

Volume 12

December, 2015

Come let us  
*Adore*  
Him



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Trinity Times News of Trinity Church

## From the Priest-in-Charge

---

“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” Luke 2:4-7

We are all familiar with these passages from Luke. Mary and Joseph looking for a place to stay and Joseph especially worried, because Mary is about to go into labor. The birth of Jesus in a manger is an image that is familiar to almost everyone.

Joseph and Mary were forced by the government to go to their ancestral city. Thousands of people descended on Bethlehem all at the same time. There was a crisis in the city. Every available place was taken. In the end, Mary and Joseph were lucky to have the stable to go to.

Do you have room for Jesus in your heart? I saw a cartoon recently where Jesus was standing outside a church and the balloon above his head said, “I stand at the door and knock.” Inside, a group of people were pushing against the door saying, “don’t let him in, he’ll change everything.” When we do let Jesus into our lives, He does change everything. Our whole outlook on everything is changed. We begin to view life through His eyes. And love for each other becomes the standard for viewing everything.

Will you find room for Jesus to be born anew in you this Christmas? Will you allow Him to change your world view? As Hymn 84 in our hymnal says: “Love came down at Christmas,” may we all feel the love of Christ for ourselves and for others.

Merry Christmas,  
*Fr. Bob+*

---

Submit your news to Trinity Times News Editor,  
Jill Long [jillwilsonlong@gmail.com](mailto:jillwilsonlong@gmail.com)  
or call 610 - 597-4559

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

---



### December Birthdays

1 Jolene Backora  
2 Connie O'Grady  
3 Caroline Josephine Cortez  
4 Julie Beech  
12 Becky Hendricks  
19 Jennifer Tolley  
19 Marianne Ayers  
21 Dylan Campana  
25 Chris Eidschun  
27 Torrey Truszkowski



### 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*

---

## December Calendar of Events

December 2 - Trinity at Food Pantry, 8:30 a.m. - Noon

December 5 - Christmas Bazaar, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

December 6 & 13 - Pageant Rehearsal, 11:15 a.m., Church

December 13 - Family Promise Host Week through December 20

December 13 - Vestry Meeting, 11:45 a.m., Library

December 18 - Newsletter Deadline for Information

December 20 - Christmas Pageant followed by Potluck Dinner, 4:00 p.m.

December 21 - Newsletter Mailing

December 24 - Festive Candlelight Holy Eucharist, 4:00 p.m.

December 25 - Holy Eucharist, 10:00 a.m.

December 24 through January 4 - Office Closed Christmas Holiday

# Stewardship News

---

## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE:

Our 2016 Stewardship campaign is continuing to move along. Our brunch was enjoyed by all who attended. To date, we have 40 pledges totaling over \$77,000.00. If you have not yet filled out your pledge card, you will find blank ones at the back of the church. Please fill it out and drop it into the collection plate.

Please pray about your pledge and think with your heart. Hopefully you can increase your pledge over last year, even if only by a bit. Right now we are behind where we were last year at this time. It would be wonderful to be above last year's number once all the pledge cards have been tallied.

Further updates will continue in next month's newsletter. God Bless.

The Stewardship Committee

## Budget Projection 2016

---

### Advisory A Preview of the 2016 Budget Issues Peter Gonze

At the December Vestry meeting, the Vestry will be reviewing a proposed budget for the new fiscal year. Now that we have the results of this year's Stewardship campaign and we have a good estimate for expenses to run the Parish, it's time to put it all together.

Over the past several years we have had a decline in membership, or "pledging units". Unfortunately we have experienced a loss in members. Some moved, retired, or passed away. The table below shows the decline in Pledging Units over that past 4 years. The numbers for 2016 are from our most recent Stewardship Campaign.

<u>Pledging Units</u>	
2013	68
2014	66
2015	58
2016	45

As has been discussed over the past two years, it is no longer possible for Trinity Church to operate at a deficit. Our reserve account (Diocesan Investment Trust) has been significantly reduced to cover past budget deficits. We cannot afford to spend more than we receive in contributions. In 2016 our Parish must move toward a Balanced Budget.

To achieve this, the Vestry will have to make some difficult decisions. Already discussed has been moving to part-time for Father Bob. Unfortunately, this alone does not solve our budget woes. Among the options the Vestry will need to consider is should we reduce maintenance/repairs, cut back or eliminate the music program? None of these options are appealing, and no one wants to take such drastic actions. But we are left with limited options.

I ask for your prayers, your thoughts and your understanding as the Vestry gathers on December 13th to discuss, deliberate and decide on the 2016 Budget.

# Words from the Senior Warden

---

## Words from the Senior Warden

Like most folks, when I was a kid my favorite holiday was Christmas! It was all about the lights, the tree, the decorations, the anticipation and of course the presents on Christmas morning. Great memories and experiences....what could be better?

Now- a- days, again like a lot of “seasoned” adults, my favorite holiday has become Thanksgiving. It’s all about getting together with family and friends around the table, preparing for the feast-the turkey and there are no gifts to buy, wrap or return. For many it is a 4 day weekend-how great is that! By the time you read this, we will have already celebrated Thanksgiving and will be in the throes of the Christmas rush.

But before we let go of “giving thanks”, let’s remember some of the things we are grateful for. Perhaps it is being grateful for being together, sharing a meal and re-connecting. It’s all good!



What do you give thanks for, what are you grateful for? Anne O. Kubitsky started the *Look for the Good Project* by asking people for postcards with their answer, and got thousands of responses from around the globe. She writes in her book *What Makes you Grateful*: "This is such an important question, because without even knowing the answer, it will roll around in your head until your heart opens, your eyes soften, and your whole life begins to reorganize"

Some of the answers to the question that appear “What I am grateful for?”

Hobbies, Community, Family, The little things, Creativity, Travel, Life

As we rapidly move into the Christmas Season, a season of Joy often overshadowed by the stress of trying to make everything perfect in an imperfect world, we may be well served by remembering what makes us grateful.



## Cats in the Belfry

---



### Cats in the Belfry

We have some avian info for you! Now don't get your feathers in a bunch, we are not promoting our carnivore DNA, we just like flying things!

Legend has it that the night Jesus was born, the birds were right there...lark, magpie, cuckoo, finch, robin, wren, dove and many more flocked to the manger to rejoice. "The Carol of the Birds" (from Catalonia -- er, CATalonia?) honors those songsters and their tender lullabies.

*"Whence comes this rush of wings afar, following straight the Noel star?  
Birds from the woods in wondrous flight, Bethlehem seek this Holy Night.  
"Tell us, ye birds, why come ye here, into this stable, poor and drear?"  
"Hast'ning we seek the newborn King, and all our sweetest music bring."*

And do you know the story of the birds' nest? A belief born in Germany and Iceland is all about finding a gift in your freshly-cut Christmas tree. Look for a bird's nest within its branches, built last spring and long abandoned. Such a surprise is perceived to be a sign of forthcoming blessings. And one can never have too many blessings!

Well, your *feles fideles* found a treasure on the church grounds this year and we want to share it with you. On some starry Advent night, when no one is looking, we will bring it into Trinity as our humble gift from God's earth. Look for it.

And then, from our perches in the belfry, we will ring those bells as they have never been rung. Everyone on route 611 will hear them from our woods. The following is in **bold print** so you can read it **loudly!**

***"Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Singing bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee!"***

## Our Prayers have been requested for:

---

Mary Baker  
Sean Beech  
Gary Bender  
Ed Benintende  
Alex Backora  
Marva Cannonier  
Fr. Bob and Neil Criste-Troutman  
Bishop Jack Croneberger  
Victoria Forstein  
Bill Gessner  
Annaliese Harris  
Alexis McNeese  
Jenn Morse

Wendell & Jutta Moser  
Jim Rawson  
Fr. Charles Rice  
Lois Rothrock  
Heather  
Patti  
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*

## God is Good

---

GOD IS GOOD!

Our friend, Robin Smith, was driving her 2 children 3 and 5 home from getting milk in bottles from a farm. She was hit by a careless driver and a bottle sailed up into Sam, the 5 year old. Some of his cranium went into his brain. He wasn't supposed to live through the night, but he did. Bob and Robin Face Booked "God is Good". It was a week before they knew he would make it and every day Bob and Robin said "God is Good." A Little Sam was blind in one eye, unable to take nourishment, couldn't speak and couldn't move for the next few months in Intensive Care. He had lost part of his ear and part of his skull. He was alive and "God is Good". In the months that followed, Bob or Robin never left his side. They sang to him, talked to him, read to him and told him that "God is Good".

In the next couple of months, he recognized his parents and brother. He went through brain, arm and leg operations and Robin and Bob always started the day with "God is Good". Bob and Robin have lots of good friends and a very caring parish. They always had someone to take care of Sam's brother, there was always a dinner ready for a weary parent after so many hours in the hospital. And then the miracles continued. He regained the sight in his eye. He could sit strapped into a wheelchair. And there were many more miracles bolstered by over a thousand prayers of those following Sam's journey on Face Book. It's been a year and a half. Bob's father unexpectedly passed away in October but not without hearing his grandson say one word, his name...".Grandpa".

I went on Face Book this morning and there was Sam in P.T. and for 26 seconds I saw him held up by the therapist on a treadmill and I saw another miracle. Sam could move his feet! His brain was teaching him how to move his legs.

Before this happened, Bob and Robin always greeted the day with "God is Good".

As you wake up each morning, what are your miracles? At my age, I am thankful that my body parts are in working order! A Hopefully you don't need Sam's huge ongoing miracles.

This is the season celebrating Jesus birth. GOD IS GOOD!