

*Tidings*  
*Trinity Episcopal Church*  
*December 2022*



Photo by Cheryl Lee

Dear family and friends,

It is another time of the year that our feelings and emotions are high because of Advent and Christmas. As we think about Advent, it stirs our hearts to prepare ourselves for the coming of the gift of God which we will celebrate on Christmas Day. On Christmas Day we will welcome Christ our Savior and the Redeemer of the world. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, the demands of the holiday season may also stir grief, pain and losses. The unstable economy, war in Ukraine, mass shootings, loss of employment, epidemic and loss of loved ones may take away the hope and the joy that we anticipate in this season.

It is my hope that you are coping well during this challenging and anxious time. Just as the Israelites hoped for their deliverance, we also too look forward to the final deliverance, his return in glory where he will create a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21-22). Let us continue to hope for the joy and wonder of Christmas, and the birth of Christ in our lives.

Let us be enthusiastic about Advent. Let this moment be an opportunity to recommit ourselves to our God. Allow God to possess us. For many of us this will demonstrate and lead to some emotional expression, but may also be seen in persistence, in perseverance, in stepping up to the plate, in showing up in the things we gladly spend our energy on and in the depth of our commitments.

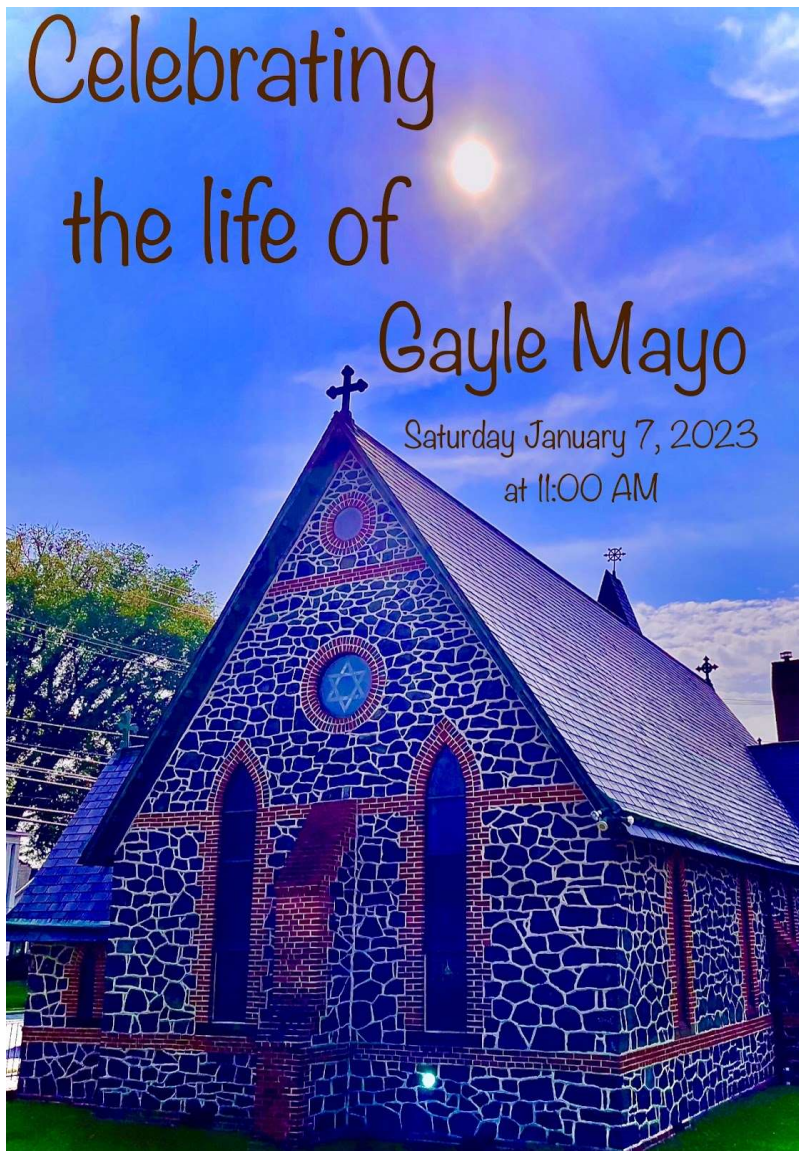
I also want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your prayers and support following the short illness and passing of our Senior Warden, Gayle Mayo. Some of you stepped up in many ways in order for the parish and the vestry to keep on running smoothly in this time of loss and grieving. Gayle's memorial will be held here at Trinity Church on January 7, 2023.

Join me too in welcoming our new Senior Warden, Susan Weed who graciously accepted to take that role. We also thank Susan Burkholder who has been acting as we were praying and searching for Gayle's replacement.

May the Spirit of Advent fill your hearts with the Love of God.

Shalom,

Fr. Nicholas



*To my Dear Trinity Family,  
Mary Katharine, Carri, Jonathon and I  
want to thank all of you for the pouring out  
of love and caring at the loss of Gayle. We  
have received so many cards and loving  
notes of support. I feel so blessed to have  
this love not only for the family and me,  
but also for Gayle. God was merciful to  
call her home when he did, for the road  
ahead for her would have been hard and  
painful. I know she is at peace and in  
God's arms and that brings peace to us. It  
is lonely without her, but I have all of you  
to lean on when I feel exceptionally alone.  
We love you all and hope God's peace and  
blessings are with you every hour.  
Blessings to you all,  
Mary Helen*

### ***Prayer List***

***"Our prayers are with all those who are ill, all who are caring for them,  
all those who have passed and who are striving to hear the voice of God in these challenging times.***

***May God bless you and keep you, now and always."***

*Amber, David, Emma, Faye, Kristina, Lynn, Michael, Peter, Savannah, Stephanie,  
Mary Helen Atwood, Tim Bennett, Bob Boulden, Pam Boulden, Terry Brookline,  
John Calabrese, Marion Conner, Carol Costello, Donna Hurst Dellinger, Sharon Elliott,  
Alan Fenson, Shawnda Fenson, Mary Foxwell, Tom Hitchcock, Brian Hubis, Bill Jackson,  
Fred Layaou III, Louise McLean, Alex Morris, Jean Mulford, Larry Parker,  
Janice Potts, Robert Powell, Jane Sichangi, and Hunter Smith.*



*Happy Happy Birthday to our December Babies*

*12/6 Jonathan Wood    12/11 Dwight Hair*

*12/12 Christopher Wafula    12/14 Mike Polidoro*

*12/16 Libby Keefer    12/21 Beverly Tozer*

*Readings for Advent*



December 4

Isaiah 11:1-10

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

Psalm 72 :1-7, 18-19

December 18

Isaiah 7:10-16

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

Psalm 80:1-7,16-18

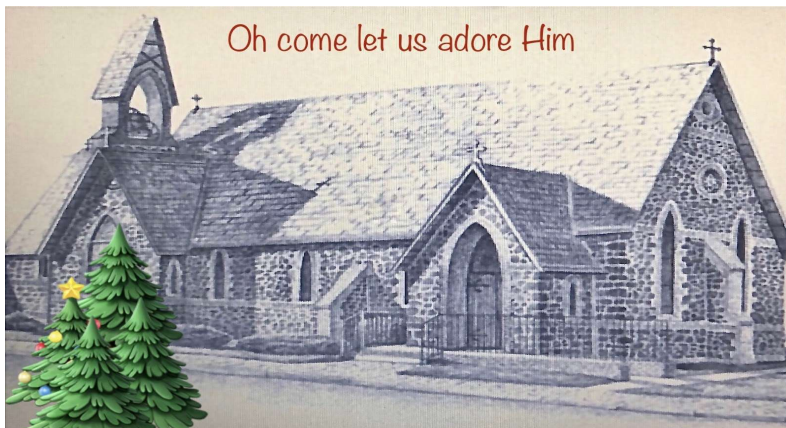
December 11

Isaiah 35:1-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2 -11

Psalm 146:4-9



*Christmas Eve Service*

*8:00 P.M. Candlelight*

*Holy Eucharist with Special Music*

*Christmas Day Service*

*10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist*

*with music*



## ***Donation for Christmas Flowers***

*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 return it to the church office*

*before Sunday, December 11th. Thank you!*

*Enclose a check/cash in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_for flowers.*

*My donation is: (as it is to appear in the bulletin).*

*In memory of*

---

*a thank offering for*

---

*Name* \_\_\_\_\_

*Phone* \_\_\_\_\_



*We would like to give a special thanks to those  
who set up our beautiful crèche.  
Bill Smith, Gordon Tozer, Hans Nafzinger,  
Father Nicholas, Ross Lee, Paul Arbour, Paul Arbour's  
grandson, Colton McCoy and his friend, Eliana.*



## *Acts of Kindness-28 AoK for Advent*

Sunday, November 27, marked the start of our Advent season. This Advent we are embarking on a new Acts of Kindness Challenge – 28 AoK !! To really prepare us for this Christmas season and the celebration of Christ’s birth, we are setting a goal of 28 Acts of Kindness by the members of our Trinity parish family. We will have a small Christmas tree in our Parish House that will enable 28 “ornaments” of snippets of the 28 Act of Kindness to be placed on it as they are completed. This is similar to what we did in 2018 when we set a goal of 150 Acts of Kindness representing the 150 years of our Easton Diocese Sesquicentennial Celebration and posted snippets of those on a wall in the Parish House. And just as in 2018 when we exceeded our goal, we hope to exceed our goal in this challenge as well!!

So let’s get started. Rather than examples of common kindnesses to our family and friends, please let these Acts of Kindness, be examples where you were truly moved by the Holy Spirit, to reach out in a way you typically do not do. Many of you may not know that the words, “act of kindness” actually appear in the Bible in the Book of Acts at the early beginnings of the Church: Acts 4:8-11. Peter and John helped a lame man, crippled since birth, walk, and were arrested by the high priests of the Temple. In response: “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, addressed them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders! If you are questioning us today about an **act of kindness** to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed....’” as he went on to describe the miracle that was worked through them by the Holy Spirit in Jesus’ name. Obviously we aren’t expecting anyone to heal a cripple (but wouldn’t that be neat! 😊). Your acts of kindness can be small or large, such as buying a gift for a stranger in need at Christmas as Carol has provided opportunities to do, or making a unique and memorable Act of Kindness yourself to someone in need. Whatever you do, please write it down and either email it to me or drop it off at the Church on one of the Sundays in Advent. I will then take care of getting them hung as ornaments on our 28 AoK Christmas Tree!

God bless all of you this Advent season!

Sincerely,

Ross Lee



The Cecil County Pregnancy Center will be collecting new pajamas for girls newborn to 5T this Christmas. We hope to make their holidays extra special this year. Please drop off your unwrapped PJ's and drop them in the red bucket in the back of the church by December 18. Any donations are greatly appreciated.



**FORGOT TO PLEDGE?** There's still time! Trinity needs your help to remain a vital faith community. Pledge cards are available at the back of the church, by email or call the parish office for a pledge card.



**PLEASE HELP WITH OUR PARISH PRAYER LIST** If you have put a name on our prayer list, especially prior to a few months ago, we would like to hear from you as to how that person is doing, whether they need to remain on the list, or may be taken off. We appreciate an update. Please call the office 410-398-5350 or send an email [trinityelkton@gmail.com](mailto:trinityelkton@gmail.com).



**EMAIL LIST** If you are not receiving our parish emails and would like to, please send your email address to the office at [trinityelkton@gmail.com](mailto:trinityelkton@gmail.com). Group emails from the office are sent through mailchimp.



**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A HOST** to set up coffee hour, please sign up on the sheet in the Parish House. We supply the coffee, cream and sugar after the 10:30 a.m. service. Coffee hour is a great time for fellowship of our regular members but also for the meeting and greeting of newcomers.



**BY USING YOUR REDNER'S CARD** each time you purchase merchandise at Redner's, your receipt will be designated as a Save-A-Tape. Trinity will then receive 1% of the total. Please continue bringing in your tapes and place them in the envelope on the bulletin board in the Parish house or in the back of the church.

**NEWSLETTERS** If you have any news or information you would like published for the winter newsletter, please provide the information to Carol before December 28.