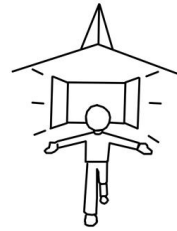




*The Episcopal Church serving
Hancock County, Ohio...and beyond*



2026



OUTREACH

All of our Christmas outreach projects were a big success! Thanks to everyone who so generously helped out!

Our monthly trip to help serve dinner at the City Mission will be on Saturday, January 24, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. Please consider joining us!

The January wish list for the Mission barrel is ketchup, mustard, relish, mayonnaise, bbq sauce, and salsa. Thanks for helping keep the barrel full!

Additionally, we will continue collecting through the end of the year for the Hancock County ADAMHS Board housing: toilet paper, paper towels, personal hygiene items, and cleaning supplies. (Of course, we have an ongoing collection of these items and of non-perishable food - but for now, because they've asked for our help, we are diverting the stream to ADAMHS, with perhaps an increase in the amount collected!)

CHRIST IN A STRANGER'S GUISE

For you never know when you might meet...

On Sunday, December 21st following the 10 a.m. service, Trinity was full of activity! Some people decorating the church for Christmas, others wrapping presents both for fellow parishioners and for the Cancer Patient Services families we adopted, all enjoying delicious pizza.

January brings Trinity's Annual Meeting on Sunday the 25th. We'll again have a carry-in or potluck or whatever you want to call a lunch where everyone brings something to share. In the past, we've always had a wide variety but if the day comes where we have only desserts, so be it! CSG members are looking forward to bringing food, seeing everyone, and enjoying whatever delights are brought to share.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, February 1st following coffee hour. Grab a cuppa and a friend and help us plan our next activities.

Ginny Lee Pilstl, Chair

...Christ in a stranger's guise.



THE RECTOR WRITES

I've never been much for New Years' resolutions; when I've made them, I've only done so half-heartedly. For 2025 I decided I would keep a list of the books I read to see if I could get up to 52. A book a week doesn't seem like that heavy a lift! Well, I only made it to 34. I decided that I'd jettison the resolution for good when I picked up both David Foster Wallace's *Infinite Jest*, an 1,100 page encyclopedic novel, and the collected works of Ludwig Wittgenstein, the most important if possibly the most abstruse analytic philosopher of the twentieth century, at the same time. (I generally like to have one novel or short story collection and one work of nonfiction - philosophy or theology or history, mostly - going simultaneously.) I've always been drawn to books that require some effort to fully appreciate. This is just a personal preference, and is in no way meant to pass judgment on folks who prefer light reading. I've simply discovered that my taste leans more toward depth than breadth.

So, I won't be making a similar resolution this year, but it raises this issue of "depth vs. breadth" for me in a way that has me curious about how this applies elsewhere in life - both in the life of the individual and our common life as the Body of Christ. In particular, it has me thinking about spiritual practice. I am biased, of course, in believing my own approach merges the best of both worlds. In the Daily Office we experience both the breadth of scripture by reading a lot of it day in and day out, while "going deep" by repeating the same prayers daily. I have noticed over the years that the practice of having morning prayer publicly has forced me to expand beyond my own preference for regularity and depth, since our 1979 *Book of Common Prayer* includes variable canticles and collects which change with the day of the week; when left to my own devices I use an older prayer book with no such variety.

Perhaps a good thing for each of us to do during the new year is to consider where one might be erring in one direction or the other. In what ways might one's practice of prayer and bible study become "stale" and require a bit of a shake up? On the other hand, to what extent might experimentation have gone too far, and the search for variety in religious experience led us to wade through increasingly shallow pools? My biases being what they are, I am inclined to believe that the latter is more dangerous. I suspect we can all identify a fellow or two whose spiritual dilettantism has stymied his or her growth. But the former can be a problem, too, and it's always worth taking inventory of how our spiritual disciplines are helping us grow into the full stature of Christ and where an adjustment may be called for.

So my New Years' resolution is to interrogate my own spiritual practices and see where they might be tweaked, and I'd invite you to join me in that. One doesn't have to wait until Lent to do this sort of work. Indeed, we might benefit from doing it rather more frequently. I suspect the answers are to be found most readily in quiet contemplation rather than in trying a hundred things out and seeing which "stick", but that, too, may be a function of my personality rather than an iron-clad rule. In all events, I pray that 2026 may be for each of us a year of increasing prayer and devotion, that we might all experience the depth and the breadth of God's steadfast love.

Yours in service to the Gospel,
John †

Trinity Tidings

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MUSIC NOTES

Thank you to the choir for their hard work and dedication to provide special music for Christmas Eve. Thank you also to Holly for accompanying the choir during rehearsals and on Christmas Eve. Everyone's efforts are greatly appreciated. Appreciation also to Barb Masterson for her leadership!

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!

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



January Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we stand on the threshold of January, the gateway to a new year, we pause to offer this time into your loving hands. With the freshness of the new year unfolding, we seek your guidance, wisdom, and strength to navigate the days ahead. January, with its promise of new beginnings, stirs both hope and reflection. We pray for the grace to embrace this month and every opportunity it presents to grow closer to you. Bless this time, Lord, that it may be a period of spiritual renewal and personal growth. Help us to set aside past regrets and to move forward with the confidence that comes from knowing you are with us in all things.



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 FEBRUARY *TIDINGS* SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY MONDAY, JANUARY 26TH. 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 meet on January 11th and then resume in February.

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.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

06 – Gloria Wolph
 11 – Jodi Shaul
 12 – Fr. John Drymon
 13 – Nancy Woodruff
 14 – Greg Eisentrager
 20 – Seth Richardson
 21 – Ginny Lee Pilstl
 23 – Jim Ellerbe
 30 – Megan and Brian Dailey

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

None

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 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 3rd 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.

Trinity was treated to a Children's Christmas Pageant - "The World Sings Noel: The Christmas Story in Global Song" lead by Holly McConnell. Participating were Anna Funke, Cecilia Funke, Grace McConnell, Anna McConnell, Ryan McConnell, Emma McConnell, Lilly McConnell. Great job all and thank you!



Trinity Tidings

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LUNCH BUNCH

A convivial group met at Mancy's in the festive Hancock Hotel for a delightful Christmas lunch. Good food, good friends, good time! January will again see us close to home. We'll be at the Swan House on the second Friday of the month. Since it's on Sandusky, we can park at Trinity and walk over or park in

the parking lot in back of the Swan House. Please let Ginny Lee or Nancy O' know by Wednesday, January 7th if you can join us.

WHEN: Friday, January 9, 2026 at 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: The Swan House, 225 W. Sandusky

Hope to see you all there!

Nancy O'Sullivan

Ginny Lee Pilstl



CHURCHMAN'S
ORDO
—CHURCH YEAR GUIDE—

2006

NOW AVAILABLE
in the parish hall.

\$6.00 each to benefit the
Altar Guild.

TRINITY'S ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 25th.

Everyone is invited to come and bring a favorite dish to share for the potluck luncheon. Reports should be submitted no later than Monday, January 19th. (Copies of last year's report are available in the parish hall and the office.)

COFFEE CORNER



JANUARY

4th – Butchers

11th –

18th – Barb Masterson

25th – CSG

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 Kroger Community Rewards.com and follow the instructions.)

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





St. Agnes Altar Guild

Greetings and happy new liturgical year! In January you will see the hangings change from white to green following services on January 11th, First Sunday after the Epiphany.

This month I've asked members of the Altar Guild to share some of their own experiences serving on the St. Agnes Altar Guild. No matter whether we have served a short time or for many years, membership in the guild is special for each of us. Here are some of their thoughts. Thank you to each of the guild members for what they've contributed.

'When you asked if I might be interested in joining Altar Guild I thought it sounded challenging and interesting because I really knew very little about what the Guild does. I have grown to love being part of this team. I think one of my favorite things is doing the set up when no one else is around. The solitude coupled with the various tasks is a very spiritual experience for me.' KE

'I decided to join Altar Guild because I love being of service. The Guild has given me an opportunity to serve Christ in a uniquely reverent way, and I love the quiet, meditative atmosphere in which I can reflect on the holiness of our Lord.' AR

'I was very new to the congregation and looking for a way to contribute. A new friend said she would [try Altar Guild] if I would. When doing ordinary tasks like washing up and polishing silver, and setting the table, I get a sense of the Holy. Preparing the Table is very meaningful.' AB

'I have been trying to put into words what Altar Guild means to me. I do love the quiet time. I am not much of a singer so never joined the choir and I am not the best cook or baker so don't volunteer to help there either. I have enjoyed my years on guild and will miss it when those days are over. I feel such a connection in that service.' PW

A note from the church year guide – January 21st is the day of St. Agnes, Martyr at Rome, 304. St. Agnes is the Patroness of Altar Guilds at many Episcopal, Anglican, and Catholic churches. Agnes dedicated herself to Christ when she was a small child. She refused to betray her commitment to Christ and her chastity to save her life, and died a virgin martyr at age 12 or 13. She is the patron saint of young girls, those praying for purity and chastity, rape survivors, and the Children of Mary. Say a prayer of thanks for St. Agnes, a brave young girl who died for her faith.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2026 are available in the parish hall. There are still numbered boxes available (see or let Deborah know), and you may help yourself to unnumbered ones.