

# Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church  
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Advent - Christmas - December, 2017

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## What's your perspective?

Thoughts on stewardship from The Rev. Benjamin Lee Lentz

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An often told story speaks of a man who saw two bricklayers busily plying their trade side by side. He went up to one man and asked, "What are you doing?" "I'm making money laying bricks," was his curt reply. He then asked the same question of the other man who in turn responded joyfully, "I'm building a cathedral."

The story speaks very pointedly to the importance of a proper perspective in all that we do.

Your Vestry begins each meeting with prayer and spiritual reflection. Vestry ends each meeting with a prayer as well. It is in the context of prayer and spiritual counsel that members endeavor to carry out the ministry entrusted by God to Trinity Church. It is within this "prayer sandwich" that the budget is watched and prudent investments are made, stewarding the gifts of our predecessors and current parishioners.

The perspective we, as individuals, have concerning our stewardship makes all the difference in the world.

When you give to God through the ministry of Trinity Church, do you see yourself as: just help-

ing to pay salaries or helping to spread the Word of God? Just helping to pay utility bills or helping to minister to other parishioners and the community? Just helping to buy wine and bread and candles or helping to feed someone spiritually with the Sacraments? Just helping to buy supplies or helping to bring the knowledge of Jesus to our children? Just laying bricks or building the Kingdom of God?

What's your perspective?

Before returning your pledge card this year, please pray with me:

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant me, in all my doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have me to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save me from all false choices, and that in your light I may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Faithfully in Christ Jesus,

Benjamin Lee Lentz+

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*Stewardship in a nutshell:  
All that we have, all that we are, comes from and belongs to God.*



# Trinity Episcopal Church - December 2017

## Advent and Christmas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Trinity Cycle of Prayer</b> 12/3 Barbara and Alan Caum, Nate Schwartzberg. 12/10 Kim, Chuck and Logan Cornell. 12/17 Jerry and Jean Dolan. 12/24 Becky Fiorello, David O'Dell. 12/31 David and Shelly Fish; Holly Flood			<b>The Diocese of Kajo Keji:</b> 12/3 Emmanuel Kansuk Parish. 12/10 St. Philip Dibe Parish. 12/17 Emmanuel Parish Sokare. 12/24 Mangalotor Parish and Sodogo-Trinity Easton Primary School. 12/31 St. Peter Keriwa Parish.		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 6:30 AA Intergroup
<b>3 Advent I</b> 9:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Coffee Hour 	<b>4</b> AA 8:00 pm  <i>Marny Gerhart</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6 St. Nicholas</b> AA 7:30 pm	<b>7</b> AA 5:30 pm AA 8:00 pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  <i>Heather Hunsinger            Hazel Hunt            Fr. Ben Lentz            Ian Biovins</i>
<b>10 Advent II</b> 9:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Coffee Hour <b>Stewardship Sunday</b> Noon - Soup at Grace 	<b>11</b> AA 8:00 pm  <i>Shelley Barry</i>	<b>12</b> 6:30 Vestry meets	<b>13</b> AA 7:30 pm	<b>14</b> AA 5:30 pm AA 8:00 pm  <i>Nate Schwartzberg</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17 Advent III</b> 9:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Coffee Hour <b>Greening of the Church</b> <i>David Bubniak</i> 	<b>18</b> AA 8:00 pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> AA 7:30 pm	<b>21 St. Thomas the Apostle</b> AA 5:30 pm AA 8:00 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 Christmas Eve (No Morning Service)</b> 10:30 pm - Carol Sing and Musical Offering 11:00 pm - Festival Eucharist <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 and Evangelist</b> AA 7:30 pm  <i>Jason Barry</i>	<b>28 The Holy Innocents</b> AA 5:30 pm AA 8:00 pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31 Christmas I</b> 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour	<b>The Diocese of Bethlehem - 12/3</b> Calvary, Tamaqua. Evangelism Commission. <b>12/10</b> Christ Church, Towanda, The Rev. Maureen AtLee Hipple, Rector, Deacon Lawrence Holman. <b>12/17</b> St. Anne's, Trexlertown, The Don Schaible. EFM. <b>12/24</b> St. Paul's, Troy, The Rev. A.J. (Han) van den Blink. <b>12/31</b> St. Stephen's, Whitehall, The Rev. Jonathan Mayo. Lifelong Christian Formation.		<b>Anglicans around the world:</b> 12/3 West Buganda (Uganda) Bishop Henry Katumba-Tamale. <b>12/10</b> Diocese Western North Carolina, Bishop Porter Taylor. <b>12/17</b> Diocese of Wyoming, Bishop John Smylie. <b>12/24</b> Yola (Jos, Nigeria) Bishop Markus Ibrahim. <b>12/31</b> Zululand (Southern Africa).		<b>The 176th Annual Meeting of the Members of Trinity Church, January 28, 2017.</b>  <i>To seek and serve Christ in all persons</i>	

**Vestry News**

Over the past year, your vestry, Dan Gerhart, Senior Warden; Nate Schwartzberg, Junior Warden; Marny Gerhart, Clerk; Laura Cama, Treasurer, Marie Bubniak, The Rev. Trula Hollywood, and Karen Nichols, have met, worked and prayed together to lead and guide us. This group is the reason we have a beautiful and sturdy church building, wonderful worship each Sunday, heat, water and electricity. They not only watch over the physical needs of the parish but also the spiritual needs.

Trinity is the unique position of being governed by a vestry that works by consensus. It has been this way for decades and is a cherished gift in our current world, where it seems everyone is at odds with everyone else. Trinity also, as you know, has no full-time clergy, but is blessed by the ministries of our supply priest, The Rev. Ben Lentz, and of our Clergy-in-Residence, The Rev. Trula Hollywood.

Trula+ has been with us, on and off for 25 years, give or take a few. From the beginning she used her God-given gift of ministry to care for us, her church family, the marginalized elderly, in her professional life, and so many others whose lives

she touched as she moved from lay to ordained ministry when God called her to the priesthood.

So, it is with great joy for her, (and some sadness for us) that we share the news that Trula+ has been called to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Owego, as their Priest-in-Charge. She and her wife, Karen Nichols, will continue to live here in the Valley, but she will be moving her canonical residence from the Diocese of Bethlehem to the Diocese of Central New York. Her new call will be a part-time position. So, while she will be incredibly busy balancing her new duties at St. Paul’s and her secular position with the State of Pennsylvania, she will still be available for some pastoral needs here.

Please celebrate this call with Trula+ and keep her and Karen in your prayers as they move into this new chapter of their lives.

This will mean the loss of two members of our vestry. Prayerfully consider whether you might be called to serve on our vestry with those who guide us and care for us. If you have questions, speak to a member of the current vestry. And remember that each of us has many talents; your particular talent may not seem like much to you, but may be of great value to others.

Please cut across this page on the dotted line and fill in the front and the back of the form. You may mail it in the enclosed envelope, or place it in the alms basin on Sunday, December 10.

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As a faithful steward of God’s bounty, I/we pledge a definite share for the work of the church in 2018, within the parish and beyond.

*[This commitment may be increased or decreased due to changing circumstances]*

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per  week;  month;  one-time gift

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Cell \_\_\_\_\_

**December Highlights**

**Sunday, December 3 - 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 A in the lectionary cycle to year B. A reminder: you can find all the readings on line, [www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com) is an excellent resource.

**Sunday, December 10, Advent II**

☩ **Stewardship Sunday.** Place the attached pledge form in the alms basin at the Offertory.

☩ **Noon - Grace Church Soup Luncheon** we are invited to join our friends at Grace for a variety of soups and fellowship. Park Avenue, Waverly.

**Tuesday, December 12**

☩ **Vestry meets, 6:30, Parish Hall**

**Sunday, December 17, Advent III**

☩ **Greening of the Church.** All hands needed to decorate the

tree, set up the Crèche, place the poinsettias, window candles and greens. After coffee hour. This is the final Sunday for items for the Carol Reed Memorial Mitten Tree.



music for this day is fun and familiar. Following coffee hour, we'll undecorated the church. Everyone welcome!

**January 28 The 176th Annual Meeting of the Members of Trinity.** We'll begin with a potluck brunch following worship. The meeting will follow. Everyone who regularly attends Trinity has seat and voice. It is crucial that as many of you who are able attend. We'll look at the highlights of our 175th year and make plans for 2018. Please plan to attend.



**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.

**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.



**Sunday, December 24, Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

☩ **No morning service**

☩ **10:30 p.m. - Carol Sing and Musical Offerings**

☩ **11:00 p.m. - Festival Holy Eucharist**



**Looking Ahead:**

**January 7, 2018 - First Sunday After the Epiphany.** We'll celebrate The Epiphany, which is a major feast of the church year, always on January 6. It marks the coming of the Magi, and thus the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles. The

In addition, I will pledge to the Renovation fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per  week;  month;  one-time gift

Ministry

I will participate as follows (check those applicable):

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with cleaning  | <input type="checkbox"/> Help to host coffee hour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Become an acolyte   | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with maintenance    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Become a lector   | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Stewardship    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Become a worship leader                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Altar Guild    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Become a Eucharistic minister (chalice bearer)            | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Evangelism     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Become a Eucharistic Visitor (take communion to shut-ins) | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with grounds        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)                                    |   |

*Please place this in the enclosed envelope and put it in the Offering plate on December 10, or you may mail it.*