

Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church
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Last Pentecost - Advent - November, 2015

"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Outreach

For the past several months, the vestry has been discussing how we, as God's Episcopal people in Athens, can live into our baptismal covenant to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself."

We've been held back by thinking that because we have a very small and aging congregation and most of us are not energetic enough to hold all-day sales, volunteer to host community meals and such, that there's not much we can do. I am reminded of a story Bishop Mark told about his daily visits to an elderly woman who was bedbound. She felt useless, she said, that there was nothing she could do for others. Bishop Mark told her gently, "You can pray." Certainly we can all begin with prayer, for those in need and in poor health and with thanksgivings for all we have.

We may be few in numbers, but we can be the people God expects us to be. We CAN. We ARE:

▫ We have been collecting clothing for those in need. Rather than holding our own Giveaway, we are donating the clothing to Catholic Charities, which *gives*, rather than sells, clothing and household items to those in need. Our donations will fill a truck that the Gerharts are taking to Nichols this coming week. If you have items, you can bring them to the parish hall by Sunday, November 1.

▫ We've been in conversation with the Abuse and Rape Crisis Center and formally adopted this agency as the center of our Outreach efforts.

We can all help and have been working on it over the past few months. Often, women and children arrive at the Center with nothing. We can help. We are putting together recipe jars filled with dried ingredients to make hearty soups along with instructions, and we are adopting a family for Christmas. Also, Marie Bubniak has put together two baskets, one with personal items, one with kitchen items, that will be donated. You may want to put one together:



▫ Over the next year we will be collecting new and gently used coats so that we can give them away next Fall.

▫ And, as usual, we will be filling the mitten tree during Advent. Remember Carol Reed when you place your offering on the tree; she'd smile.

▫ Ongoing: First Sundays we offer items for the Senior Center: coffee, creamer, sugar, napkins, cards, games, puzzles. The other Sundays are for the local food pantry at the UMC.

Live into your Baptismal Covenant to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself ... and join us Sunday on All Saints' to stand and renew that commitment.



A Call to Pilgrimage: A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Sean

October 3rd, 2015

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

From the earliest times of our forbearers in faith, when we humans have been in need of spiritual sustenance and signs from God, we have packed our bags and headed out on the road. The Israelites encountered God in new ways and experienced transformation on the journey. They were released into the full range of their creativity as they let go of Pharaoh's imagination and embraced God's imagination.

In our eighteen months of ministry together, we have made progress toward getting our house in order. The diocese's governing bodies, financial practices, communications and clergy support structures are all working more effectively, and we are beginning some hopeful collaborative ministries that will help us do more with the resources God has given us.

While this work will continue, I believe that it is now time for all of us in the Diocese of Bethlehem to turn our attention more fully to discerning the future of God's mission in our congregations and communities. In our hearts, souls and minds, we need to take a pilgrimage toward God's future.

Beginning on the Feast of the Epiphany and lasting until next year's diocesan convention, I urge all of the people of Bethlehem to undertake this pilgrimage. Together we will pray, sing, reflect, and most of all, have holy conversations. During this time, I pray that we will see ourselves in the biblical stories of faithful people called again and again to worship a loving God whose power working in us can accomplish far more than we can ask or imagine.

I have asked two long-time clergy leaders of our diocese, the Very Rev. Tony Pompa and the Rev. Charles Cesaretti, to help guide us on this journey. In the coming months, you will hear from Tony and Charles and other leaders working with them about how you can participate in this pilgrimage through prayer, reflection, and conversation. I ask that we begin to immerse ourselves in prayer by using the collect that we have developed for this pilgrimage in our corporate worship.

There will be a place for us all on the journey. As we, together, engage God's imagination, a compelling vision for our future will continue to emerge.

Yours on the Journey,

+ Sean

Sean W. Rowe (The Rt. Rev.)

Bishop (Provisional) Diocese of Bethlehem

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Sprucing up and Fixing up

Senior Warden Dan Gerhart is an excellent steward for Trinity's buildings and grounds. When we noticed that the two mountain ash trees were going from bad to worse, we contacted the Tree Commission, which directed us to take them down, along with the maple in front of the church. That one was half dead and we were informed it would not recover. Dan, along with our unofficial Junior Warden, Nate Schwartzberg, with assistance from our sexton, Alan Caum, took down all three trees in one day, did a complete cleanup and then hired Mattison to drill out the stumps, which was required by the borough.



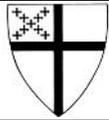
Alan Caum, Dan Gerhart, and Nate Schwartzberg take down Trinity's ailing trees. September 15, 2015.



Then Nate, who is a master carpenter and antique restorer, with Dan's assistance, completely refinished the front doors, tracery and the Ann Zulkosky memorial sign.

Our thanks to all of our hard workers for a beautiful job!

A new railing will be in place on the front steps by the end of November, courtesy of a grant from Vulcraft.



Trinity Episcopal Church - November 2015

Last Pentecost
Advent

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| <i>Trinity:</i> 11/1 Kim, Chuck and Logan Cornell 11/8 Jerry and Jean Dolan 11/15 William, Sarah, Leigha, Addy & Blake Draper 11/22 Becky Fiorello, David O'Dell 11/29 David and Shelly Strange Fish | | <i>Diocese of Bethlehem:</i> 11/1 Good Shepherd, Scranton, The Rev. John Davis. 11/8 St. Luke's, Scranton. 11/15 St. Alban's, Sinking Spring, The Rev. Karl L. Kern, Rector; The Rev. Canon Walter Krieger, The Rev. Nancy Packard, The Rev. Jeffrey Funk, Associates. 11/22 Christ Church, Stroudsburg, The Rev. Douglas Moyer, Rector. Standing Committee. 11/29 St. Peter's, Tunkhannock: The Rev. Lou Divis, Rector. Incorporated Trustees. | | | <i>Kajo Keji:</i> 11/1 Böri, The Ven. Elly Mawa Lojuru, The Rev. Jeneti A'diko. 11/8 Wudu Town Parish: The Rev. Jonathan Soro Buli, The Rev. Michael Aboi. 11/15 Lu'bule Parish, The Rev. Joseph Lomuja. 11/22 Lori Parish, The Rev. Luka Lonjok Gedion. 11/29 Motongo Parish, The Rev. Mary Kajogo. | | Fall Back DST Ends  |
| 1 All Saints' Day 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour 1:00 Installation of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry | 2 All Souls' Day AA 8:00 pm | 3 Election Day <i>Heather Martin Lake Brandon & Derek Coston</i> | 4 AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm | 5 AA 8:00 pm | 6 | 7 1:30-3:30 ARCC Silent Auction St. Agnes School, Towanda | |
| 8 Pentecost 22 P-27 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour <i>Blake Draper Everett Forbes</i> | 9 AA 8:00 pm <i>Matthew Hollywood</i> | 10 <i>Jim & Mary Patterson</i> | 11 AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm | 12 AA 8:00 pm | 13 High School Youth Retreat, through | 14 | |
| 15 Pentecost 23 P-28 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour --Vestry Meets-- National Donor Sabbath | 16 AA 8:00 pm | 17 Clergy Bible Study 8, 3 p.m., Christ Church, Towanda <i>Kent Stanley</i> | 18 AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm | 19 AA 8:00 pm | 20 | 21 | |
| 22 Last Pentecost - Christ the King 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour | 23 AA 8:00 pm | 24 <i>Joe Coston</i> | 25 AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm | 26 Thanksgiving Day AA 8:00 pm  <i>Elizabeth Maneval</i> | 27 | 28 <i>Alex Mentzel</i> | |
| 29 Advent I 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour  | 30 AA 8:00 pm |  Fill the Carol Reed Memorial Mitten Tree! November 29 through December 20 | <i>Anglicans Around the World:</i> 11/1 Truro, Canterbury, The Rt. Rev. Timothy Thornton; Truro, St. Germans, Canterbury, The Rev. Christopher David Goldsmith. 11/8 Upper Shire (Central Africa) The Rt. Rev. Brighton Vitta Malasa. 11/15 Venezuela (The Episcopal Church) The Rt. Rev. Orlando Guerrero. 11/22 Wangaratta (Victoria, Australia) The Rt. Rev. John Parkes. 11/29 West Malaysia, The Rt. Rev. Jason Selvaraj; The Rt. Rev. Ng Moon Hing, The Rt. Rev. Andrew Phang, Assistant Bishops. | | | | |



In the wee hours of Sunday morning - Fall Back - Daylight Saving Time ends.

November Highlights



November 1 - All Saints' Day Observance. All our favorite hymns and renewal of our baptismal vows. 9 a.m.

Consecration and Installation of our new Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, at the National Cathedral, 1 p.m.

The event will be webcast at www.cathedral.org, where you can also download a service leaflet.

November 15 - Vestry meets.



National Donor Sabbath: Awareness of the value of organ donation to consider becoming an organ donor; or, as the organization says, "don't take your organs to heaven ... heaven knows we need them here."

November 29 - Advent begins.

Our beautiful Advent wreath, given in memory of Fr. Ned, will once again grace the sanctuary. This is also the beginning of the church year. We move from Year B in the lectionary cycle to year C. A reminder: you can find all the readings on line in several places, www.textweek.com is an excellent resource.

The Carol Reed Memorial Mitten



Tree will also return on November 29th. Carol was a big supporter of this Outreach project. Decorate the tree with scarves, hats, mittens, and gloves

during the four Sundays of Advent. Donations are used locally

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.

Prayer List, Birthday Anniversary Calendar: We keep a copy of the prayer list on the back table for you to add or subtract names each week. Please take a look and make sure it's up to date. Also, look over the **birthday/anniversary** calendar and make sure you and your family are included.

Stewardship Sunday, December 13th. Please begin now to prayerfully consider your monetary pledge to Trinity for 2016. The vestry will be working on next year's budget in December. Your next newsletter will contain a pledge card with your promise to be a faithful steward of God's bounty.

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November at Trinity