



Trinity Tidings

December 2021

Advent: Joyous Expectation

We will soon begin a new Church Year, ushered in by the season of Advent. This is a time for us to prepare for both the meaning and celebration of that unique moment in history when God became fully present with creation. Even more unexpected, that this was done by way of a vulnerable human infant. At that moment, the world and all of humanity changed forever. Thanks be to God!

Of course, it is the unexpected things in life that we remember. Generations of people have recalled this event to discover the meaning of this season to renew their relationship with God, as well as with one another. These past Sundays, many of us have enjoyed reading the message of the Letter to the Hebrews. It recounts the transition of humanity's understanding of relationship from one place to another, which enable us to move closer to God. The author of this epistle clearly invites us to *come, and draw near*.

Draw near, for all the barriers that once existed between us and God have been removed. And, again, all of this initiated by the birth of a child in Bethlehem! This Advent, let us renew and even reenergize life after such a difficult past year. Let us draw near with faith and reintroduce ourselves to God. With praise and thanksgiving, may we prepare a place in our hearts to welcome the Christ child.

I invite you to begin anew this season on a special day, Thursday, December 2. Bishop Sean will be present with the parish family for Holy Eucharist and Confirmation at 5:30 p.m. Let us gather together to congratulate and support our confirmands, Lauren Sercu and Nathan Sercu. They both stand ready to make a mature and public affirmation of their faith, a commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism, and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop.

*-- Peace during this season,
James+*

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESES OF
**Western New York &
Northwestern Pennsylvania**

Regional Gatherings with Bishop Sean Begin Next Week.

The first in a series of regional gatherings with Bishop Sean will be held on November 30 at Christ Church, Lockport. Everyone from across the partnership dioceses is invited to attend the gathering that is most convenient for them. A second gathering will be held on at St. James, Batavia on December 1.

Doors at each event will open at 6 p.m. for an evening that includes a 6:30 Eucharist at which Bishop Sean will preach and preside, followed by an opportunity for fellowship and conversation with the bishop.

Here is a complete schedule of planned regional gatherings, all of which begin at 6 p.m.:

- **November 30** at [Christ Church, Lockport](#)
- **December 1** at [St. James, Batavia](#)
- **December 6** at [St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo](#)
- **December 7** at [St. Stephen's, Olean](#)
- **January 11** at [Our Savior, Dubois](#)
- **January 12** at [St. John's, Franklin](#)
- **February 10** at [St. Stephen's, Fairview](#)

In addition, in early December, Bishop Sean will host several daytime conversations about mission and ministry. Everyone is invited to attend the following gatherings:

December 1, 10-11:30 a.m.: [St. Paul's, Lewiston](#)

December 1, 2-3:30 p.m.: St. Paul's, Holley, 2 Jackson Street, Holley, New York

Tuesday, Dec. 7, 10-11:30 a.m.: [St. David's, West Seneca](#)

Tuesday December 7, 2:30-4 p.m.: [St. Mary's, Salamanca](#)

Questions? [Email Canon Twila Smith.](#)

Important dates in December

Sundays: 8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. I;
10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. II;
Godly Play Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist and Confirmation: Thursday, Dec. 2, at 5:30 p.m. Bishop Sean Rowe, Celebrant.

TECW Christmas coffee: Saturday, Dec. 4, at 10:00 a.m., Garland Hall.

Advent Recital with oboe, organ, and piano: Sunday, Dec 5, at 1:30 p.m., in the church.

Vestry Meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 21, 6:00 p.m. in Garland Hall.

Eve of the Nativity – Christmas Eve: Festive Holy Eucharist on Friday, Dec. 24, at 5:00 p.m.

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Trinity Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes

October 19, 2021

As approved at the November Meeting

Present: William Roberts, Senior Warden; Karin Wheelock; Lucille Bryant; Janeil Rey; Doreen Gould;
Virginia Becker, Treasurer; and, The Reverend James Clement, Rector. **Excused:** Sue Torrance; Jack Torrance.

Call to Order: Fr. Clement called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., with an opening prayer.

The Meeting Agenda was approved as given, as moved by Doreen Gould, seconded by Lucille Bryant.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Lucille Bryant, seconded by Karin Wheelock, to approve the September 21, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Finance / Building and Grounds

Finance: Virginia Becker reported.

A motion was made by Lucille Bryant, seconded by Janeil Rey, to receive the treasurer's report. The treasurer's written report was received as submitted and reported. See attached.

- We are currently waiting on the attorney with Lake Shore Savings to complete work on reinstating the line of credit account.

Memorial Fund Report: Virginia Becker reported.

- Current balance: \$2,872.28.

Buildings and Grounds: Fr. Clement reported.

- A check on the fire system by DFT. This appointment is covered by the service agreement.
- Contacted Olsen Sealing with regard to the parking lot, per approval of vestry. Work will begin in Spring 2022.
- A new area carpet with a design inspired by Psalm 23 has been ordered for the Godly Play room.
- Conversation is taking place for a new crib and changing table for the Nursery.

Additional Reports: Congregational Ministries

Parish Outreach: Karin Wheelock reported.

- The parish will join with other churches in the area for the Santa for Seniors program with the Office of the Aging. Like last year, we will collect tubes of toothpaste. Collection bins have been set out, with a collection deadline of November 15.
- Working with a local school district, the parish will provide a local family with support for the holiday season, which includes gifts for children, a Christmas food basket, and pajamas/blankets for the family. Monetary donations accepted during the month of November.

TECW: Doreen Gould reported.

- A meeting is scheduled for the first Saturday in November.
- There will be a collection of Thanksgiving food items for Rural Ministries.
- Great rummage sale held recently. Everyone did a wonderful job.

Rector's Report: Fr. Clement reported.

- Attended Diocesan Council meeting.
- Attended both pre-convention gatherings.
- Attended Diocesan Convention. Thank you to our parish delegates.
- A reminder that Bishop Sean Rowe will be present at the parish for Confirmation on Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.
- A series of six Confirmation classes will begin soon, with two candidates: Lauren Sercu and Nathan Sercu.
- Held a meeting with both the Senior and Junior Wardens.
- Officiated Pet Blessing service.
- Meeting with Faith Stewart, member of the Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination.
- A parish-wide email was sent to invite persons interested in remaining or becoming service participants during worship services. As we renew parish life after the pandemic, a new list of participants is being formed. Persons are asked to respond by Sunday, Oct. 24.
- After conversation with vestry, the Rector decided to continue with the current coronavirus guideline of offering one element, the consecrated bread, for Holy Communion at Sunday services.
- Stewardship Sunday is November 28, 2020.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

- Stewardship Committee: A motion was made by Doreen Gould, seconded by Lucille Bryant, to approve the formation of the Stewardship Committee in preparation for next year's operating budget. Persons on this committee are William Roberts, Karin Wheelock, Bonnie Liener, and Virginia Becker, Treasurer. Motion carried.
- Business transactions for the parish: Virginia Becker spoke with vestry about the difficulty of making purchases for the parish, particularly on business websites.

Currently, members of staff make such purchases and then receive reimbursement from the parish bookkeeper. She requested that vestry bring suggestions and ideas about this to the next meeting in November.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m. with a motion made by Doreen Gould. Vestry ended its time together with prayer.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: Karin Wheelock, Acting Clerk.

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Parish Notes



Christmas Flowers

The sign-up form for Poinsettias and various Floral arrangements for the Christmas season is located in the narthex of the church.

Poinsettias are \$8.00 each; floral arrangements range from \$30.00 to \$55.00. The deadline to reserve flowers and for payment is Sunday, Dec. 8.

Annual Parish Meeting 2022

Save the date! The annual parish meeting will take place on Sunday, January 30, 2022, following our worship service.

There will be one service on this particular Sunday at 10:30 a.m. (there is no 8 o'clock service). Committee reports are due in to the office by Sunday, Jan. 16.

More details can be found in the January newsletter.

Advent Recital: oboe, organ, and piano

The entire community is invited to attend an Advent recital with Ji Hyun Woo, Sarah Hamilton, and Linda Phillips on Sunday, December 5, at 1:30 p.m. This event will take place in the church.

The program consists of 12 musical pieces for oboe, organ, and piano, including Advent and Christmas carols. Admission is free.



Mitten Tree

Outreach throughout the holiday season will be to collect items for the mitten tree. Donations of new and gently used hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves will gladly be accepted. Collected items will be divided between Rural Ministries and Partners in Kind. The tree will be located in the narthex for you to place your items.

T.E.C.W.



Two full tables of donated items for TECW Thanksgiving Collection:

Thank you to everyone who donated items or made a financial contribution. With your help the TECW was able to provide a full Thanksgiving dinner to a parish family and many items for the Rural Ministry Thanksgiving distribution.

With your help we were able to give away the following.

- 12 bottles juice; 15 cans cranberry sauce;
- 2 bags white potatoes; 2 bags see potatoes;
- 9 complete pies-cans of pie fillings (pumpkin and evaporated milk, fruit filling, chocolate pudding), pie crust mix and a pie pan;
- 21 gravy; 18 packages of stuffing;
- 2 boxes pie crust; 5 large boxes jello;
- 25 small boxes jello; 35 canned fruit;
- 59 canned vegetables; 7 cans sweet potatoes/yams;
- 5 boxed desserts; 4 roll mix;
- 2 cans potatoes; 3 evaporated milk and 4 turkeys.

Total 251 items

DECEMBER 4th 10 AM- For all women of Trinity Episcopal Church. Put on your calendar the first **TECW Christmas Coffee** to be held in Garland Hall. Join us for coffee/tea/cider, goodies and a chance to catch up with each other. Please bring your masks for when you are not sipping.

If you have completed your Christmas Stocking Quarters Savings project, bring that as well. We will decide in January where the need is we wish to support. We look forward to seeing many of you to begin this season of Advent in the glow of Trinity family friendships.

– Doreen Gould

Santa for Seniors



A big Thank You to everyone who contributed to our collection of tubes of toothpaste for the Santa for Seniors program with

the Office of the Aging. We reached our collection goal and 150 seniors residing in our county will receive a gift bag and meal to celebrate this holiday season. Again, Thank You!

A Message from the Parish Treasurer

As members and stewards of Trinity Episcopal Church, we have a responsibility to wisely use the gifts God has given each of us. Thank you to all who have considered their gifts and returned a pledge card for 2022. If you have yet to do so, please submit your card as soon as possible. Expressing your intentions for next year is vital in developing a sustainable fiscal plan. In the coming weeks, Vestry will be reflecting on how and where to apply your pledges as the next budget is developed.

On a related topic, honoring your pledges in 2021 has kept the financial responsibility of the church current. Your reliability in giving is greatly appreciated. It makes the job of the treasurer predictable and more efficient.

Wishing you God's Blessings,
Virginia T. Becker, Treasurer

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Lectionary Readings for December:

The readings can be found online here:

www.lectionarypage.net

Sunday, Dec. 5

Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4

Canticle 16

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, Dec. 12

Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Canticle 9

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

Sunday, Dec. 14

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a

Canticle 15

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

Friday, Dec. 24

Eve of the Nativity

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-20

Sunday, Dec. 26

First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm 147:13-21

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

John 1:1-18

No Worship Server schedule for the month of December.

Service participants for Sunday services have been provided a schedule.

Birthdays in December

- 8 Frank B. Pullano
- 10 Ariella Pierce
- 15 Laurie Weatherlow
- 15 Tyler Roberts
- 20 Jeff Kennedy
- 21 Tom Boyda
- 24 Carol Johnson
- 27 Bill Roberts
- 29 Nathan McCloskey
- 30 Robert Gray
- 30 Marilyn Maytum

Wedding Anniversaries in December

- 20 Marlene and Bill Raines

In Memoriam

- 1 Mary Jane Forster
- 6 Clara Wallace
- 8 Eugene Berhardt
- 17 Gene Burmaster
- 19 Clint Kennedy
- 24 Alfred, Nellie, and Audrey Turner

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Trinity Episcopal Church

11 Day Street; P.O. Box 467

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Office: 716-679-7901

Website: www.trinitychurchwny.org

Parish Clergy and Staff

The Revd. James Clement, *Rector*

Email: rector@trinitychurchwny.org

Dr. Ji Hyun Woo, *Organist and Director of Music*

Sara Jagoda, *Sexton*

The Vestry of the Parish

William Roberts, Sr. Warden

Sue Torrance, Jr. Warden

Janeil Rey

Lucille Bryant

Doreen Gould

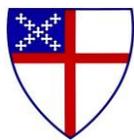
Karin Wheelock

Jack Torrance

Virginia Becker, Treasurer

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The newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

*“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”
Ephesians 1:2*