

# Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church  
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## Advent - Christmas - December, 2015

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Greetings!

As we start a new year at Trinity, we plan for our annual meeting and as always, the annual budget. Many of us have been members of Trinity for decades and have seen many changes.

I was fortunate enough to have come to Trinity shortly after the arrival of Father Caum, who was one of the most generous people I have known. He gave of his time, his talent and energy.

When he would talk about stewardship, I remember him saying, "Do we really need so many possessions? Who needs three televisions?"

His message was always clear. We need to prioritize.

A few years ago, Trinity needed some major building repairs. The need for these repairs was immediate and funds were borrowed from our endowment. We are good stewards of our property and building, as we should be. We needed to prioritize or we would not have had a building in which to worship.

Many of you have given of your time, talent, energy and money as members of this church and this is a good time to talk about the future and our financial stability.

It's a good time because we are not behind in our pledges from last year so we have been able to meet our budget for the 2015.

As each year rolls around, needs in the church and in the community change. We know there are ongoing expenses with maintaining the building and grounds.

We also know our mission is to **Seek and Serve Christ in all people**. The Vestry has made it a top priority to serve some of the most vulnerable in our community. This requires us to be vigilant in keeping outreach at the forefront, as we are, and always will be, mission oriented.

I believe this is what God calls us to do. We are small in numbers but that should never stop us from acting on what Bishop Mark Dyer reminded us often, "Keep the Main thing the Main Thing." Jesus told his disciples (us) the main thing was and is to love your neighbor, especially those who are vulnerable and marginalized.

As we move into 2016, look into your hearts and renew your commitment to continue the stewardship of those in our community and our world.

All Jesus ever asks us to do during our time on this earth is to make a difference. Consider how we at Trinity can follow God's Word through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

And let's make difference!

Trula  
*The Rev. Trula Hollywood, Clergy-in-Residence*

**Stewardship Sunday is December 13th.** Your pledge card and an envelope are included in this mailing. You may place it in the alms basin at the Offertory on that day, or mail it to the pledge treasurer.

### Vestry News

About a year ago, the Vestry made a decision to focus on living into our Baptismal Covenant and mission statement, *to seek and serve Christ in all people*. We had worked hard to take care of our building and it was time to look outward.

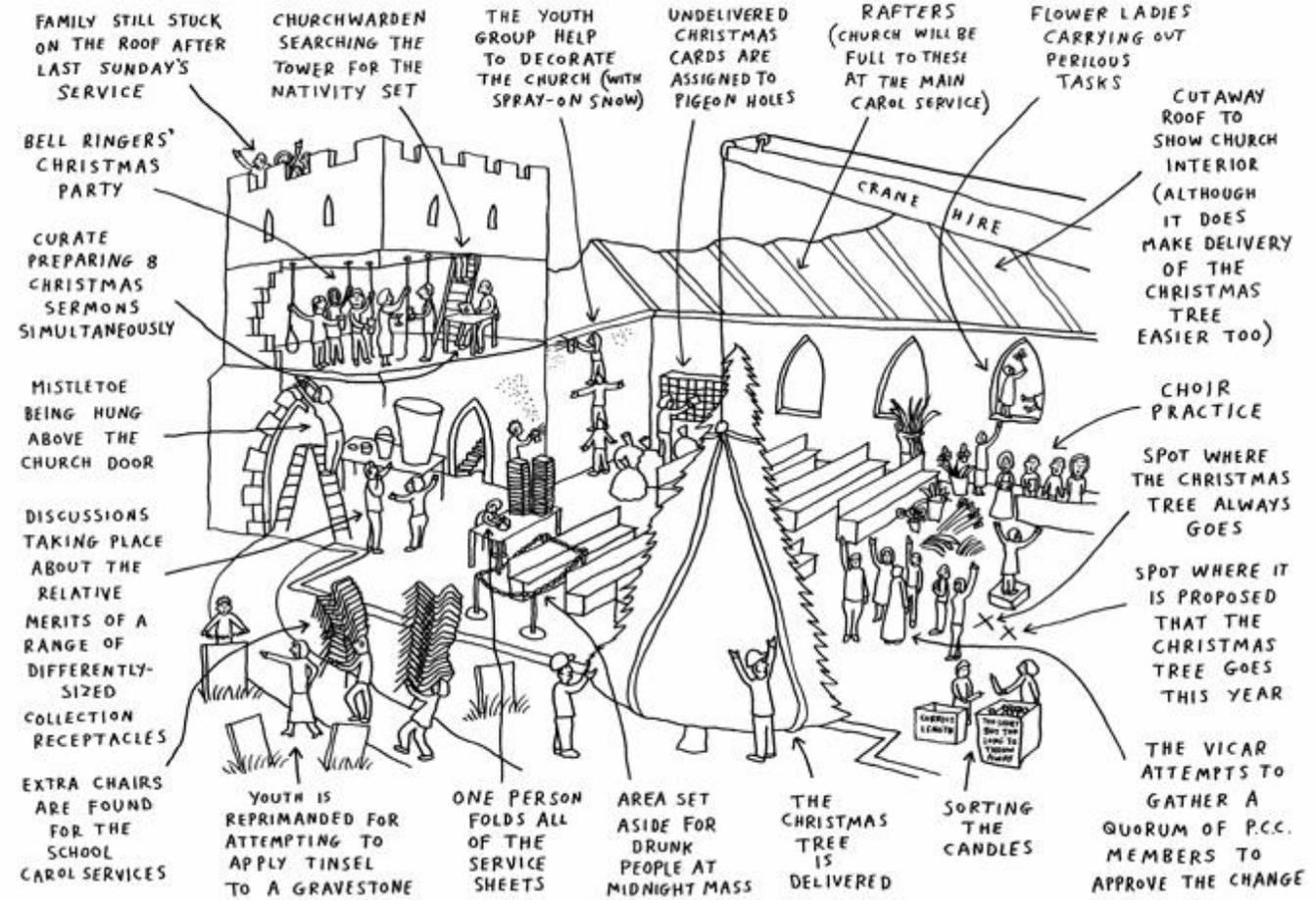
We began by inviting a spokesperson from the Area Agency on Aging to talk to us about the needs in our community, which has a growing population of elderly folks. We decided to help the Sayre Senior Center by designating the first Sunday of the month for donations to them ... paper products, coffee, tea, games and puzzles. We are continuing to do this; meanwhile, they have moved to the Athens United Methodist Church, which is much more accessible.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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The Annual Greening of the Church will be held after coffee hour on Sunday, December 20th .. Come join in the fun!

# CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS



This CartoonChurch.com cartoon by Dave Walker originally appeared in the Church Times.

(Continued from page 1)

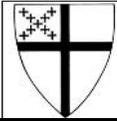
We learned that our Methodist neighbors had opened a food pantry, so we began asking for more specific items in the food basket each week for donation to that ministry. They can especially use peanut butter, macaroni & cheese, hamburger helper, soup, tuna and canned vegetables and fruit.

Most recently we have focused on the Abuse and Rape Crisis Center, which serves battered women from all over Bradford County. The exact location of the center is confidential, but we have a contact who can deliver our offerings. We are providing Christmas presents for two families, simple soup ingredients and personal and kitchen baskets.

In other vestry news, we recently received a grant from Vulcraft of Chemung, with the help of parishioner Heather Hunsinger, which paid for a handrail for the front steps. It is designed to give folks a hand when going up the step while still allowing both doors to be opened when necessary.

As the vestry begins to plan for the 174th Annual Meeting, January 24, 2016, we will be gathering reports of the year's activities and formulating a budget for 2016. As of the end of November, 2015, all of our pledges are up to date; and we have stayed within budget on nearly all line items, with the exception of heating costs (it was a very cold winter) and one or two other items. We keep our budget as small as it possibly can be and have managed quite well. However, costs do go up. If you have pledged the same amount for the past decade, please prayerfully consider raising your pledge a few dollars a week to keep up with inflation.

As we look ahead to our 175th year, we hope to celebrate in many ways. We will begin by giving thanks for those who founded Trinity in 1842, raised the building in 1860, and gave us a place to worship and be fed so that we can continue to reach out to those in need and secure a place for those who come after us.



# Trinity Episcopal Church - December 2015

**Advent and Christmas**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p><i>Trinity Cycle of Prayer</i>  <b>12/6</b> Charles and Virginia Ford  <b>12/13</b> Robert and Marguerite Franks  <b>12/20</b> Dan and Marny Gerhart  <b>12/27</b> Barry Goldsmith,            Patricia Gurney</p>				<p><i>Anglicans around the world: 12/6</i> Western Louisiana, The Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby  <b>12/13</b> Windward Islands (West Indies) The Rt. Rev. Calvert Friday. <b>12/20</b> Yewa (Lagos, Nigeria) The Rt. Rev. Michael Adebayo Oluwaro-hunbi. <b>12/27</b> Zaki-Biam (Abuja, Nigeria) The Rt. Rev. Benjamin Vager.</p>		<p><i>The Diocese of Bethlehem - 12/6</i> Calvary, Tamaqua, The Rev. Robert K. Gildersleeve, Supply. Evangelism Commission. <b>12/13</b> Christ Church, Towanda, The Rev. Maureen AtLee Hipple, Rector, Deacon Lawrence Holman. <b>12/20</b> St. Anne's, Trexlertown, The Rev. Canon Michael F. Piovine, Rector, Deacon Bernice Reichard. <b>12/27</b> St. Paul's, Troy, The Rev. A.J. (Han) van den Blink.</p>	
<p><i>The Diocese of Kajo Keji: 12/6</i> Ku'dupi Parish, The Rev. Mary Kanan Benai. <b>12/13</b> Tipere Parish, The Rev. Mary Yangi Kwiyansuk. The Rev. Silivian Kiden Pitia. <b>12/20</b> Jondalee Parish, The Rev. Morris Lo'diong. <b>12/27</b> Kala Parish: The Rev. Moses Dilla.</p>		1	2 AA 7:30 pm AA/ Alanon 7:30 pm	3 AA 8:00 pm	4  Margaret Gerhart	5	
<p><b>6 Advent II</b>  <b>9:00</b> Holy Eucharist  <b>10:00</b> Coffee Hour              Barbara Cole</p>		7 AA 8:00 pm	8	9 AA 7:30 pm AA/ Alanon 7:30 pm  Heather Hunsinger Hazel Hunt Fr. Ben Lentz, Ian Biovins	10 AA 8:00 pm	11  Shelley Barry	12
<p><b>13 Advent III</b>  <b>9:00</b> Holy Eucharist  <b>10:00</b> Coffee Hour  <b>Stewardship Sunday</b>              Nate Schwartzberg</p>		14 AA 8:00 pm	15 Clergy Bible Study, Towanda, 3:00	16 AA 7:30 pm AA/ Alanon 7:30 pm  David Bubniak	17 AA 8:00 pm	18	19
<p><b>20 Advent IV</b>  <b>9:00</b> Holy Eucharist  <b>10:00</b> Coffee Hour  <b>Greening of the Church</b>  <b>Noon -Vestry-</b>  </p>		<b>21 St. Thomas the Apostle</b> AA 8:00 pm	22	<b>23</b> AA 7:30 pm AA/ Alanon 7:30 pm  AA 8:00 pm ->->->->	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> <b>10:30 pm - Carol Sing and Musical Offering</b> <b>11:00 pm - Festival Eucharist</b> Kay Horton Bennett	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> 	<b>26 St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr</b>  Jason Barry
<p><b>27 Christmas I</b>  <b>9:00</b> Holy Eucharist  <b>10:00</b> Coffee Hour</p>		<b>28 The Holy Innocents</b> AA 8:00 pm	29	<b>30</b> AA 7:30 pm AA/ Alanon 7:30 pm	<b>31</b> AA 8:00 pm	<p><b>The 174th Annual Meeting of the Members of Trinity Church, January 24, 2016.</b>  <i>To seek and serve Christ in all persons</i></p>	

## December Highlights



**The Carol Reed Memorial Mitten Tree** will be up to decorate with hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to be donated locally

through December 20.

**December 13th - Stewardship Sunday** This newsletter includes a pledge card for 2016. You may place it in the alms basin or mail it to the church.

**December 20 - 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 20 - Vestry meets at Noon** Please note the time change



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



Thanks to a grant from Vulcraft of Chemung, we now have a handrail in front of the church doors.

**Outreach.** A group of us met recently to package up the ingredients for simple soups to donate to the Abuse and Rape Crisis Center. This organization is the main focus of our Outreach mission. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, you are invited to make up person-

al or kitchen baskets for women and their families who may have had to leave everything behind as they fled to safety. Personal baskets can include toiletries and towels; kitchen baskets can include basic items one might need starting out. Talk to Marie Bubniak for more details.

The Center is also providing us with a list of needs for one or two families which we will be providing as Christmas gifts. The items will be purchased new; if you'd like to donate, you may write a check to Trinity and indicate its purpose on the *for* line.

**Hospital Visits:** HIPAA laws mean we have 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.

**Email addresses** - except for the December edition, all of our newsletters are sent by email. Make sure we have yours and your family members'!

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December at Trinity