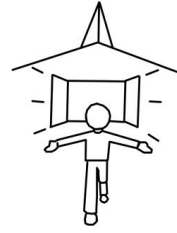


Trinity Episcopal Church  
128 West Hardin Street  
Findlay, Ohio 45840

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



2024

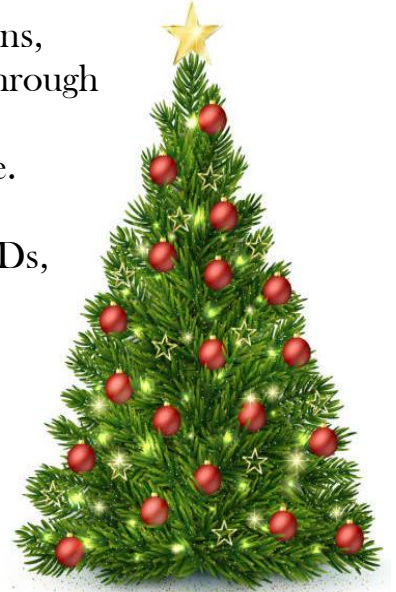


## OUTREACH

Our next trip to help serve dinner at the City Mission will be Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 4 - 6:30 p.m. Please consider joining us!

THE MITTEN TREE is up and ready for you to decorate with mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for all ages! We are adopting three families through Cancer Patient Services. If you would like to help (shopping for gifts, wrapping, delivering) or to contribute financially, please contact Annie. We continue to collect gifts for the MV Findlay Mariners through the Seaman's Church Institute: snacks, small toiletries, puzzle books, DVDs, blank stationary, and (filled-out!) Christmas cards.

Many thanks for your support of our on-going collection of non-perishable food and taxable toiletries (toilet paper, diapers, sanitary items, cleaning and sanitizing products, shampoo, and soap) for area charities. 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](mailto:stricklina@gmail.com).



## CHRIST IN A STRANGER'S GUISE

*For you never know when you might meet...*

A special coffee hour with cake and punch was held on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> following the 10 a.m. service. What made it special? Celebrating Trinity's Stewardship campaign AND Victoria Hansen (Confirmed) and Joanie Horvath (Received).

On Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> following the 10 a.m. service, we'll gather to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. CSG will provide both sustenance (pizza) for the decorators (and supervisors!) and Christmas wrapping (donations appreciated but not required). Please join us for a fun time!

In the new year, CSG and the choir are planning a good old fashioned 'hymn sing' following services some cold and dreary winter day. Exact date to be determined, but think about favorite hymns you'd like to be included. Stay tuned (literally and figuratively!).

Our next meeting will be following the 10 a.m. service on January 5<sup>th</sup>. We'll be making plans for food during the Annual Meeting as well as the aforementioned hymn sing. Grab a cuppa and a friend and join us then.

Ginny Lee Pilstl, Chair

*...Christ in a stranger's guise.*



## THE RECTOR WRITES

Many of you know that I choose the hymns we sing on Sundays. Typically, I make a rota for an entire liturgical season or for several at once, and this is a pretty fun task for me. I enjoy thinking about what hymns support the message of the biblical texts assigned for each week, striking the right balance between familiar and less-familiar hymns, and planning where to place any given hymn during the liturgy. You need more verses to cover processions, for example, and I think it's generally best to choose more familiar hymns for the entrance and the retiring processions so that we begin and end on high notes - sometime literally if there's a descant! The music for each Sunday is one of the few variable elements of the liturgy, and I appreciate the opportunity to add some variation in this regard.

All that said, I have a confession to make. I simply cannot bring myself to fool around with the hymns for Christmas Eve each year. Perhaps I'm making an idol out of consistency, but it's always seemed to me that one would be disappointed - I know I would be! - to begin Christmas Eve within anything other than "O Come All Ye Faithful" or to end the celebration with anything other than "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." This need I have for consistency at Christmas extends beyond the liturgical. I must listen to the live broadcast of Lessons and Carols from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve morning. The stockings must be opened before anything else on Christmas morning, and then the opening of other gifts must proceed from oldest to youngest, with each recipient being given full attention as he or she is opening each gift. I must cook the same dishes using the same recipes for Christmas dinner with little or no variation. I suspect there are those reading this who may have similarly firm ideas about what Christmas traditions must never be amended or scrapped.

This approach can bring a great deal of comfort, and there's nothing wrong with that. However, sometimes life throws something at us which requires us to modify our expectations. That certainly happened for many of us for at least a year or two due to Covid, and thank God that so many of us have been able to reestablish the "old traditions" more-or-less intact as the dangers of that disease gradually became less acute. Sometimes, though, it is something more permanent which might change those practices permanently - the death of a family member or friend, adult children whose lives have taken them far away, elderly parents or grandparents who can't continue doing everything to make Christmas "perfect"... one could go on. In these times we must ask ourselves if "Christmas as we've always done it" is the most important thing, or if we are for understandable reasons missing part of the point.

On the first Christmas, the Holy Family's experience was the precise opposite of comfortable routine. They had to be away from home and family to be counted in the census. Our Lady gave birth to the Savior surrounded by livestock in a common place rather than at home surrounded by family. After Our Lord's presentation and circumcision the other events surrounding childbirth had to be prorogued as Jesus, Mary, and Joseph fled for their lives to a foreign country. My own little expectations about the when and how to trim the tree and how precisely the brussels sprouts are supposed to be prepared seem rather trivial in the light of that truth. Yet we know that even in the midst of harrowing circumstances, Mary and Joseph knew the importance of what was happening, and I believe they must have experienced tremendous joy in the midst of them.

Some churches hold "Blue Christmas" services particularly for those who have difficulty during the holidays. This practice comes from a compassionate place and I've heard stories of some finding this sort of offering helpful. That said, I've never been a fan of segregating those who rejoice and those who mourn, particularly at Christmas. We bring both our joys and our sorrows to the altar; the birth of the Christ Child is just as much good news for the sad as it is for the glad. Maybe this is why conducting Christmas Eve services in the customary manner is even more important for me than maintaining all the domestic traditions. Whatever else happens, we'll still sing "Silent Night" by candlelight, right? Well, even if that time-honored practice were to go by the wayside, Christ will still be born, and he will still return to take us to himself, and we can always find comfort and joy in that, come what may.

Yours in service to the Gospel,

John†

# Trinity Tidings



## MUSIC NOTES

The choir is rehearsing for Christmas after coffee hour on December 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, and at 9 a.m. on December 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. We'd love to have new voices join us!



## LUNCH BUNCH

"Lunchbunchers" gathered in the back room of Baker's Cafe in downtown Findlay in November. Salads, sandwiches, quiches, and great conversations were enjoyed by all.

This month we'll celebrate the season by having lunch at Mancy's in the Hancock Hotel. The hotel has valet parking or you can park at Trinity and walk over. Please let Nancy O'Sullivan or Ginny Lee know by Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> if you can come.

WHEN: Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Mancy's, Hancock Hotel

Ginny Lee Pilstl  
Nancy O'Sullivan



## CHURCHMAN'S ORDO - CHURCH YEAR GUIDE -

2025 Kalendars are now available in the parish hall. \$7 each with the proceeds going to the Altar Guild. Please place money in the envelope provided.



Sign-up sheets for 2025

Altar Flowers  
and Coffee

Hours are now on  
the bulletin board.



## OFFERING ENVELOPES

Those who ordered offering envelopes may pick them up in the parish hall. If you didn't order and would like to have them, help yourself to un-numbered ones or contact Deborah for numbered sets.

## POINSETTIAS

You may order poinsettias now through December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Plants are \$9 each and available in red and white. Order forms are in the parish hall.



"Let's sing that -  
'O Little Town of  
Bethle-hymn'."

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, leave a note in the mailbox in the yellow room, e-mail (trinf128@gmail.com), or just stop in!

### *A Prayer for December*

Heavenly Father, as I step into the month of December, I come before you with a heart full of reflection and gratitude. This month marks the end of another year – a year filled with challenges and blessings, losses and gains, tears and laughter. I thank you for your faithfulness through it all. Your unchanging hand has guided me, your strength has upheld me, and your love has enveloped me every day. In this season of reflection, help me to look back with gratitude, acknowledging your presence in every moment. May I recognize the lessons learned, the growth experienced, and the grace you have abundantly provided. Let me carry forward the wisdom gained into the new year, trusting in your continual guidance and care. In Jesus' name, Amen.



**ITEMS FOR JANUARY *TIDINGS* SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>. 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

Romelle Aldrich - 83 Harwood Road, Monroe, NJ 08831

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

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

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

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



# Trinity Tidings

## SERVERS

OUR GREETERS ARE BACK! The liturgical schedule now includes Lectors, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, and Greeters – and they are greatly appreciated! Especially needed are lectors for 8:30 a.m. and LEMs for 10 a.m. At present, greeters are scheduled through August. We welcome all to sign-up beginning in September. If you would like to take part in future services at Trinity, please let Fr. John or Deborah know.

The sign-up sheet for Sunday flowers is 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!

# Trinity Tidings

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 3<sup>rd</sup> WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH FOR THE NEXT PUBLICATION.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 04 – Peg Dailey, Anna Funke
- 06 – Neil Bartlett, Sam Boucher
- 09 – Anna McConnell
- 12 – Diane Ellerbe
- 14 – Sarah Leroy, Rita Roberts
- 23 – Bob Butcher
- 29 – Lilly McConnell



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 30 – Joe & Julie Boucher
- 31 – Dave & Karen Eubanks



## COFFEE CORNER



### DECEMBER

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Funke family
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Anne & Bob Butcher
- 15<sup>th</sup> –
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – CSG
- 29<sup>th</sup> –

### THERE ARE OPENINGS FOR HOSTS!

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!

6

### 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 [trinfin128@gmail.com](mailto:trinfin128@gmail.com) 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 into Trinity's collection and eventual donation. Thanks.



*Deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Nicholas Solomon who died on Thursday, November 21, 2024.*



**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 info.**

News was received on Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> of the death of John Wolper that morning. Our sympathy to his friends and loved ones.



Condolences to Rick Walter and his family on the death of his brother George Walter.

# Trinity Tidings



Joanie (L) and Victoria (R)

## CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME!

On Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> Victoria Hansen was confirmed and Joanie Horvath was received by Bishop Jolly at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Perrysburg.

Sunday morning, November 24<sup>th</sup>, Trinity celebrated the ladies with a special coffee hour.

*Your talents are God's gift to you...what you do with them is your gift to God.*

You may still complete your 2025 pledge card. If you need one, there are extras in the parish hall.



### SIGN UP FOR KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Money is donated to Trinity for use to support the community. Kroger Community Rewards program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Shopper's Card. Here's how it works: Create a digital account. If you already have a digital account, simply link your Shopper's Card to your account so that all transactions apply toward the organization you choose. Sign into your digital account, select the organization you wish to support, enter the name of the organization, select the organization and click 'save'. (Go to [Kroger Community Rewards.com](https://www.kroger.com/community-rewards) and follow the instructions.)

Trinity earned \$103.83 in the last quarter from a total of 29 households.