

## **Trinity Episcopal Church in Moorestown Announces Christmas in July Initiative**

*Volunteers and donations needed to make a dream day at the Jersey Shore possible for 60 adults and children in need*

Moorestown, NJ –As part of its community outreach efforts, the members of the vestry and the outreach committee of Trinity Episcopal Church are pleased to announce a new parish initiative called “Christmas in July.” On July 25th, 60 adults and children in need will be transported to Ocean City, New Jersey for a day of fun, rest and relaxation.

“While many of us have access to delightful days and vacations at the Jersey shore, countless others descend into more acute, miserable levels of need and poverty,” said Trinity Interim Rector, The Reverend Hentzi Elek. “Area food pantries and clothing supplies dry-up and children go hungry because their guaranteed meals have stopped – no school, no food.”

Trinity has a long history of helping people in need. Beginning in 2007, Trinity answered the call for families and individuals seeking food and basic living supplies from Moorestown and in the surrounding towns/cities of Camden, Riverside, Willingboro, Mount Laurel and Gloucester City. The church assists with these needs year-round through donations, particularly at Christmas when Trinity parishioners adopt families.

“It is our desire to give these families and individuals a day off from life’s challenges,” said Trinity Deacon, Leslie Mazzacano. “We realize the struggles they face every day and we know that by offering them three solid meals and a day of rest, they will be re-energized to continue to care for themselves and their families in the best and most dignified way possible.”

Trinity’s outreach committee raised over \$18,000 last year. In addition to the Christmas in July special event, the church provides on-going support for many area nonprofits including, the Cathedral Soup Kitchen, the Christian Caring Center, the Food Bank of South Jersey and Habitat for Humanity to name a few.

The committee has set an aggressive fundraising budget of \$25,000 to support Christmas in July and is only a few thousand dollars short of reaching its goal. “Our goal is well within sight,” said Elek. “Once we fill a gap of few thousand dollars, we will start our planning efforts in earnest.”

Dollars raised will cover:

- Three meals for 60 participants on July 25th
- A Christmas basket filled with goodies
- Round-trip transportation to Ocean City, New Jersey
- Gift cards

Volunteers are needed to assist with event preparation on Sunday, July 24th. Baskets for adults and children will be filled and preparation is underway for a hot breakfast that will be served before the buses depart for Ocean City on July 25th.

Members of the outreach committee will reach out to area merchants for donations of gift cards of food and needed products that will become part of individual Christmas baskets given to adults and children.

Anyone interested in making a financial donation, a gift card donation or serving as a volunteer may do so by calling 856-235-0811 or sending an email to [trinity@trinitymoorestown.org](mailto:trinity@trinitymoorestown.org).