

# Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church  
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The Rev. Trula Hollywood, Deacon

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## Advent - Christmas - December 2005

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Greetings,

I saw a very dear friend today who is dealing with a chronic illness. She was telling me that all she wanted out of life is to do something remarkable to help others.

"Why?" I asked.

Since I know my friend so well, I didn't think it was because she wanted people to know who she is or to draw attention to herself. She wants only to know that she has done all she can with what God has given her before her disease progresses beyond the point she considers herself useful.

My answer to my friend is that she will always be useful as long as the desire to do God's work remains in her heart. We all touch others in ways we don't even know and that will continue to happen for all of us throughout our entire lives.

I think many of us wonder if we are doing that thing that God meant for us to do, if we are useful.

She asked me how she would know what it is that she's supposed to do.

It is so hard for us to accept that we actually are doing God's work. Opportunities pass in front of us everyday.

The problem is the only way we think it's going to come to us is that it has to be BIG!

Like winning the lottery so we can give money to the needy.

You don't need a lot of money to help someone who has only one set of clothes or hasn't had a meal in days.

"But that's just the tip of the iceberg", we say. Well, I respond to that, "If it's as big as an iceberg, who's going to start the chipping?"

If we wait for the BIG opportunity to come, we miss all the opportunities that add up to BIG.

This Christmas season, we will again be bombarded with the commercialism of the "Americanized" holiday.

We seem to think more stuff and the best of the stuff is what we absolutely need. I have been guilty of that. I have thought that the "things" I give my kids are what they will remember about Christmas.

What they will remember is the feelings of Christmas. How we made gingerbread cookies for all the church school children. How we delivered meals to the needy. These are also the things that build character and prepare them for doing God's work.

As I watched the Walmart scene on television, I was honestly nauseous watching human beings fight over "things". Please understand, I don't live in a shack without running water to give away all my money nor am I suggesting that anyone else do so.

And I am typing this on a pretty nice computer. But is there room in my life to give of myself and the real fortune God has blessed me with?

There better be!

Advent gives us an opportunity to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Advent and Christmas as well as every other day provide the opportunity to absorb Christ into our very beings.

Take time this season away from the hustle and bustle and reflect on how we can open our eyes to the love of Christ, seize the opportunities provided for us and start chipping away.

Deacon Trula

## Changes of Address

At least three of you have notified us of your address changes because of the new emergency response numbering system. If you are joining this club and ordering new return address labels, please don't forget to let the church office know.

Also, two of our members have moved and would no doubt love to hear from you:

Doris Caum  
Green Meadows  
120 Creekside Drive  
Painted Post, NY 14870  
(607) 962-3784

Jeanne Ewing  
Bradford County Manor  
RR 3, Box 322  
Troy, PA 16947

## Altar Guild News

There is a sign up sheet on the back table for Christmas flowers. You may give them in thanksgiving or in memory of someone. Please make your check out to Trinity and write "Christmas Flowers" on the *for* line.

It is time to put together the Altar Guild schedule for 2006. Please talk to Janice Beck about which months you are available. If you would like to know more about this quiet ministry of service, talk to Janice or to Beverly Barton. New members, both men and women, are always welcome and needed.

There will be a brass polishing party on the 18th during the greening of the church. Come help out and get to know the candlesticks intimately!

## Lay Pastoral Visiting: Serving the church by your presence with the sick, elderly and infirm

There will be a wonderful opportunity for us on Saturday, January 14, to attend a workshop offered by Guthrie and the Robert Packer Hospital.

"Visiting and being with another person is a ministry of presence. In times of need or crisis, your presence can relieve suffering and bring about tremendous healing of mind, body and soul. It is, indeed, a gift."

*Listening and Caring Skills in Ministry,*  
John Savage

The cost of the workshop, which runs from 8:30 to 3:30, is \$25 and includes the text and lunch. There are brochures at the church; the registration deadline is January 5. For more information, please talk to Deacon Trula.

## Ways to Share

Volunteer for the Salvation Army's red kettle campaign ... or at least remember to donate throughout the season.

Drop off a new, unwrapped toy at Christmas is for Kids, Saturday, December 19, 9 to noon, under the marquee at the Sayre Theatre.

Pick an ornament from the Angel Tree at Spaulding Memorial Library in Athens and bring in a book for the child who is represented on that ornament.





Give a scholarship or agricultural tool to our companion diocese of Kajo-Keji. Contact Randall Fegley at raf8@psu.edu. Read more on page A6 of this month's *Diocesan Life*.





# Trinity Episcopal Church - December 2005

## Advent Christmas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Trinity Prayer Cycle</b> 12/4 Charles & Virginia Ford 12/11 Robert and Marguerite Franks 12/18 George and Ingrid Garver 12/25 Dan and Marnie Gerhart			<b>Christmas at Trinity            Greening of the Church,            on 12/18            Carol Sing and Festival            Eucharist on 12/24</b>	1	2	<b>3</b> Bishop's School, Grace, Kingston
<b>4 2nd Sunday of Advent</b>  9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour  <i>Ed Gilbert</i>	<b>5</b> 	6	7  <i>Barbara Cole</i>	8	9  <i>Heather Hunsinger Hazel Hunt Fr. Ben Lentz</i>	<b>10</b> Bishop's School, Grace, Kingston   <i>Shelley Barry</i>
<b>11 3rd Sunday of Advent</b>  9:00 Holy Eucharist II 11:00 Coffee Hour	<b>12</b> 	13	14	15	16	<b>17</b> Bishop's School, Grace, Kingston
<b>18 4th Sunday of Advent</b> -----Vestry Meets-----  9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Greening the Church	<b>19</b> 	20	<b>21 St. Thomas the            Apostle</b>	22	23	<b>24 Eve of the            Nativity of Our Lord            Jesus Christ</b> 10:45 Carol Sing 11:00 Festival Eucharist <i>Kay Bennett</i>
<b>25 Christmas Day</b>  	<b>26 St. Stephen,            Deacon and Martyr</b>	27  <i>Jason Barry</i>	<b>28 The Holy            Innocents</b>	29	30	31

**Diocesan Prayer Cycle** 12/4 Pray for people with HIV/AIDS, for their families, friends and caregivers, and for the ministry of AIDS Outreach, Allentown.; 12/11 St. Andrew's Church, Bethlehem, The Rev. Leslie E. Evans, rector; 12/18 St. Stephen's Church, Whitehall, The Rev. Mark W. Lewis, priest-in-charge; 12/25 Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem. The Ven. Richard I. Cluett, interim dean; The Rev. Anne E. Kitch, canon; The Rev. Joel W. Atkinson, canon; The Rev. Joseph N. Leo, canon associate

**Anglicans Around the World** 12/4 Pray for the clergy and people of the Diocese of Vellore in South India; 12/11 Pray for the clergy and people of the Diocese of Wangaratta in Australia; 12/18 Pray for the clergy and people of the Diocese of York, Church of England; 11/25 God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ

## Planning for 2006

The end of the year is quickly upon us. That means planning the year ahead.

If you haven't yet turned in your pledge, there is still time to do so; you can place in the offering plate or mail it. The vestry will be working on the budget for next year so will need the total pledged amount quite soon.

Our annual meeting will be held toward the end of January and we'll be electing vestry members. Please consider serving. The vestry meets once a month.

Planning WAY ahead ... Trula's ordination to the priesthood will be Saturday, July 8 at 11 a.m.

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## An ORGAN-ized Recital!

Theo's Senior Project: Presented by Theodore Lentz

Learn about the function and use of pipe organs and how they work on Saturday December 10th at 2:00 p.m. at the Church of the Redeemer. There will be a freewill offering Benefiting: The Bridge of Penn-York Valley

## Christmas at Trinity

**Sunday, December 18 - Greening of the Church and Brass Polishing Party**

**Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve**

**10:45 - Carol Sing**

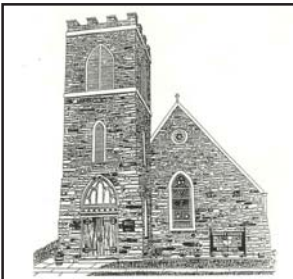
**11:00 - Festival Eucharist**

If all goes as planned, we will have a special guest soloist, Alex Mentzel, sing for us Christmas Eve. Alex is the grandson of Jan and Janice Beck and will be in the area auditioning for the St. Thomas Choir. We wish him well and are very pleased he'll be joining us.

There will be no service on Sunday, December 25.

Holy God, your Son called us to wrap the whole world in your saving embrace. By your Holy Spirit, give us compassion, purpose and energy to invite into your Church those who do not yet know the transforming power of your love. We ask this through him who has brought us from darkness to light, your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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**December at Trinity**