

Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church
703 South Main Street (office at 701)
Athens, PA 18810
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Last Pentecost - Advent - November, 2011

Dear Friends,

A grace before meals that I remember from my childhood proclaims rather succinctly all we need to know theologically about stewardship:

God is gracious; God is good
And we thank him for our food.
By His hand we all are fed;
Give us Lord our daily bread.

In those few verses, we are clearly told that God is gracious and good: a giver of gifts. We are told that we are gift-ed by God: recipients of his overflowing and abundant love. What else is there to know?

Well, I suppose I could remind us that we are made in the image of God. As such, we must then try to be the gracious giver that God is. That we are to bestow upon others love, and mercy, and forgiveness, the same way as God does. That we are to be an image of the Good News of God in Christ to this broken and sinful world. That God made us to be like him.

I could remind us that because of our gifted-ness we have received and continue to receive all that we need to be like him. That God will never fail us and will continue to meet our needs, even as we help to meet the needs of others.

So often children hit the nail right on the head.

Fr. Ben

Thank you, Fr. Ben.

(If you haven't heard him preach on Sunday mornings, you're really missing out. Come join us.)

It's stewardship time. We're doing things differently this year. It seems apt to do something new since our church building is now renovated, and new, but very familiar, clergy are gracing us with

their presence and help.

So this edition of *Trinity Times* is your annual Stewardship Letter.

In my 30 years in various church leadership positions, I've read and written a lot of stewardship letters. You've know what they're like. They all basically say what Fr. Ben wrote for us. We know this in our hearts. But maybe we have heard it so often, perhaps we don't even really hear it anymore.

So bear with me for a little different approach, please .. One that's a little more direct and down to earth, but which is built on the foundation of our abundance and blessings.

Trinity is not about being a business; we are not about a dollar column of profit and loss. We don't cut our mission to serve a bottom line. Nevertheless, the vestry has to come up with a workable budget in order to make sure we are here to live into that mission: *to seek and serve Christ in all people.*

We have a strong church building to help us with our mission. To keep it open means paying the bills each month. How much does that cost? Our no-frills expenses are \$6300 a month. Of that, \$2660 is covered by income from legacy investments. That means, we, the living, need to come up with \$3640 a month. We can do that. An educated guess, looking at what our members usually give, will cover all but about \$420 a month.

But, we could be wrong about that shortfall; because it's a guess. We don't want to have to guess, it would be so much better to know. You can help by making a pledge. No, please, don't stop reading just yet.

A pledge is a promise of intent. It's a commitment to give a specific amount to the church over the course of the year. It's a promise to try. Of course every-

Continued on Page 2

one's circumstances can change; your job might be cut, any number of things could happen to keep you from being able to fulfill that promise. That's understood. These are not country club dues; you can still come to the banquet when your pockets are empty. Conversely, if your pockets are full, you can give more than you pledged.

How much you pledge is entirely up to you. One strives to tithe, that is, give the first fruits of one's labor (ten percent) to the Church. Is that on one's net or gross income? That's up to you. Do we, or can we, all tithe? No, but we can make it a goal. The important thing is not to give our leftovers to the church, but to give from our abundance.

In other words, try to stay away from asking yourself how much you can afford. Rather, consider with joy what you are able to give from the blessings of your life.

Then, make a pledge. Our pledges range from a few dollars a week to \$150 a week and cover all the amounts in between.

For us, for the vestry, the important thing is that you make a written pledge so that we can balance the budget and get on with our real work — reaching out to the community and being God's Episcopal people in Athens. Over the past year we have had two clothing giveaways, and the Christmas toy giveaway is coming up. We have hosted up to four AA meetings a week, providing a safe haven for those struggling with addiction. We have rebuilt much of the structure of our church building and soon we will finally have new front doors, which we plan to keep open to welcome absolutely everyone to our church family.

Our small parish has done and will continue to do wonderful things as we work together to be the people God intends us to be. So let's put the budget process behind us. Make your pledge on November 20th, in person or by mail.

Thank you.

Barbara
Treasurer
For the Vestry

Please fill out and detach the bottom portion of this page and place it in the offering on November 20 or mail it.



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As a faithful steward of God's bounty, I/we pledge a definite share for the work of the church in 2012, within the parish and beyond.

[This commitment may be increased or decreased due to changing circumstances]

\$ _____ per week; month; one-time gift

Signed _____

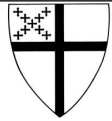
(Please print) Name(s): _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone/Cell _____




Date _____

Please place this in the enclosed envelope and put it in the Offering plate on November 20, or you may mail it.



Trinity Episcopal Church - November 2011

Last Pentecost -
First Advent

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Trinity: 11/6: Patricia Gurney, Hana Henty, Mark Hollywood. 11/13: Trula Hollywood, Karen Nichols. 11/20: Matt, Jerilyn, Caden and Libby Hollywood, Gage Streeter. 11/27: Chris, Heathr, Adam, Brandon & Caleb Hunsginer.</p>		<p>1 All Saints Day</p>	<p>2 All Souls Day AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm</p>	<p>3 Clergy Day 9-3 St. Stephen's, Wilkes-Barre <i>Heather Martin</i> <i>Brandon & Derek</i> <i>Coston</i></p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 All Saints No 5:00 service  Fall Back DST ends</p>
<p>6 Pentecost 21—All Saints 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour <i>Norma Duddie</i></p>	<p>7 AA 8:00 pm</p>	<p>8 <i>Blake Draper</i></p>	<p>9 AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm <i>Matthew Hollywood</i></p>	<p>10 <i>Jim & Mary Patterson's</i> <i>50th anniversary</i></p>	<p>11 Happening Kirby House, through Sunday</p>	<p>12 Pentecost 22 1:00 Chalice And Altar Guild Training 5:00 Holy Eucharist II</p>
<p>13 Pentecost 22 P-28 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour Vestry Meets National Donor Sabbath</p>	<p>14 AA 8:00 pm</p>	<p>15 <i>Carol Reed</i></p>	<p>16 AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm</p>	<p>17 <i>Kent Stanley</i></p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Last Pentecost 5:00 Holy Eucharist II</p>
<p>20 Last Pentecost—Christ the King—Pledge Sunday 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour <i>John & Carol Reed</i></p>	<p>21 AA 8:00 pm</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm</p>	<p>24 Thanksgiving Day  <i>Joe Coston</i></p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Advent I 5:00 Holy Eucharist II</p>
<p>27 The First Sunday Of Advent 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour <i>Elizabeth Maneval</i></p> 	<p>28 AA 8:00 pm</p>	<p>29 Clergy Bible Study 8, 3 p.m., Christ Church, Towanda</p>	<p>30 St. Andrew, the Apostle AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm</p>	<p>Diocese of Kajo Keji: 11/6: Andasire: The Rev. Cosmas Lodiong; The Rev. Nora Pita and The Rev. Michael Aboi and for the MES Department: Duesuk Alex and Moro James. 11/13: Motongo: The Rev. Mary Kajoggo. 11/20: Sera-Jale: The Rev. John Loboka and Deacon Emmanuel Diliga. 11/27: Lito'ba: The Rev. John Liri Amuja and Deacon James Sekwat.</p>		
<p>Diocese of Bethlehem: 11/6: St. Alban's, Sinking Spring: The Rev. Karl L. Kern, Rector, The Rev. Charles L. Beem, Associate Priest. Social Ministries Committee. 11/13: Christ Church, Stroudsburg: The Rev. Doug Moyer called to be Rector. Standing Committee. 11/20: World Mission Committee. Please pray also for Bishop Jack Croneberger, Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Bethlehem. 11/27: Calvary, Tamaqua: The Rev. Robert K. Gildersleeve, Supply.</p>				<p>Anglicans Around the World: 11/6: Ughelli, Nigeria: The Rt. Rev. Vincent O Muoghereh. 11/13: Uyo, Nigeria: The Rt. Rev. Isaac Orama. 11/20: Virginia: The Rt. Rev. Shannon Sherwood Johnston; The Rt. Rev. David Colin Jones, Suffragan Bishop of Virginia; and The Rt. Rev. William Mitchie Klusmeyer, Bishop of West Virginia. 11/27: Wellington, New Zealand: The Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas John Brown.</p>		

November Highlights



Saturday, November 5 -- No 5 p.m. service. Set your clock back 1 hour. Daylight savings time ends.

Sunday, November 6 -- All Saints Day Observance. Holy Eucharist and Renewal of Baptismal Vows, 9 a.m.

Saturday, November 12 -- Chalice and Altar Guild Training, 1 p.m. As you know, we need help in both ministries. As Patricia Gurney told Archdeacon Stringfellow during his visit this year, "I'm the Altar Guild." She welcomes help and will be there to train anyone interested in this quiet ministry of service. We will also go over the ministry of those who bear the chalice. Please join us! We'll meet in the Parish Hall and then move to the church.

Sunday, November 13 -- Vestry meets. We'll be reviewing the Congregational Development Grant Application, renovation project and budget. As always, everyone is welcome

Saturday/Sunday, November 19-20, Last Pentecost, Christ the King and Pledge Sunday. Please read the main article of the newsletter for more information.



Saturday/Sunday, November 26-27, First Sunday of Advent. The new church year will begin. We'll put up our mitten tree and bring out the beautiful Advent Wreath that was given in memory of Fr. Ned.

There will be no Thanksgiving service this year.

Hospital Visits

With the new HIPPA laws, the church isn't notified when you enter the hospital. Please, if a member of your family has been admitted, call the church office so we can arrange a visit. Both Fr. Ben and Deacon Hazel are available. If you need to reach Fr. Ben directly, his home number is 888.8208; his cell is 570.423.1858. He has spotty cell reception in his neighborhood, but you can leave a message.

Christmas Toy Giveaway

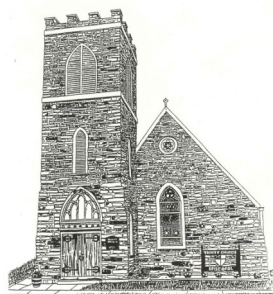
Marie Bubniak is once again organizing the toy giveaway. Please bring in either new or like new toys during the month of November. Batteries are also a good choice to donate. Talk to Marie if you have questions about what kinds of toys are needed. Marie has worked tirelessly on our outreach, putting in countless hours, especially on this last clothing giveaway during and after the flood. Thank you, from all of us, Marie, for your wonderful ministry to those in need.

Mitten Tree

Once again, during the four Sundays of Advent, our tree will be up for you to decorate with mittens, gloves, scarves or warm socks. We'll take them down on Fourth Advent (12/18), when we decorate for Christmas, and the items will be donated locally. So, please start bringing things for the tree the last weekend of this month.

The Flood: An afterword. Give thanks that our church buildings suffered absolutely no damage. While this flood was in some ways more severe than '72, there wasn't a drop of water even under the church. ... which will soon have new doors!

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November at Trinity