

## **North Forty**

by Kelli Gant 12/23/09

Trinity Center Community Church is having a candlelight service Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm. There will be singing of Christmas hymns and a reading of the Christmas story. The community is invited to attend.

What a generous community we live in! Thanks to all of you, the Secret Santa community program was a great success again this year. About 120 gifts were given to local children and the fixin's for seven holiday meals were given to local families. About half the gifts were purchased by people who took ornaments and returned a wrapped gift to Secret Santa. The other half were purchased with the generous donations. Thanks to all who took ornaments and purchased and wrapped gifts and to those who wrote checks or put money in the cans around the area.

Secret Santa would not be successful without the help of our local businesses including Jaktri Market, Coffee Creek Country Store, KOA, and North Lake Auto. Also thanks to our out-of-town donors, Dr. Diane Murakami of San Francisco and AOD/Behavioral Health staff in Weaverville. Thanks to the local women who made ornaments and wrapped presents. Last but not never least, thanks to the wonderful shoppers who had the task of deciphering the ornaments not taken by others in the community and getting the kids exactly what they wanted. To everyone who participated, JOB WELL DONE.

I am dreaming of a white Christmas, but the forecast doesn't look hopeful. We really, really need a LOT of snow this year for our lake, and thus our NTL economy. As of 12/20, the northtrinitylake.com weather station recorded 11.25 inches of rain since July--ahead of last year. This should be good news. However, Trinity Lake's water level was still going down until December 14 when it bottomed out at 127.22 feet below full. Until then, the Bureau was generally dumping more water each day than the inflow. As of December 20, the lake has only risen 0.76 feet ( $\frac{3}{4}$  of a foot.) We have a VERY LONG way to go.

Are you running late with your gift shopping, or would like to have the holiday last a bit longer? Following old traditions, gifts were not opened nor were decorations taken down until the Twelfth Day of Christmas. The Twelve Days start on Christmas Day and the period is known as Christmastide. The Twelfth Day is January 5--the day before the Feast of the Epiphany. In current culture, the 12 days are celebrated in widely varying ways around the world. Some give gifts only on Christmas Night, some only on Twelfth Night, and some each of the 12 nights. I personally have followed the Twelfth Day deadline for putting away all the decorations for years, giving me a few more days of memories and celebration.

During these celebrations, life's treasures arrive in many shapes and sizes, but the joy that our hearts treasure most are always found in the love of family and friends. Warm tidings from the North Forty staff.