



Trinity Tidings

February 2025

The Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas)



The first Sunday in February will mark a special day during this season of Epiphany. While the season continues until the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the festal cycle will end with *The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple* on February 2.

The child who has been manifested to the magi at his birth is now recognized by Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. He is both ‘a light to lighten the Gentiles’ and ‘the glory of God’s people Israel’.

But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation is directed to the Passion; and Simeon’s final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter.

The Church’s publication, *Lessor Feasts and Fasts 2022*, provides us insight for this event:

The title “The Presentation” reminds us of the Jewish law (Exodus 13:2; 22:29) that every firstborn son had to be dedicated to God in memory of the Israelites’ deliverance from Egypt, when the firstborn sons of the Egyptians died and those of Israel were spared.

When Mary placed her infant son into the arms of Simeon, it was the meeting of the Old and New Dispensations. The old sacrifices, the burnt offerings and oblations, were done away; a new and perfect offering had come into the temple. God had provided himself a lamb for the burnt offering (Genesis 22:8), his only Son. The offering was to be made once for all on the cross. At every Eucharist, those who are in Christ recall that sinless offering and unite “themselves, their souls and bodies” with the self-oblation of their Lord and Savior.

It is traditional that candles are blessed on this day, for use throughout the rest of the year, which is why the feast is also sometimes known as “Candlemas.” (pg.70).

As Simeon received Jesus, he proclaimed: Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised. For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see. A Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel (Luke 2:29-32).

His declaration has become a canticle for our worship, *The Song of Simeon*, also known as *Nunc dimittis*, meaning “now let depart” in Latin. This canticle is recited during the Daily Office, principally at Evening Prayer.

By reciting these words, we give thanks that the presence of Jesus in life has transformed both our relationship and our knowledge of God. We recall when Simeon held in his arms the tangible essence of salvation. *The Presentation of Our Lord* signifies that we all share in the receiving of this divine gift.

--- Peace, James+

Important dates in February:

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

TECW Meeting: Saturday, Feb. 1, at 9:30 a.m. in Garland Hall.

Epiphany Tea: Sunday, Feb. 16, at 3:00 p.m. in Garland Hall.

Vestry Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 5:30 p.m. in Garland Hall.

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Episcopal News Service

Presiding Bishop addresses Church's role in modern society during Sewanee panel discussion.

www.episcopalnewsservice.org

Posted: January 28, 2025

By: Shireen Korkzan

The University of the South's [School of Theology](#) in Sewanee, Tennessee, hosted a panel discussion on the opportunities and challenges The Episcopal Church faces in a contemporary cultural landscape. Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe spoke alongside Western Louisiana Bishop Jacob Owensby, the university's chancellor, and Robert Pearigen, its vice-chancellor.

"The Episcopal Church is a tradition that has always valued learning, and in particularly in this time and in this season, we could use a bit more thinking and a bit more reflection, a little less reaction," Rowe said during the Jan. 26 panel discussion, which was held at the University of the South's Convocation Hall and led by Owensby.

About 150 people from the university and wider Sewanee community attended the event, where the panelists also discussed the university's role as an Episcopal institution.

The [University of the South](#) – which is owned and governed by The Episcopal Church's 28 southeast dioceses – continues to be rooted in that same tradition, which remains relevant in the 21st century as it's combined with Episcopal faith and morality, Pearigen said.

"That includes the integration of the mind and the heart – the integration of faith and reason in a way that is so important to who we are as an institution – that integration of faith and reason and service so one is a place where the notion of service and commitment to others," he said, referring to the university's motto, [Psalm 133](#); "A commitment to the common good is at our core."

Even though The Episcopal Church and its affiliated institutions, like Sewanee, remain steadfast in upholding Anglican traditions and morals, Rowe stressed the importance of also adapting to broader cultural shifts while delivering a "grounded" Christian spirituality. This requires going beyond politics and partisanship to bring the "hope of a relationship with God."

Adapting and proclaiming Christ's message includes catering to the spiritual needs of people of all ages and backgrounds, including young adults and seminary students.

"I think what the church has to offer is a way of thinking about the world, a way of reflecting on life, particularly as you're beginning to form what is your own vocation and call," Rowe said. "I think that's the joy of The Episcopal Church, because we all have a vocation to which God is calling us."

Rowe highlighted the work [Episcopal Migration Ministries](#), or EMM, as an example of effectively and adaptively responding to the modern world. EMM is [one of 10 agencies](#) with federal contracts to facilitate refugee resettlement on behalf of the State Department. Through EMM, the church has helped resettle more than 100,000 refugees fleeing war and persecution since the United States created its federal resettlement program 45 years ago. The agency's work was effectively [halted](#) last week when President Donald Trump signed an executive order that suspended all refugee resettlement in the United States and gave no clear indication when, if ever, it might resume. Despite uncertainty under the Trump administration, EMM is remaining focused on its mission.

"The program as we've known it will go away, but something new will emerge, and we've already been thinking about ways in which we can continue that commitment to refugees around the world," Rowe said. "We're learning how to adapt right now. We're not going to give up."

Regarding seminaries, specifically, Pearigen said offering a strong liberal arts education provides an environment that encourages exchanging ideas and asking questions. This foundation is applied to adaptive programming the University of the South's School of Theology offers, including the [SUMMA Theological Debate Summer Camp](#) for high school students.

Adding to the discussion of faith and cultural adaptation, Owensby said Episcopalians tend to be able to inhabit spaces with people from different faiths and viewpoints without compromising their commitment to Jesus. Whether inside or outside academia, civil exchanges can be "enriching" and "enhancing."

"You might not be Episcopalian. You might not even be a Christian; that's fine," Owensby said. "The point is ... we're about making humans more human, and we believe that that involves this connection to the transcendent in some way that propels us to just keep asking."

Some students who attended the webinar in person asked the panelists questions. One person asked Rowe how the church should maintain nonpartisanship in politics. Rowe said that politics is both important and inevitable, but ultimately Episcopalians should remember that their first allegiance is to God. For reference, he mentioned Washington Bishop Mariann Budde's [plea to Trump](#) to show mercy to "the people in our country who are scared now" – specifically LGBTQ+ people and immigrants – during her sermon at Washington National Cathedral's Jan. 21 post-inauguration worship service.

"This is about loving our neighbor and the fact that our first citizenship is in the Kingdom [of God]," Rowe said. "That's why we should be able to be united across parties, across political differences ... caring for the stranger."

Earlier in the day, Rowe preached during the university's All Saints' Chapel 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services. The latter service was livestreamed. While visiting Sewanee, Rowe also met with seminarians, faculty from the theology school and other university groups.

–Shireen Korkzan is a reporter and assistant editor for Episcopal News Service.

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Trinity Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
December 17, 2024
As approved at the January 2025 meeting

Present: Sally Ludlum, Warden; Jake Wilkins; Jenn Wilkins; Melisa Eichmann; Virginia Becker, Treasurer; The Reverend James Clement, Rector.
Attended by phone: Cathy Berner

Excused: Ann Sullivan

Call to Order: Fr. Clement called the meeting to order at 5:32p.m., with an opening prayer.

Meeting Agenda: Agenda approved with a motion made by Melissa Eichmann, seconded by Sally Ludlum.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Jake Wilkins, seconded by Melisa Eichmann to approve the November 19, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

- Update to amend minutes to say "minutes" as opposed to agenda at the top.

Committee Reports: Finance / Building and Grounds:

Finance: Report prepared by Ginny Becker and presented. Melisa Eichmann made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Sally Ludlum. Motion carried.

- **General Fund:** All regular monthly bills were paid as well as Doyle Security Systems annual fee, and Express Prints for new billing checks with Bahgat.
- **Building Fund:** The balance at the end of November was \$5,611.73.
- **Memorial Fund:** The balance remains \$3,072.28.
- **Music Fund:** Current balance is \$571.36.
- **Snowden Lane Partners** - In early December, \$10,000 was transferred to the general fund from the Master cash account and should cover payroll and bills to the end of the year. This leaves a little over \$6,000 in the Master cash account. In anticipation of financial needs for 2025, Bill Markel, financial advisor, suggested we investigate the possibility of moving \$3,000 from the Sub cash account and selling \$30,000 of growth

stock from the Sub account, depositing both in the Master cash account.

- Pledges for 2025 currently stand at \$78,184 as a result of the stewardship campaign. Also received were \$320 in donations. Prepaid 2025 pledges amount to \$5,140.
- Pledge envelopes for 2025 are available in the parish hall.

Buildings & Ground: reported by Fr. Clement.

- A local contractor may be available to examine the lift in Garland Hall.
- Conversation was held with regard to the snow shoveling of the sidewalks and doorways of the church buildings. Several ideas were discussed, including various contacts for persons who may be interested in this work. A report will be made back to vestry.

Congregational Ministries:

Flower Guild: Melisa Eichmann reported.

- Current account balance is 796.62. Christmas arrangements and poinsettias have been ordered. The invoice from Brigiottas will be paid this week. The price for the arrangements did increase. The Guild charged \$35 each, but the florist can't do them for less than \$40.

Rector's Report

- No updates at this time.

Old Business

- N/A

New Business

- The Treasurer presented the estimated operating budget for 2025, per information as of December 14. Conversation was held related to this information and the earlier financial report. A motion made by Cathy Berner and seconded by Jake Wilkins to direct Treasurer Becker to request the release by Lake Shore Savings Bank of the following from the Snowden Lane Sub Account that is held as collateral for the Line of Credit: \$3,000 from the cash account; The sale of \$30,000 in holdings. It is understood that this money will be transferred to the Snowden Lane Master Cash Account to be

used to support the general fund as need in 2025. CARRIED.

- Vestry confirmed that the upcoming annual parish meeting will be held in Garland Hall on Sunday, January 26, 2025, following the 10:30 a.m. service. A potluck luncheon will also be held. A sign-up reservation/food form will be posted on the bulletin board.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m. with a motion made by Sally Ludlum, seconded by Melisa Eichman. Carried. Vestry concluded its time together with prayer. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Jennifer Wilkins

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Parish Notes



The Day by Day daily devotional booklets for the months of February through April are now available at each entrance into the church building. Pick up your copy today!



Organ Recital and Reception- Master Class at SUNY Fredonia

You are invited to attend a free Organ Recital at SUNY Fredonia on Sunday, March 9, at 2:00pm. Rising star organist Nicholas Capozzoli of Montreal will present an hour-long event using the full range of capabilities of the Schlicker pipe organ in King Concert Hall of the Rockefeller Arts Center. Admission is free.

The recital will be followed by an Interlude/Reception hosted by the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation. Then, all are welcome to attend a 4:00pm

Master Class taught by Mr. Capozzoli featuring organ students of SUNY Fredonia. The afternoon will conclude at 5:30 pm. Admission is free! Come for all or part of the afternoon.

The event is brought to you by the Carol and Jim Boltz Endowment Fund for the Carol Hofman Boltz Recital Series, and the Buffalo Chapter and Chautauqua Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. For info: FredoniaOrganExperience@gmail.com

TECW

TECW meeting on
Saturday, February 1, 2025, 9:30 a.m.
in Garland Hall.

EPIPHANY TEA
(Not just a female event!)

February 16, 2025
at 3:00 p.m.

Join us as Jake Wilkins and Professor Ted Lee share their recent trip to Honduras as part of the Honduras Health Mission. The presentation is followed by a chance to ask questions and then it is time for a lovely tea. We look forward to having you join us for this event. No need for you to wear your suit or fancy hat or white gloves. Your presence and open ears are all that's needed. Please join us for this event. Any monies put into the free will offering will be donated to the Honduras Health Mission.

UPCOMING EVENT: RUMMAGE SALE
on April 11-12.

Start sorting!!!
We will need lots of hands for set up please put this on your calendar. Every hour of help goes a long way to our success.

--- Doreen Gould

Birthdays in February

3 Sue Torrance
6 Victoria Jakiela
12 Aaron Levy
14 Shirley Coon
20 Meghann Hudson
22 Jillian (Berner) Bentley
23 Grayson Adamczak
23 Jakub Adamczak
24 Allison Hadsell
26 Philip Tappan
26 Jared Cooper

Wedding Anniversaries
(None)

In Memoriam

2 Scott Albaugh
3 Ruth Hackman
4 Dorothy Schaufler
15 Tom Wienk
16 Milton Fenner
17 Catherine Gawron
18 John Everett III
19 Anne Cassidy
22 Laura Foster

Trinity Tidings

Trinity Episcopal Church

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Parish Clergy and Staff

The Revd. James Clement, Rector

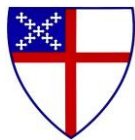
Email: rector@trinitychurchwny.org

Donald Fellows, *Organist*

Sara Jagoda, *Custodian*

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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*