

Tidings

105 BRIDGE STREET, ELKTON, MD 21921

December 2017 410-398-5350

Saturday, December 9- Holy Eucharist 5:00 pm, Pizza @ Seasons

Sunday, December 10 -Morning Prayer 8:00 am

C & C & Adult Ed. 9:15- 10:15 am

Holy Eucharist 10:30 am

Christmas Cookie Exchange following the 10:30 worship

Monday, December 11-Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 12 -Food Pantry 10:00 am- 11:30 am

NA Meeting 7:30 pm

Wednesday, December 13 - AA Meeting 6:30 pm

Saturday, December 16 - Virtuous Ladies of Africa Presentation at

Elkton Presbyterian 3:30 pm

Holy Eucharist 5:00 pm, Pizza @ Seasons

Sunday, December 17-Morning Prayer 8:00 am

C & C & Adult Ed. 9:15- 10:15 am

Holy Eucharist 10:30 am

Tuesday, December 19- Food Pantry 10:00 am- 11:30 am

NA Meeting 7:30 pm

Wednesday, December 20-AA Meeting 6:30 pm

Thursday, December 21- Women's Fun Day 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service 7:00 pm

Saturday, December 23 - NO SERVICE Decorating the church

Sunday, December 24 - Morning Prayer 8:00 am

C & C & Adult Ed. 9:15- 10:15 am

Holy Eucharist 10:30 am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 9:00 pm

Pre-service music starts 8:30 pm

Tuesday, December 26 -NA Meeting 7:30 pm

Wednesday, December 27- AA Meeting 6:30 pm

Saturday, December 30- Holy Eucharist 5:00 pm, Pizza @ Seasons

Sunday, December 31 -Morning Prayer 8:00 am

C & C & Adult Ed. 9:15- 10:15 am

Holy Eucharist 10:30 am

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--|---|
| Calendar..... | 1 |
| Senior Report..... | 2 |
| Nominees Sought..... | 2 |
| Birthdays..... | 2 |
| Planned Giving..... | 3 |
| Fundraising & Capital Campaign..... | 4 |
| Invite, Welcome, & Connect..... | 4 |
| Stewardship..... | 5 |
| Blue Christmas..... | 5 |
| Creche Lighting..... | 5 |
| Historic Docs..... | 6 |
| Heritage..... | 7 |
| Flowers..... | 8 |
| Vigil Candle..... | 8 |
| Prayer List..... | 9 |

Senior Warden's Message

December is a season of paradoxes - as the liturgical year begins, the calendar year comes to a close; we are entering the season of the longest nights but many buildings are illuminated with twinkling lights; it is a time of great anticipation and celebration for some, yet a time of great sadness for others.

As you have learned, I enjoy the trappings and symbols of liturgy. There are so many meaningful images associated with Christmas and here are a few:

- *Angels* are messengers, often trumpeting, announcing the birth of our Lord and proclaiming peace on earth and goodwill to men.
- *Bells* are used to mark time or communicate something significant.
- *Mother Mary* looks lovingly at her Son who is in swaddling clothes laying in a manger.
- *Joseph*, the caring father with his staff, keeps vigil and protects his Son and wife.

- *Holly* - "The sharpness of the leaves help to recall the crown of thorns worn by Jesus; the red berries serve as a reminder of the drops of blood that were shed for salvation, and the shape of the leaves, which resemble flames, can serve to reveal God's burning love for his people."

- *Poinsettias* with their red leaves remind us of eternal life and Christ's redemption

- *Evergreens* are sturdy and hold their color throughout the bleakest season and remind us of God's steadfastness.

- *Wise Men/Magi*, astrologers/priests from afar, present gold, a precious metal, representing His kingship; frankincense, a perfume, symbolizing His priestly role; and myrrh, an anointing oil, prefiguring his death and embalming.

- *Candy Canes* - "The hard candy reminds us that *Jesus is our rock*. The cane shape reminds us of a *shepherd's staff* and the shepherds that came to worship Jesus. It also reminds us of how Jesus came into the world to be a shepherd

of his people. The upside-down candy cane forms the letter "J" and reminds us of the name of *Jesus* which means 'God saves.' The peppermint flavor reminds us of the *gift of spices* from the Wise Men.

The white candy reminds us of *purity and holiness*. It recalls the virgin birth of Christ, the sinless life of Christ and the holy life that Jesus wants his people to live. The color red reminds us that *Jesus became a real flesh and blood man* and spilled his blood to save his people. The stripes remind us of the *lashes Jesus received* when he suffered for us and ultimately bore our sins that we might be healed."

May your cherished memories of this season bring you of happiness, and may you find peace and joy this season. Merry Christmas!

~Heidi



NOMINEES SOUGHT

Convention (2) We are seeking nominees to serve as Alternates for 2019/Delegates for 2020.

The Diocesan Convention is typically held the last Friday & Saturday of February at the Hyatt in Cambridge, MD. It is a great way to learn about all that is going on in our Diocese. If you are interested in serving and wish to learn more, please contact Mary Helen, Gayle, Ross, Cheryl, or Heidi.

Vestry (3) We are seeking 3 candidates - one term will expire in 2020 and the other two terms will expire in 2021. If you are interested in serving and wish to learn more about the position, please contact any of the current Vestry Members.

Happy Birthday December Babies

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

Planned Giving – Legacy Gifts

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to support Trinity's mission through your time, talent, and treasure. Some have asked about planned giving, which may give you the opportunity to provide further significant support for our mission. Beyond that, these types of charitable giving tools can provide benefits to you and your loved ones. For instance:

- You can make a gift using appreciated securities and realize *larger tax savings* than if you had used cash.
- You can make a gift that costs you *nothing* during your lifetime and lasts forever.
- You can make a gift that pays you *income for life*.
- You can *preserve your estate* for your children and at the same time deliver years of income to help Trinity.
- You can donate your house, take a tax deduction, and continue to *live in it rent-free*.

You can turn *surplus life insurance* coverage into a gift.

There are various types of Legacy Gifts:

Bequests Specific, Residual, or Contingent: A gift through your Will of personal assets such as cash or other property. Bequests can be a set amount, residue of the estate, or a final option. Receipt is issued to your estate. Bequests are arranged through a lawyer. If you do not wish to rewrite your Will, a lawyer can prepare a codicil to be attached to your current Will.

Publicly Listed Securities: Gifts of securities traded on prescribed stock exchanges. Receipt will be issued upon valuation of the received gift.

Transferable through your broker or financial advisor.

IRAs: A donation of all or a portion of any retirement fund remaining at death. The easiest way to gift these is to allocate Trinity as the beneficiary of the investment; or retirement funds may be written into your Will - please seek the advice of your professional advisor. *Note:* Annual Required Minimum Distributions can also be gifted to Trinity, which offers tax savings to you.

Life Insurance Policy: If you are the policy owner, you could designate Trinity as the beneficiary. If you designate Trinity as the policy owner, the fully paid life insurance policy would be given to Trinity. The present value is eligible for a tax receipt, or a policy with premiums currently being paid by the donor is eligible for a tax receipt annually. A life insurance broker is able to allocate Trinity as beneficiary of a policy or arrange to change the policy owner to Trinity. Life insurance may be gifted in a Will, but generally falls outside of the Will/estate. A lawyer should be consulted if gifting life insurance through a Will.

Gifts of Assets: A donation of assets, instead of cash. Tangible property includes most things within a person's possession such as collections, art, equipment, furnishings, household items, etc. Gifts-In-Kind may be given at any time or as a bequest in your Will. A lawyer can prepare a codicil to be attached to your current Will.

Real Estate/Property: The transfer of property (land and buildings) to Trinity, the value is determined by the fair market value of the property at the time of transfer or the sale proceeds of the property. Receipt is issued upon the change of title to Trinity or sale of the property. It can be given as a current gift, a future trust, or a bequest in your Will. Acceptance of a gift of property will be subject to a full property assessment including an environmental survey, if required. Please consult with an attorney about such a gift.



Fundraising & Capital Campaign

This fundraising and capital campaign goes beyond our Operating Budget. Your generous pledges support our Operating Budget, and we truly appreciate your generosity shown through your pledges for 2018. However, the Vestry continues to look for ways to raise funds to expand and support the mission of our church. If you have any thoughts, please share them with us. If you hear of any opportunities (i.e. programs, grants, etc.), please let us know about them.

E-giving, ways to give electronically on-line or through credit cards, seems to be popular. Let us know if you would be interested in e-giving and we will look into it.

We also are beginning a capital campaign. As you know, we are blessed to have historical buildings, but with them come the responsibility to maintain and preserve these physical assets, which is a continuous process. The funding for this is not included in our Operating Budget but is addressed through our Renovation Fund. Recently, the rectory was without heat. We have received 4 bids to address this situation and, this week, the Vestry met and decided that the boiler will be replaced immediately and in the spring we will address new window A/C units. We had considered installing a new central heating and air-conditioning system with ductwork, but it was determined that was not financially prudent. We are currently investigating the lack of heat in the choir room. As you know, we recently addressed the slate repairs for the Parish House and church roofs, but within 15-20 years we will need to replace them. In the spring we will replace the Parish House's asphalt shingle roof and asbestos siding. There are also spots of rotten wood trim & crosses, rusty flashing, etc. that will eventually need to be addressed. We hope that you will help us with this endeavor, and more information about the campaign will be forthcoming.

Invite, Welcome, Connect

"Invite Welcome Connect, created by Mary Parmer and developed through the Episcopal Diocese of Texas Newcomer Ministry Project, is a transformational ministry that equips and empowers clergy and lay leaders to cultivate intentional practices of evangelism, hospitality, and connectedness rooted in the Gospel imperative to 'Go and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:19)."

On Sept. 16, Mary Huber and Heidi attended a workshop presented by Mary Parmer about this initiative as it is pertinent to the work we are doing at Trinity. Heidi shared her notes with the Vestry and met with Diane and Bill to discuss it further, plus the Coffee and Conversation group intends to take a role in instituting some of the ideas.

Below, I will outline some of the work and what we have accomplished thus far. For more info., ideas, and checklists, please check out www.invitewelcomeconnect.com.

Invite - Evangelism

"Invitation is not only about inviting people into a relationship with you and others in your congregation, but rather it is about inviting them into a relationship with God through Jesus."

We have tried to reach out to the community through articles in the *Cecil Whig* and invitations to other churches for our special events. We have a tri-fold brochure and soon we will have business cards. Two generous members donated the funds for the feather sign advertising our Saturday services. This also includes each of us issuing personal invitations to our friends, family, and co-workers to join us at church.

Welcome - Hospitality

"Welcoming the stranger is welcoming Jesus. Jesus paid attention to what was going on around him and especially to those people he encountered on a daily basis. He modeled for us a new way of seeing the other - the way of love, compassion, and forgiveness."

Our greeters and ushers have done a very good job in this aspect. They greet newcomers with a smile, encourage folks to sign the guest book, and invite them to Coffee Hour. Many in our congregation make an effort to speak with the newcomers. Plus, we have made an extra effort to make the church more welcoming to visitors and newcomers. We have posted signs within the church and information pertinent to those who are unfamiliar with our customs and facilities has been included in our bulletins. Recently, we made more space at the entrance to the church and have made accessible seating for those with mobility issues. We are considering ways to improve campus signage.

Connect - Assimilation

"Connection is giving meaning to membership and discovering the gifts of the people. Connection helps the newcomer answer these questions: Where do I fit in? Can I make friends in this church? Is there room for me relationally? Does this church need me? Can I find a place to belong and serve? Am I safe here?"

We have many active ministries related to outreach, community service, and liturgy, plus the Brotherhood and Women of Trinity provide opportunities for socialization. We try to balance encouraging folks to get involved but not overwhelming them by asking too much. We are very fortunate to have newcomers who have gotten involved in the life of the church. All of us have gifts and we are pleased when you share them. Our challenge is to be sure that all who want to participate feel welcome to do so and to allow those who need a break or a change to take one.

Stewardship Update

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

As of December 5, Trinity has received 30 pledges totaling \$70,248. Last year there were 34 pledges totaling \$65,804. Both years 10 pledges were increased. Thanks also to those who do not pledge but generously support Trinity.

Trinity has a deficit budget this year and anticipates a deficit budget for 2018. Your continued increased financial support is critical for sustaining Trinity's finances. Hopefully, 2018 will see an increased revenue from fund raising events and increased membership that will build a better financial base for 2019.

~Richard Lemen

Stewardship Chair

The Congregation & Community are Invited to a Blue Christmas Service

Trinity Episcopal Church, will be offering a "Blue Christmas" service Thursday, December 21, at 7:00 p.m. Not everyone experiences the holidays as a time of joy and cheer. This service offers a respite for those dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other illness, and a number of other human situations that make the parties and joviality painful for many in the church and community.

The date coincides with the feast day of St. Thomas the Apostle which invites connections between Thomas's struggle to believe the tale of Jesus' resurrection, the long nights just before Christmas, and the struggle with darkness and grief faced by those living with loss.



We had our 1st lighting of the crèche on December 2, after our 5:00 pm service. After caroling, we enjoyed a lovely reception of cookies, hot chocolate and fellowship.

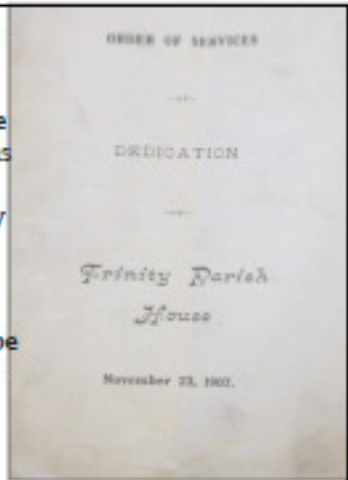


Thanks to all who made this event successful!!



Lary Parker, archivist, Susan Burkholder, photography, Carol Cummings, picture framing, Hans Nafzinger, web site, and myself, document selection, are assembling Trinity's historical records for presentation and preservation. Each month we will place several historical documents in the Tidings that we believe you will find interesting. The Tidings presentations will not be in chronological order as we are still going through several records. Hans will put Trinity's history and other documents on the Trinity web-site. Carol is planning on framing and hanging some pictures in the office. When completed, all documents selected will be on a disc for retrieval as needed. We also hope to have copies of various documents accessible to church membership and others who are interested. We will be contacting the Cecil County Historical Society, Diocese of Easton, and the Cecil Whig.

~Richard Lemen



SERVICE OF DEDICATION.

HYMN 485.

1. I love Thy Kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode,
The Church our best Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.
2. For her my tears shall fall;
For her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be given
Till toil and cares shall end.
3. Beyond my highest joy
I praise her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows,
Her hymns of love and praise.
4. Jesus, Thine Friend Divine,
Our Saviour and our King,
Thy hand from every snare and foe
Shall great deliverance bring.
5. Sure as Thy truth shall last,
To Zion shall be given
The brightest glories earth can yield,
And brighter bliss of heaven.

The following, to be read responsively:—

Except the Lord build the house, their labor is but lost that build it.

Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ;

In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.

Blessed be the Name of the Lord,
Henceforth, world without end.
Lord, hear our prayer,
And let our cry come unto thee.

LET US PRAY.

Our Father, etc.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with Thy most gracious favour, and further us with Thy continual help, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy holy Name, and finally, by Thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

HYMN 261.

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does His successive journeys run,
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
2. To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown His head;
His Name like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.
3. People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall perceive
Their early blessings on His Name.
4. Blessings abound where'er He reigns;
The prisoner leaps to burst his chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blest.

3. Let every creature rise and bring
Peculiar honours to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud Amen.

Then shall be said the Apostles' Creed.

After which,

The Lord be with you

And with thy spirit.

LET US PRAY.

O Almighty God, from Whom are all things, and unto Whom are all things, we give Thee hearty thanks that Thou hast vouchsafed to grant to Thy servants good success in the erection of a House for the glory of Thy Name, for the furtherance of the kingdom of Thy dear Son, and for the promotion of brotherhood and zeal among Thy people. Be pleased, we pray Thee, to accept the work of our hands, and to bless it to the use of Thy Church; for the advancement of the interests of righteousness and truth, of peace and Christian charity; according to the will of Him Whom we own as Lord, and in Whose Name we would ask for the acceptance of this, and of our every gift, Thy Son Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate; to Whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

Sir up, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the wills of Thy faithful people; that they, plentifully bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by Thee be plentifully rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

O Almighty God, Who hast built Thy Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the head Corner-Stone; grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made an holy temple, acceptable unto Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up His countenance upon us, and give us peace, both now and evermore. Amen.

ADDRESSES.

After which,

HYMN 672.

1. Blessed be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Jesus' love;
The fellowship of Christian minds
Is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne
We pour our suited prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one;
Our comforts and our cares.
3. We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.
4. When we at death must part,
Not like the world's our pain;
But one in Christ, and one in heart,
We part to meet again.
5. From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin, we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign
Throughout eternity.

BENEDICTION.

Our Heritage

1832

Early in 1832 an organization was effected under the name of "Trinity Church". The lot upon which the first Trinity Church was erected was deeded to the Vestry by Samuel Hollingsworth and his wife on the 8th day of August, in the same year. On Friday, November 23, of that year, Bishop Stone consecrated a frame church, by the name of Trinity, in Elkton.

1860-67

During this period the congregation had grown to the point where a larger building was needed. The present church was consecrated by Bishop Kerfoot of Pittsburgh on St. Barnabas' Day, 1867.

** The outline of the church was made from the design of the architect.*

1871

In 1871, Trinity Parish separated from North Elk Parish, and included not only the town of Elkton, but the entire northeast corner of the state.

1896

A disastrous fire in this year destroyed the chancel and sanctuary. The repairs made necessary by this fire were the last major improvements to the church building.

1904

Trinity Parish House was built.

1941

The upstairs of the Parish House was finished and provided a room for the education of the smaller children.

1953

In 1953 it became evident that more room was needed for our expanding church school and other activities pertaining to a fast growing Parish. The Wells Organization was contacted to conduct a canvass whereby money could be raised over a period of three years for a new Rectory and an addition to the Parish House. There is now a home for our Rector, beautiful, modern and convenient, and a modern Parish House, with rooms apart for the very young children, rooms for older students and adults, office for the Rector, in which the church records are kept, room for the Vestry meetings and a modern kitchen.

1957

Next year, 1957, Trinity Parish will celebrate the One Hundred and Twenty Fifth Anniversary of its founding. A committee is now at work on plans for this event, likely to be held Trinity Sunday. It is hoped that this will be a brilliant affair, not only at Trinity Church but an outstanding event in the Diocese 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 bring it to the Church by next Sunday, December 17th.



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

Barbara

Randy

Jacob Asroff

Dustin Bartow

Hamid Basil

Bob Boulden

Pam Boulden

Robert Burchett

Marion Conner

Goldie Cook

Jesse Cugini

Donna H. Dellinger

Deborah Edwards

Alan Fenson

Shawnda Fenson

Judy Fisher

Mike Fossler

Eve Glantz

Dan Graham

Margaret Graham

Eric Hearn

Joe Heimberger

Bill Jackson

Kathy Koslak

Elizabeth Lane

Margaret Long

Victoria Marsh

Kate Miles

George Miller

Susan Orr

Richard Palmer

Lawrence Parker

Rose Perrone

Christopher Porteus

Janice Potts

Linda Rawlings

Jane Sichangi

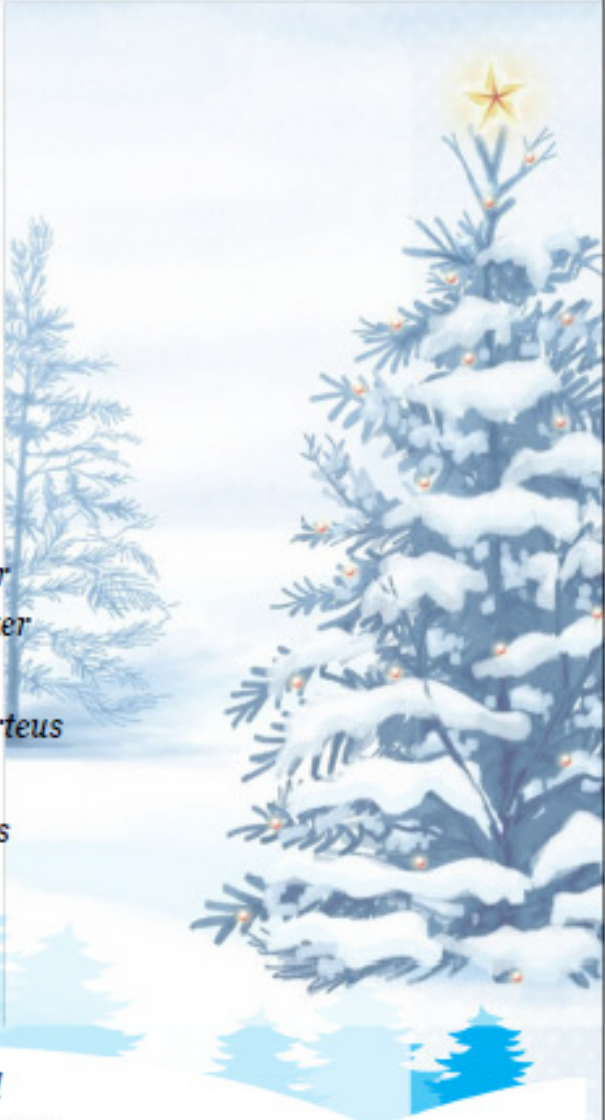
Geri Simons

Carroll Smith

Betsy Spina

Andy Stansfield

Marlene Thompson



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