

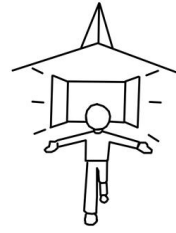


*The Episcopal Church serving
Hancock County, Ohio...and beyond*

Trinity Episcopal Church
128 West Hardin Street
Findlay, Ohio 45840



2024



OUTREACH

Our next monthly trip to serve dinner at the City Mission will be on Friday, January 19, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. Please consider joining us!

And it's time for another parish baking day on Saturday, January 27, starting at 9:30 a.m. Let's see if we can make more cookies than last time (to be shared with our homebound parishioners, the hospital, and the FOCUS day center)! Last time we made 14 dozen! Basic baking supplies will be provided, though if you have unusual favorites or specialties feel free to bring them with you! This is a fun service activity for all ages!

We will continue collecting warm hats, scarves, and gloves for children and adults for the Mitten Tree during cold weather. Our on-going collection for non-perishable food and taxable toiletries (toilet paper, diapers, sanitary items, cleaning and sanitizing products, shampoo, and soap) for area charities also continues. Baskets are in the parish hall. If you would like to be involved with Outreach or have questions, please contact Annie at 870-307-9058 or stricklina@gmail.com.



Altar Guild

Greetings from the Members of the St. Agnes Altar Guild

News from the Aggies

Congratulations and many thanks go to the Guild's two new members, Anne Butcher and Karen Eubanks! They have been training diligently for the last few months and will be 'flying solo' on set up and clearing starting in January. A BIG Thank You, also, for all of their help during the very busy time we had Dec 22 through Christmas Day taking care of set-ups and clears for all four of the services celebrated on Dec 24 and 25. There is a lot to learn when you serve in the Guild, and they have done it with excellence and good humor.

If you ever wondered who changes the hangings from blue to white to green and red, fills the candles, polishes the silver, and arranges the poinsettias on the altar, it's the Aggies! We love what we do and appreciate deeply what we see as an honor to help with preparing for the services in which we all share.

We are hoping to start training two new members for the Guild in late January or early February. Training takes about four months (flexible scheduling!) and Guild Members serve as Mentors through the entire time. We're also always there to help each other throughout the year. If you feel you might be interested in becoming part of the Aggies, we are happy to answer all and as many questions as you have. The Altar Guild welcomes all members of Trinity to serve. You can serve individually, as a couple, with a friend, or a teen with a parent. Please talk to any of the Guild members for more information. We also welcome you to watch us 'do what we do' any Sunday morning at 9:30 as we clear after 8:30 and reset for 10:00, or after the 10:00 service to watch the clearing process.

Jan Taylor, Sacristan; Members Phyllis Watkins, Karen Eubanks and Anne Butcher



THE RECTOR WRITES

There is a cliché one may have seen this year and previous years around the first of January in advertisements and self-help circles and the like: “New Year, New Me.” This turn of phrase has always made me a bit uncomfortable, as it seems to place an inordinate amount of faith in human capacity for improvement. I much prefer the sentiment expressed by a friend of mine online: “New Year, Same Me, Same God.” This strikes me as a more reasonable, humble approach to personal progress, whether in the spiritual realm or otherwise. Whatever improvements we make, if they are of any significance, are surely not accomplished under our own steam but thanks to the grace we are given as God who can work in us more than we could possibly ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

That said, I’m a bit ambivalent about New Year’s resolutions, and not just because it always makes securing my preferred elliptical machine at the gym a less certain proposition for a few weeks each January. To be honest, I feel similarly about Lenten disciplines, though I’m certainly more faithful about making an effort at maintaining those. They are related in my mind because I think both may serve their most important function when we fail at them. I am often reminded of one of the petitions in “A General Thanksgiving”: “We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.” (BCP, 836) The Gospel gives us freedom to fail - something which each of us will do sooner or later, and which I do all the time! - knowing that the most important thing is not our own success but Christ’s perfection being imputed to us.

None of this should suggest that our efforts are entirely in vain. I’m not certain that true sanctification is possible except through suffering - this it seems to me is the message we hear in the beatitudes and that we see over and over again in the lives of the Saints. Even so, spiritual progress, halting though it may be, is possible to a degree in this life. I was pleasantly surprised by a message on a church sign I saw recently: “This year, aim for progress, not perfection.” I was surprised because this was displayed at a Methodist Church, and the one thing which distinguishes classical Methodism, is the (to my mind utterly incorrect) belief that spiritual perfection in this life is possible. Much as one may lament any church body’s loss of its distinctive attributes and moves toward “lowest common denominator” theology, jettisoning the rather inhumane and empirically falsified claim that we can be perfect is largely a good move as far as I’m concerned.

So, my prayer for you and for myself in this new year is two-fold. First, I pray that you and I can become a little more faithful in all those things that nurture the spiritual and moral virtues in our souls - in prayer and study and acts of kindness and generosity and all the rest. Second, I pray that when we fail - and we will - that we will come to rely even more fully on God’s total love and acceptance of us, undeserving though we are.

Yours in service to the Gospel,
John †



MUSIC NOTES

THANK YOU to Sarah Leroy, Annie Stricklin, Nancy O'Sullivan, Diane Ellerbe, Amy Eisentrager, Nancy Abbey, Lisa Robeson, and Rick Walter for singing in the Christmas choir. Special thanks to Sarah's daughter Cecile and Annie's mother Sally Browder for joining the choir for the Christmas Eve service. Holly McConnell's accompaniment was very much appreciated – the anthems were a lovely addition. Also, our thanks to Barb Masterson who stepped in as director to make it all possible!



LUNCH BUNCH

A good group (size and composition, of course!) gathered at Mancy's for a pre-Christmas celebration. Good food, good friends, good time.

This month we will again be staying in Findlay, choosing a place with tasty food and ample parking - La Charrita.

Please let Nancy O'Sullivan or Ginny Lee know by Wednesday, January 10th if you plan to come. Friday, January 12, 11:30 a.m. La Charrita, 3210 N. Main Street, Findlay.

Ginny Lee Pilstl
Nancy O'Sullivan

CHRIST IN A STRANGER'S GUISE

For you never know when you might meet...

CSG helped get Trinity get ready for Christmas by providing energy for all who helped decorate. A tasty lunch of sloppy joes, chips, and dessert was enjoyed by all. While the church was being decorated, our very own elves (Deb Bartlett and Nancy O'Sullivan) offered a wrapping service. This was a real win/win both for folks like yours truly for whom wrapping is a real chore and for the rector's discretionary fund which received thank offerings for the gifts wrapped.

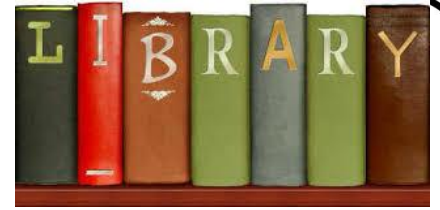
Trinity's Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 21st. Lunch that day will be a true potluck with folk bringing a favorite to share. CSG will meet after the 10:00 a.m. service on January 7th to finalize plans. All are welcome to join!

Ginny Lee Pilstl, Chair

...Christ in a stranger's guise.

Trinity Tidings

Welcome to January! The Trinity library has some great books for learning, affirming, or exploring. If the snow starts to fall, the temperatures drop, and you're looking for a good book, stop in to browse the collection. Borrowing books is free and there is no set return date for borrowed books. The library is located in the parlor.



To catch your interest, here is a short passage from this month's featured book: Living in the Spirit by Rachel Hosmer and Alan Jones, part of The Church's Teaching Series.

The Christian's Call to Prayer

"What Christ accomplished on the cross, once and for all, in a particular place at a particular time, is now the source of all our being and doing. The Christian's call to discipleship in prayer is a call to share in the whole life of the Lord, in his dying and in his rising. We are not only to bear our Cross, but, strangely, to bear also the Resurrection. In the Gospels the accounts of the calls of the disciples resemble the Old Testament accounts of the calls of the prophets. We are called in this manner, too. We read accounts of individual experiences summoning a person to leave familiar tasks and well-trod paths behind, and to explore new ways, ways that involve risk and call for strength far beyond their powers. The response to the call itself is an experience of transformation. Christians are called to take up the cross and follow. As we hear this word in faith and open ourselves to receive the gift hidden in the call, we are taken up into life on a different level, the level of what the New Testament calls the Kingdom. The life of prayer is largely a waiting in patience for the call, a quiet and intense listening for the creative word that proclaims the reign of God. (p 25)"

FRIEND OF TRINITY WILL HAVE ART AT GALLERY

In November, the Lunch Bunch was treated to a wonderful tour of items in the Toledo Museum of Art which were selected with the Advent season in mind - thanks to Marie Loudon-Haynes. Now there is an opportunity to see her art!

The Art League is hosting art from Dr. Marie Loudon-Hanes through January 25th in the Findlay Art League Gallery.

Dr. Marie Loudon-Hanes is a painter, art historian, ordained pastor, and recent author. The gallery will have her paintings on display and copies of her book, "Winslow Homer and the Demi-Monde" available for purchase. In her own paintings, she manipulates form and color and plays the resulting imagery against the shifting and seasonal patterns of light and dark as defined by the natural environment.

The Art League will host an Artist's Reception on Saturday, January 6, from 2-4 p.m. in the gallery.

Trinity Tidings

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YOU MAY request to receive *Tidings* by e-mail. Just let Deborah know you would prefer this method rather than picking up your copy or having it sent to you in the mail. Please include your up-to-date e-mail address! You may call, e-mail (trinfin128@gmail.com), leave a note in the mailbox in the yellow room, or just stop in!

A Prayer for the New Year

Lord, whether we're leaving behind a year of joy and blessing or trials and difficulties, we pause to give thanks. We thank you that you are always with us, every single day of every single year. Please remind us of your presence in the year ahead, even when life is busy. We are so thankful that we serve a God who makes things new and gives us the grace of fresh starts and new beginnings. Be glorified in our lives this year. In Jesus' name, Amen.



CHURCHMAN'S
ORDO
— CHURCH YEAR GUIDE —

2024
NOW AVAILABLE IN
PARISH HALL
\$7 each – to benefit
the Altar Guild.

SERVERS

At present, the liturgical schedule includes Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers only – and they are greatly appreciated! Especially needed are lectors for 8:30 a.m. and LEMs for 10 a.m. If you would like to take part in future services at Trinity, please let Fr. John or Deborah know.

The 2024 sign-up sheet for Sunday flowers is now on the bulletin board in the parish hall.



WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

We all need a little prayer and Trinity provides a prayer list each week in the bulletin for those who could use some extra. Would you please take a moment to review that prayer list and help us keep it up-to-date? If there are names which should be removed, let Deborah know. If there is someone on your heart, we can add that person. Thank you!

**ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY
TIDINGS SHOULD BE
SUBMITTED BY
JANUARY 29TH. THANKS!**

TRULY KEEPING IN TOUCH...

Some parishioners not able to attend services, or attend regularly, would enjoy calls or cards from the rest of us, and visits especially from people who know them. Others have moved – so this is an update on their contact information:

Michael McCoy - 350 E 1st Ave, Ajo, AZ 85321 (winter address)

Catherine Albrecht & Michael Romary - 1229 Turner Meadow Drive, Raleigh, NC 27603

Leah Richardson – Primrose Apartments, 3500 W. Elm, Apt. 234, Lima, OH 45807

Romelle Aldrich - 83 Harwood Road, Monroe, NJ 08831

John and Paula Wolper - 2248 Dominion Drive, Fort Mitchell, KY 41017

Dave & Peg Bell – 779 Tupper Street, Brockville, Ontario, Canada K6V6A1

Beverly McCoy – 2911 West High Street, Lima, OH 45807

Bob & Mary Brater – 300 Woodhaven Drive, #2309, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

Marjorie Weaver – 4931 Nettleton, #7105, Medina, OH 44256



KEEPING IN TOUCH

PERSONAL NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR AND ABOUT THE TRINITY FAMILY. IF YOU HAVE ITEMS OF INTEREST TO SHARE, (BIRTHS, ENGAGEMENTS, GRADUATIONS, HONORS, AWARDS, WEDDINGS, PERFORMANCES, ACHIEVEMENTS, ACTIVITIES, ETC.) PLEASE SUBMIT THEM BY THE 3rd WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH FOR THE NEXT PUBLICATION.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

06 – Gloria Wolph
 11 – Jodi Shaull
 12 – Fr. John Drymon
 13 – Nancy Woodruff
 14 – Greg Eisentrager
 17 – John Masterson
 20 – Seth Richardson, Sue Ann Sandusky
 21 – Ginny Lee Pilstl
 23 – Jim Ellerbe
 30 – Megan Dailey, Brian Dailey



JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

30 – Thomas & Deborah Brumley



If ever there is a name omitted from one of these lists, or if an item is incorrect, please contact the church office with the information.

COFFEE CORNER



JANUARY

7th – Butcher
 14th – Eisentrager
 21st – Annual Meeting
 28th –

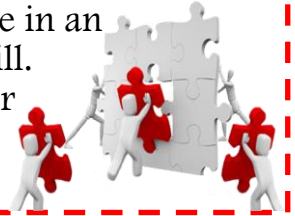
THERE ARE OPENINGS FOR HOSTS IN 2024!
 Please consider adding your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. You don't have to do it alone – several families or a group may host together and it may be as simple as making the coffee and bringing packaged cookies!

THANK YOU for the donations of coffee and decaf!

Trinity Tidings

WHERE DO YOU FIT??

Everyone has special gifts – share yours with your church! Please consider lending your talents to a committee in an area of your interest or skill. Just contact a committee or vestry member or attend a meeting to join.



SUNDAY FLOWERS

Please let Deborah know by noon on Wednesday of that week what you would like printed in the bulletin for your gift of flowers. E-mail to trinfin@att.net or call 419-422-3214. When providing flowers from a florist, they should be delivered to the church between 9 a.m. and noon on Friday. **If you bring flowers in a vase** and would like it returned, please tape your name to the bottom so it doesn't find its way to Trinity's collection and eventual donation. Thanks.



"Mommy, can I have a cup of kindness before I go to bed tonight?"