

Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church
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Christmas - Epiphany - January - 2005

Time for Church

Back by popular demand --- **the 9:30 service at Trinity**. While it's not quite early enough for our former "8 o'clockers" and a bit too early for our "10 o'clockers," it's a compromise and with a few exceptions (i.e., your editor), the vote to make the time change was overwhelmingly in favor.

How many Sunday mornings would some of us like to stay tucked in bed or curled up in a cozy chair with the paper and just skip church for the week? Often, certainly at this time of year. However, being a Christian means being in community, means being fed together to strengthen us to be Christ to the world. As Eucharistic Prayer C reads, "Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for power only and not for compassion; for pardon only and not for renewal."

You may remember that the Canons of the Episcopal Church state, "All persons within this church shall celebrate and keep the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday, by regular participation in the public worship of the church, by hearing the Word of God read and taught, and by other acts of devotion and works of charity ..."

However, it's not always possible, so here is a list of excuses, offered with tongue firmly in cheek, for the Sundays you just can't quite make it:

- Church is too early
- Church is too late
- The sermon is too short
- The sermon is too long
- There's too much music
- There's not enough music
- The pews are hard (well, okay, they are)
- The church is too cold
- The church is too hot
- The kids don't want to get up (do they have a choice on school mornings?)
- I don't want to get up

These are favorites that have been heard here and elsewhere:

- I forgot to change the clocks (only valid twice a year)
- I got up and got ready, but fell asleep on the couch (originated by Bob England)
- I couldn't find my car keys
- Someone might see me there
- Sunday morning is my spiritual time and church really messes that up
- I'm too well to go to church today
- I went to church last week
- I'd rather go to St. Mattress on Sundays

Feel free to add your favorites ... but try not to use them too often. Make time for church. You'll find the time you spent worshipping with your church family will come back to you over and over throughout the week when you need it most.

Pledge Sunday is January 2 --- Epiphany Pageant is January 9 -- Annual Meeting is January 17

Pledge Sunday is January 2

Included in this newsletter is your pledge card for 2005. Please prayerfully consider the monetary amount you can promise for the coming year.

Remember that if your circumstances change, your pledge can also be changed. In order to budget for the year's expenses, the vestry needs an estimated income figure to work with.

We are fortunate at Trinity that we have some endowments, which help us meet part of our financial needs. However, we also spent a great deal of that money this year to renovate the building. We have ensured that Trinity's beautiful building will be here for future generations, but the day-to-day expenses go on.

We have, over the years, worked on our understanding of stewardship and have learned that we give for the joy of giving, we give from abundance, not scarcity, and that our gifts are returning to God what is already his.

You may place your pledge envelope in the offering plate on Sunday, the 2nd, or you may mail it.

The Epiphany Pageant is January 9th

... and it is our sincere hope that we will have heat in the church this year! Talk to Trula Hollywood for details about the event or if you would like to help.

The Christmas story will be told by our children at the 9:30 service. Don't miss it!

Trinity's Annual Meeting is January 16

The meeting will follow our 9:30 service; lunch will be served. According to our by-laws anyone who attends Trinity on a regular basis is considered a member of the church and may take an active voice and vote at the meeting.

Because our secretary will be out of town that weekend, those of you who have reports due (Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Clerk, Christian Education, Treasurers, Altar Guild, Building Committee, etc.) please have your reports ready by Sunday, January 9th. You may email them to bcaum@diobeth.org or give them to Barbara on the 9th.

The annual meeting is always a rewarding time; we review the past year and plan for the coming year. We can make arrangements for child care, if needed, please let Fr. Ned know soon.

We will be electing vestry members as well as our delegate to the 2005 Diocesan Convention. If you would like to serve in either capacity, do not hesitate to put your name forward. Thank you to our current, past and future vestry members.

Souper Bowl of Caring

What used to be a January event has migrated to February as the Super Bowl date has changed. This national program benefits local charities. Our donations go to the Valley Food Pantry.

Just a dollar for each member of your household goes a long way. February 6th.



Trinity Episcopal Church - January 2005

Christmas
Epiphany

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Trinity Prayer Cycle 1/2 Ned, Barbara, Alan and Doris Caum 1/9 Ian, Kathleen and Audrey Clare 1/16 Joe, Stacey, Roman, Derek, Brandon and Parker Coston 1/23 Jeff, Kim, Eric and Abby Davenport; 1/30 Jean and Jerry Dolan, Norma Duddie			New Service Time begins this month, Holy Eucharist at 9:30, Church School at 9:15		Diocesan Prayer Cycle 1/2 Our diocesan community of 66 congregations in 14 counties and our Bishop, Paul. Pray for repentance, renewal and mission in all our parishes. Pray that the Lord will bless us in our lives and ministry. 1/9 Church of the Epiphany, Clarke Summit, Rick Little, SW; 1/16 St. Paul's, Troy, The Rev. Mary Kisner; 1/23 Church of the Mediator, Allentown, The Rev. Maria Tjelveit; 1/30 St. Brigid's, Nazareth, The Very Rev. Dean Schenckel.	
2 Christmas II 9:15 Church School 9:30 Holy Eucharist II 10:30 Coffee Hour	3	4 <i>Janice Beck Bryan Bean Marie Bubniak</i>	5	6	7	8 Bishop's School, St. Anne's, Trexlertown
9 Epiphany I 9:15 Church School 9:30 Holy Eucharist II Epiphany Pageant 10:30 Coffee Hour <i>Doris Caum</i>	10	11	12	13 <i>Sharon & Harold Cole</i>	14	15
16 Epiphany II -----Vestry Meets----- 9:15 Church School 9:30 Holy Eucharist II 10:30 Coffee Hour <i>Janet Gurney</i>	17	18 Confession of St. Peter the Apostle <i>Jake Armstrong</i>	19	20	21	22 Bishop's School, St. Anne's, Trexlertown
23 Epiphany III 9:15 Church School 9:30 Holy Eucharist II 10:30 Coffee Hour ---Annual Meeting---	24 <i>Paul Kelley Haley Bresett</i>	25 The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle <i>Catherine Page Gurney</i>	26	27	28	29
30 Epiphany IV 9:15 Church School 9:30 Holy Eucharist II 10:30 Coffee Hour <i>Joe Cama</i>	31	<i>Kajo Keji, 1/2 Olij Refugee Camp; 1/9 The Congregation at Longhira; 1/16 The Congregation at Lira; 1/23 The Congregation at Limi Displacement Camp; 1/30 The Congregation at Kny'ba; The Diocese of Meath and Kildare, Richard Clarke, Bishop.</i>	Anglicans Around the World 1/2 The Diocese of Lahore (Pakistan), Alexander John Malik; 1/9 The Diocese of Lexington, Stacy Fred Sauls; 1/16 The World Council of Churches and all institutions and organizations promoting Christian Unity and for the healing of all schisms within the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church; 1/23 The Diocese of Lokoja, Nigeria, George Bako; 1/30 The Diocese of Long Island, Orris G. Walker, Rodney Rae Michel.			

Home Communion

It's often hard for some of us to get out on Sunday mornings. As winter weather approaches it can be even more difficult. Fr. Ned, Trula or Carla are happy to come visit you and bring you communion after church on Sunday, or when it's convenient for you. Please call the office at 888-5715 to arrange a visit.

Food Pantry

The first Sunday of each month is when we bring donations for the Food Pantry ... non-perishable foods in unbreakable containers.

This is an important part of our outreach ministry, so please make a note on your calendar each month to either buy a few extra items at the store or go through your pantry.

Thank you, Patricia Gurney, for volunteering for this ministry, taking over from the Becks, who have retired.

Coffee Hour Hosts

Sign up to host a coffee hour at 11 on Sundays. There's a clipboard in the parish hall kitchen. Pick up a coffee cake or donuts and share them with us. Coffee will be made already, all you need to do is set out the food. Plenty of folks will be around to help you clean up. And Thanks! Coffee hour is a good time for all.

Get connected

Point your browser to <http://trinityathens.baka.com> for our calendar, pictures and a .pdf version of our newsletter.

Point your browser to www.diobeth.org to read a wealth of articles, sermons and news. You can join the diocesan mailing news list or interactive discussion, or check links to many sites with wonderful information.... from the Daily Office to the worldwide Anglican Communion.

Trinity Times Online

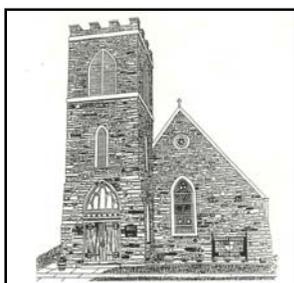
Would you like to receive your copy of *Trinity Times* as a .pdf document rather than by paper mail?

If so, please let us know. Send an email to caums@clarityconnect.com. We already post the newsletter to our web site each month so it's available there. You could save a tree, save a stamp! Please consider it.

Bishop Paul and Diana

will travel to Africa this month; pray for their mission and ministry, their safety and the growth of our relationship with the the Diocese of Kajo-Kaje. Pray for Bishop Manasseh and the refugees and homeless he and his people care for.

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January at Trinity