

Tidings

105 BRIDGE STREET, ELKTON, MD 21921

December 2018 410-398-5350



Advent 2018

Our Christian year has begun. We have already celebrated the first Advent. We are gearing up for Christmas. Despite the vague history behind Advent, the importance of this season remains to focus on the coming of our Lord. As we celebrate these advent weeks, we look forward to the promised gift. We look forward to “Emmanuel’s, visit hence we sing; “O come, O come, Em-man-u-el...., O come, O come thou wisdom from on high..., O come, O come, thou Lord of might...’ who will bring on earth new kingship full of grace, hope, joy and peace. He will bring a new order, a new creation under the complete rule of God, will emerge, in which the Divine purpose will prevail under the kingship of Christ. As N.T Wright, writes in his book “*Simply Jesus*,” It is a time “we recognize not only who Jesus was in his own day, despite his contemporaries’ failure to recognize him, but also who he is and what will be, for our own.”

Susanna Metz once wrote: “Two millennia ago, the people of God awaited the Messiah. Jesus came and is with us still. But every year we set these weeks aside to prepare again to remember the story, to renew ourselves. We are like the ancient Israelites who rejoiced in their covenant with God, but also had their episodes of failing. It’s time again to ‘take off our garments of sorrow and affliction’ and allow ourselves to be seen in the light of the refiner’s fire, ..., God will once again lead us with joy, in the light of the Divine glory.”

Advent blessings to you all.

Nicholas



Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service

9:00 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist

Pre-service music starts at 8:30 pm

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Senior Warden's Message

Much has happened in the last couple of months as we move toward a new year. The office windows are in and the difference is perceptible. It's certainly nice to not be able to feel the air coming through the windows!

The Finance Committee has been hard at work on the budget for next year and the Vestry will be looking at that this month. Pledges are ahead of last year so we're optimistic about our standing going into 2019. Thanks to all who have pledged and there is still time if anyone wants to do so.

The Invite, Welcome and Connect Committee has been meeting and coming up with good ideas to make everyone feel welcome and wanted when they join us for worship.

We're looking for suggestions for fund raisers so if you have any thoughts on that please let Vestry members know.

We're in a special season for the church with Advent and Christmas upon us. I pray for all of you and your families that you have a peaceful and blessed Christmas time.

Blessings,
Gayle



THE
GOOD BOOK
CLUB

Romans / Epiphany

An invitation has been extended to all Episcopalians to read Paul's letter to the Romans throughout the season of Epiphany, 2019. This can be a daily reading of scripture verses which can be found in the Good Book Club website below or just opening your personal Bible for individual reading at your leisure. Resources will be made available by many Episcopal organizations to assist readers and aid those wishing to form discussion groups. This effort has been endorsed by the Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Michael Curry. More information can be obtained by clicking on www.goodbookclub.org. Suggestions and more detail on how Trinity parishioners might take further advantage of this offering will be provided in the January, 2019 issue of Tidings.

~Bill Smith

Happy Birthday December Babies

5 Orville Potts	6 Jonathon Wood
11 Dwight Hair	12 Christopher Wafula
16 Joan-Marie P. Parker	16 Libby Keefer
21 Beverly Tozer	25 Rachel Derby

Daughter's of the King....

I am but one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do. What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do. Lord what will you have me do?

This the motto of the Daughters of the King. The Daughters of the King is an order started in 1885, to help women and girls find a place in the service of God. Their purpose is to be of service for the church, to pray for members of the church and the people of the world and to be an evangelist for God through their actions and the lives they live. It is not an organization with the idea of fund raising. That is against the principals of the order. The Daughters of the King is open to Episcopal, Anglican, Lutheran and Roman Catholic women and girls.

Trinity is starting to try and form a chapter. A chapter can be formed with three members. We are very fortunate here at Trinity, we already have two members of the order and there are four women who are starting to prepare for the order. It will take about two months of study. We are meeting on Saturdays starting in January. Our mentors are two ladies from Chestertown, Carol Schroeder and Sue Stamour.

We are hoping to get some of the women from St. Stephen's to join us and we would love to have anyone from Trinity who may have missed our first meeting to come also. If anyone else is interested please contact Mary Helen Atwood. I have to let Carol know so she can order the study materials.

~Mary Helen Atwood

Roof Repairs



Rain delayed contract repairs to the roof of the Church and Parish in September 2018. However, the professional crew from Leelands Slate Roof Co., Inc. were on the job when suitable weather prevailed for the right amount of time in November. One of the more challenging pieces of work at Trinity was the repair of the roof of the bell tower, likely got him a congratulatory well done by his team when he returned to the ground!

Baptism Elizabeth Jude Phipps and Leo Edward Reichenbach will join the fellowship of all believers through the Sacrament of Baptism, on Sunday, December 23 at our 10:30 service.

Acts of Kindness Highlights

For November we highlight the following AoK Acts of Kindness. This is who we are at Trinity. God's love continues to work through us for the service of others. Please keep recording your Acts of Kindness on the cards in the back of the Church or in the Parish House and we will highlight them in the next Tidings.

~Ross Lee

November Acts of Kindness

- * Helped our daughter rescue a wonderful dog from a shelter that has become a blessed pet
- * Bought a homeless person breakfast
- * Took care of homeless
- * Helped a woman who came to Church and asked for food, counseling, prayers

Invite*Welcome*Connect

Is it a program, a ministry, or a call? Many have offered their opinion on the issue of defining, Invite* Welcome*Connect in a manner that most Episcopalians can easily understand. The Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander retired Bishop of Atlanta and Dean of the School of Theology at Sewanee states "I don't think of it as a program. It is a clarion call to the church to make sure others come to know who we know (Jesus) and what we have (abundant life)."



Quite possibly you too see it as a ministry or a call that is part of an individual gift that you have and are willing to share with others at our Church. We encourage and welcome your participation in the coming year, 2019.

~Bill Smith

Many thanks to all who gave...

With your generous donations, we were able to give out 16 turkeys along with sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, corn, green beans, cranberry sauce, biscuits, stuffing, gravy, and pies. Trinity Church was able to feed 16 households, totaling 64 people. A **huge** thanks to Mary Katharine Hitchcock and Carrie Birdsall for all your help!!





Update.....

To date Trinity has received 27 pledges, (4 new) totaling \$ 79,878.00.

Last year 31 pledges were received. Still outstanding are 8 hopefully repeat pledges. Also, there may be several more new pledges.

Thanks again to all who have pledged. Your financial support of Trinity is important and very much appreciated.

~Richard Lemen

Stewardship Chair

Capital Campaign

Pledges received \$37,198; pledges fulfilled to date \$32,474.69; expenditures to date \$28,773.96.

Expenditures:

- \$ 463.65 organ servicing
- \$ 925.94 rectory AC
- \$ 1,995.00 mold removal from office storage room.
- \$10,230.00 Parish House roof and dormers
- \$15,159.37 Church & Parish House roof, crosses, and gutters.

To date the Vestry has not approved any additional capital expenditures. There are 2 new capital campaign envelopes in you 2019 box. One envelope is in May and the other is for December, for those who have divided their contribution payments. Thanks again for your pledges, contributions, and involvement.

~Richard Lemen



BOOK DRIVE

USED AND NEW BOOKS

AGES 1-16



Two years ago, Hon Kevin Hornberger (MD. House of Delegates-Cecil). the Boy Scouts and my wife (Ann) and I responded to a request from Patty Ayers of Lakeside development-just outside of the Town of North East. The Little Lakeside library is about 8 feet high and 6 feet wide with an enclosed cabinet with book shelves; And a overhead small roof. From that time on, Ann & I have collected children's books from those in the community who realize the impact literacy has on a child's life. To date, we have been blessed with support from St Mary Anne's in North East; Good Shepherd Parish in Perryville; St Theresa's Parish in Port Deposit; St Agnes Parish in Rising Sun; and The Cecil Woods Community.

We are continuing to expand the Little Libraries into areas where kids have no immediate access to a library, and we would love to Trinity as part of our group. A donation box sits in the Church and we pick the books up when needed. Again, we thank you so much for your consideration.

Bring your donation to church and drop them in the basket in the back of the church.

Sincerely,
Ann & Wayne Hill

Women of Trinity

Fun Day Social

Thursday, January 17

from 11:30 am– 2:30 pm. Light lunch, \$5.00.

Join us for lunch, or stay for a fun day of cards, games and fellowship.

Bishop's Christmas Appeal 2018

My beloved Diocese of Easton,

In my many years of global travel; living in various countries across two hemispheres, I have come to develop a very healthy respect, fear and appreciation for the forces of nature. These forces of nature are some of the most beautiful phenomena in God's creation, yet at the same time, they are also some of the most destructive forces to human lives and livelihood. From the 2011 Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan with the resulting Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Meltdown, the 2014 Indian Ocean Tsunami, numerous hurricanes in the Bahamas to tornadoes in Alabama, devastating and destructive fires in California and closer to home, multiple floods in Baltimore and other areas in the state of Maryland we are continually reminded of how catastrophic these forces can be. Equally, we recall those events, like SuperStorm Sandy in 2012, that have touched us and our neighbors personally across the Eastern shore. Unfortunately, as humans can do very little to curb nature's destructive force. Conversely, we ponder the reality of our own irresponsible contributions to the diminishment of the beauty and splendor of God's creative work and we also ponder our own role in the ways that we can be better stewards of the world that God has entrusted to our care. We live and marvel daily at the paradox of God's creation and our own place in it.

My beloved, in the interest of contributing to the alleviation of human suffering in the face of unexpected natural disasters and unforeseeable events; events that already have, and will inevitably again, diminish the integrity of our sisters and brothers, I invite the entire diocesan family to participate in this year's BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL. The experience of last year appeal gives much encouragement and affirmation that the Episcopal family on the Eastern shore of Maryland will open their hearts and give generously to this year's appeal

I am designating this year's *Bishop's Christmas Appeal* to the remarkable work pioneered by Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) to assist in so many rebuilding efforts across this beautiful nation of ours. May your generous gifts be a powerful demonstration of support and solidarity; a sign of our commitment to and empathy with the efforts envisioned by various dioceses and communities in helping to return the lives of God's beloved children to some semblance of normalcy.

In this season of gift giving, the gospel is clear and poignant in its admonition to "love our neighbors as ourselves" and to reach out with a 'helping hand' to those who need our assistance, and that when we do so for 'the least of these' we are doing so for Christ, our Savior himself. As faithful baptized Christians, we are sanctified to live out this call: "to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself."

My beloved in Christ, I implore your generosity and encourage you to give lavishly to a remarkably noble and hopeful cause. You may do so through your parish or send checks to Bray House, 314 North Street, Easton, MD 21601, with a notation indicating "Bishop's Christmas Appeal". I encourage all rectors, priests-in-charge, supply clergy, wardens, worship leaders and vestries to make this appeal a priority in their Christmas parochial activities.

As your brother in Christ and bishop, I am overwhelmingly confident in the generosity of this caring and loving diocese, our members, our supporters and the well-wishers who find our churches to be a place of hope and grace. May God continue to shower a multitude of blessings upon you and all your loved ones.

Your friend and bishop,
+Santosh Marray
XI Bishop of Easton

Flower Donation

If you would like to make a donation to the decoration of the Altar and Church nave for the Christmas Eve Service, please complete this form and mail it to the Church by Sunday, December 16.



Enclosed a check for \$ _____
for flowers in Memory of _____

or as a Thank offering for _____

Sign _____ Phone number _____

Vigil Candle Sponsorship

You can sponsor the Vigil candle for a week for a donation of \$10.00.

This sponsorship is to the Glory of God, and can be in memory of, or in thanksgiving for people or events in your life. Simply fill out this form and drop it off or mail it to the church office, along with your donation of \$10.00."

Name _____ Phone _____

I would like to sponsor the Vigil Candle for the week of _____

to the Glory of God, and in memory of _____

or in thanksgiving for _____

Prayers are asked for

Eli

Hamid Basil

Nancy Bogan

Bob Boulden

Pam Boulden

Susan Burkholder

Marion Conner

Goldie Cook

Tim Coudon

Jesse Cugini

the Most Rev. Michael Curry

Ronnie Davis

Alan Fenson

Shawnda Fenson

George Gibson

Bill Gilbert

Dan Graham

Margaret Graham

Bill Jackson

Kathy Koslak

Margaret Long

Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray

Victoria Marsh

John McLean

George Miller

Mary Morrison

Rose Perrone

Rev. Christopher Porteus

Janice Potts

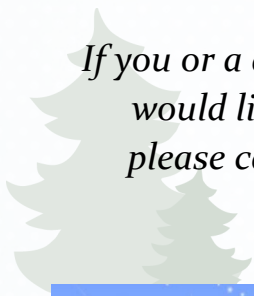
Jane Sichangi

Betsy Spina

Beverly Tozer



If you or a direct family member is a patient in the hospital and would like to see Father Nicholas or receive communion, please call the parish office and let us know. 410-398-5350



*The blessings of peace,
the beauty of hope,
the spirit of love,
the comfort of faith.
May this be your gifts
this Christmas season.*