

# 150TH ANNIVERSARY HISTORY REFLECTIONS

DECEMBER 2023



## OUR 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The Lord has been very faithful to us as a congregation.  
You as a congregation have been prayerful, sincere, dedicated, generous and humble.

We have travelled together through a year of many precious moments of saying thanks to our faithful God. We are grateful to our 150th anniversary committee members for all they did to help us celebrate: Shirley Sharpe, Beth Sider, Wilma Rockey, Mary Herr, Cathy Baum, Janice Ocamb, Todd Davis and Rev. Arun Andrews. We also remember Rev. Rodney Miller for his faithful leadership when we embarked on the journey together.

We are grateful for all our dedicated volunteers and for their faithful service which might not always come to the limelight, but is noted in God's eyes. Thank you! We are grateful for our leadership team and our team of staff for their faithfulness. It has been an extra busy year especially for some of us who shouldered "the extras". Thanks for doing it with extra gracefulness. Time to take a little break and relax!!!

This journey is all about the Lord and what he desires for us. We will strive to live by his invitation, "But seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you as well."  
Matthew 6:33

To God be the glory, great things he has done – Fanny Crosby.

## CHRISTMAS EVE MEMORIES from Karen Bowen

Celebrating Advent and Christmas at Trinity for me has been a life-long experience, blessing me with many precious memories. How well I remember the Children's Christmas Programs, the Yuletide Teas, Christmas Caroling with the Youth Fellowship and singing in the choirs. The Christmas trees standing tall, decorated with handmade Chrismons. Wreaths hanging on the doors, welcoming one and all to share in celebrating Jesus' birth. Poinsettias, honoring and remembering loved ones, gracing the sanctuary.

And then, it was Christmas Eve! As a youngster and teen, it was great to be able to stay up late to attend the Christmas Eve Service. Hearing Scripture recounting the Birth of Jesus, the lighting of the candles, singing Silent Night, the church bell being rung at the stroke of midnight.

So special were the years the Youth Fellowship created a living Creche across Bridge Street in Rabena's parking lot. Upon leaving the Christmas Eve Service, it was as though we, like the shepherds on the first Christmas Eve, had been invited to witness the coming of the promised Messiah, to see Mary and Joseph, and to worship the Babe in the manger.

Mary, Jesus' mother, was a young girl who demonstrated true faithfulness to the Lord. When the angel told Mary that she would be the mother of God's Son, Mary replied:

*"Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."* —Luke 1:38.

And, in awe and filled with great joy, Mary said:

*"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden."* —Luke 1:46-48

Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, was not the human progenitor of Jesus. Matthew 1:18 tells us that:

*Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph.*

Joseph took Mary as his wife:

*. . . but knew her not until she had given birth to a son.  
And he [Joseph] called his name Jesus.* —Matthew 1:25.

Michael Card wrote a song about Joseph, imagining what Joseph might have been feeling as he gazed lovingly at God's Son:

*Father show me where I fit into this plan of yours.  
How can a man be father to the Son of God?  
Lord for all my life I've been a simple carpenter.  
How can I raise a king? How can I raise a king?*

Jesus, the Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger:

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory,  
the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.* —John 1:14

During this Advent Season, may we, like the shepherds, seek the newborn King. May our prayer be that we grow to know and love Jesus more each day; that as we journey through life, our thoughts, words, and actions may shine His love so brightly, that others will come to know, to believe in, and to worship Jesus, the Messiah, the Babe in the Manger.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* —John 3:16



## TRINITY'S CONTINUING LEGACY from Janice Ocamb

We started our celebration of Trinity's 150 years of ministry by reviewing our early beginnings as Mt. Olivet Church and its founding in 1873 by Scotch/Irish circuit rider Rev. Johnson Dickson. Pioneer circuit riders such as Pastor Dickson left the comforts of home to minister to people and communities by sharing the love and message of Jesus.

In a sense, the Andrews family did the same thing 9 years ago when they traveled half way around the world leaving the life they knew in India to minister to Trinity Church, the town of New Cumberland and beyond.

Bob, Janie, Jody and I drove in two separate cars to the Philly airport to greet the Andrews when they arrived. After all the months of phone calls, emails and Skype sessions Arun, Miriam, Nihal and Nehara appeared live and in person! I snapped some pictures to capture the moment as porters delivered and stacked their suitcases and belongings. I said to Miriam "Is all of this your luggage?" She smiled and said "This is our life!"

Whether we travel near or far, it is Trinity Church's commitment to pay our heritage forward and Celebrate, Connect and Communicate the truth and love of Jesus. His words in Matthew 19:29 apply to us as they did to those who came before us and those who will follow after:

*...everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.*



## TRINITY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY from Beth Sider

The 150th Anniversary of Trinity Church concludes in December. December will have the last "150th Anniversary History Reflections" edition. Thank you to Anne Mathews for helping us put together this additional part of the 2023 Tidings.

It has been a good year of many events to celebrate this 150 year milestone. We never again will celebrate 150 years at Trinity, and many of us will be living in Heaven when the 175th Anniversary is celebrated. We hope you have enjoyed the celebratory year and that it has blessed you. We are thankful for God's faithfulness over these 150 years as Trinity Church has ministered in the community of New Cumberland. We trust you have been encouraged and challenged in thinking about the past and celebrating the present. Our local church has been able to change and adjust to the times over these 150 years in keeping with its vision. Trinity is a Christ-centered, Bible-based, community-focused, caring church. We pray that those who come behind us find us faithful to the vision.

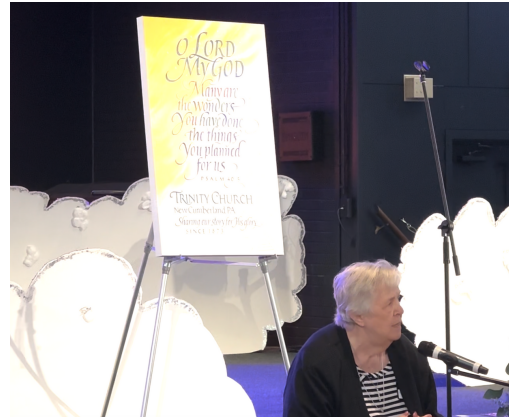
Thank you to the Anniversary Committee:

Rev. Arun Andrews, Cathy Baum, Todd Davis, Mary Herr, Rev. Rodney Miller,  
Janice Ocamb, Wilma Rockey, Shirley Sharpe, Beth Sider



# CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS OVER 150 YEARS.

Weekend of Nov 17-19: Dinner, youth and kids event, united service. To God be the glory!













## 150 YEARS of TRINITY CHURCH PASTORS

<b>J. P. Anthony</b>	1878-1879
<b>D. W. Proffit</b>	1879-1883
<b>T. Garland</b>	1883-1885
<b>J. W. Grimm</b>	1885-1889
<b>S. N. Moyer</b>	1889-1892
<b>Joseph Daugherty</b>	1892-1896
<b>R. R. Rodes</b>	1896-1899
<b>W. H. Weaver</b>	1899-1902
<b>J. Luther Grimm</b>	1902-1905
<b>A. R. Clippinger</b>	1905-1907
<b>E. W. Leech</b>	1907-1911
<b>B. D. Rojahn</b>	1911-1914
<b>A. R. Ayres</b>	1914-1922
<b>J. H. Schmitt</b>	1922-1932
<b>L. Walter Lutz</b>	1932-1940
<b>S. Fred Christman</b>	1940-1944
<b>W. Ward Smith</b>	1944-1948
<b>Lester M. Kauffman</b>	1948-1956
<b>Harold V. March</b>	1956-1963
<b>D. Rayborn Higgins</b>	1963-1969
<b>Calvin H. Cole, Sr.</b>	1969-1977
<b>Robert L. Close</b>	1977-1987
<b>Jay Wesley House</b>	1987-1996
<b>Carl Ford Peterson</b>	1996-2008
<b>Donald Slaybaugh, Jr.</b>	2008-2014
<b>Arun Andrews</b>	2014- present

**Dated Material**

**FORWARDING SERVICE  
REQUESTED**



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**Trinity 150th Anniversary  
Commemorative Art  
By Timothy R. Botts**

**Psalm 40:5**

As a calligraphic artist, my inspiration comes from working with great words, so it is a special joy for me to express Scripture. The early church building is rendered in gray to remember the vision of those who began so long ago what has grown to become God's work today. I chose the Renaissance italic style of lettering because of its celebrative flourishes I associate with God's glory. To represent the phrase "Many are the wonders You have done" I gradated a variety of colors. The small gold diamonds in the Lord's name stand for the presence of His Holy Spirit working among us. A last minute addition was the small flourish which surrounds the church steeple much as His ultimate plan is behind it all.

