

Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church
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Advent - Christmas - December - 2003



One less member of the Advent Police

I have always been disturbed by the secularization of Christmas. We see reindeer, snowman, Santas, candles and lights decorating houses, Christmas carols playing, sometimes even before Thanksgiving. For me, Advent has been, or at least I have tried to make it, a quiet time of preparation for the coming of Jesus into the world at Christmas. I found the sentimentalizing and secularization of the season appalling and a lot of negative energy built up in me.

I have seen the light! After 66 years of Bah-Humbugging Christmas preparations before Christmas, I've discovered a way to make it positive. Every time I see lights or lawn decorations (no matter how garish), I say quietly to myself, "Jesus is coming; Jesus is coming."

I've tried it; it works. It focuses me on the real meaning of Advent. Try it yourself. When you see decorations, or even put them up, say to yourself, "Jesus is coming; Jesus is coming!"

Fr. Ned

[Editor's note: After 24 years of trying to cram family Christmas preparations and church preparations into just a day or two before December 25; this revelation by our rector is very, very welcome! Seriously, though, I tried it ... and it does work!]

Speaking of Preparations...

Christmas Flowers

There will be a sign up sheet on the back table of the church for the next three Sundays. You may donate to the fund in Thanksgiving or in memory of a loved one. What you write on the sheet will be printed in the Christmas bulletin.

Christmas Tree

You might also consider donating the tree in memory of a loved one or in Thanksgiving. The Mitchell family did this for years and Sally Ward continued to do so until her passing. We'll be looking for someone with a truck to get the tree to the church; if you can help, please call the church office.

Greening of the Church

On Sunday, December 21, we'll decorate the church for Christmas following the 10 o'clock service. The children will set out the creche and decorate the tree; teens and adults can help with arranging the flowers and putting greens and candles in the windows. Please bring **clippers** and any extra **greens** you have from your yard or your favorite Christmas tree vendor.

Annual Caroling Party

Sunday, December 21, 7 p.m. It looks as though we're going to have some very good singers joining us this year (members of Theatre Grove Company), so plan to join us. After we sing, we'll return to the rectory for the best in food, fun and fellowship.

O come, O come Emmanuel

Parish Life

Pick up Choir

We're getting a lot of interest in preparing special music for Christmas Eve. Since we don't have a regular choir, we'll be "picking up" anyone who'd like to sing. Interested? We'll have a rehearsal on **Tuesday, December 16th** at 7 to figure out exactly what we'll do. If you play an instrument, please bring it (if it's portable!). We do have arrangements on file for trumpet and organ for some of the hymns which Peter and Alan have played in the past. Shirley Huminik, once a member of Trinity, has returned and she plays trombone. Our rough estimate is that we'll have a group of at least 10 singers, some of them special guests. We'll also run through whatever we're doing just before the carol sing on Christmas Eve.

Would you like to know more about Godly Play?

Godly Play, a Montessori based program begins each Sunday at 9:45. Laura Cama does wonderful things with our children. Now, you have a chance to find out more about this. Talk to Laura, and then consider taking the training, which will be offered January 31 at the Cathedral. Also, remember we offer child care each week during the 10 o'clock service.

Mark your calendar now for the **Epiphany Pageant, January 4**, at the 10:00 service. Practices will be announced.

Buildings and Grounds

Members of the building committee recently met with the architects who are designing the restoration work on the church. They looked at the plans and worked on prioritizing them. The first priority is to strengthen the church walls, which are leaning outwards. But there will also be work on drainage around the outside of the church, some repointing of the stone, critter-proofing the attic and other projects. If you'd like to know more, talk to a vestry member or to Fr. Ned.

Altar Guild

December is a very busy month for the Altar Guild. If you'd like to help, please talk to Janice Beck (888-0836). There will be a brass polishing work party at some point as well as extra help during the "Greening of the Church on December 21. Janis also working on the calendar for the coming year, so if you'd like to choose a month to care for the altar, please talk to her.





Young Adults

Looking through the parish roster, we count about a dozen young people who are in college or graduate school. It would be great to hear news from time to time about what they're doing. If you'd like them to receive a newsletter, we can send it by email or by snail mail. And, our newsletter is now available on our web site in pdf format. Let them know. We hope to see all our young people at the caroling party and on Christmas Eve. We hope many will join the choir as well.



Trinity Episcopal Church - December 2003

Advent
Christmas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Trinity Cycle of Prayer: 12/7 John, Barbara and Shelly Strange; 12/14 Ruth Wood, Ann Zulkosky; 12/21 Jake and Joanne Armstrong, Shirley Humink; 12/28 Kathy, Kevin, Jonathan and Alexandra Ayres</p>	<p>1 St. Andrew the Apostle</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Meet with General Convention Deputies, 7 to 8:30, Christ Church, Towanda</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Nicholas Bishop's School, Cathedral, Bethlehem, 10 to 3:30</p>
<p>7 Advent 2 8:00 Holy Eucharist I 9:45 Godly Play 10:00 Holy Eucharist II 11:00 Coffee Hour <i>Barbara Cole</i></p>	<p>8</p> 	<p>9 <i>Heather Hunsinger</i> <i>Hazel Hunt</i> <i>Fr. Ben Lentz</i></p>	<p>10 Meet with General Convention Deputies, 7 to 8:30, St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre</p>	<p>11 <i>Ed Gilbert</i> <i>Shelley Barry</i></p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Bishop's School, Cathedral, Bethlehem, 10 to 3:30</p>
<p>14 Advent 3 8:00 Holy Eucharist I Vestry Meets 9:45 Godly Play 10:00 Holy Eucharist I 11:00 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>15</p> 	<p>16 Choir Practice, 7 p.m.</p>	<p>17 Service of Lessons and Carols, St. Stephen's, Wilkes-Barre 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 The Harmonic Brass Munich and organist Mark Laubach, in concert, St. Stephen's, Wilkes-Barre, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 Advent 4 8:00 Holy Eucharist I 9:45 Godly Play 10:00 Holy Eucharist II 11:00 Greening of the Church 7:00 Caroling Party</p>	<p>22 St. Thomas the Apostle</p> 	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Eve of the Nativity 10:30 p.m. Carol Sing 11:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist <i>Kay Bennett</i> <i>Vic Ross</i></p>	<p>25 The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ - Christmas Day</p> 	<p>26 St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr <i>Don & Beverly Barton (1954)</i></p>	<p>27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist <i>Jason Barry</i></p>
<p>28 Christmas I 8:00 Holy Eucharist I 9:45 Godly Play 10:00 Holy Eucharist II 11:00 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>29 The Holy Innocents</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: 12/7 People with HIV/AIDS, their families, friends and caregivers 12/14 St. Thomas, Morgantown, The Rev. Eleanor Hart, Priest-in-Charge 12/21 Cathedral Church of the Nativity, William Lane, Anne Kirch, Joel Atkinson, David Jones, Joseph Leo 12/28 St. Stephen's, Whitehall, William Ilgenfritz, Mark Lewis.</p>			

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: 12/7 The Episcopal Church in the Philippines 12/14 The Church of the Province of Southern Africa 12/21 Give thanks for the gift of God's Incarnate Son to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. Pray for the Church of God throughout the world. 12/28 The Church of Ceylon in the country of Sri Lanka. **Diocese of Kajo-Keji:** 12/7 Keyo Refugee Camp 12/14 Alere and Agojo Refugee Camps 12/21 Bishop Manasseh, Stephen Tomor and all who work to support the Diocese of Kajo Keji 12/28 Ojiji Refugee Camp. **Diocese of Meath & Kildare:** 12/7 Portlington Union 12/14 St. Bridg's Cathedral, Kildare Union, Curragh Garrison Church 12/21 St. Patrick's Cathedral; Trim & Athboy Union 12/28 Tullamore Union

Budgets and Pledges

Our vestry is planning for 2004 and is working on a budget. Our total budget for 2003 was \$76,000. Of that amount, about 43%, or \$32,500, was from pledges, the other 57% was primarily from endowment and mortgage income. This year, 2003, the mortgage, income from the sale of the building which houses our parish hall, will be paid off and we will lose that income ... about \$4500. The only way to make up that income is for those of us who can, to raise our pledges. Please prayerfully consider this.

This Sunday, December 7, is Pledge Sunday and pledge cards will be distributed at both services. Please fill them one out and place it in the offering plate. Members not in attendance will receive a pledge card in the mail.

Please keep the financial future of Trinity in your prayers.

Fr. Ned

Deck the Halls With Boughs of Holly . . .

Join us after the 10 o'clock service on Sunday, December 21 for the annual "Greening of the Church."

Fa La La La La . . .

Then make plans to join us for the Annual Caroling Party, beginning at 7 at the Rectory. We'll carol the neighborhood and perhaps the nursing homes and return for comestibles and libations.

It Came Upon A Mdnight Clear ... our annual Children's Epiphany Pageant will be January 4th at the 10 o'clock service. Don't miss it!

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December at Trinity



Christmas Eve
Carol Sing at 10:30
Festival Eucharist at 11:00