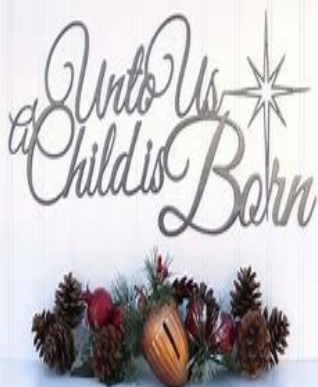


VOLUME, 12

DECEMBER, 2018



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Trinity Times News of Trinity Church

## From the Priest-in-Charge

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*"For (St) Bonaventure, God is, 'the one whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere.' And now you know that all things, including you, live happily inside of that one good circle." Taken from Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation.*

It seems hard to believe that we are already past Thanksgiving, snow has already fallen and we are in Advent and anticipating Christmas. I hope that Thanksgiving found you ministering to those around you.

Thanksgiving here at Trinity was wonderful. I asked if anyone was interested in sharing thanksgiving together here after our 10:00 Eucharist. I would cook my first turkey and everyone could bring food items that would make it Thanksgiving for them. Eighteen people shared our meal of turkey, stuffing, yams, peas, pies etc. etc.

I invited our members as well as the AA groups that meet at Trinity. Prior to Thanksgiving, 6 people who had other plans for this year signed up for next year. Two people in recovery who had other plans volunteered to help us set up. Two members of Trinity who had other plans dropped off food for the meal. Both these offerings warmed my heart. It certainly looks like we will want to do this again. BTW, I got lots of compliments on the turkey.

My central message for this newsletter revolves around what we are learning about homelessness and our failure as a society and a county. We have had several families: 2 parents and children, one as young as 4 months come to us recently. They became homeless for different reasons. One family had their rental unit condemned by the county. Another became homeless because one of the parents had a worsening debilitating illness that made working in his field no longer possible. Every person or families story is unique.

What I came to know was that my definition of homelessness is not necessarily any of the so called resources definition. I think if you no longer have a trailer, house or apartment in your name, you are homeless. Not so according to various agencies. If you are in financial difficulties and see your ability to pay rent going down the tubes, you are not eligible for help, you still have a roof over your head. If you have saved and can put yourself up in a cheap motel for a short period of time, you can not apply for housing assistance because the motel provides you with a roof over your head. If you are sleeping in your car, then even though there is a roof, you are homeless. However, if the child protective agencies find out, they will not assist getting you housing, they will take your children away from you and put them in foster care.

Trinity has a number of very hard working committees, one of which is the community services committee. Its goal is to find out services available for: senior citizens especially in the areas of temporary nursing care, assisted living and skilled nursing facilities, the homeless, especially the recent homeless who have not had the time or experience to avail themselves of applications etc. and who are in motels, on the street or living in their cars.

And to make relationships and connections to churches, other social agencies and local political offices in an effort to face what seems to us to be the lack of services and support for recently homes individuals and families. We have received financial help already from a local church and social agency. Together with gifts received into my discretionary fund we have temporarily housed a number of individuals and families while helping them navigate the system looking for the solid ground to rebuild their lives. In an effort to enlarge our ability to respond and to change the definition of homelessness, we are scheduling a brunch with seven local churches on Jan 13<sup>th</sup> to see how we can work together.

When someone who is homeless now asks us for help we can now go through a list of resources: food, shelter for adults in cold weather, single women and single men. We no longer have to only say, we are not a shelter. We can not help you. Families with children, especially young children and families with a father are the most difficult to find temporary shelter unless we go to the motels. Please keep this ministry in your prayers. We have just entered the season of Advent. As each individual or family comes in or calls, I can not keep from making the connection between the holy family and the fact that there was no room in the inn. I will keep you updated.

**Notices** We will be decorating the church after the 10:00 service on 12/23

Annual Meeting: January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with a snow date on January 20.

Service will be at 9:00.

Sunday School is canceled for the day.

Meeting will be at 10:30

# Food Pantry News

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Happy Holidays,

I send you greetings as we are, as if you hadn't noticed, in the holiday season Now Santa doesn't have the snow for his sleigh but we have had snow here and more to come.

This November there is cause to celebrate our number of families served is BELOW 300 a small reduction but I feel positive it is our sign of slightly better times.

FAMILIES SERVED 290 = ADULTS 479 +CHILDREN 262 +SENIORS 171 = 911 new families included 5...

The number of volunteers who made this happen worked tirelessly receiving truck food deliveries, stocked shelves and most important filled food orders. We could rival Santa's skilled elves. The people on this list are but a small number of those behind the scenes loyally bring in donations and most importantly praying for us and our clients. There are social groups, Churches and businesses who have helped us with food drives, cash donations and even encouraged their employees to make their time available to the community as volunteers.

We have had lots of students from Pocono Mountain School District help us with food drives and some in conjunction with sports activities and their Student Government activities. The word is out there the need is not over ,yet. But we are making a difference. Six schools have had food drives alone this holiday season and they know it will support a little extra for their fellow students to have food in December when the vacation begins. Churches and other groups provided extra snacks over the Summer to help the families.

If you have ideas for food collections please share with me . And don't forget bring your friends to help it will be the best 3 hours you have had in a while. You will exercise your mind and body ,chat with some of the best folks I know and as you reflect at the end of your day it is the right thing to do and you will remember why you did this activity.

I extend to you and your extended families a Blessed, Safe and Very Merry Christmas.

I will see you in the New Year January 2, 2019, Wednesday .

Remember if Pocono Mountain closes we are closed if there is a delay call the pantry number 570 894-2072 for updates as to the time we will open weather permitting.

Thank you all and may God Bless.

Lorraine

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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### December Birthdays

- 1 Jolene Backora
- 2 Connie O'Grady
- 5 Susan Treanor
- 17 Bob Scully



### 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

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- Dec. 5 – Trinity at Food Pantry, 8:30 a.m. – Noon
- Dec. 6 – Newsletter Mailing
- Dec. 8 – Christmas Bazaar, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Dec. 9 – Christmas Bazaar, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Dec. 9-16 – Family Promise Host Week
- Dec. 16 – Vestry Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Library
- Dec. 23 - Greening of the Church, 11:30 a.m.
- Dec. 24 – Family Holy Eucharist, 4:00 p.m.
- Dec. 25 – Christmas Day, Holy Eucharist, 10:00 a.m.
- Dec. 24 – Jan. 1 – Office Closed Christmas Holiday

## Our Prayers have been requested for:

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Alex Backora  
Sean Beech  
Catena Family  
Randy Criste-Troutman  
Victoria Forstein  
Jutta Moser  
Wendell Moser  
Merrill Nanton  
Jim Rawson  
Lois Rothrock  
Jennifer Salmon  
Tom Sayer  
Pat Young

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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## Book Review

Love in the Void, Where God Finds Us  
by Simone Weil, edited by Laurie Gagne  
Plough Spiritual Guides

I first encountered Simone Weil in a class during Lent a few years ago, during the weeks we studied the mystics of the Christian faith. As a philosopher from our modern times, I found her writings fascinating and easier to digest than the Medieval mystics.

This is a book that would appeal to the religiously non-affiliated seeker, or contemplative and spiritual person. At just over 100 pages it would also make a thought provoking read during Lent. The Plough Spiritual Guides are written for the layman and have several guides I hope to read in the coming year.

*Becky H.*

## Reflections

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We celebrated the Apostles receiving the Holy Spirit this year about twenty-seven Sundays ago. When the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost the world was turned upside down. Have you ever you thought much since then about the Holy Spirit as part of the Trinity and what He does?. It seems to me that the Bible and Christianity present to us a God who keeps doing things never done before. Often God seems to do these things through a human agency. Yes, there are cycles in this world that repeat with obvious reliability and with relentless laws; the changes of the seasons, the stages of a human life, the rotation of the planets, just to name a few. However God is notorious for also doing what seems unprecedented, such as freeing his people from Egypt, raising his Son from the dead or returning the Jewish nation back to Israel in 1947. These unique actions belong to a plan and purpose we can only begin to recognize, much less to understand.

The Christian faith tells us that the Holy Spirit is ceaselessly at work in every moment of grace, not only the ones we celebrate in or out of church. The Christian faith does not claim the Holy Spirit as a prisoner constrained by the Church. Far from it: the Holy Spirit, who as one creed in the BCP says, is the "Creator and Giver of Life", makes sustains and brings to fulfillment every baby that is born, every creature that exists, every plant that grows. The Holy Spirit is a subtle power, the secret force behind all beauty, truth, and goodness; every act of kindness and compassion; every wise insight and every noble decision. The Spirit's work is apparent in the stars we see in the night sky and in the microscopic wonder of single-cell organisms. Travel at the speed of light [if you can] you will never outrun the realm of the Spirit. This is how God operates and it is something for us to remember and reflect on as we move toward the end of the season of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is God's sharing of God's-self with us, God's empowering of us for the work of establishing God's Kingdom, God's way of living, right here in our own communities.

I once read somewhere that "the future constantly becomes the present on its way to becoming the past". As this happens, we must confront our own problems, challenges and tragedies that appear and disappear as we go forward. We must accept, also open ourselves, to the Holy Spirit's obvious moments of grace, strange and unexpected gifts that suddenly appear in our lives, our communities, and in human and planetary history. Through such moments, the Holy Spirit acts and summons us to obedience, if we will, to creative cooperation with Him in the high purposes of God.

In his book *A Brief History of Time*, Stephen Hawking the Cambridge University physicist, discusses at some length the "Big Bang" theory of the formation of the universe and his search for a "unified theory", purely from a scientific perspective, I suspect though, that really deep down Stephen realized that there is a higher power at work, although he will not name it as the Holy Spirit. At the end of his book Hawking states:- "...if we do discover a complete theory then we shall all be able to take part in discussions of why it is that we and the universe exist - for then we would know the mind of God."

NOTE: Theoretical physicists have not yet formulated a widely accepted, consistent theory that combines general relativity and quantum mechanics to form a theory of everything. The incompatibility of the two theories remains an outstanding problem in the field of physics.

*M.J.G*

## Recipe of the Month

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### A BRITISH CHRISTMAS CAKE

Many years ago I made my first visit to Haworth, England, home of the Bronte literary family consisting of Anne, (Tenant of Wildfell Hall), Emily (Wuthering Heights) and Charlotte (Jane Eyre). I was so taken with their home, The Parsonage, and their lives that I joined the Bronte Society, becoming a Lifetime Member in 1988. The following recipe is from the early 1800's, baked by the family cook, Tabitha, with the help of Emily and Anne. The 2 sisters would often take this time of cooking and combine it with learning a foreign language. so at this time of year it is appropriate that I include their Christmas Cake recipe.

To confess, I must tell you that I take a short cut and use a box, white cake mix. The rest of the recipe is from the Bronte family cookery book. It is a lovely, white cake with mixed fruits and nuts, dusted with powdered sugar. I usually make one layer, but you could make 2 layers, the choice is yours. At times I have put a little dusting of chopped nuts and a few pieces of red or green candied fruits on top of the powdered sugar, but it is a lovely just left plain. To make a dainty design on the finished cake they would lay a doily on top, dust on the powdered sugar and then remove the doily, making a lacy looking pattern.

#### Ingredients:

1 box white cake mix

1/2 cup chopped nuts of your choice

1/2 cup of candied fruit (I usually choose red and green) cut into small pieces

Extra pieces of candied fruit and nuts kept aside to decorate the top of the cake, if desired

1/4 teaspoon nutmeg or vanilla extract for flavoring

Powdered sugar to dust top of cake

Make the white cake as directed. Before adding the fruit or nuts to the batter you should coat them in flour, so they will not sink to the bottom of the cake when baking. After the cake cools you can decide how you would like to decorate the top. When baking this cake I cannot help but think of the warm kitchen in The Parsonage, with the sisters sitting around the fire, weighing and measuring ingredients and then waiting for the finished cake to share with their brother Branwell and their father, Rev Bronte, a minister of the Church of England. Rev Bronte outlived his 6 children and wife.

A Happy Christmas to all, hope you might try this recipe,

*Patricia Goodwin*

# Fundraising Committee News

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Thanksgiving is behind us and Christmas is on the way. Although our primary thoughts for this season should be on the birth of our Savior, at Trinity we need to squeeze in our annual Christmas Bazaar which is going to take place on Dec 8th and 9th. I'm hoping to see you all there!

The Bazaar will feature:

- Lunch at very reasonable prices. Why not stop by for a bite and you can socialize with your Trinity friends.
- Our basket raffle (all baskets have been donated by members of the parish),
- Brand new items such as cookware, luggage, bakeware, kitchen appliances, Nautica purses. Why not do some of your Christmas shopping at reduced prices?
- We'll have our "gently used" items table.
- There will be a silent auction for tickets to the Stephen Colbert Show thanks to Mary Cole!
- Our half price gift card table featuring local establishments such as Kalahari Resort, Ham 'n Eggs, East Gourmet Buffet, the Arlington Diner, Kasa's Pizza, Bailey's Rib & Steak House, Callie's Pretzels, Planet Earth and many more!

- Hand made crocheted and knitted items

- A 50/50 raffle. (Half of the money received goes to Trinity and half goes to the winner.)

- A Frogtown Chophouse raffle for a \$120 gift card that was donated by the Vestry!

The Bazaar is our major fundraiser of the year and we're hoping that it will be the best Bazaar ever- but that can't happen without you! So please plan to attend! Thanks

Our cheesecake sale was a success considering this is the first time we've done it. Trinity received just shy of \$200 from the sale. Cindy did a great job coordinating sales and deliveries. Look for this event again next year!

The Vestry has approved our request to have an outreach offering four to six times per year. The first of these will be taken in January and the Pocono Mountain Ecumenical Hunger Ministry (Food Pantry) will be the first recipient. Lorraine Naiko will use this donation to support a February turkey distribution. An anonymous member of our parish has offered to match this collection! It will be done the third week of January via envelopes in the bulletin. We will send out a reminder email and include envelopes in the bulletin the first and second week of January. Please be as generous as you can.

Next is something we'll be trying for the first time here at Trinity. It's a "SOUP-OFF". You can enter to have your favorite soup judged by our parishioners; or you can pay a fee to taste and judge all the soup entries. If you want to enter one of your homemade soups, the fee will be \$10 per entry. If you want to taste and judge the soups, the fee will be \$5 per person. The chef who made the "best" soup as determined by the Trinity voters will win bragging rights and the "GOLDEN LADLE" award! This sounds like it will be lots of fun so please mark your calendar! The date for this event is March 16th.

Our first "Dine to Donate" for 2019 will be held at Barley Creek. It will coincide with a "Senior Lunch Bunch" luncheon. We're planning to have the event on April 24th. More information will follow at a later date.

We're also investing a possible fundraising event with Gertrude Hawks. We'd like to do this event around Easter. We'll keep you posted as we gather additional information.

And finally — we need to find two new volunteers for the Fundraising Committee and the Annual Bazaar. If you feel a calling to fill either of these positions, please talk to Marie about the Bazaar or Joanne about the Fundraising Committee. The satisfaction is monumental!

If anyone is interested in joining the Fundraising Committee, our next meeting is Jan 6th!

*Joanne Smith*