

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
The Rev. Benjamin Lee Lentz, Supply Priest
The Rev. Hazel B. Hunt, Supply Deacon

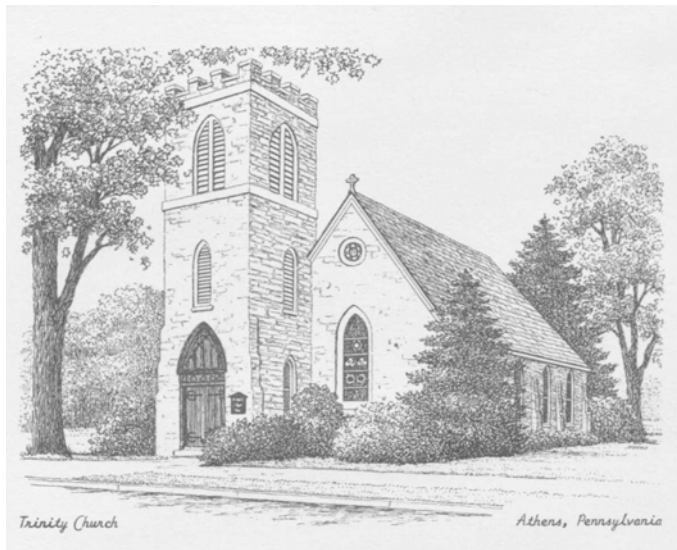
Office: Voice and Fax: 570-888-5715
Parish Administrator, Barbara Cameron Caum: 570.888.8981
information@trinityathens.org
Web Site: www.trinityathens.org

Christmas - Epiphany, January, 2012

A New Year, Another Annual Meeting

Fr. Ned was called to be your rector in October, 1990. The first annual meeting for him was January, 1991. As an exercise, I've pulled out all the reports from Annual Meetings, beginning with that one, which was the first one I put together.

The cover is a lovely old print of the church surrounded by bushes and trees with no sign of the rectory (the artist's choice; it really was there).



The front trees and bushes were removed in 1991 to create our Memorial Garden, which was given in memory of Ralph Catlin. Fr. Ned's ashes are interred there now.



Our building and our parish have changed a great deal since 1991.

The 1991 Annual Reports state that the previous year the parish hall kitchen was completely remodeled, the sacristy ceiling was redone, the brick on the back of the church was repointed and a leak in the rectory master bedroom was repaired. Much of the funding was provided by Trinity Guild, a women's organization which held a yearly bazaar and hosted each Sunday's coffee hours. The church school consisted of the three Murray girls, the three Catlin girls and one boy, Alan Caum, and was taught by John Catlin, who was also acting Senior Warden. The Bridge apartments were all rented, which pleased the vestry. Fr. Ned, who had been rector for just two months, wrote that God had a plan for Trinity and its unique ministry of welcoming.

During the 1990s the church grew and had a vital church school and youth group, though it always struggled with finances. Once the Bridge Apartment Building was sold, which took up almost 3/4 of the vestry's time and energy, the parish moved forward into further discerning its members' ministries and gifts. It was a good decade.

This past decade has seen a time of rich spiritual growth and Outreach, but a decline in our membership. We have lost members to death and to relocation. We have also lost members to the general trend in society of people losing interest in church. As in most small churches there are a very few people willing to take on the tasks that keep things going. As a priest once told me, "church doesn't just happen." Each task that each of us takes on contributes to Trinity being here; no one of us is expected to do it all; it's a shared venture.

Getting involved does not mean that as soon as you walk in the door you get appointed to a committee!

Continued on Page 2

To begin with it is as simple as lending your voice to the prayer responses and hymns. Later, it might mean that you bring cookies for coffee hour on a Sunday, pick up the leftover bulletins after worship, or drop off the weekly food donations to the food pantry. It might mean planting flowers in the garden in spring; bringing a box or two of cereal on Sunday morning for the Food Pantry, flipping pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, or offering flowers from your own garden for the Altar in the summer and fall. Small things, each of which make up a whole which enables us to become the Body of Christ ministering in the world. Simple.

The last two years have been rough, there's no denying that. We lost Fr. Ned, then we lost our rector and senior warden. Things happen ... but as I heard preached once in a wedding sermon, that well known R-rated phrase about what happens can give us an opportunity to respond with grace: Grace Happens.

Look at what we accomplished! The church building has been renovated and we finally, finally, have new front doors! We have been blessed with the ministries of Fr. Ben Lentz on Sundays and Deacon Hazel Hunt on Saturdays so that we have continued to have rich worship services each weekend. We have two new worship leaders (lay readers) and Eucharistic ministers (chalice bearers), very good visitations from our Archdeacon and Bishop, and so much more.

My father-in-law used to be fond of saying, "Don't confuse quantity with quality." He was a wise and good man. I urge you to keep his words in mind as we plan for the coming year.

Join us in planning. The 169th Annual Meeting of the members of Trinity is Sunday, January 22nd following the 9 a.m. service. There will be a pot luck brunch. Your prayers and presence are most assuredly invited.

For those of you who oversee ministry areas, please have your report to me by Sunday, January 15th. If you have items for the meeting agenda, please let me know by that date as well.

Thank you all for all that you do.

Barbara
888.8981

December was a Good Month

Toy Giveaway: As most of us saw, the parish hall was crammed with toys through November and part of December. Marie reports that although she wasn't as busy this year with people coming in, the toys all found homes both with the people on her list from local agencies and with flood victims in the Southern Tier of New York. Thank you to Marie and her helpers for this wonderful ministry.

Mitten Tree: Once again, during the four Sundays of Advent, our tree was decorated with mittens, gloves, scarves and warm socks. In fact, there were so many offerings, including some beautifully hand-knit ones, that the overflow ended up on the nearest windowsill. Well done, Trinitarians!



Advent and Christmas services:

The Gerharts did a lovely job decorating our Advent Wreath again this year as well as the window sills for Christmas. Dan created a most unique tool by attaching a swiffer duster to the end of a pruning saw and while Marie and Marnie pointed, he went on a cobweb hunt that hasn't been done since ... well the last century, we're sure. Carol decorated the tree and Pat and Barbara set up the sanctuary and crèche. Jean Winston had donated altar flowers in memory of her parents, Gordon and Frances Langford on First Advent and they lasted all the way through Christmas.



Christmas Eve brought us the most wonderful music with Rachel Cama on Viola da Gamba, Theo Lentz on trombone, guitar

and piano, and Alan Caum on trumpet. All three joined their voices with regulars Kay and Barbara. It was a memorable evening and a joyous Christmas celebration. Fr. Ben Lentz preached about telling the



Trinity Episcopal Church - January 2012

Christmas
Epiphany

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Trinity Cycle of Prayer:</i> 1/1 Patricia and Heather Martin; 1/8 Jon, Wendy, Kim and Kate Murray; 1/15 Kelly Murray and McKenzie Elliott; 1/22 Hildegard Mohr, Peg Murray; 1/29 Cora Orshal, Elizabeth Pashley</p>		<p><i>Diocese of Bethlehem:</i> 1/1: St. Andrew's, Alden: The Rev. John Leo, Supply. 1/8: Church of the Mediator, Allentown: The Rev. Canon Maria W.E. Tjeltveit, Rector. 1/15: Grace, Allentown: The Rev. Elizabeth Hoffman Reed, PIC; The Rev. Christine Nord, Deacon Rodney Conn. 1/22: St. Andrew's, Allentown/Bethlehem: The Rev. T. Scott Allen, Rector. 1/29: St. John's, Ashland; Christ Church and North Parish, Frackville, Holy Apostles', St. Clair: The Rev. Bruce Baker, Supply.</p>		<p><i>Kajo Keji:</i> 1/1 Leikor: Lule James; Enoka Pitia, Emmanuel Waran. Lire Secondary School. 1/8 Liwolo: Charles Kenyi, Augustino Loboka. Pomoju Girls Secondary School. 1/15 St. Peter's, Logu: James Dima, Augustino Lubang. Canon Beniyah Poggo College: Henry Leju, Staff, and Students. 1/22 Kala: Abate Joel, William Nyoma, Moses Dilla. Mangaloti: Yusto Wani. 1/29 Bori: Clement Duku, Jeneth Adiko, Michael Wolyan. Liwolo Secondary School.</p>		
<p>1 Holy Name 9:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>2 AA 8:00 pm</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 AA 7:30 pm AA/ Alanon 7:30 pm <i>Marie Bubniak Bryan Bean</i></p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 The Epiphany </p>	<p>7 Epiphany I Baptism of Christ 5:00 Holy Eucharist</p>
<p>8 Epiphany I - Baptism of Christ 9:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>9 AA 8:00 pm</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 AA 7:30 pm AA/ Alanon 7:30 pm</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 <i>Sharon & Harold Cole</i></p>	<p>14 Epiphany II 5:00 Holy Eucharist</p>
<p>15 Epiphany II 9:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Coffee Hour Vestry Meets—Annual Reports due</p>	<p>16 AA 8:00 pm <i>Janet Gurney</i></p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 St. Peter AA 7:30 pm AA/ Alanon 7:30 pm</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Epiphany III 5:00 Holy Eucharist</p>
<p>22 Epiphany III 9:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Coffee Hour and 170th Annual Meeting of the Members of Trinity</p>	<p>23 AA 8:00 pm</p>	<p>24 <i>Paul Kelley</i></p>	<p>25 St. Paul AA 7:30 pm AA/ Alanon 7:30 pm <i>Catherine Page Gurney</i></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Epiphany IV 5:00 Holy Eucharist <i>David Bivens</i></p>
<p>29 Epiphany IV 9:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>30 AA 8:00 pm <i>Joe Cama</i></p>	<p>31</p>	<p><i>Anglicans Around the World:</i> 1/1 The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia, The Most Rev. William Brown Turei Pihopa. 1/8 The Anglican Church of Australia, The Most Rev. Dr. Phillip John Aspinall Archbishop of Brisbane & Primate of Australia. 1/15 The Church of Bangladesh, The Most Rev. Paul Sarker, Moderator, Church of Bangladesh & Bishop of Dhaka. 1/22 Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil, The Most Rev. Maurício Jose Araujo de Andrade Primate of Brazil & Bishop of Brasilia. 1/29 The Anglican Church of Burundi, The Most Rev. Bernard Ntahoturi Archbishop of the Province of Burundi & Bishop of Matana.</p>			

story in his delightful story-telling way, and we were also joined by our former rector, The Rev. Trula Hollywood, other far-flung Trinity "family" members and a few visitors.

When Fr. Ben dismissed us, he quipped, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord through those beautiful new front doors!" It was a marvelous way to end the year.

January Highlights:

Saturdays: Deacon's Mass, 5 p.m.
Sundays: Holy Eucharist with Music, 9 a.m.

January 1: Holy Name. Holy Eucharist with music, 9 a.m.

January 7th and 8th: Baptism of Christ. Deacon's Mass and Renewal of Baptismal Vows, Saturday at 5; Holy Eucharist and Renewal of Baptismal Vows, Sunday at 9 a.m.

January 15th: Vestry Meets

January 22nd: The 169th Annual Meeting



of the members of Trinity Church will be held on Sunday, January 22nd following the 9 a.m. worship. There will be a pot-luck brunch. Everyone is invited. If Trinity is your regular place of worship, you are a voting member of the parish.

Please plan to join us. Bring a dish to pass or just come; there is always plenty to share.

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.

Plan Ahead:

February 5th: Souper Bowl of Caring: Tackle Hunger. Put a dollar, or more, into the soup pot for every member of your family to fight hunger. This is a national event which Trinity has taken part in for more than a decade. All donations are given locally.



February 11th: Renewal Assembly, at various locations around the Diocese. Members of the vestry will be attending; everyone is invited. Register at www.diobeth.org.

February 21st: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Dust off your griddles and your pancake flipping skills and join us for our traditional Mardi Gras. Costumes optional; appetites required.

February 22nd: Ash Wednesday. Lent begins. We'll have more details about when and where our service will be next month. We may be holding a joint service with Grace Episcopal Church, Waverly.

Trinity Episcopal Church
703 S. Main Street
Office: 701 S. Main
Athens, PA 18810



January at Trinity

