

Trinity Episcopal Church
128 West Hardin Street
Findlay, Ohio 45840

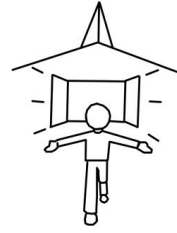
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Trinity Tidings

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

January

2025



OUTREACH

Our next trip to help serve dinner at the City Mission will be Saturday, January 25th, 4 - 6:30 p.m. Please consider joining us!

THANK YOU ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED to our Christmas missions. We will continue collecting winter-weather gear for children and adults on the Mitten Tree through January. 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 or contact Annie, stricklina@gmail.com or 870-307-9058.

Don't throw away your Christmas cards! Bring any greeting cards you've received that you would otherwise discard to Trinity and we will send them to St. Jude's Ranch for repurposing. They accept the fronts of cards (except for Hallmark, American Greetings, and Disney which are copyrighted) Also accepted are new cards (any occasion) with or without envelopes. (Please - no cards promoting other charitable organizations.)

CHRIST IN A STRANGER'S GUISE

For you never know when you might meet...

The church got decorated, presents were wrapped and pizza was enjoyed by all on the Sunday before Christmas. CSG will meet Sunday, January 5th to make plans for the carry-in at the Annual Meeting (Sunday, January 26th), a midwinter hymn sing (details to follow), AND a real treat: the return visit of the Kenyon College Chamber Singers on March 1st. Trinity will be the first stop on their Spring Tour. As before, they will arrive in time for dinner, but since, thankfully, the pandemic has ended, will not be returning to campus after the performance but will continue on their tour after spending the night in Findlay. CSG will feed the Singers and we are asking for volunteers to house them overnight. There will be 42 in all, young men and women. Please see Annie or Ginny Lee for more details and to volunteer a spare bedroom (or two).

Grab a cuppa and a friend after coffee hour on January 5th, as we discuss and plan for the above!

Ginny Lee Pilstl, Chair

...Christ in a stranger's guise.



THE RECTOR WRITES

Because our January calendar is, as ever, a bit different – our annual meeting and potluck luncheon will take place on the fourth Sunday of the month – we’ll only have one opportunity for Christian education after church, on the 12th. Both because I am loathe to begin a series with an immediate month-long gap and because Annie will be out of town visiting family on that Sunday, I was trying to decide what I might do as a “one off” that might appeal to both adults and children for a combined lesson on that day. One parishioner gave me a great suggestion, which is to cover some of the basic “*whats, whens, and whys*” of our worship. I’m going to combine this with something I used to do from time to time at my previous cure, which I like to call “stump the rector!” So, I’d encourage you to come that Sunday with all those questions that have occurred to you (particularly vis-à-vis the liturgy) and that you’ve never asked.

There is one peculiarity of the way we celebrate the Christmas season, though, which I thought I should anticipate and answer now, just because it might lead to questions that Sunday morning, as it does every year from at least one or two parishioners. You all probably know that there are twelve days of Christmas, and that in the majority of churches the Feast of the Epiphany (or the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles) on January 6th begins a new season of the church year. This is a most ancient practice, and I do not mean to contravene it. That said, you may have noticed in the past that when I came here I instituted a curious departure from the standard “clean break” between Christmas and Epiphanytide. Specifically, I have asked that the Christmas tree and greenery and other decorations remain up in the church through February 2nd - the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple (also known as Candlemas, as it was traditionally the day in which the candles to be used in the church for the next year were blessed.

So... why? I confess that this pattern, though not practiced by a majority of other Anglicans/Episcopalians, is not just “Father John being a weird contrarian”, though there may be other things I do which can be explained by that impulse. There are plenty of others, though certainly a minority, which do the same thing. Neither is it sheer laziness, I assure you! There are, in fact, a few reasons we do this at Trinity.

First, and least important, there is the personal/subjective/aesthetic reason. Most of us enjoy our trees and holly and other decorations in our homes for an indeterminate though lengthy period of time in our homes. As I’ve noted before, I have loosened up significantly as I’ve slouched into middle age; I can’t be accused as much as I once might have been as being a member of the “Advent Police.” You may have seen that our tree was erected in the rectory not long after Thanksgiving, and had I turned the volume all the way up on our CD player–tape deck combo (yes some of us are still living in the nineties, admits the man who has never used Spotify!) you might have even heard the faint strains of Christmas music in the parking lot as early as December 1st. That said, the church is never decorated until as close to Christmas Eve as possible, and you’ll not hear carols sung in church until after sunset (or very nearly) on the 24th. We do keep Advent as a separate season with its penitential, not-very-jolly character. So, while the secular world and even non-liturgical churches get a lot of time to enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of Christmas, limiting ourselves to just twelve days (and at most, two Sundays) would be a bit of a bummer!

Much more importantly, there is both historical and liturgical reason to do it this way. You didn’t think I’d make choices about worship based solely on “vibes”, did you? You may see memes circulating online with a picture of Henry VIII claiming that “Tudor Christmas” was observed for forty days rather than twelve, and this is true, though it is misleading. The longer Christmastide was never exclusively an English or Anglican practice, nor was it limited to the Sixteenth Century. Rather, it had been widespread in Western Christendom for centuries. Indeed, until it was suppressed by the Second Vatican Council in the middle of the last century, many Roman Catholics would have celebrated the forty day Christmas, too!

There are at least two reasons for this. First, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (or Candlemas or, as some call, it The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary) serves as an appropriate bookend to the Christmas story which began on Christmas Day itself. Second, there is a venerable tradition within Christianity, in both the East and the West, to follow a period of fasting and penitence with a longer period of feasting and celebration. This is why the forty days of Lent are followed by the fifty days of Easter. Why not, then, follow the three-to-four weeks of Advent with a five-and-a-half-week-long Christmas? I’ll give you my theory - because modern liturgical scholars are more often than not sticks in the mud.

So, I say, let’s keep celebrating! If you want to wish somebody a Merry Christmas on February 2nd, go for it! The leftover turkey and stuffing may not last that long (I don’t recommend chancing salmonella poisoning just to make a point), and I know the tree in the rectory will be a bit crispy by then, but the Good News of God come to dwell with us is an evergreen reason for rejoicing!

Yours in service to the Gospel,

John†

Trinity Tidings



MUSIC NOTES

Thank you to all the choir members: Nancy Abbey, Amy Eisentrager, Diane Ellerbe, Nancy O'Sullivan, Lisa Robeson, Annie Stricklin, and Annie's mother, Sally Browder, for providing lovely music for the Carols and Christmas Eve service. Thanks also to Holly McConnell for accompanying the choir.

Your hard work during practice and your flexibility in continuing when I could not be there is greatly appreciated.

Thank you again,
Barb Masterson



LUNCH BUNCH

December's gathering was a Christmas celebration with attendees enjoying a meal at Mancy's in the beautifully decorated Hancock Hotel. January will be another real treat: Father John is going to bless the Butcher's house in celebration of Epiphanytide on January 10th and Bob and Anne have invited us to come for the service and stay for lunch following.

You can meet at the church at 11 a.m. to carpool or drive directly to Bluffton. Please let Ginny Lee or Nancy know by Wednesday, January 8th if you can come and if you plan to carpool.

January 10th at 11:30 a.m.

Bob and Anne Butcher
810 Red Maple Court
Bluffton

Nancy O'Sullivan
Ginny Lee Pilstl



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

If you didn't order offering envelopes and would like to have them, help yourself to un-numbered ones or contact Deborah for numbered sets.

Trinity Tidings

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 (trinfin128@gmail.com), or just stop in!

A Prayer for January

Dear God, we pray for renewed faith as we begin this new year. Let hope blossom in our hearts, reminding us that with you all things are possible. Help us to grow closer to you and to trust in your promises. May our faith be a light to others. Amen.



TRINITY'S ANNUAL MEETING will be on Sunday, January 29th and include our traditional potluck meal. Please watch for more information in the bulletin. If anyone needs a copy of a report, please let Deborah know.

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. 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!

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

James Marquart - 116 Colle Manuel Domenech #2116, San Juan, PR 00918 USA



Trinity Tidings

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
- 14 – Greg Eisentrager
- 17 – John Masterson
- 20 – Seth Richardson
- 21 – Ginny Lee Pilstl
- 23 – Jim Ellerbe
- 30 – Megan Dailey, Brian Dailey



JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

- 30 – Thomas & Deborah Brumley



COFFEE CORNER



January

- 5th –
- 12th – Anne & Bob Butcher
- 19th –
- 26th – Annual meeting pot luck

THERE ARE OPENINGS FOR HOSTS!

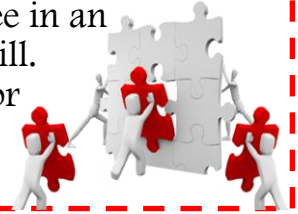
Please consider adding your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. You don't have to do it alone – several families or a group may host together and it may be as simple as making the coffee and bringing packaged cookies!

THANK YOU for the donations of coffee and decaf!

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 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.



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.



"Gosh – that corner looks really lonely now."

Trinity Tidings

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 or contact Deborah.

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 and follow the instructions.)



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



In addition to the lovely choir music of the season, we were treated to *Holy, Holy, Holy* by the Children's Chime Choir on December 22nd. Pictured are Cecilia and Anna Funke, and Anna, Grace, and Ryan McConnell.

ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY TIDINGS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY MONDAY, JANUARY 27TH. THANKS!

