

This is the last Link for 2014; the first Link for the New Year will be on
Sunday 18th Jan 2015.

We thank you for your faithful prayers over the year and give praise and grateful thanks to our Lord for the healing that has taken place during the year.

Many have been strengthened and comforted with the assurance that they are part of the Trinity family who pray for and care for one another.

Please remember that not receiving the Link over the next 3 weeks does not stop you praying for those on the chronic & cancer lists, *so keep the Link close to your bible and keep on praying.*



'1 CORINTHIANS' CHRISTMAS

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." – 1 Corinthians 13: 13

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, *but do not show love to my family*, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, *but do not show love to my family*, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, *but do not show love to my family*, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata *but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.*

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. *Love* sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband. *Love* is kind, though harried and tired. *Love* doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails and the giving of love will endure.

Trinity Methodist Church

LINDEN, JOHANNESBURG



Prayer is the key of the morning and the bolt of the night.

21 December 2014

4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT

The Pastoral Care Portfolio *wish our Trinity family and friends a blessed Christmas filled with hope, love, joy and peace and a Jesus filled and led 2015.*



*“Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
And his name shall be called Emmanuel”*

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

And the angel said to them, *be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people, for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.*

And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger” and suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ***“glory to God in the highest ,and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased!”***

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

LOUIS (Helen van Iddekinge's husband) sadly passed away early Sunday morning. Our prayers and love are with Helen and her family over this Christmas period.

SHIRLEY CRUTCHFIELD was attacked and beaten by 3 men during a break-in at her home in Silver Streams Village last week.

NOREEN TYNDALL has not had a great year where her health is concerned.

JENNY WILLIAMSON'S husband, Mel, is not well after undergoing 5 ops this year.

JACQUI MATLALA battling with family issues especially with her eldest son; her desire is for a peaceful Christmas.

RENEE BARNES was in hospital with throat problems; she is staying with her son but hopes to be home by this weekend. She is slowly progressing and is now able to eat. Renee thanks everyone for their concern & prayers.

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:

DUDLEY HUDSON (wife Charmaine) had a further spell in hospital due to his recent onset of widespread cancer.

REBECCA DU PLESSIS (friend Suzanne Grundler) was pregnant with twins, due March 2015. Sadly she lost her babies (Hannah & Joshua) after an emergency caesarean last Sat. We remember Rebecca, her husband, family & friends at this time.

ELLY WINKELMANN is out of hospital & recovering in the Frail Care Centre at Garden Village.

✠ **NEL ALLEN** moved to a step-down facility.

✠ **DAVE Mc BIRNIE** (wife Glynnis) home and making good progress.

✠ **RUTH** (Cecil Olberholzer's daughter) pray full recovery from surgery.

MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION who are experiencing difficulties and doubt in their lives, that they may not forsake the care of the Trinity Church family.

CANCER LIST: *Gordon Bennett, Anton Marais* (Sydney), *Lee Barnes, Nola Dodds, Tracy Hoy* (UK), *Hilda Louter, Val Warren, Dudley Middleton, Marguerite, Peter, Myrren* (18), *Diane Turner, Maureen Lupton, Martin vd Merwe* (Karin Blackburn's dad), *Joy vd Klis, Jean Clarence, Daniela Andrade* (7), *Russell Jones, Ursula Ryder, Lesley Steyn, David Edwards* (UK), *Doh Carneson, Louise Shaw* (Texas), *Brian K, John Sandison, Cindy Saunders, Marina van de Ruit, Brian Tromp, Chloe Thomas, Elizabeth Innes, Greg Cleeve-Edwards, Joanna* (Maurice's niece), *Joy* (Sam's sister), *Gilbert Hughes, John Clarke, Dudley Hudson, Keith Bunce* (UK - wife Liz), *Bill Coulle, Rev Hans Visser, Colleen, Gordene, Lizelle Slabbert.*

CHRONIC LIST: *Denese Pieterse* (back problem), *Dave* (Guillain Barre Syndrome), *Elaine Vermaak* (osteoporosis), *Moira Smith* (hiatus hernia), *Maureen Dewberry* (heart problem), *Alison* (spinal problem), *Illia & Graham* (UK), *Diana Viljoen's Mom* (stroke), *Colleen Hunter* (brain op), *Christiaan Vermeulen* (heart surgery), *Deon* (facial surgery), *Susanne* (stroke), *Duncan Edwards* (rare disease), *Noelle Marshall* (leukemia & eye problem), *Louise Combrink* (nervous breakdown), *Heather Seymour* (emphysema),

Nic Swart (stroke), *Nic Breytenbach* (MDS Leukaemia), *Elwyn Dyer* (hip op), *Bradley Manson* (Kidney disease, dialysis), *Reef's grandparents, Eve & Brian Humphreys*, Coral Fisher (foot problem), *Jules* (auto immune disease), *Lesley* (broken wrists), *Louis Brugman* (heart & hip problems), *Linda Hann* (needs employment), *John, Elaine Vermaak's nephew*, (heart problems, loss of job), *Dennis Meintjies* (Sheila Marley's brother - intestinal op), *Moira Wessels* (in frail care), *Rebecca Owens* (fungal infection), *Rhys Thomas* (heart), *William Marrs* (elbow op), *Mari Thomasset* (Leg op), *Helene Segal* (fractured arm), *Harold* (Maurice's dad – tired & frail), *Bella* (prem baby), *Terry* (broken leg), *Pam Jenkins* (blood pressure problem), *Hans* (thinning retina), *Audrey Newberry* (broken wrists), *Len & Gail de Klerk, Delene Muller* (broken knee cap, DVT), *Annabelle-Jane* (5 - insecure), *Sylvia Maphisa* (TB & eye problem), *Cynthia Ross* (spinal problem), *Elsabe Vorster* (back problem), *Sonette Macgregor* (myasthenia gravis), *Willa* (severe back problem), *Carl Marais* (foot amputation), *Devon* (serious bone infection in his arm).



A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Source of divine Light, Emmanuel, God-with-us, Your Radiant Love illuminated our waiting world with the surprise of Your Bethlehem birth.

Each year since then we celebrate this astonishing event, rejoicing in Your coming anew, not as a new-born Babe, but as the hidden Presence of Divinity contained within each of us. *To our great astonishment, we have become Your dwelling place. We are now Your Bethlehem.*

- ★ *Now You are Treasure* birthed in the secret place of our soul.
- ★ *Now You are Light* gleaming through our gestures of generosity.
- ★ *Now You are Hope* radiating inside the core of our courage.
- ★ *Now You are Joy* shining into the dark caves of our gloom.
- ★ *Now You are Peace* glowing quietly in the crevice of our anxiety.
- ★ *Now You are Love* brilliantly reflected within our kindness.

Oh Christ, Light of all lights, Star of all stars
 Dweller within these human homes of ours,
 Open our wandering minds and hesitant hearts,
 So Your endless goodness radiates more completely in us.

We welcome you again and again with gratitude and trust,
 Not only in this Christmas season of remembrance and celebration
 But all through the new year that awaits us.