

# Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

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## Advent - Christmas - December, 2014

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The wheel of the liturgical year has brought us around to Advent once again. Advent, we all know, is a season of preparation: preparing for the coming of Jesus and the celebration of his nativity.

But really, as Christians, that's what we do all the time: prepare for the coming of Jesus. There's an old joke that runs, "Jesus is coming - look busy!" Being Christians, living the Word, bringing the Good News out into the world and reflecting it in our own lives, can keep us very busy! And that's as it should be. Being a Christian can be a lot of work. But it's joyful work, and there's much more to it than just looking busy.

Our parish is the center of our common life as Christians. It's where we gather, not just to recite prayers every week, but to reaffirm our connection and commitment to each other in Christ. We all promise, in our baptismal covenant, to help one another live up to our vows - to be busy, in the service of Christ, and sometimes even to look busy while doing it!

Without the people - without you - there wouldn't be a parish, and without the parish, we wouldn't have our common gathering place. It's more than just a building, of course. Jesus said that wherever we gather in his name, even just two or three of us, he is with us. And that's the community of the parish.

I'm afraid it's time to pass the hat around. Yes, this is the annual stewardship letter. To keep busy, as Jesus meant us to keep busy, is a lot of work (joyful work, though!), and to keep the parish and its community together and running is no different. It's not just a matter of keeping salaries paid and keeping the building heated and in good repair - although those are important too! - but of putting together our individual resources, not only money but time and effort and care, to support our parish community in everything we do.

Praise through music, on Sundays and perhaps at other times, Outreach to the less fortunate and the uncertain, works of charity to those in need, prayer chains and phone trees, hosting four AA groups meetings, special events throughout the year, celebrating each other's joys and supporting each other in sorrow, these are just some of the ways we serve God, each other and the community as the members of Trinity.

We ask you, once again, in this Advent season of preparation for the birth of our Lord and the New Year, to renew your commitment to our parish community and all the good work we strive to do together. It keeps us busy - and busy is the best way to be.

Jesus is coming - look busy, and hallelujah!

A member of the parish

*[Editor's note: I asked someone, who has never written for us before, what would you write if you were responsible for the annual stewardship letter? With a grateful heart, I share the above response. Your 2015 Pledge card is enclosed.]*

### Vestry News

As you know, our focus has been on building our Outreach program. With that in mind, we invited Marlea Hoyt, the director of the Area Agency on Aging for Bradford County, to speak to us at the November meeting. We asked her how we, as a small parish, could help.

The needs are great in our community, which has a growing population of the elderly. The local senior center in Sayre, while it tries to be self-sufficient, could use our help. The vestry decided to donate care packages of paper products, coffee and creamer. We can start to add those things to our food basket donations. Drivers are also needed to deliver meals to shut-ins in the area. They can work with volunteers who can give any amount of time ... from one day a month, to weekly, to more. They deliver about

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The Annual Greening of the Church will be held after coffee hour on Sunday, December 21st .. Come join in the fun!

# THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



(Continued from page 1)

50 meals, both in town and in the surrounding area. They have various routes available and reimburse for mileage. Call 570-265-3862 or visit bsstaa.org.

Also, the Senior Center is always looking for people to present programs .. Music, hobbies, presentations about trips, games. Consider volunteering if you have a musical gift or craft to share. Encourage seniors you know to join the group; public transportation is readily available.

We are also considering a monthly recovery service after the first of the year, inviting those who meet in our parish hall along with others in the community for an informal worship service of prayer, meditation, and music.

In other vestry news, we have contracted with local craftsman/handyman John Jones to resurface the walls and ceiling of the apse (the area around the altar). This will probably take a couple of weeks and

will involve a scaffolding. The original plaster over horsehair is flaking and there are cracks and holes. We are using funds from the Horatio Bridge trust to do this work.

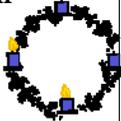
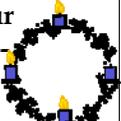
As the vestry begins to plan for the 173rd Annual Meeting, January 25, 2015, we will be gathering reports of the year's activities and formulating a budget for 2015. We keep that budget as small as it possibly can be, but we have needed to withdraw funds from our endowment for the past several years for building improvements. We have also lost two pledging members this year.

That means we will each need to increase our pledges as we are able. Amazingly, if we all increased our pledges just \$5 or \$10 a month, that would make the difference. Please prayerfully consider giving just a bit more so that Trinity remains a viable and vibrant parish, warm and welcoming to both friends and strangers.



# Trinity Episcopal Church - December 2014

## Advent and Christmas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Trinity Cycle of Prayer</b> 12/7 Mike, Shelley and Jason Barry 12/14 Don Barton, Barbara Bean, Jan Beck 12/21 Kay Horton Bennett, Jake Parshall 12/28 David, Chela, Brandon, Sean Bubniak		<b>The Diocese of Kajo Keji:</b> 12/7 Ku'dupi Parish, The Rev. Mary Kanan Benai. 7/14 Tipere Parish, The Rev. Mary Yangi Kwiwansuk. The Rev. Silivian Kiden Pitia, Diocesan Mothers' Union Leader. 12/21 Jondalee Parish, The Rev. Morris Lo'diong. 12/28 Kala Parish: The Rev. Moses Dilla.		<b>The Diocese of Bethlehem - 12/7</b> Calvary, Tamaqua, The Rev. Robert K. Gildersleeve, Supply. Evangelism Commission. 12/14 Christ Church, Towanda, The Rev. Maureen AtLee Hipple, Rector and The Rev. Lawrence Holman, Deacon. 12/21 St. Anne's, Trexlertown, The Rev. Canon Michael F. Piovane, Rector, Deacon Bernice Reichard. 12/28 St. Paul's, Troy, The Rev. A.J. (Han) van den Blink, Priest-in-Charge.		
	<b>1 St. Andrew the Apostle</b> AA 8:00 pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	<b>4</b> AA 8:00 pm  <i>Margaret Gerhart Ed Gilbert</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 Advent II</b> 9:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Coffee Hour  <i>Barbara Cole</i> 	<b>8</b> AA 8:00 pm	<b>9</b>  <i>Heather Hunsinger Hazel Hunt Fr. Ben Lentz</i>	<b>10</b> AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm	<b>11</b> AA 8:00 pm  <i>Shelley Barry</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14 Advent III</b> 9:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Coffee Hour ---Vestry Meets---  	<b>15</b> AA 8:00 pm	<b>16</b> Clergy Bible Study, Towanda, 3:00	<b>17</b> AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm  <i>David Bubniak</i>	<b>18</b> AA 8:00 pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21 Advent IV</b> 9:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Coffee Hour Greening of the Church  	<b>22 St. Thomas the Apostle</b> AA 8:00 pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 10:30 pm - Carol Sing and Musical Offering 11:00 pm - Festival Eucharist AA 7:30 pm <i>Kay Horton Bennett</i>	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> AA 8:00 pm 	<b>26 St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr</b>	<b>27 St. John, Apostle</b>  <i>Jason Barry</i>
<b>28 Christmas I</b> 9:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Coffee Hour	<b>29 The Holy Innocents</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Anglicans around the world:</b> 12/7 Kinkizi, Uganda, The Rt. Rev. Dan Zoreka. 12/14 Kitgum, Uganda, The Rt. Rev. Benjamin Ojwang. 12/21 Kontagora (Lokaja, Nigeria), The Rt. Rev. Jonah Ibrahim. 12/28 Kushtia, Bangladesh, The Rt. Rev. Sunil Mankhin.		<b>The 173rd Annual Meeting of the Members of Trinity Church, January 25, 2015.</b>

## December Highlights



**The Mitten Tree** has returned! Donations will be used locally. Let's load the tree down with hats, gloves, mittens and scarves this year during the four Sundays of Advent, 11/30 to 12/21, remembering Carol Reed, who always came up with amazing hat topper for the mitten tree.

**December 14th - Stewardship Sunday** This newsletter includes a pledge card for 2015. You may place it in the alms basin or mail it to the church.

**December 14th - Vestry meets;** it's a week early this month.

**December 21 - The Greening of the Church.** Following coffee hour we will take the mittens off the tree and decorate it for Christmas; we'll also put out the poinsettias and our crèche with the beautiful hand-painted figures.

**December 24th - Christmas Eve Celebration.** We'll gather at 10:30 p.m. to sing traditional carols



and listen to musical offerings from some of our members and musical guests. Festival Holy Eucharist begins at 11 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to join with friends and family to celebrate the birth of our Savior. If you have houseguests and/or family visiting, be sure to bring them.

**December 28 - The First Sunday of Christmas.** Remember that Christmas is a twelve-day festival ... the celebration continues!

**Trinity's Adopted Christmas Family:** We will provide our adopted



Christmas family with presents and a special dinner. In the past it has cost about \$300. Marie Bubniak is coordinating this Outreach effort again this year. If you wish to make a contribution, you may write a check and indicate its purpose on the *for* line. There are now also envelopes in each pew for cash donations. Food donations are also welcome and can be placed in the offering basket at the

back of the church.



**Helping to keep families warm:** Winter has definitely arrived. Imagine not being able to turn the heat up, or even on, because you can't afford it. You will find special donation envelopes for The Bridge of Penn-York Valley Churches in church.

**Hospital Visits:** Because of the privacy regulations now in effect, the church has no way of knowing if someone is in the hospital. Please, make arrangements now with a friend or family member to call the church if you are admitted. Fr. Ben, Mtr. Trula or Deacon Hazel will visit with you, pray with you and bring you communion, but only if you let us know.

**Birthday and Anniversary Calendar:** Are you and your family included? It's almost a new year, please take a moment to look at the monthly list in the back of the church and make additions or corrections. Thanks!

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December at Trinity