

Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church
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Advent - Christmas - December - 2006

Greetings,

I was watching the music awards last week. There were many artists with a great deal of talent but I found myself becoming a little offended.

I thought the clothing was, well, I'm not sure how to say it. There wasn't enough of it. I commented about how I couldn't follow any of the lyrics and didn't know a single artist in the first half hour of the show.

After I did this to myself for a while, it became clear to me that I have become a fuddie duddie.

As we enter into Advent this month and anticipate the celebration of the birth of Christ, I find myself wondering if my recent discovery that I'm not as "hip" as I used to be is why the lights and the glimmer and the commercialism have got me climbing the walls.

Santa at the mall before Thanksgiving, the television commercials and the mail full of catalogs as well as all of the commercial hype is starting to bring my less than likeable side out.

We can get caught up in running around in trying to be busy and making our lives worth something by making Christmas a reason to buy.

The buying frenzy and need to show each other how much we love one another through expensive purchases is becoming more than I can take. I need to turn the television off and focus on Advent.

I hope and pray that we can all focus on the true meaning of Christmas this year. To do that it's very important to understand the season of Advent.

Advent is a season of anticipatory joy. It is a time to prepare for the celebration of the infant Christ's arrival in Bethlehem.

Why get ready for an event of the past?

Christmas is our redemption. Jesus is born to redeem us, to free us from the measuring of our lives. Jesus comes, not to measure or judge, but to forgive. Jesus is doing a new thing with us. Instead of judging and condemning, he has mercy.

This is a reason to anticipate and celebrate, a time for us to prepare ourselves for the joy of the mercy of our Lord.

This fuddie duddie will be spending less time in the stores this year (hallelujah!) and more time just being silent with God. This will definitely keep my less than likeable side at bay.

God's Peace,
Mother Trula

To seek and serve Christ in all people.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the new church year begins on December 3, the first Sunday of Advent, we begin a month of hearing again the prophecies of His coming and the stories of the arrival of the Messiah. He came not as a glorious avenging king, but as an infant born to a young girl, born in the dusty straw of a cave where animals were kept. Once again God shows His complete love by giving us not what we expect, but what we need. He gave the greatest gift.

God keeps on giving. God has been very gracious to us here at Trinity. Among us we have boundless gifts and talents and most of us have more than enough to meet our own needs. Stewardship is simply recognizing that all we are and all we have is a gift from God. We are entrusted with gifts—to care for those gifts, to manage them and to employ them to serve God in the world.

As God's people at Trinity, we have defined our mission, our reason for being, *to seek and serve Christ in all people*. How do we do that?

We begin with worship. We come together to hear God's Word, to praise Him, to be fed by Him. That is the basis for everything we do. Each week we pray for the strength "to do the work you have given us to do, to love and to serve you with gladness and singleness of heart." And the work we have been given to do? *To seek and serve Christ in all people*.

All people, not just the ones we like to be with. *All people*, not just those in our church family. *All people*. The poor, the sad, the lonely, the marginalized, the sick, those who have fallen through the cracks of society. After all, who did Jesus spend most of his time ministering to? He is our role model.

Every year presents new challenges and new opportunities for our parish. Each year involves

new promises concerning the resources entrusted to us. Each year is the gift of a new start.

This past year, we have begun to focus on evangelism. Getting the word of Christ out to the community is going to allow us to use the gifts God has given us to accomplish our mission.

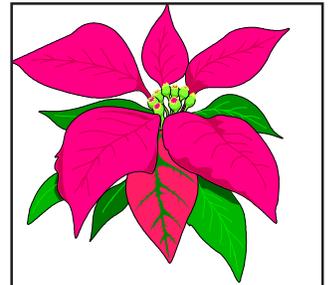
As you re-evaluate your personal giving to Trinity in both time and money over the next year, please prayerfully consider and respond with thanksgiving for all the gifts God has given. After all, all we have comes from God and we are only returning to Him and His work what is His.

A pledge card and self-addressed envelope are included; but, better yet, please place your pledge card in the offering on December 3rd. Thank you.

In Christ,
Your Vestry

Christmas Flowers

There is a sign up sheet on the back table in the church. You may donate for flowers in thanksgiving or in memory of a loved one.



Rector's Discretionary Fund

On the first Sunday of the month any offering that is not designated as a pledge goes into the RDF. Over the past year funds have helped a prisoner, a battered woman, a patient with no place to go and others. It's purchased acolyte robes, housed the homeless, paid camping fees for young people, bought gas for the stranded. In other words, it has helped the marginalized, exactly the people that Jesus spent his time with.

...as you did to the least of these, so you did unto me



Trinity Episcopal Church - December 2006

Advent
Christmas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Diocesan Prayer Cycle 12/3 All Saints, Lehighton, The Rev. Jane Bender, Priest-in-Charge. Pray for people with HIV/AIDS, for their families, friends and caregivers; 12/10 St. John's, Palmerton, The Rev. Charles Morris, Priest-in-Charge; 12/17 St. Andrew's, Allentown, the Rev. Leslie Evans, rector; 12/24 Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem. The Ven. Richard I. Cluett, interim dean; Canon Anne E. Kitch, Christian formation; Canon Joel W. Atkinson, missionary; Canon Joseph N. Leo, associate; 12/31 All congregations of our 14-county diocesan community and our bishop, Paul.			Trinity Prayer Cycle 12/3 Hazel and Ron Hunt 12/10 Charles Jackson, Ruby Jenney 12/17 Paul and Emily Kelley 12/24 Marcel and Donna Lamb 12/31 Tom, Kathe, Michael, Alex, Elizabeth and Patrick Maneval		1	2
3 1st Sunday of Advent Pledge Sunday 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour 2:00 Service at St. Matthew's, Stevensville	4  <i>Ed Gilbert</i>	5	6	7	8	9 <i>Heather Hunsinger</i> <i>Hazel Hunt</i> <i>Fr. Ben Lentz</i>
10 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 11:00 Coffee Hour <i>Shelley Barry</i>	11 	12	13	14	15	16
17 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour -----Vestry Meets-----	18 	19	20	21 St. Thomas the Apostle	22	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent 9:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Greening the Church Christmas Eve 10:45 Carol Sing 11:00 Festival Eucharist <i>Kay Bennett</i>	25 Christmas Day 	26 St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr	27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist <i>Jason Barry</i>	28 The Holy Innocents	29	30
31 The First Sunday after Christmas Day 9:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Coffee Hour	<i>Kajo Keji, 12/3</i> The Alere Refugee Camp; 12/10 The Agojo Refugee Camp; 12/17 The Olijji Refugee Camp; 11/24 The Dongregation of Longhira; 12/31 The Congregation of Lira		<i>Anglicans Around the World 12/3</i> Pray for the clergy and people of the Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain; 12/10 Pray for the clergy and people of the Falkland Islands; 12/17 Pray for the clergy and people of Kushtia (Bangladesh); 11/24 Pray for the clergy and people of Pakistan and Lahore; 12/31 Pray for the clergy and people of the worldwide Anglican Communion.			

December at a glance

December 3 - The First Sunday of Advent and Pledge Sunday

A **Special Advent Service** of prayers, readings, hymns and carols will be held at St. Matthew's, Stevensville at 2 p.m. St. Matthew's is the oldest church in the diocese.

December 17 - Vestry Meets

December 24 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent - Greening of the Church during coffee hour

December 24 - The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

10:30 p.m. Carol Sing

11:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist

Trinity Times is online at our web site in pdf format at www.trinityathens.org/Archives.htm. The earliest publication is 11/03.

Sign up to host a coffee hour!

Coffee is made for you, just bring something to share after the service ... coffeecake, fruit, cheese, crackers, whatever you'd like. We're very easy to please!

Trinity and ebay

(Editor's note: Yes, we did run this article last month, but are running it again to remind you to look around for items to sell. Bishop Paul suggests that the Chinchilla Farm stationery in the sacristy could probably make us some money!)

No, we're not kidding. Traditional fund raising -- bazaars, raffles, rummage sales -- are an enormous amount of work by a very few people for very little return. So, we're going to try something new.

Chris and Heather Hunsinger will be our ebay workers and will handle placing items up for bid and shipping them.

Your job is to look around your house, especially the closets and attic, for likely items to sell. Just about anything can be sold .. old, new, electronic, collectible. Talk to a vestry member.

Food Pantry

Please remember that the first Sunday of each month is Food Pantry Sunday. Please bring nonperishable foods in unbreakable packaging and place them in the basket at the back of the church. Thank you, Pat Gurney for delivering our donations.

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December at Trinity