

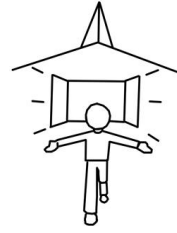
Trinity Episcopal Church  
128 West Hardin Street  
Findlay, Ohio 45840

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

# *Trinity Tidings*

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





## OUTREACH

Our next trip to help serve dinner at the City Mission will be Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 4 - 6:30 p.m. Please consider joining us!

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...*

CSG provided the drinks while various parishioners brought the "good stuff" (and good and plentiful it was) to eat during Trinity's Annual Meeting the last Sunday in January. As always, one says Potluck and Trinityites respond; from yummy salads, sides and soups to scrumptious desserts, twas a bountiful spread!

In last month's Tidings, I had announced an upcoming hymn sing. Due to an overcrowded schedule and upcoming events, particularly the Kenyon College Chamber Singers, we are postponing the sing to a future time. As for the Singers, this will be a very special event as the group is beginning its Spring Tour here in Findlay at Trinity. Those of us fortunate enough to have heard them at the tail end of the pandemic know what an amazing concert it will be. Please come and bring friends on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

CSG will provide dinner for the group before the concert. We are still looking for rooms to house the young men and women overnight. Hosts will take them (minimum of 2) home after the concert and return them to Trinity early Sunday for their departure for their next stop. Remember, these are college students: futons, couches, air mattresses, whatever will be more than acceptable. If you could take 2 or more, please contact Annie or Ginny Lee.

Since Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> (the day after the Kenyon concert) is the Sunday preceding Ash Wednesday, we're again planning to celebrate with a Dimanche Gras. Please join us for this special coffee hour.

Our next meeting has been changed to Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> when we'll meet following coffee hour to finalize plans for the dinner and overnight of the Kenyon College Chamber Singers. Please grab a cuppa and join us in the yellow room.

Ginny Lee Pilstl, Chair

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



## THE RECTOR WRITES

This edition of the newsletter is being distributed on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, a major feast of the church - the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple. This day is commonly called Candlemas because it is traditionally the day on which candles for use in the church for the coming year are blessed. At Trinity we will bless individual candles which we will light at the beginning of the liturgy and which the people are encouraged to take home with them. This raises a question which I frequently get, and which I sometimes wish our tradition had a somewhat more direct way of answering than it does.

There are rites within the church (either two or seven, though that is a question for another time!) which we properly call *Sacraments*. The classical Anglican definition of these is that they are “outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace.” The way I like to put it is that what differentiates the Sacraments from everything else we do together is that they are means by which the church mediates God’s grace *objectively*. Now, God’s grace is everywhere abundant for those with eyes to see it and hearts to accept it, but in these limited cases we have an assurance that God’s grace is present whatever our subjective appreciation of it might be. For example, you might experience God’s grace in your appreciation of a beautiful sunrise, but if you’re not disposed to see God’s hand in that you won’t. On the other hand, the regenerative power of Baptism is simply effective, even when administered to an infant who cannot possibly understand what is happening at the time.

All that said, there are elements of our common life which do not have the quality of a Sacrament, but which still impart some measure of grace to some degree or another. The blessing of candles on Candlemas and their use as a devotional aid for the faithful through the following year is one of them. So is the use of chalk in blessing homes at Epiphany, which some of you availed yourselves this year. So are the ashen crosses of the first day of Lent and the blessed palms of Passion Sunday and the use of holy water on entering and leaving the church. Examples could be provided *ad nauseam*. So where do all these stand vis-à-vis Sacraments, on the one hand, and purely subjective experiences of grace on the other?

Well, in the way in which we Anglican Christians can be so taciturn in providing dogmatic teaching on issues which are peripheral to the big questions of salvation (sometimes a frustrating posture and sometimes a liberating one, depending on the question and one’s own need for clarity!) there is no simple answer here. Within the Roman Catholic church there is a separate category – that of *sacramentals* – to explain these objects and practices. We have been reticent in our communion of adopting this language for an understandable reason – namely, sacramentals have historically and are still in many cases associated with the practice of indulgences. It is no longer acceptable to buy time out of purgatory by giving money to the church, but both plenary and partial indulgences are still technically connected to many pious practices, including sacramentals, in the Roman Church in our own day. There are precious few things which the most “advanced” Anglo-Catholic Episcopalians, like your rector, must reject among the beliefs and practices of our sadly separated sisters and brothers across the Tiber, but the use of indulgences in any sense is certainly among them!

All that said, we share with those sisters and brothers an appreciation of the fact that pious devotion may be enhanced by the use of blessings and of objects set apart for reverence. We also share with them the concern that these are not to be taken as objects of superstitious worship. This can be a fine line, though I think it is easy enough for the individual Christian to maintain this distinction. For a long time there was an overreaction within our own tradition, in an age in which the fervor of the Reformation was more evident, which I would class as an example of the sin of scrupulosity. Blessed palms and ashes on foreheads and the sign of the cross at Baptism and even candles on altars were in many places repressed for fear that they would become objects of idolatry. I think this puritan impulse doesn’t give enough credit to the intelligence of the faithful. I’m not kept awake at night with the fear that my parishioners are treating crosses or icons, whether in their homes or in the church building, as though they were themselves being worshiped rather than being aids to worshiping the one true God. Call me an optimist, but I think you are all smart enough to “get it.”

To put it simply, I think the benefits of these pious practices greatly outweigh the risk of idolatry to such an extent that there is nearly no risk at all. The primary benefit, at least as I see it, is that we are given access to reminders outside the church building of God’s grace in our daily lives. It would probably be inappropriate for somebody to maintain a Eucharistic tabernacle in one’s home, the risk of irreverence regarding the Blessed Sacrament being too great. But a palm cross on one’s desk, a blessed rosary in one’s pocket, a bottle of holy water from the Jordan River or the Well at Walsingham – these can all draw us to being mindful of God’s presence every moment of our lives. One “sacramental” I failed to mention earlier may be the best example of all. When I see or feel my wedding band, which despite wearing it for a dozen years I don’t always forget is there, I’m reminded of the Sacrament of marriage and how it was blessed by the God who continues to bless it, just as the ring itself is a literally blessed object. These constant reminders that God’s grace is not only to be found in the church building on a Sunday morning, but every day, every moment, is a blessing in itself.

Yours in service to the Gospel,

John†

# Trinity Tidings



## MUSIC NOTES

Thanks again to all the choir members. We will soon begin to prepare for Easter. All who enjoy singing are invited to join us!



## LUNCH BUNCH

"Lunch Bunchers" enjoyed a real treat in January when we travelled to Bluffton to the Butcher's. Bob and Anne had asked Fr. John to bless their house during Epiphany. He happily agreed and the Butchers invited everyone to attend and remain for a lunch which they had prepared. The service was lovely, the food, delicious and, as always, the company and conversation, delightful. Thank you Bob, Anne, and Fr. John.

In February, we'll return to a Findlay favorite: Rossilli's in the heart of downtown. Please let Nancy or Ginny Lee know by Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> if you can join us for this Valentine's Day outing.

Friday, February 14, 11:30 a.m.  
Rossilli's, 217 S. Main Street

Nancy O'Sullivan  
Ginny Lee Pilstl



## CHURCHMAN'S ORDO

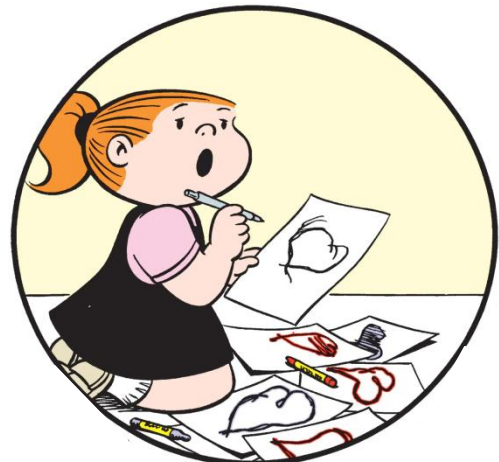
- CHURCH YEAR GUIDE -

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.



"Did God invent HEARTS  
for Valentine's Day or  
was it Cupid?"

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you didn't order offering envelopes and would like to have them, 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 February

Lord, I thank you for the promise of a new month and the opportunities that lie ahead. I place February in your loving hands, trusting in your perfect will and your unending faithfulness.

I ask for your blessings upon every aspect of my life and the lives of those around me. May your peace, joy, love, and righteousness prevail in our hearts, and may your glory be revealed in all we do.

And, as I enter this new month of February, I give you all the praise and glory. I trust in your unfailing love and faithfulness, and know that with you by my side, I can overcome any obstacle. I know that you are always with me, and that you will never leave me or forsake me. In Jesus' glorious name I pray. Amen.



## 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!

**ITEMS FOR MARCH *TIDINGS* SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</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

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

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 05 – Alexandra Risner
- 18 – Nancy Arellano
- 22 – Nancy Abbey, Frank Eisentrager
- 23 – Bob Butcher
- 27 – Robert Abbey
- 28 – Jorgé Rosario-Paris
- 29 – Mark Bolmer



## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 01 – Bette & Fred Snyder
- 14 – Catherine Albrecht & Michael Romary
- 24 – Paul & Nancy O’Sullivan



## COFFEE CORNER



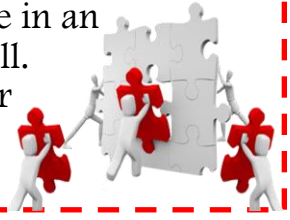
- February**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Nancy Arellano
  - 9<sup>th</sup> –
  - 16<sup>th</sup> –
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> –

### 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!

**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.



*Our deepest sympathy goes to the family and loved ones of Bill Trudeau who passed on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> in Oregon.*



**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.**



“Lincoln had a beard, but Washington just had a face.”

# Trinity Tidings



## St. Agnes Altar Guild

Our heartfelt thanks to Diane Ellerbe for sharing her creative touch with Trinity in this year's Christmas decorations for the sanctuary windows. We love the seasonal wonder and whimsy. Thank you, Diane!

Thank you to all of the St. Agnes Altar Guild members for their dedication and effort during Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany this liturgical season. There are lots of details to see to and they do them beautifully!

If your resolutions for the new year include getting more involved at Trinity and looking at some new ways to serve, take a look at the Altar Guild! If you'd like to 'try it out' to see what it's like and if you'd like it, just talk to any of the Altar Guild members and we'll set you up to help on a set-up day during the week (Thursday, Friday, or Saturday) or on a Sunday at your convenience. Talk with Jan Taylor, Sacristan; Anne Butcher, Karen Eubanks, or Phyllis Watkins.



## 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 \$105.18 in the last quarter from a total of 27 households.

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

In February's chill, we find  
A quiet peace, a tranquil mind.  
The frost still lingers, snowflakes dance,  
In winter's final, gentle trance.

Unknown

## TRINITY VESTRY 2005

Senior Warden – Lisa Robeson  
Junior Warden – Jorgé Rosario-Paris  
Clerk – Gail Beebe  
Treasurer – Peg Dailey  
Asst. Treasurer – Larry Funke  
Jude Davidson  
Karen Eubanks  
Liz Funke  
Barb Masterson  
Ginny Lee Pilstl  
Rick Walter