TO LIVE OUT GOD'S PLANS FOR YOUR LIFE***



The Birth of Jesus

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (KJV)

Puzzle is based on Luke 2:1-20



ACROSS

1. An infant or very young child
5. The place where Mary laid the baby Jesus
6. A person who takes care of sheep
7. The city where Jesus was born

DOWN

2. Heavenly being that told the shepherds about Jesus' birth
3. The savior of the world
4. The earthly father of Jesus
5. The mother of Jesus

JOSEPH	ANGEL	BETHLEHEM	BABY
MARY	SHEPHERD	JESUS	MANGER

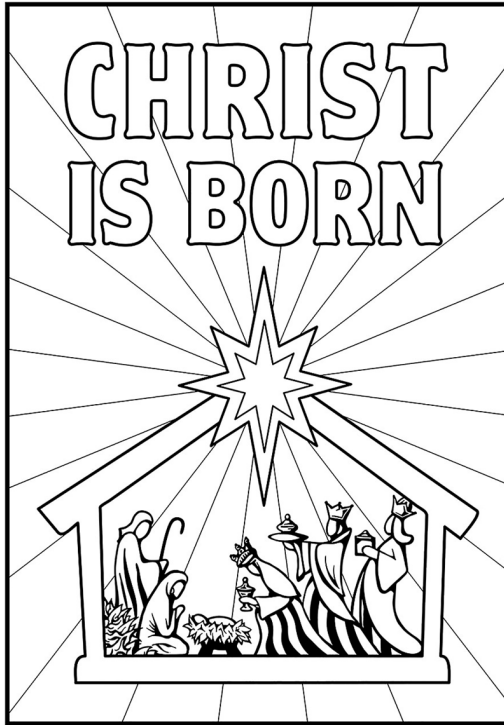


What's the best thing to put into a Christmas pudding?

Your teeth

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

It's Christmas, Eve



Have a
Blessed
Christ-mas



THE STORY OF MARY AND JOSEPH

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



*Little baby Jesus;
Laying on the hay.
Precious baby
Jesus;
We worship you
today.*

COASTAL WALKS







A number of coastal walks were organised by MDF for the church family.

These were well attended and very successful. The walks took place in Portrush, Portstewart, Portballintrae and the White Rocks. These finished with the statutory intake of food!



Following the walks there was refreshments in Morellis, an arranged BBQ and tea or coffee and tray bakes.







I am writing to say a huge, huge thank you for your very generous donations towards my trip to Moldova from the 5th until 30th October. I was privileged to spend time with the first year students and share the journey that brought them to the University and hearing their amazing testimonies (I have enclosed a copy of one). I also attended Speranta, a Romanian Church where Ron was asked to preach. The singing was amazing in all different languages.

It was a challenging time, but I felt upheld by prayer. Thank you so much for helping me make this all possible. May God bless you all and your kindness.

Love and God's blessing,

Elsie Wilson

Rasul comes from a Muslim family. From age three his father took him by the hand to go to the mosque. Even from an early age he had to listen to the Mullah in

quietness whilst there. He continued in obedience. As he grew older he began to question all that was said but his father could give him no answers. This made him more inquisitive. In school his best friend was a Christian so he voiced his questions to him and as they grew older they had long discussions on who God was, the environment, current events and all things relevant. He began to get answers to his many questions. One night he had a dream. He was in the desert and a man in bright white with no face appeared to him in kindness. He held his hand and told him to follow him. When he awoke he was startled to think that this was the Jesus his friend kept telling him about. Weeks later his mother came to him worried for his welfare. Was he ill? Did he need help? Something was wrong in his life. His mother had a dream, the same dream as himself - which caused her trouble knowing the boy holding the man's hand was probably Rasul. **Contd.,**

Was this boy possibly Rasul? When she told Rasul of her dream, it was Rasul's confirmation that this man was Jesus and that He was wanting to lead him to follow him. He was full of confidence and peace. Only days later in school, a girl he had never known sat beside him, and without hesitation she said "are you Rasul?" This startled him and he asked how she knew him? She told him she had a vision in her sleep and a man in a brilliant robe but with no face, appeared holding the hand of a boy named Rasul. This scared him so much he ran out of the room so fast to a quiet area to ponder the same dream appearing three times!!! For the first time he cried out to Jesus and affirmed that he would follow him whatever the price. At that point he clearly asked God to take control of his life. That was two years ago.

At an extended family gathering, he mixed well and hardly declared his new-found faith in Jesus. When everyone left, his elder brother was given instruction by his father to beat Rasul, even if it meant death, and that he must leave the family home as he was no longer part of the family. In obedience, his brother approached him and told him he was to beat him and in response Rasul told him to do as instructed, but to give him just five minutes alone. His brother knew he would be praying to this Christian Jesus, and in growing fear he waited. Then he beat him badly, leaving him in a severe way. Rasul gathered his few belongings and left to find his Christian friend. After four days his brother found him and said he had

convinced their father that he was a good person and to please let him return home. By then his Christian friends realised he was in a difficult position but told him to return and to see them daily.

With his friends growing friendship, they knew he was not safe and the local pastor put his name forward to enrol in the Moldova Christian University, which he did. This is his first year there.

Rasul is enrolled in the Business and Theology courses, believing this will best prepare him to serve His Saviour amongst his people upon return home. His one belief is that he is to be equipped as a missionary to the Tadjik people and with this confidence he loves the Biblical teaching and sharing fellowship with the many Central Asian students.

Please pray for this young 19 year-old who's love for God grows. Aware that though the path ahead may be difficult, pray that the comforter, guide and the fresh water of Jesus will nourish him as he grows into the likeness of our LORD.



HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB



Again this year our Holiday Bible Club was a great success with many children attending. The theme was a rainforest rescue and the halls were decorated with many animals and even bananas hanging from the ceiling!

This created an atmosphere for the children to enjoy and I have to say the artwork was exceptional. Well done!

The message was clearly presented by the leaders.





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Great to see a large number attending again at our Messy Church Event .

Lovely to see Rev. Irvine and his wife, Pauline involved with the helpers and getting to know those who come in through our doors.

This event is always well supported by those in our community. We are so happy to see new faces arriving with each event planned.



A number of tables were set up for crafts and helpers from our church assisted in the overall running of this event.





Events



MDF enjoyed a number of planned events during the year. Bowling at Portrush is always a popular event and a trip to HMS Caroline (photos on next page) proved to be a hit.

Derek Stirling also provided a day at the farm to see the Robotic Milking system in operation. Thanks to Derek and Heather for providing a great day out which culminated in a BBQ at the family home.





Harvest Thanksgiving Weekend



This year our harvest weekend was very well attended with a Community afternoon tea in the main hall on the Saturday. Everyone enjoyed an abundance of food provided by the team of ladies who worked hard to make the occasion successful.

After food was served to almost 200 people, those in attendance, retired to the church where they were treated to an afternoon programme by the ladies of Solace choir.



This choir was formed from survivors of Cancer and also supporters who may have cared for loved ones who had the disease. The ladies came from all over Northern Ireland and have sung at many venues, including many churches. Two ladies from the choir shared their experiences and one sang a solo. The choir sang a number of pieces and explained why they sang them. Those attending were also encouraged to sing with the choir, pieces that were well known. The choir's Christian testimony came across in all that they did.

There was an opportunity to donate to Cancer organisations. These were Cancer Focus and McMillan Cancer Care. Action Cancer was also supported. It was a great success with £1200 being raised for the above charities.



Harvest Services

Again our Harvest services were very well attended and Rev. David Irvine conducted our service of worship in the morning. Rev. Hugh Cubbitt conducted the evening service and items of praise were brought to us by Noel Hargy (organist) and the choir.

A particularly moving piece called "The sower" asked the pertinent question "What will you do with the message? As we listened to the message, both morning and evening we were stirred to consider what we would do with the gospel and its claim on our lives.

As we looked around the church at the provision of fruit, vegetables and flowers we were reminded again of God's goodness and the bounty He provides for us. The ladies again excelled themselves with a talent for showing beauty at its optimum. Thank you ladies for an amazing display under the leadership of Wilma McIlpatrick.



**Your problems are never too great for God's grace.
Everybody wins in a contest of kindness.
Prayer should be our first resource not our last resort.
When doubt comes in the door trust goes out the window.
The best way to break a habit is to drop it.
A day hemmed with prayer seldom unravels.
There is no greater joy than giving and no greater gift than love.
There is no lovelier way to thank God for your sight than giving a
helping hand to someone in the dark.
We always have time for the things we put first.
A kind word may be incomplete without an action.
If you take time to pray, God has time to listen.
A pessimist is one who is always blowing out the light to see how dark it
is.
Many who plan to repent at the 11th hour die at 10.30
The LORD never panics.
Love forgets mistakes.
God listens to our hearts rather than our lips.
Each day is a gift from God wrapped in His love.
Children and young people have more need of models than critics.
Anyone can count the seeds in an apple, but only God can count how
many apples are in a seed.**

Submitted by Rae Richmond

PROSPECTS SERVICE

On Sunday 16th December

At 6.30pm

EVERYONE WELCOME



Notes for your diary

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FAMILY SERVICE
Sunday 23rd December 2018
At 11.30am Everyone Welcome



TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS MORNING
FAMILY SERVICE At 10.30AM
Children bring your favourite
present!!



TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
New Year's Eve Celebration
Fun from 8.00pm and Food at
10.15pm
Come on down!!
Epilogue 11.30pm



TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CAROL SERVICE
SUNDAY 23rd DECEMBER 2018
AT 6.30PM
Special Music & Supper
Come and bring a friend



Full membership classes
will be held at 3pm on the
following dates:

2nd December 2018
3rd February 2019
3rd March 2019
7th April 2019

Let Everyday be Christmas
*Christmas is forever, not for just
one day*
*For loving, sharing, giving, are
not to put away*
*Like bells and lights and tinsel,
in some box upon a shelf*
*The good you do for others is
good you do yourself*
*Peace on Earth, good will to
men,*
*Kind thoughts and words of
cheer,*
*Are things we should use often
and not just once a year*
*Remember too the Christ-child,
grew up to be a man;*
*To hide him in a cradle, is not
our dear Lord's plan.*
*So keep the Christmas spirit,
share it with others, far and near,*
*From week to week and month to
month, throughout the entire
year!*

Submitted by Len Snodgrass

*New Year's Day Walk on
Tuesday at 11.00am meeting at
Portballintrae Car Park
(Dogs welcome)*



Again this year there has been a great response to the shoe box appeal - over 200 boxes and extra monetary donations helping to provide extra boxes to wing their way to eastern block countries.

Usually the team at each depot know the destination countries but due to unrest and other problems distribution happens when the lorries actually gain access to a country.

Linda Currie and Janet Scott head this up and through their efforts have managed to make presents available for children in orphanages across Europe. You can imagine the faces of children as they receive a Christmas parcel and the ecstatic joy on their faces when someone far away has packed a shoe box with items that they would not normally have access to.

Most importantly - there is an opportunity for each boy or girl who receives their box to hear about Jesus. Linda and her team wish to thank you all for filling the shoe boxes and donating items and money. Your contribution to this most worthy cause is greatly appreciated and shows that we have a very caring spirit. Due to your generosity it is

possible to make it a Happy Christmas for these children who are less fortunate. Pray for everyone involved from the packers to those who drive the lorries and indeed the children who receive, that they would experience the greatest gift of all - that of Jesus in their young lives.





Mr. Victor McLean (on left) who has recently retired as Clerk of Session after 20 years service to the Kirk Session and congregation. Mr. Bertie Quinn is our new Clerk of Session.



Mr. Sam Chestnutt (on right) who has recently retired from the Kirk Session and is now an Elder Emeritus



Mr. Alan Robinson (on left) who has recently retired from Kirk Session and is now an Elder Emeritus



Mr. Noel Hargy (on right) has retired as organist and choirmaster. Mrs Kathryn Scott has been appointed as Musical Director

Jonathan Dunlop and Lorraine Millen pictured with Bertie Quinn (Sunday School Superintendent) on prize giving Sunday.

Both have given years service to the Bible Class and Primary section.

Bertie thanked them for their support and their talent as teachers. We all wish them both God's richest blessing for the future. The tokens given to the children could be exchanged the following Wednesday night when the Faith Mission Bookshop supplied their Bibles, books etc.,



Photos of Sunday School Prizes on Page 7

Church Register

Baptisms - *"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it"*

01.07.18 Thomas Andrew Albert Loudon Station Cottages Dervock
18.11.18 William Stephen Brewster Mullan Road

Weddings - *"Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate"*

17.08.18 Nadia Workman -Thomas Richardson
01.09.18 Samantha Calderwood -David Rowland
15.09.18 Kerry Laverty -Jody-Kris Moffatt

Deaths - *"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eye"*

05.06.18 William Kerr Trinity Drive
06.06.18 Joan Holmes Ratheane Nursing Home
14.06.18 Annie McMullan Leabank Nursing Home
13.07.18 Alan Tweed Charlotte Street
01.08.18 David Shannon Vow Road
04.08.18 Kathleen Nicholl St. James's Lodge
16.09.18 Samuel Kane St James's Park
16.10.18 Annie Skelton Cottage Nursing Home
27.10.18 Ivan Sibbons Model Court

PRAY FOR

January

Rev. Irvine as he continues to lead us, for the Sunday services in the New Year as we continue to learn from God's word as a congregation. James and Heather Cochrane as they continue to work in Portugal in church planting and seeking to work among men and for their co workers. Those who face new challenges, job prospects, students away from home. All those who have gone out from our church to bring God's message.

February

The many organisations associated with our church. For the BB. Our own Beehive club and Youth Club.

For leadership within our church and the loyalty they have shown over the years. For Kathryn as she leads the music, the choir and praise group.

The teaching of scripture within these organisations and the reinforcement of moral standards and all that leads to true Christian faith

March

For all the "shut ins" and those who can't worship with as regularly as they would like.

For the CD ministry that it would be a great source of help to those in these situation.

Rev. Irvine as he continues to visit districts, those who are sick and need special help from God at this time.

Those who need the Saviour, within our congregation - who have heard the message for many years.

April

Our Kirk Session and committee as they oversee the Spiritual and practical needs of the congregation.

All those working together both voluntary and paid to make our meeting house an inviting place to worship.

That we might make all who come through our doors feel comfortable and welcome, as we befriend them and seek to share God's love with them.

May

For the work of WF and MDF and VINE as we reach out to men and women in our community. For those on the committees as they prepare programmes of interest and outreach.

For Impact who meet on Wednesday evenings for recreation, Buddies and Bundles as they meet in the mornings and the Prospects group

That relationships may be made in all these organisations that lead to Christ.

June

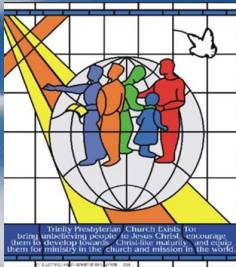
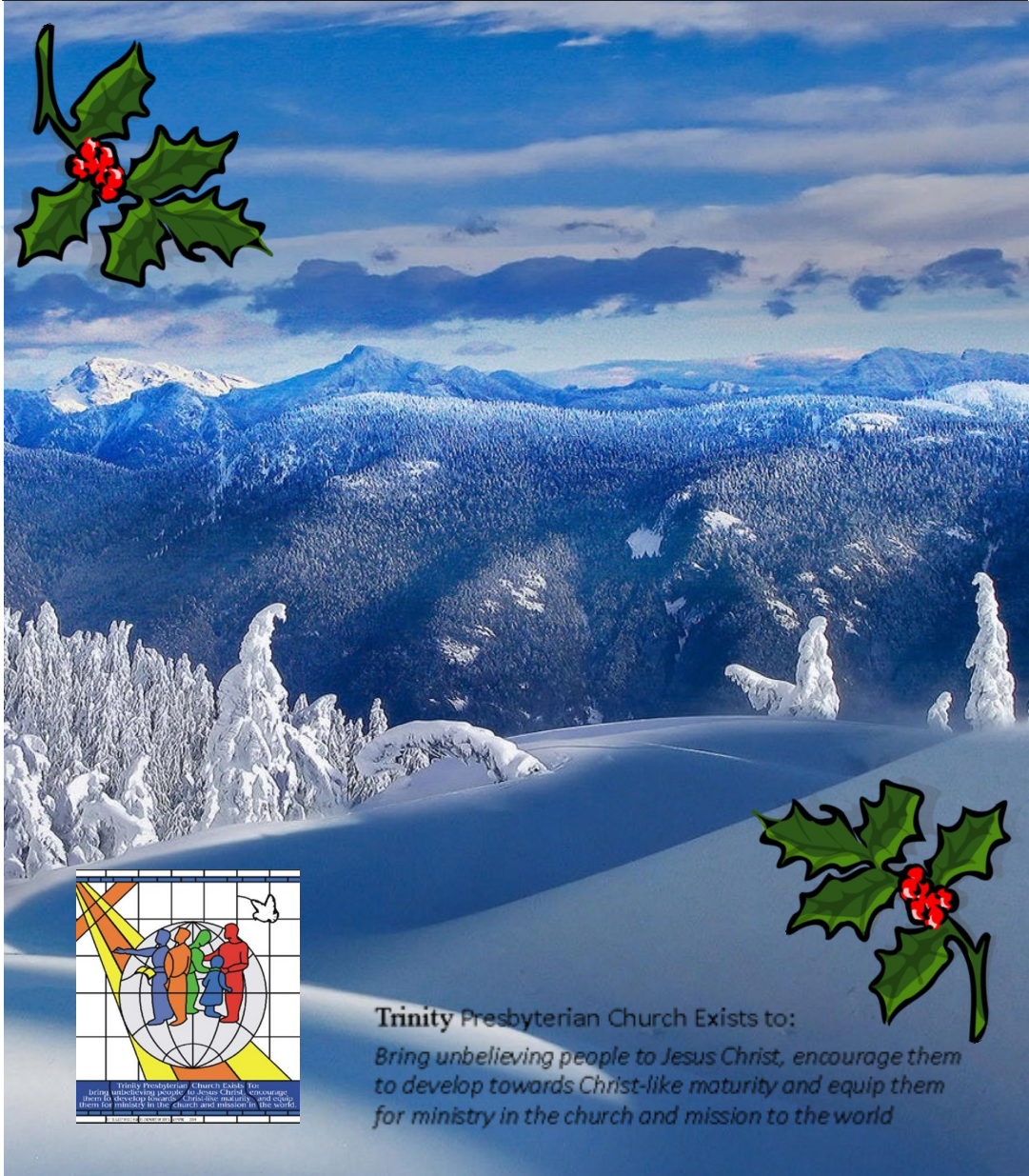
For the work that has been ongoing in Sunday School and Bible Class.

For the work of PCI, CSSM and CEF.

For those going to summer camps and for leaders going on holiday.

That all may be refreshed and ready for the new beginnings in September.

For Youth Club and Youth Fellowship beginning in September.



Trinity Presbyterian Church Exists to:
Bring unbelieving people to Jesus Christ, encourage them to develop towards Christ-like maturity, and equip them for ministry in the church and mission in the world