



## The President's Circle



### *A Christmas Greeting . . . Not to be Forgotten!*

We are living in a world of challenge, change, and even chaos. Surprises every day appear on the agenda. The unexpected and the difficulties are present regularly. One becomes unsettled and suspicious ... *Now What?* Frustration and even despair may sweep in suddenly. What is a person to do, think, and even feel with “wokesim” and critical race theory appearing in ‘safe places?’ A list of weird and even evil concepts charge in to one’s life with speed and furiousness.

**. . . And It Is Christmas!!**

**I have very Good News for you!** God is never confused and unaware of these unimaginable challenges. He has a message for us during the Christmas Season of *Contemplation* and *Celebration*. These are the first words that embraced Joseph in Matthew 1:20, Zacharias in Luke 1:13, Mary in Luke 1:30, and the shepherds in Luke 2:10. *It was a ‘Christmas Greeting’ leading to a wealth of promised blessings for all mankind.* It was a Christmas announcement leading to other Christmas Greetings of fulfilled prophecy and ‘gifts’ beyond measure.

***We need to hear this greeting, feel this greeting and joy in this greeting!***

***We need to build on this greeting!***

Our Lord knows how we feel and what we need to know and do before the ‘treasure and wealth’ is revealed to us. *Are you ready for the Greeting leading to other greetings that must never be forgotten?* Here it is: **Do Not Be Afraid!**

As this expression was divinely shared with people about to experience the remarkable arrival of the King of kings and Lord of lords, God wanted His people to not be afraid, to not be fearful! All is Well! He is in Control! *He wanted them to listen and see what He was doing in their midst.*

It is the same for today! Do not be afraid of all the ‘tidings’ of confusion, notes of ‘mumbo jumbo,’ and threats of harm and hurt. God is doing something in our midst ... let us not miss this! He is doing something in your presence for YOU! Don’t miss this! It is ‘good tidings of great joy!’

Christmas is about God’s Gift to mankind: **Jesus!** He is the Gift of gifts! *Do not be afraid ... simply look to Him. Listen to Him. Learn from Him. Lean into Him. Lead with Him!* Never forget that He does not want us to be fearful in the midst of this world and strange culture shifts. Peace, Hope, and Joy are YOURS. Let Him Speak to YOU!

**And here is His Message leading to all messages for you:**

“... Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” *Luke 2:10-11 NKJV*

*A Christmas Greeting not to be Forgotten:* **Do Not Be Afraid!** He has much to share with you so that you can share with others!

## The Latest Happenings ...

### ✦ **New Academic Offerings coming soon:**

1. Shepherds Theological Seminary will begin classes next month, January 2023. Two will be offered leading to master's level degrees.
2. After careful study and review, Trinity will be offering summer classes in 2023. Using the new schedule, students could complete their series of studies at Trinity in 3 ½ years. Classes will begin May 15 (8-week course) with the following included:
  - 3 Weeks of Intensive Classes
  - 5 Weeks of Homework, assignments
  - Live in L.L. Speer Hall with food service
  - Spring Financial Aid will apply
  - Take up to 9 credits

- ✦ **New Donated Kitchen Equipment**, valued at \$75,000, has been installed in our newly remodeled dining service area. A donor stepped forward and assisted with the required additional electrical wiring.



## Athletic Events

- ✦ Both **Men's and Ladies' Basketball** season is underway. The games are streamed on *Facebook*. Our new coaching staff, along with the support of the student body, has energized our teams. Even Titus the Tiger is a part of the action!





- ✦ The **Soccer** season has concluded. Students have been interested in the World Cup series and enjoy watching these events on campus.
- ✦ The **Ladies Volleyball** season has now been completed.



- ✦ **Presidential Search.** The search for Trinity College of Florida's Ninth President has been initiated publicly. A *Presidential Search and Opportunity Profile* has been developed and is available. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Rev. Ed Brandt, Board Chairman, at [edwardbrandt@cox.net](mailto:edwardbrandt@cox.net). A CV/Resume can be sent to him directly for review by the Search Committee.

- ✦ **Christian Service** is a requirement at Trinity. Students serve the Lord in various ministries, churches, and projects during their academic pursuits. Courtney Hawkins, a blind student who is attending the College, has had a burden to assist people with their problems and challenges in social and counseling sessions. Professor Leslie Rewald, Director of the Counseling and Psychology Department, has assisted her in this project. They recently visited a small assisted living facility and ministered to the residents.



- ✦ **An Opportunity to Invest in the Lives of our Faculty and Staff.** This Christmas season, a monetary gift for the College will go directly to the support of our Faculty and Staff. Operational needs and bills continue when students are between semesters. This year, we are directing those gifts to underwrite the compensation of Faculty and Staff. This would amount to approximately \$140,000. If this goal is reached, the College will be able to begin the new semester on a new foundation filled with additional resources and opportunities. You can give by using this link: [Faculty Assistance](#) **Your gift is investing in lives for Eternity!! Your gift will be multiplied exponentially.**

### **Urgent Prayer Requests:**

- ✦ **Continue to Pray for our Faculty and Staff**, their physical and spiritual needs. Pray that they will be 'recharged' during this Christmas season.
- ✦ **Pray for Faculty/Staff vacancies.** Pray for adequate staffing and teaching positions.
- ✦ **Pray for the enrollment** regarding the Spring semester. We have had three Campus Previews this semester.
- ✦ **Pray for the appeal entitled, "Investing in Lives for Eternity."** It is to encourage giving during December to help support our faculty and staff.
- ✦ **Pray for the Spiritual Development of our student body.** The new prayer garden is being utilized by the students during the week.
- ✦ **Pray for the physical and spiritual health of our leadership at the College.** There have been many physical challenges to personnel in addition to the passing of Chris Depoutot, wife of our Vice President for Student Development Al Depoutot.
- ✦ **Pray for the Search Committee** in their pursuit of the next President of Trinity College of Florida.

"God's Hand that holds the ocean's depth  
Can hold my small affairs,  
His Hand that guides the universe  
Can care for all my cares." – *Author Unknown*

My Hanging on versus His Holding up ...

***Read Psalm 37:23-24 and Psalm 63:8 ... and Rejoice!***

Rejoicing in His Mighty Hand,



Mark T. O'Farrell  
President  
Trinity College of Florida

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