



# Trinity Times News of Trinity Church

## From the Priest-in-Charge

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Dear Friends,

At this time of year we are bombarded by Christmas. Before Thanksgiving, radios began programming “Holiday” music. Santa arrived at the Stroud Mall on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November. Television stations are already showing movies with a Christmas theme. Walk into almost any store and you are sure to hear Bing Crosby singing White Christmas or Ertha Kitt singing Santa Baby. By the time Christmas actually arrives, we are ready to be done with it.

The Church starts the new liturgical year with Advent I. There are four Sundays where we prepare ourselves for Christ to come among us. Traditionally, we have an Advent wreath on which one candle each week is lighted signifying the coming of The Light in our midst. Advent is meant to be a season of anticipation. It is difficult to live in anticipation when the world has already arrived at Christmas.

We live in a world that wants everything to happen “right now”. We don’t like to delay gratification. Advent, however, is a time when at least spiritually we are to slow down and wait; to wait with building anticipation for the coming of Christ among us. There are ways that we can slow down the hectic pace that the world places on us.

During Advent we can take time to pray, to read and to ponder the great gift that is coming our way. We can take time to sense the light coming into this dark world of ours. We can try to slow ourselves down, at least for a portion of each day.

We can let Christmas be thrust upon us or we can re-learn to wait. To wait with anxious anticipation. To wait with a sense of wonder and awe. To wait for the coming of the Light in the darkness.

This Advent season, hurry up and wait.

Blessings,

*Fr. Bob+*

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Submit your news to Trinity Times News Editor,  
Jill Long [jillwilsonlong@gmail.com](mailto:jillwilsonlong@gmail.com)

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### Inside this issue:

From the Priest-in-Charge	1
Birthdays and Anniversaries/Calendar of Events	2
Prayer Requests/Tales from a Welsh Corgi	3
Cats in the Belfry	4
Trinity Christmas Bazaar	5
Food Pantry News	6
A Visit from Fr. Charles Rice	7

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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### December Birthdays

2 Connie O'Grady  
4 Julie Beech  
12 Becky Hendricks  
13 Mary Karlson  
19 Jennifer Tolley  
19 Marianne Ayers  
21 Dylan Campana  
27 Torrey Truskowski



### December Anniversaries

6 Peter & Linda Salmon  
11 Vince & Mary Cole  
28 John & Kathryn Ritter-Vicich

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

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## December Calendar of Events

November 30, December 7, 14, 21 - Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 11:30 a.m., Church  
December 1,8,15,22,29 - Good News Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 p.m., Library  
December 3 - Trinity at Food Pantry, 8:30 a.m. - Noon  
December 6 - Christmas Bazaar, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
December 14 - Vestry Meeting, 11:45 a.m., Library  
December 14 - 21 - Family Promise Host Week  
December 21 - Christmas Pageant, 4:00 p.m., followed by Potluck Dinner  
December 24 - Candlelight Family Holy Eucharist, 7:00 p.m.  
December 25 - Holy Eucharist, 10:00 a.m.  
December 24 - January 1 - Parish Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

## Our Prayers have been requested for:

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Mary Baker  
Sean Beech  
Ed Benintende  
Lee Connolly  
Fr. Bob and Neil Criste-Troutman  
Randy Criste-Troutman  
Bishop Jack Croneberger  
Leeann Flynn  
Victoria Forstein  
Bill Gessner  
Annaliese Harris  
Moon Kim  
Rob McMahon  
Alexis McNeese  
Jenn Morse  
Jim Rawson  
Alice Ritter

Kathryn Ritter-Vicich  
Lois Rothrock  
Christopher Rose  
Dudley Rowell  
Katrina Troutman  
Jon & Austin

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*

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## Food Pantry News

Hello Everyone,

Here we are November 5th and after two openings we have served 357 families. Please note the number of families so far is higher than our monthly figures over this past year. The breakdown is as follows:

Adults 656  
Children 368  
Seniors 155  
People Served 1,179

Thanks to all volunteers and donors who have assisted the Pantry . Please help us make our clients a memorable holiday season.

Sincerely,  
Lorraine Naiko.

# Cats in the Belfry

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December is a mysterious month for cats – cold snow and warm hearts!

For some unknown reason, trees suddenly grow in the living room, of all places. Can you imagine? Those trees stay outside all year long and suddenly there they are, next to our favorite chairs. And that's not the end of it! Ping pong balls and sparkly strings grow in the branches for our amusement!

We also play a game called "Wrapping". The contest consists of people putting tissue paper in a box and then tying the top shut with more paper and flimsy ribbon. Whatever cat keeps the lid off the box the longest and shreds the most paper wins. Sometimes a cat ends up in the penalty box due to interference by a human. (They are very protective of their papers, a fact we already know from sitting around computer printers).

As the wholly cats approach the coming Holy season, we want to share "*The Legend of the M*" with you. As the story goes, when the baby Jesus was lying in the manger, He began to shiver from the cold. Mary draped blankets over the infant, but He continued to shiver. She asked the animals in the stable to move closer so that their body heat would warm Jesus, but the child continued to shiver and cry. A small tabby cat who'd witnessed the scene knew what needed to be done. She leaped into the manger, cuddled next to the child and began to purr. It was the sweetest lullaby imaginable. The baby stopped crying and drifted off to sleep. In gratitude, Mary marked her own initial upon the tabby's forehead so that tabby cats would forever remind the world of how one of their kind had comforted the newborn Jesus.

Let our belfry bells ring out with joy to the world!

It seems that the baby Jesus was cold and fussing, and Mary asked the manger animals to move in closer to warm him. The manger was simply too small to accomplish that, but a little tabby cat came in and nestled next to the baby, and cosseted Him with purring and warmth. Mary was so grateful, she bestowed her own initial, "M" on the cat's forehead.



# **Trinity Episcopal Church Annual Christmas Bazaar**

**Saturday, December 6, 2014**

**10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Trinity Episcopal Church  
137 Trinity Hill Road, Mt. Pocono**

(Off Rt. 611, south of Mt. Pocono opposite Paradise Riding Stables)

**Hand Made Craft Items**

**Christmas Decorations**

**Children's Shopping Room with Free Gift Wrap**

**Assorted Home-Baked Items**

**Delicious Lunch Served All Day**

Come find that unusual Christmas gift you've been looking for  
pick up some dessert for your week-end suppers

## A Visit from Fr. Charles Rice

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A small group of 19 parishioners welcomed the impromptu visit from Fr. Charles & Bob Barker.

A few years ago Fr. Charles became the interim priest when Virginia Day retired. The congregation quickly became attached to this charismatic, mild mannered man. He has a quick witted sense of humor and a very caring, warm demeanor. We all loved his sermons and messages.

Charles and Bob talked of their recent move to Tucson Arizona. The city in a high mesa valley surrounded by mountains. They now belong to St. Phillips Episcopal Church with about 2000 parishioners. Can you imagine the Christmas and Easter services!



Although they miss Trinity and the other places they have been, they feel that they've made the right move and are enjoying their retirement.

A special thank you goes to Jan Anglemire and Carolyn Tolley who put together the hospitality refreshments in such short notice.

In attendance of the visit were, Fr. Charles Rice, Bob Barker, Virginia Parry, Tom Parry, MaryAlice Holmes, John Gillis, Margaret Gythfeldt, Pat Goodwin, Mike Goodwin, Claudia McClellan, Jan Anglemire, Carolyn Tolley, Carol Butiste, Bob Butiste, Charlie Buttz, Tere Buttz, Dick Orner, Linda Salmon, Peter Salmon, Inga Yeich, Vernon Yeich.

The conversation and questions bounced a round for almost two hours after which we reluctantly let them go. Not without a promise to visit again in the near future. They travel with God's blessings and our safe wishes.

Respectfully submitted, *Dick Orner*

