

# Trinity Episcopal Church



## Tidings

105 North Bridge Street  
Elkton, MD 21921

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### Hope in Christ in Jesus.

As we conclude our church calendar and start celebrating the beginning of a new year in our church calendar, our ears yearn to hear words of comfort. The just concluded year was not an easy one. We had countless occasions and events that we skipped in our normal life and church calendar and seems to continue hence makes us wonder when will this come to an end. Is there hope in our current situation?

St. Francis of Assisi once said, "A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows" Hope is a wonderful thing to have, especially when you can trust that what you are hoping for will actually happen. But what about when you are not sure? Where should we turn for real hope? Do you have hope that sustains you through your challenges, difficulties and trials? Is there a true and genuine hope for our future?

Under such circumstances like what we are in, we yearn for a way out. As Walter Brueggemann wrote in one of his sermons, "But such a way out we either cannot find at all or the cost is too high."

Yes, I see a light at the end of the tunnel, As an African proverb says, "however long the night, the dawn will break." Despite the long spell of absence of in person services, I have hope that we will regroup again in the near future to continue with our service. But in the meantime as we continue in this season of advent, let us have hope in Jesus Christ for it is only in Christ Jesus that God has given us a 'gift of a new chance' as Brueggemann puts it. The Good news is that the new gift that we anticipate in this season is Jesus.

Paul Tillich calls the gift of a new chance, "The new being." The New Being is what everyone needs and what everyone universally searches for. As Tillich says, "The quest for the New Being is universal because the human condition of estrangement is universal." (Tillich, Systematic Theology, 2:86.) The New Being, of course, is the new reality that enables personal conquest over separation from that which is of ultimate meaning because of our existence. It is a saving "power" that triumphs over existence. Salvation is to be conceived, then, as the healing and saving power of the New Being right now in history. (Tillich, Systematic Theology, 2:167.)



The saving power is God's power to make new. This power is not like the power of a bulldozer that pushes things aside, nor like a tyrant who signs an executive order. God's power to make new is rather like the painful love of a mother who suffers the hurt of the child, in order that the child may be restored to hope and joy. There is an intimate engagement of God with us in our brokenness, in order to be with us in our newness, says Brueggemann.

In Ephesians 2:4-6, Paul says, "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;). Therefore in this journey of faith, as we await the birth and the celebration of our Lord Jesus Christ with thanksgiving in our hearts, let us put on the full armor of God in order to conquer the enemy in these unpredictable times. We are far apart physically because the pandemic but spiritually bonded in prayer and love with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Shalom

Father Nicholas

## Blessings to our Brotherhood



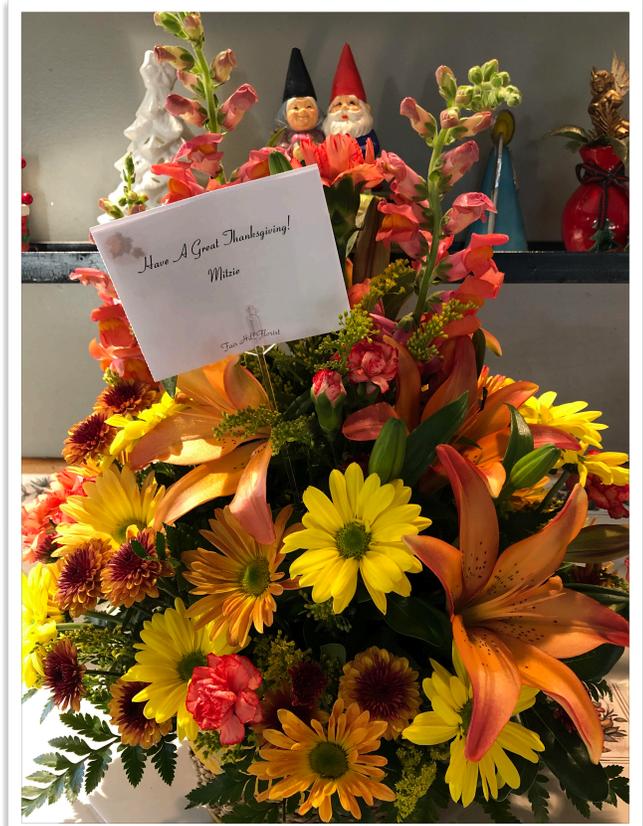
# Thanksgiving Blessings

Had a special Thanksgiving with Bill and the kids. Ryan said the blessing that my Dad would always say. **Bless us, O Lord**, and these, Thy gifts, which we are about to receive from Thy bounty. Through Christ, our **Lord**. Amen

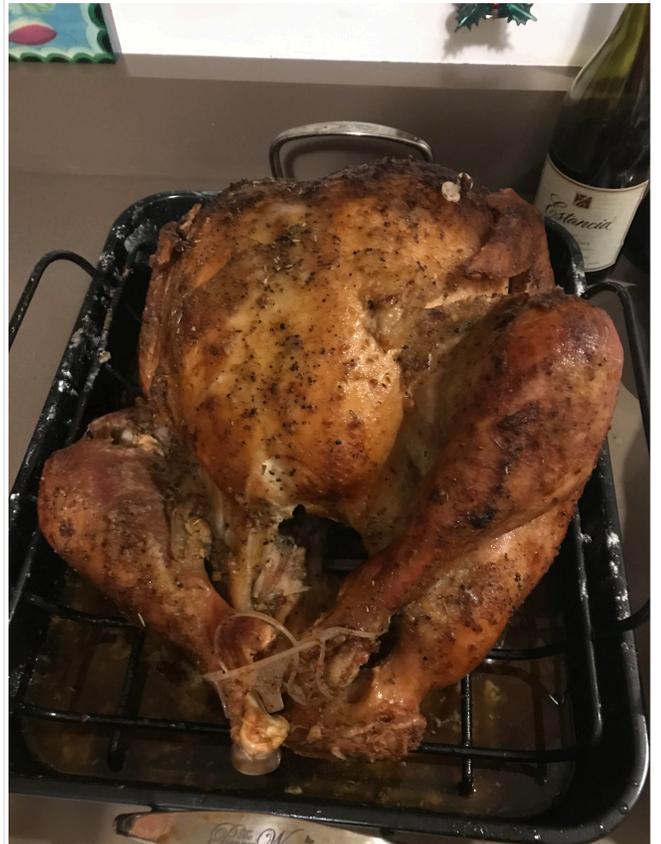
We were able to share our Thanksgiving meal which we delivered to my Mom, Mitzie, Libby and my sister Emily and her husband Jim. I am very grateful for all the love I received in return.

~Carol Cummings

Beautiful flowers from Mitzie Snyder

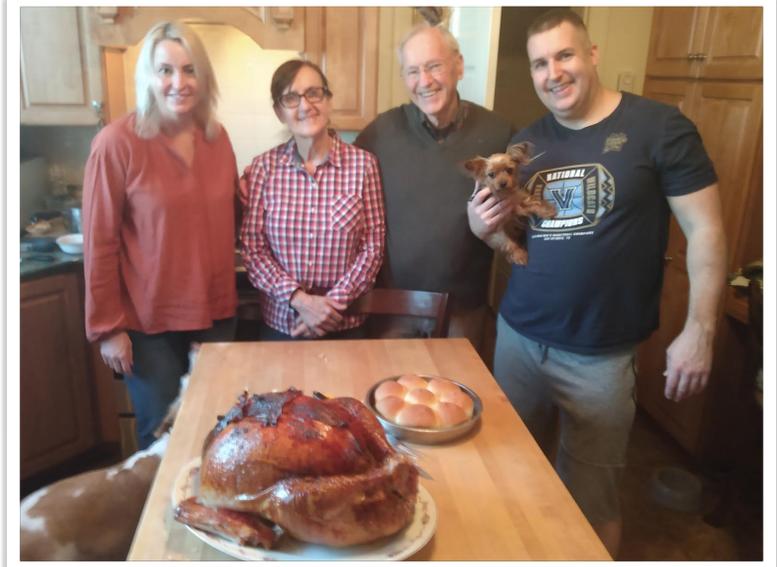


Richard Lemen's family, friends and their 26 pound Turkey!



## From the Lee home

Here are two pictures from our house on Thanksgiving day. This one is the four of us in the kitchen after cooking our turkey. Ginny, Cheryl, Me and Andy who is holding his adorable dog, Autumn who is now about a year and two months old. The turkey was cooked according to my father's time honored traditions including browning the flour for gravy in the pan. Cheryl and I made stuffing with pre cooked browned sausage adding fresh and dry bread cubes along with onions steeped from the boiling of the turkey neck in water, fresh parsley and spices. Bacon is placed on the top and basting every 30 to 45 minutes. We always say it is the best turkey ever. And it was!



The other picture is our other turkey. Cheryl's fruit turkey made with a pear as his head and other fruits and vegetables to round out his feathers and feet.



We have said this year we have so much to be thankful for and so many blessings. The blessings of our healthy children with their healthy pets and the blessings of our good health and the health of our family and friends. So even though we cant be united with them in person, they are always with us in our thoughts and prayers. We are also thankful for all the good we see in others and the acts of kindness we see all around us.

~Ross Lee

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As we continue into the "golden years" (91+) we are grateful for every day we are able to care for each other in our own home. This is our 72nd Thanksgiving and as we often say "we have each other". Faith is our answer.

~ Ginny and Lewis Collins

Although sheltered in place we received a wonderful picture via internet of a new bundle of joy making us again a granduncle and grandaunt.

~ Bill & Pat Smith



## Archives

This is an update on our Archives. We have moved back down stairs into the storage room which is now half storage and half archives. The heat was so intense upstairs that not even the air conditioner could keep up. We cleaned up the shelves and moved things around so we have space for all the records, our printer, file cabinet, and we also added a small desk and kept the table, so there is enough room for two workers. I haven't worked much since the close down, but I hope to get back into a routine this fall. We did find info for two inquiries that were requested of the church this summer.

Looking back through the records you realize how many of the families reach back generations and many of the original families were very active in the building of Cecil County. If your family has lived in Cecil County for at least four or five generations then you are related to about 60% or maybe even more of the people living here now.

If you or anyone else you know who has had a Covid situation and would like to be recorded in the Historical Society you may e-mail or snail mail them. Cecil County is collecting for future records.

~ Sharon Arbour



## December Birthdays

11 Dwight Hair  
25 Rachel Derby

12 Christopher Wafula. 16 Libby Keefer

5 Orville Potts

6 Jonathon Wood

21 Beverly Tozer

# Prayer List

“Our prayers are with all those who are ill, all who are caring for them and all who are striving to hear the voice of God in these challenging times. May God bless you and keep you, now and always.”

Mary Helen Atwood  
Amber  
Michael  
Stephanie  
Jane Ayers  
Bob Boulden  
Pam Boulden.  
Rev. Karen Burnell  
Carl & Cindy  
Marion Conner  
Carol Costello  
Tim Coudon.  
Donna Hurst Dellinger  
Elizabeth  
Sharon Elliott

Alan Fenson  
Shawnda Fenson  
George Gibson  
Fern Hitchcock  
Bill Jackson  
Robert Kane  
Kathy Koslak  
Fred Layabout III  
Margaret Long  
Jean Major  
Victoria Marsh  
Sharon McCallum  
John McLean  
Lynn Monroe  
Jean Mulford

Larry Parker  
Rose Perrone  
Piseth  
Rev. Christopher Porteus  
Janice Potts  
Liz Rossi  
Mike Rossi  
Jane Sichangi  
Betsy Spina  
Joyce  
Stansfield  
Cathy Tosh  
Lara Tozer



[Second Sunday of Advent](#)  
[Sunday, December 6, 2020](#)  
[Fr. Nicholas Sichangi YouTube Channel](#)





# Acts of Kindness

Yesterday was the first day of Advent and as messaged in the readings and gospel, it is a time of hope and readiness. So as we enter this truly unusual Christmas season, let us all let God's spirit work through us to see the hope in others and be ready to offer our Acts of Kindness, big or small, as help.

Here are some Acts of Kindness this past month. Please keep them coming and have a truly blessed Christmas season and holiday!

- “Just wanted to give you my most recent act of kindness information. The other day we had stopped for breakfast and two sheriffs deputies came in for lunch. My granddaughter who has always been very scared of police due to all the violence that she has seen on the news got very nervous. She and I had a discussion and after a few minutes we went over and handed the police officers their check which we paid in full with a thank you note. Adelaide handed it to the officers and said ‘Thank you for your service’”.
- Carol Cummings took Thanksgiving dinner to her family members, Libby, and Mitzie.
- My sister's boss sent her kids over to her house with Thanksgiving dinner.
- Four colleagues at different colleges in Villanova reached out to help two students in a different college use their already over-subscribed equipment so that the students could complete their work and graduate this semester.
- A stranger became a friend through sharing concern for the Covid outbreak at their plant and finding mutual benefits in partnering on a grant that required immediate response on their part.
- Received a beautiful arrangement of flowers from Mitzie Snyder.

~ Ross Lee

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## A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.



## Margaret Savin Biddle Mercer Wirt Mitchell

One of my favorite quotes is from a book written by Phillipa Gregory, the author of several books on famous women in history. “Every woman should marry for her own advantage since her husband will represent her, as visible as her front door, for the rest of his life. If she chooses a wastrel she will be avoided by all her neighbors as a poor woman; catch a duke and she will be Your Grace, and everyone will be her friend. She can be witty and wise and beautiful, but if she is married to a fool she will be “that poor Mrs. Fool” until the day he dies.”

Her obituary begins with crediting her as a “highly esteemed lady of this town” Interestingly though, the remaining three hundred plus words in her obituary describe her accomplishments in terms what her three husbands did and the remarkable positions of leadership her sons had. We know more about her husbands and sons and their accomplishments than we know about her personally.

She was a strong woman. A woman of fortitude, outliving three husbands, and two daughters who died young. They were her only daughters. Her first daughter, Martha died by the age of three; her second daughter Annie, died of scarlet fever at the age of seven.

Margaret was the youngest of seven children, growing up in Sassafras Neck which was right in the heart of the Labadie Tract. Because of my search for information about Margaret and my desire to learn more about her: I now know so much more about the Labadist religion, and the Labadie Tract on part of Augustine Herman’s land, Bohemia Manor. Margaret is somehow related to one of the founders; Peter Sluyter, and one of the first followers, Petrus Bayard. She included their surnames in her first two sons’ middle names - William Bayard Wirt and John Sluyter Wirt. But, I didn’t want to get lost in a genealogical side road, so I didn’t pursue it. It is still worth mentioning because more than likely the majority of the Labadists from that short lived protestant religion became members of St. Stephens or Trinity.

Back to Margaret: She married William Mercer in 1838. Six years later he would pass away leaving her with her surviving daughter Annie. She married John Wirt in 1848 and by 1855 he had passed away. She was now a second time widower with three young boys to raise. In 1864 she married Reverend Mitchell who she also outlived when he passed away four years later. She lived another 27 years, this time remaining unmarried and passing away in February of 1896. When Trinity church was rebuilt after the fire, her son John made sure to memorialize her with the Resurrection window behind the Altar.

~ Susan Burkholder