

TRACYTON UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

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WE ARE ON THE WEB!

WWW.TRACYTONUMC.ORG



Tracyton

Tidings

December 2012

I Corinthians

13:13

*For now there are
faith, hope, and
love.*

*But of these three,
the greatest is love.*



TRACYTON TIDINGS
Tracyton United Methodist Church



With hopefully many new visitors joining us this month I thought you might enjoy this article. Lyla

Thinking Like a Host

by Henry G. Brinton

decorated appropriately, well-lighted, and conducive to people getting to know one another. We sit in places that will leave room for others, and help them to feel comfortable. As hosts, we are concerned about the comfort of others. The experience is all about them.

This means being on the look-out for strangers instead of friends, making the church hospitable, ensuring that worship is welcoming, and picking music that our guests would enjoy. Just imagine that! Actually picking music for others, not for ourselves. As hosts, we are constantly challenged to be concerned about the well-being of others.

And when we do this, God is always present in surprising and wonderful ways. When we show hospitality to strangers, we are really entertaining angels. When we welcome a newcomer, we are actually welcoming Jesus. Hospitality to people is the very same thing as hospitality to God. If you want an authentic experience of God – and I think we all do – then the place to begin is by welcoming strangers.

[Henry G. Brinton](#) is senior pastor of Fairfax Presbyterian Church in Fairfax, Virginia. This article is adapted from his new book, *The Welcoming Congregation: Roots and Fruits of Christian Hospitality* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2012), and used with the publisher's permission. It is available at [The Thoughtful Christian](#) and [Amazon](#) .

Please join us and bring family and friends to as many of our holiday festivities as you can. They just won't be the same without

you.



Volume 1, Issue 12
2012

Inside this edition







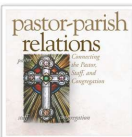




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From beginning to end, the Bible teaches us how to be hospitable. Throughout the Old and New Testaments, we find stories of people acting as hosts, welcoming strangers, and discovering that there is something truly holy in their acts of hospitality. Yet, we have largely forgotten this in the life of the church.

Unfortunately, many Christians today go to church with the attitude of a guest, not a host. We are concerned more about ourselves than about those who visit with us. Consider this mindset: As guests, we are focused primarily on having a good time. We enter the church, and look for our friends. We pass personal judgment on the furniture, decor, and feel of the place. We sit where we want to sit, with little regard for making room for others. We listen to the church's music, and decide whether we enjoy it or not. As guests, we are basically consumers, concerned about our personal comfort. The experience is all about us.

How different it is to be a host. In that role, we are focused primarily on serving others. We greet our guests at the door, and seek to connect them with people they would enjoy. We make sure that the church is set up in a welcoming way –

DECEMBER 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						 Hanging of the Greens 10:00am Until finished
2 Christmas Tree Lighting 5:30pm 	3	4 Visitation 6:30pm 	5	6 Prayer Shawl 4:00pm 	7	8
9 All Church Bazaar During Fellowship 		11 Finance 6:00 Church Counsel 6:30pm 	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 SPRC 6:00pm 	19	20 Cookie Exchange 6:30 	21 Longest Night 7:00pm 	22
23	24 Free Christmas Eve Dinner 6:00pm Candlelight Service 7:30pm 	25 	26	27	28	29
30th	31st					

Ways to find and contact us:



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www.tracytonumc.org
church@tracytonumc.org

Find us on Facebook
[Facebook/tracytonumc](https://www.facebook.com/tracytonumc)





Children's Classes

Every Sunday at 10:00am

If you know any children that would like to come please invite them, all are welcome! And if you are interested in helping out maybe one Sunday a month, we can use your hands and experience.

COMING TO TUMC IN JANUARY



The PRISM® Weight Loss Program is a Christian oriented program. It is a complete, 24 plus weeks program divided into four or more six-week phases. The program is based on the belief that people with weight problems and poor eating behaviors can be restored to emotionally whole, right-weighted individuals. Through the use of seven key principles, we desire to give everyone the ability to become the person they were created to be. Any program can help you lose weight, but most leave you unprepared to continue after weight loss. This program will help you learn to accept and identify with the "TRUE YOU," the person you were created to be. PRISM® focuses on transforming your attitude about food, the activity of eating, and most important, your attitude about you! The daily curriculum and video series focus on your attitude becoming right and true. This attitude transformation will produce the right actions to support the person you were created to be!

Introductory Meeting will be
December 13th at 6:00pm at TUMC
Got Questions? Talk to Sally Klein (360)662-8964

Adult Classes

Every Sunday at 9:45am

We are currently studying the book of Mark. Following the study guide by N. T. Wright. Our class facilitator is Miss Susie White. Please don't hesitate to join us for an hour of insight and learning. All are welcome and encouraged to participate in the discussion and interpretation of the scriptures.



Don't forget that the first Sunday of the month is Food Bank Sunday, although you can bring food anytime and put it in the baskets by the front door. So many people in our community are in need of assistance from our food banks. And with the holidays they will be feeling an added need for supplies. The Food Bank donations for November totaled 101 pounds of food and \$230. So far this year Tracyton UMC has donated 789 pounds of food and \$1405.



Sunday Paper Sales

We are now selling the Sunday Edition of the Bremerton Sun after Services in the fellowship hall. All proceeds go to the church. Get the news and local information as well as the Sunday shopping fliers and support your church at the same time.

For every \$1.50 paid for the paper, \$1.25 goes to the church!

So far we have collected \$74.75



There will be a luncheon in honor of our members celebrating their 90's. It will be held at the Olive Garden Restaurant in Silverdale at 12 noon on Saturday Dec 1st. If you would like to attend please contact Emma Hill at 373-4244

**Fellowship
Hospitality Hosts
are needed for December**





Our drive for **Christmas Food Cards** runs from December 2nd through the 16th. If you would like to contribute, please write a check to TUMC and designate it to "Christmas Food Cards" If you would like to contribute cash, please mark your donation envelope. We would also gladly accept any food cards you wish to purchase personally. Thank you for thinking of others during this holiday season .

ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

SUNDAY DECEMBER 2nd at 5:30pm

For our Christmas tree lighting we still need some volunteers to help setup, and serve as well as donations of goodies and cookies.



Longest Night Service

Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member or friend. It may be a time that has always been difficult. The constant refrain on the radio and television about the happiness of the season, reminds many people of what they have lost or may never have had. "Longest Night" service on Friday, December 21st at 7:00PM is quiet and meditative and focuses on the comfort God offers to all during trying times.



Free Christmas Eve Community Dinner

Monday, December 24th

Our gift to you! Take a break from your busy week and let us serve you and your family. This three course dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. and continue until the candle light service, which will begin at 8:00p.m. Please join us for a homespun meal and a beautiful service.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Please join us! This is an absolutely beautiful worship service and a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Service begins at 8:00pm, but do come early and join us for some refreshments and Fellowship before the Service begins.



TRACYTON CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CELEBRATION

DECEMBER 2, 2012
TRACYTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
5:30PM UNTIL 7:30PM

VICTORIAN BRASS ENSAMBLE
CHILDREN ACTIVITIES IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
TREE LIGHTING
SPECIAL VISITOR ARRIVES HO! HO! HO!
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLING

COCOA, COFFEE AND COOKIES SERVED



Tracyton UMC
Helping Local
Children Enjoy
Christmas Morning

Angel Tree tags will be available on December 2nd. This year we have over twenty children on the tree. We hope you will consider taking one or more tags. Please wrap your gifts and attach the tag from the tree firmly on the package. We will have a sheet for you to sign when you take a tag. This will help us to know if all gifts are under the tree. Gifts need to be at the church by December 16th. If you would like to help with the angel tree but are not able to go shopping, you can give a cash donation and someone will purchase the gift for you. If you write a check, follow the direction for the Safeway cards but mark "Angel Tree" on the memo line.

Thank you for caring



It Starts with a Gift
and Leads to Lives Transformed
through Jesus Christ.

A Ministry of Prison Fellowship

This is a list of children who have a parent who is currently incarcerated. Prison fellowship ministries connect with inmates all over the United States and allow Christians to partner with them to provide a gift from the inmate to his or her child at Christmas. If you would like to be a part of this special ministry please call Jeanie Johns @ 360-265-3398 and let her know which child you would like to buy a gift for. We have contacted the caregivers of the children and obtained the following wish list:

- 4-year-old boy: Art Supplies**
- 2-year-old boy: Cars or Trucks**
- 1-year-old boy: Any toy that makes noise or music**
- 13-year-old boy: sports equipment**
- 6 month old boy: coat sz 12 months**
- 9-year-old boy: Coat sz 12, shoes sz 5**
- 12-year-old girl: Coat sz 14 or soft boots sz6 in womans, nail polish kit.**
- 17-year-old girl: Huggie boots sz 6 in womans, gift card for clothes.**

Jeanie will need the gifts by Dec 9th

Donations to the bake sale would be greatly appreciated.

All Church Bazaar And Bake Sale

December 9th
During Fellowship Time
Awesome Christmas Gifts—Yummy Baked Goods



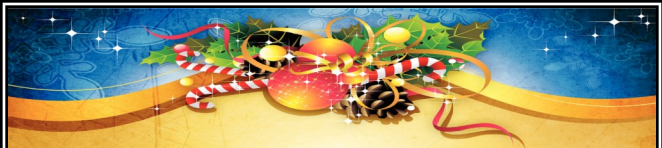
Hats/Scarves homespun gifts Jams/Jellies Free Gift Wrapping

Proceeds will go toward helping with
people's needs this Holiday Season!

Presented By
Craft Circle



If you would like to contribute to the Bazaar please
contact Carol Wnek at 692-6870



Decking The Halls In The Sanctuary
According to tradition we will be decorating the Sanctuary and putting up the tree on the Saturday before advent begins. This year that's December 1st. Starting at 10:00am there will be coffee and a small snack will be provided




Name Tags
With all the visitors coming to join us for holiday events it would be nice if we remember to wear our name tags, to help put names to faces. If you don't have one please let the office know.

ALL ARE WELCOME! Please join us at the annual Woman's Circle
Holiday Cookie Exchange



Bring two dozen of your favorite cookies and copies of the recipe to share

Sunday December 20th
6:30pm -8:30pm
At the home of
Judy Rowson
2373 NE Breezwood Ln.
Bremerton
For info and directions call
360-692-1304



Donations of
**Hats, Gloves
and Scarves** are being collected for distribution to families in need by
**Kitsap
Community
Resources**



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I know where the stable is.

The stable is the place I don't particularly like, perhaps I despise, in my life.

The stable is the place I store my dirt, my mess, my pain.

The stable is the place I send the poor, the low-priority.

The stable is the place I find animals, hay, manure.

If I go to the stable, I go as a last resort.

But the inn is full; and this birth, this birth, is coming.

There is room, in the stable.

Let's think about that.

It is not in our fullness, that Child finds room, but in our emptiness.

It is not in our abundance, but in our poverty.

Not in our joy, but in our grief.

Not in our "proper piety" but right in the middle of our messy, real lives.

That's the way that the Child finds room with me.

That's the way that the Child comes for many of us.

Regardless of how we work to "make room", to prepare a proper and fitting place for the Child in our lives, the Child comes in the place of our hurt, our guilt, our mess, our shame.

In fact, the Child accepts and loves the hurt, the guilt, the shame, the mess - and goes to it more readily than to the proper and fitting.

The Child is fascinated by the attic and the basement, more than by the living-room.

The Child is fascinated by us, loves us, accepts us, comes to us, as we ARE, not just as we think we ought to be.

The Child has all the room in the world for us.

Will we have room for the Child?

Love,

Wes



When should you call the pastor?

It's not an inconvenience for Pastor Wes or Lyla if you call them at the church. You're one of the reasons they're there, Tuesday to Friday, 10 to 4, and more besides. (And if they're not there, leave a message and they can call you back.)

- When you (or someone close to you) are hospitalized, please call and let us know as soon as possible.
- If there is a death, a birth, a change of residence, a change of work, a deployment or return from deployment, please call.
- When you want to set up a time for a visit with Pastor Wes, or a member of the visitation team, please call.
- When you have a faith question or a question about the church's programming, or when something in life is troubling you, please call.

Tracyton UMC's phone: (360) 373-6425. Email: church@tracytonumc.org

When should you call Pastor Wes directly?

Sometimes a call simply can't wait until morning, or until Tuesday. In case of emergency – a death, a hospitalization, a crisis – you're welcome to call Pastor Wes's mobile phone. The phone's not always set to ring, but it's almost always turned on. (Texting works, if you want to get a simple message to him. It's not a great way to have a conversation, though.)

Email works too. If Wes isn't at his computer, it'll come to his phone.

Pastor Wes's phone: (253) 677-0503. Email: pastorwes@blarg.net

If you would like us to have an emergency contact kept on file for you please fill out the form and drop it in the box or you can hand it in to Pastor Wes or Lyla

Your Name	Your Phone/e-mail
Contact Name/Address	Contact Phone/e-mail

Emergency Contact List



Local contact	Phone	Alternate Phone
Next of kin	Relationship	
Work contact		
Physician name		
Neighbor or landlord/contact		
Police/Ambulance/Fire	911	
Gas company		
Electric company		
Water company		
Poison control center		

Here is an Emergency Contact List you can fill out and keep in a spot where you can get to it fast maybe tacked to the fridge or in your purse or wallet . It seems like these numbers are so hard to find when you need them. No one ever wants to have to use one of these lists but if the need arises it is best to be prepared.