



Trinity Tidings

March 2026

The Annunciation: March 25

*The Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ
to the Blessed Virgin Mary*

The feast this March 25 commemorates how God made known to a young Jewish woman that she was to be the mother of his Son. The Annunciation has been a major theme in Christian art, in both East and West, and innumerable sermons and poems have been composed about it. The term coined by Cyril of Alexandria for the Blessed Virgin, Theotokos (“the God-bearer”), was affirmed by the General Council of Ephesus in 431.

Many theologians stress that Mary accepted her vocation with perfect conformity of will. Mary’s self-offering in response to God’s call has been compared to that of Abraham, the father of believers. Just as Abraham was called to be the father of the chosen people, and accepted his call, so Mary was called to be the mother of the faithful, the new Israel. She is God’s human agent in the mystery of the Incarnation. Her response to the angel, “Let it be to me according to your word,” is identical with the faith expressed in the prayer that Jesus taught: “Your will be done on earth as in heaven.”

But while many Christians emphasize the submissiveness of Mary, according to the sixth-century Syriac writer Jacob of Sarug, the most important words that Mary spoke were not those of quiet acquiescence but rather, “How can this be?” Indeed, in Jacob’s account of the gospel encounter, Mary’s response is much more than a single question. Instead, a teenage girl takes on an archangel in a theological debate and freely consents only when she has been convinced that the angel’s word is true.

In this interpretation, it is Mary’s eagerness to understand God’s plan and her own role in it that makes her exemplary rather than her meek consent. Jacob contrasts her behavior with Eve, who did not question the serpent that tempted her in the garden but uncritically accepted the claim that she and Adam would become like gods without testing it first. In Eve’s case, “lack of doubt gave birth to death” because she simply believed whatever she was told and “was won over without any debate.”

In both of these interpretations, however, our salvation is only possible because of Mary’s free cooperation with God in that salvation. It has been said, “God made us without us, and redeemed us without us, but cannot save us without us.” Mary’s assent to God’s call opened the way for God to accomplish the salvation of the world. It is for this reason that all generations have called her “blessed.”

-- *Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2004, pg. 154*

Important dates in March

Sunday Worship:

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. I (March 1st & 15th);
10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. II.

TECW Meeting: Saturday, March 7, 9:30 a.m.

Vestry Meeting: Tuesday, March 24, 5:30 p.m.

Holy Week and Easter Day: March 29-April 5.

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Trinity Episcopal Church

Vestry Minutes

January 20, 2026

As approved at the February Meeting

Present (video-conference): Sally Ludlum, Warden; Ann Sullivan; Jenn Wilkins; Cathy Berner; Jake Wilkins; Melisa Eichmann; Virginia Becker, Treasurer; The Reverend James Clement, Rector.

Excused: N/A

Call to Order: Father Clement called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m., with an opening prayer.

Meeting Agenda: Agenda approved with a motion made by Ann Sullivan, seconded by Cathy Berner.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Cathy Berner, seconded by Melisa Eichmann to approve the December 16, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Finance / Building and Grounds:

Finance: Written report prepared by Ginny Becker and presented. Cathy Berner made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Melisa Eichmann. Motion carried. See attached report.

- **General Fund:** All regularly anticipated December expenses were paid. Also paid were USPS box rental, Forward Movement Day-by-Day, Standard Security disability/family leave insurance, Doyle Security service agreement for 2026, Heritage Pipe Organs for tuning, and Axiom for toner. Mid-December, a transfer was made from the Snowden Lane cash account to the general fund.
- **Building Fund:** Payment was remitted to Muck Electric.
- **Music Fund:** Donations are encouraged. The current balance will carry us through the first part of the year.

Buildings & Ground: Reported by Father Clement.

- Muck Electric disconnected and removed the converter/generator from the building.

Congregational Ministries:

Flower Guild: Melisa Eichmann reported.

- There is an outstanding bill for Christmas floral arrangements to be paid.

TECW:

- Epiphany Tea is scheduled for February 1, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. in Garland Hall.
- The regular monthly meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.
- A decision was made at the latest meeting on a memorial for Audrey Parker. Donations are being accepted for the Children's Love Fund, which works through Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation and supports children who are ill and their families. The congregation is invited to donate to this memorial.

Rector's Report:

- Fr. Clement offered his gratitude to everyone who helped in any way with the Christmas Eve service, which went very well. Decorations and other items have been cleaned up and put away.
- The report booklet for the annual meeting is nearly finalized and will be printed soon.
- Fr. Clement recognized the two vestry members whose terms will end this month: Sally Ludlum and Jenn Wilkins. And, a big thank you to Sally for serving as Warden, and to Jenn as the Clerk.
- The parish annual meeting will take place on Sunday, January 25, 2026 immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service. A potluck luncheon will be held as well.
- A Lenten Supper and Program will take place on Wednesday evenings, beginning February 25. The program will be a study course with Adam Hamilton's book, The Way.
- Ash Wednesday will take place on February 18. Two services of Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes will be held, at 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- Fr. Clement sent a picture of the Bishop's Chair in the church to the Diocesan search committee for their project.

Old Business

- The 2026 Operating Budget was presented to vestry. Sally Ludlum made a motion, seconded by Ann Sullivan, to approve this budget, which will be presented at the annual meeting. Motion carried.

New Business

- Convention delegates: Cathy Berner made a motion, seconded by Melisa Eichmann, to approve naming the following persons as delegates to represent the parish at the 2026 Diocesan convention: Jake Wilkins; Jenn Wilkins; Lisa Seldmayer. Alternate: Ann Sullivan.
- Jake Wilkins provided a review of his recent mission trip with the group, Honduras Health Horizons. He offers his gratitude to everyone in the congregation who donated to this group for their mission trip. They provided care to just over 500 patients. He also completed four medical brigades in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m. with a motion made by Jake Wilkins, seconded by Melissa Eichmann. Carried. Vestry concluded its time together with prayer. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Jennifer Wilkins.

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Parish Notes



EASTER FLOWERS

If you are interested in purchasing Easter Flowers, please sign up by Sunday, March 29th. The sign-up form is located in Garland Hall.

A potted Easter Lily or Tulip is \$10.00 each. Special floral arrangements are listed on the sign-up form as well.

Please make checks out to *Trinity Flower Guild* and contact Melisa Eichmann or the parish office with any questions you may have.

All are Welcome to gather for the Easter decorating of the church on Friday, April 3rd.

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TECW

***** TECW MEETING *****
Saturday, March 7th
at 9:30
in Garland Hall

LAST CALL

For any parishioner who wishes to add a contribution to the TECW Memorial for long time parishioner Audrey Parker please do so by March 6th.

The money donated will be going to the Children’s Love Fund which strives to help local children dealing with long term health issues (Details were in February Tidings.) We have received several so far and would like to complete this project at our March meeting. Thank you.

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Remember!

Daylight savings time

2:00 a.m.
Sunday, March 8th

SECOND LAST CALL

Anyone who has been saving their quarters in the Stocking Project please turn them in by March 6th so the women can decide where these funds can do the most good, Thank you. Don't forget to pick up a new container and get started on saving for 2026.

APRIL IS FOR RUMMAGE

Can it be spring time already? Getting close. The spring Rummage sale will be held toward the end of April so get your clearing out motors running. Full details will be in next month's Tidings.

--- Doreen Gould

The Kitchen Crew



A new sign-up form to host Sunday coffee hour has been posted in Garland Hall. Donations of coffee and food items are always welcome. **Thank You** to everyone for their participation in this important time of fellowship after our 10:30 service!

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Birthdays in March

17 Bernard Jakiela
27 Todd Graves
31 Walt Sedlmayer

Wedding Anniversaries in March

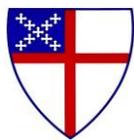
None in March

In Memoriam

21 David Sherman
25 Leo Tucker
27 Edith Tucker
28 Bruce Graves
30 Linda Erick

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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*