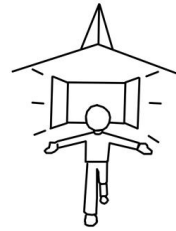




*The Episcopal Church serving  
Hancock County, Ohio...and beyond*

Trinity Episcopal Church  
128 West Hardin Street  
Findlay, Ohio 45840





## OUTREACH

We will, as always, collect pick-me-ups for the workers on the Motor Vessel *Findlay*, who will be away from their families for Christmas and whom we sponsor through the Seamen's Church Institute (we send them snacks, travel toiletries, puzzle books, blank stationary, and any Christmas cards you might want to make for them). The deadline for these collections is Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. All of the above-mentioned items can just come to church with you!

Again we're adopting three households through Cancer Patient Services, and so we'll need help with monetary contributions, shopping for presents, wrapping, and delivering. Our adoptees are low-income local families who have a member undergoing cancer treatments. We try to get them a mix of practical help (gas cards and grocery cards, mainly) and nice little gifts to brighten a difficult time. This year we'll have at least one family with small children. Please let Annie know what you might like to do to help!

Our monthly trip to help serve dinner at the City Mission will be on Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, from 4 - 6:30 p.m. Please consider joining us!

Additionally, we have been approached by the Hancock County ADAMHS Board to collect toilet paper, paper towels, personal hygiene items, and cleaning supplies for the people living in their Board-Owned Housing. (These 30 households include those who are living with severe and persistent mental illness and/or substance use disorders.)

The wish list for December for Darrel the Barrel is cream of chicken and cream of mushroom soup, beef and chicken broth, and beef and chicken powered bullion.

## CHRIST IN A STRANGER'S GUISE

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

November was a busy month for CSG and all Trinity. On Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, we hosted a parish wide shower for Holly and her family. Jacob William McConnell was born on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:10 a.m.! Balloons, cupcakes, and presents galore made for a joyous time. Particularly special was a quilt made by Bette Snyder.

During one November coffee hour, we learned about the laundry services offered by St. Andrews United Methodist Church, our neighbors on West Sandusky Street. Two members of their congregation, Jim and Sue Freel, spoke of the services, it's beginning (attributing the "spark" that led to it coming from Trinity), difficulties and successes. On the last Sunday of the month, Chef Funke served a bountiful breakfast to celebrate our Stewardship ingathering.

On December 21<sup>st</sup>, following the 10 a.m. service, we'll be decorating the church for Christmas. CSG will again provide wrapping services (thanks to Deb Bartlett and Nancy O'Sullivan) for all who have gifts in need and ordering pizza to sustain decorators, wrappers and all attendees!

We'll meet early in the New Year to plan upcoming activities. Stay tuned and plan on joining us!

Ginny Lee Pilstl, Chair

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



## THE RECTOR WRITES

Some people as they age become more curmudgeonly and others become more mellow. At least that's the received wisdom. I find that to be an oversimplification, at least as far as my own development is concerned. On some issues I've no doubt become more grumpy and immovable; this is, perhaps, a greater danger for those of us who are entering middle age without the benefit of the natural flexibility engendered by child-rearing. It's a small mercy that we don't have a lawn, because I might start telling people to get off of it if we did. In some matters, though, I've become far less rigid. If you'd told me a decade ago that I would eventually resign my post in the "Advent Police", I'd have called you crazy.

But here we are, barely past Thanksgiving, and we've put up the tree and the lights and we're playing our Christmas CDs and tapes on the boom box. (I don't even want to know who has to look up what compact disks, cassette tapes, and boom boxes are!) I've even pulled out the old Messiah score and, having found the closest "sing-along" performance of the oratorio, decided it's worth a trip to Oberlin on a Sunday evening. I've been practicing the bass parts of the choruses when nobody's around. Perhaps I've gone Christmas crazy!

I'm even trying new things - after some years of lobbying, I finally acceded to Annie's desire to watch a particular Christmas movie about which I'd always been more than a little skeptical. How can one improve on the cinematic perfection of *The Bishop's Wife*, starring Cary Grant, Loretta Young, and David Niven? I relented and finally consented to viewing the remake, *The Preacher's Wife* starring Denzel Washington and Whitney Houston. And you know what...it was pretty darn good! I maintain that the original is superior, mostly because Cary Grant's version of Dudley the angel has a slight sinister edge that, for me, Washington is just a little too lovable to pull off.

So, the shoe is now on the other foot, and I have to try harder to keep Advent while I'm simultaneously prematurely celebrating Christmas. Thank God I, we, have tools at our disposal. Our liturgical observance on Sundays remains Advent- rather than Christmas-focused. All our ongoing outreach projects remind us that works of corporal mercy are particularly appropriate during this penitential season. (There has for years been a debate about whether or not Advent is, like Lent, a penitential season, but take it from me - it is.) And, at least for me, an increased workload in December keeps me from celebrating too much before Christmas Day.

But most of all, it is in keeping the Daily Office of Morning and Evening Prayer that keeps me grounded in the spirit of this season, even while starting to celebrate the next one a bit. The assigned lessons from scripture remind me at least twice a day about the need to contemplate the four last things, the themes of Advent - death, judgment, hell, and heaven. The prophets call me to repentance and to expectant longing for Christ's return. The candles we light on our wreath at home during the evening office remind me of the paradox of light slowly growing even as the darkness deepens in the world outside (both literally and figuratively), as we wait to see if that first purple candle is nothing but a nubbin when we light the central, white candle on Christmas Day.

I truly believe that the best way to observe Advent is also the best way to become a better-functioning, more-or-less mature Christian, and it's simple: say your prayers and read your bible. That's the only thing that works for me, anyway. You'll find plenty of people who provide dissenting opinions - usually prioritizing social action over spiritual discipline - but I tend to think that their approaches put the sleigh before the horse. Taking twenty minutes twice a day to pray in the simple way the prayer book lays out for us makes a world of difference for me. If I "forget" (read: "think I'm so important that I don't have forty minutes out of twenty four hours to go to God in prayer and to read his word", which happens less and less frequently these days than they may have once) I can feel myself getting restless and irritable. It's not worth skipping one's prayers in my experience. In all events, it's already had the fringe benefit of reminding me in the midst of Christmas celebration to take a tick and remember it's still Advent.

Yours in service to the Gospel,

John †

# Trinity Tidings

4



## MUSIC NOTES

The choir will not meet on Sunday, December 7 or 14. We will resume rehearsals at 9 a.m. on December 21 and again at 6:15 p.m. on Christmas Eve. We welcome all who would like to join in providing special music for Christmas Eve.

On December 28 and January 4 we will meet at 9 a.m. in the parish hall to rehearse for the Christmas program. Thank you to everyone in the choir for their participation and hard work!

**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 (trinfnl28@gmail.com), or just stop in!

The sign-up sheet for 2026 Sunday flowers is on the bulletin board in the parish hall.



## December Prayer

Dear Father,

As we prepare our hearts for December, we ask that you bring to our minds the blessings you have given us over the past year. Let us not forget your tender care over our lives. We ask you to strengthen our faith to look ahead to December with hope. Let us open our hands to receive from you. If our hands are full, let us be willing to share what we have with those who don't. If our hands are clenched shut in despair and disappointment, we ask you to pry them open so that we may receive your goodness.

Fill us to overflowing with your joy, we ask in Jesus' name, Amen.



## SERVERS

The liturgical schedule now includes Lectors, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Greeters, and Altar Servers – 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.

**ITEMS FOR JANUARY *TIDINGS* SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>. THANKS!**

## WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

We all need a little prayer and Trinity has 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!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION will not meet during December.

THE FALL 2025 directory is available in the parish hall or you may have it mailed or emailed to you. Please let Deborah know if you'd like one sent to you and how.

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

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

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

27 – Todd & Paula Sue Russell  
 30 – Joe & Julie Boucher  
 31 – Karen & David Eubanks

**STEWARDSHIP PACKETS**

are available in the parish hall or contact the office to have one sent to you. You may still turn in your pledges!

**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.

**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 - 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



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.

**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.



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.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Jacob William McConnell was born on Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:10 a.m. weighing 7 lbs, 3 oz. His parents are Holly and Michael and he joins 5 siblings, Anna, Grace, Ryan, Emmarose, and Lilly.





# Trinity Tidings

6



## LUNCH BUNCH

Our November gathering was the ever popular Baker's Cafe where we could eat in the back room sharing delightful conversation and delicious food. In December we will return to the Hancock Hotel for our Christmas celebration. (You are welcome to park at the church and walk over.)

Note the change in date to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday. Please let Ginny Lee or Nancy O' know by Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> if you can join us.

DATE: Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.

PLACE: Mancy's, Hancock Hotel

Nancy O'Sullivan

Ginny Lee Pilstl

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS may be ordered through Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. There are order forms in the parish hall or you may email the office, [trinfin128@gmail.com](mailto:trinfin128@gmail.com). There is a choice of red or white and the cost is \$10 each plant. They will decorate the church for Christmas Eve and then may be taken home.



## COFFEE CORNER



### DECEMBER

7<sup>th</sup> -

14<sup>th</sup> - Lisa Robeson

21<sup>st</sup> - CSG

28<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!

## 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 [KrogerCommunityRewards.com](http://KrogerCommunityRewards.com) and follow the instructions.)

Trinity earned \$67.06 in the last quarter from a total of 26 households.



# Trinity Tidings



St. Agnes Altar Guild

Happy New Liturgical Year!

During December we'll be enjoying beauty in the church created by talented and loving hands of several past and present parish members. During Advent, we'll be using a set of blue silk brocade hangings made by Phyllis Watkins. Take a moment to look at this beautiful fabric and trim up close. We'll observe Rose Sunday on December 14<sup>th</sup>, the third week in Advent.

When we decorate for Christmas after the 10 a.m. service on December 21<sup>st</sup>, the holy table will come back to the sanctuary and wintry, whimsical decorations made by Diane Ellerbe will go into our windows and be with us until Epiphany in January. On Christmas Eve, take a moment to enjoy the full-length white brocade cover on the Holy Table. Rev. Harvey Buxton commissioned Jane Barbieri to make this wonderful piece for Trinity to use on Christmas and Easter. So many beautiful treasures to grace the season for all of us.

We are also very happy to add to Trinity's Advent observance a beautiful new carved wooden stand for the Advent wreath candles.

On December 28<sup>th</sup> the church hangings will be red in observance of the martyrdom of the Holy Innocents, honoring the babies and young children killed by Herod's soldiers in his effort to find and kill the child who the Magi prophesied would be the King of the Jews and who he feared would depose him.

Interested in knowing more about the changes in liturgical colors and seasons, feast days, saints, and other observances of the church year, along with having a Sunday lectionary guide for the year? Buy a Churchman's Ordo calendar for 2026, also called the Church Year Guide, in the Parish Hall.

If you would like to be a part of the work of the Altar Guild, please talk to Jan Taylor, Sacristan, or any of the Guild Members. We are happy to answer any and all questions about serving in the Altar Guild. We are hoping to add one or two trainees early next year. Altar Guild membership is open to all Trinity members.



CHURCHMAN'S  
ORDO  
—CHURCH YEAR GUIDE—

2006  
NOW AVAILABLE  
in the parish hall.  
\$6.00 each to benefit the  
Altar Guild.

