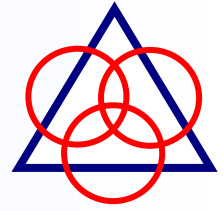


THE TRINITY TRUMPET

December 2010



www.trinitychurchflushing.org

Our Advent Journey...to arrive In Bethlehem.

Advent Bible Study each Sunday of Advent:

For the Advent Bible Study "Love Finds a Voice in Bethlehem" we will meet on Sundays at 9am. Each week is based around the Christmas "loves" of: time, affirmation, service, touch, and gift-giving. There is a student guide available. I don't think they're mandatory for participants, as I will have both a student guide and a leader's guide, however, I think they give far more questions to consider than can be covered by us in 45 minutes, so having a copy would give individuals time to explore questions we don't get to in class, or to look at if you have to miss a week.



Advent Devotional:

For individuals who may like to do some advent reflections each day, we have ordered some copies of a booklet called "The Ah-Ha's of Advent". Written much like Forward Day By Day, there is a scripture verse/theme for each day of Advent, a couple of paragraphs of reflection, and a prayer. 1 page for each day. We should receive the bookmarks & Booklets Tuesday and have them out and available by Wednesday. Look for them Mid-week or on the 1st Sunday of Advent.

Advent Wreath Liturgy/Prayers for the Home:

There is a simple prayer for lighting Advent candles provided on the bottom of the Advent Calendar. If you prefer something slightly longer there is a brief family service here: <http://www.kingofpeace.org/advent/index.htm> which I will also have printouts of in Trinity's lounge. A description of an Advent Wreath is found here: <http://www.kingofpeace.org/advent/advent.htm>

Online Advent Devotions/Reflections/Resources:

Anglican Church of Canada's Advent Devotions <http://www.anglican.ca/advent/>

Once per week an Advent Reflection will be posted at the Beatitudes Blog: Link to Blog: <http://www.beatitudessociety.org/beatitudes-blog>

Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams' 10 minute youtube video reflecting on Advent <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8DWu6HfDaA>

Other resources listed on page 6

Let's Prepare for a Numinous Christmas

Thanksgiving is over, Flushing's Candlewalk is this weekend, and it is in the midst of this that we find ourselves in a new church season and a new church year. Happy Advent! Advent is a season of expectation and hope, and one message of Advent is "prepare." To prepare our hearts and minds for the gift and mystery that is the incarnation of God in Christ that we will celebrate at Christmas.

The world is also giving the message "prepare," but it's a different kind of prepare, isn't it? I think between this message and our own desires to do nice things, express our love, and to make this a special time, we slide down a slippery slope from the more simple "prepare" to "Perfection." I think many of us end up running ourselves ragged trying to get the perfect gift, the perfect family photo, the perfect holiday card, the perfect decorations, find the perfect recipe so we can make the perfect meal. Rather than being able to enjoy the celebration and time with loved ones we end up stressed and exhausted.

It is right when we are feeling the urge to over prepare, and drive toward perfection that culture is telling us is what Christmas should be that we can find direction from our season of Advent. Advent takes us slowly back to the beginning of the story of Jesus, and in Church Year A (just begun) our Gospel readings come primarily from Matthew. Matthew begins the story of Jesus in an interesting way, with his family tree, which apparently takes over 3 minutes to read.

Before we hear anything about his birth Matthew 1 begins: "An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers..." until in verse 16 we are told, "...and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah." We are told Abraham to David is 14 generations, and David to the Babylonian exile is 14 generations, and the Babylonian exile to Jesus is 14 generations. Why do I mention this? That's God at work in 42 generations of people. Surprisingly, 42 generations of not the noblest, but average, imperfect people who are mixtures of sinner and saint. Judahs who sell brothers into slavery, Jacobs who cheat to be in first place, Davids who steal wives and murder rivals... but who also compose profound psalms, who continue to keep their hearts open to God.

What does this mean for us in this busy time of year? For one thing, In the midst of our seasonal outreach efforts let's remember God will be at work in us and around us just as God was at work in those 42 generations regardless of how perfectly we execute our ministries. The main thing is to be open to how God might use us to reach out to a world in need of help, a world in need of hope.

Secondly, as the weeks of Advent continue to unfold, let's hold in mind the difference between being prepared, and being perfect. Instead of focusing on the holidays looking picture perfect let's try to focus instead on what really makes it perfect: the quality of our time together, and the reason we are celebrating to begin with... the gift we receive from God. Jesus is our gift from the One who is perfect. Jesus is our Emmanuel. God with us as we prepare this Advent and who will be with us in our Celebration at Christmas. Emmanuel, God with us... with us both in our strengths as well as in our imperfections. That is our gift, that is the mystery, that is our hope.

In an Advent hymn last week (In the still of the winter by Nancy Hayes Kilgore) we sang the word "Numinous". I wondered if there was a typo. I thought numinous was a word, but in relation to a star, as it was used in the hymn, "luminous" seemed to make more sense. I discovered that numinous means: mysterious, supernatural, filled with a sense of the presence of divinity, holy. Talk about perfect... what a perfect word to be used during Advent. My wish for all of us is that Advent and Christmas not be perfect, but Numinous... filled with hope, mystery, and a sense of the presence of God, God with us, Emmanuel.

Advent Blessings, Lori+

SENIOR WARDEN NOTES

With the months of November and December come the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays and a time when we gather with family and friends to give thanks for all the Lord has provided.

Giving thanks and taking the time to appreciate what we have sometimes is lost in the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives. By our very nature we want more and are never quite satisfied with all we have. At Trinity, we have been given plenty.

Allow me this opportunity to thank all of you for making Trinity who and what it is today. My thanks to each of you for your hard work and dedication in whatever ministries you do for the Lord's church and His work here on earth. Though small in numbers the Spirit is alive and life at Trinity is strong.

The things I cherish most at Trinity are the simple things; your friendly hellos and good-byes and showing me God's love through your friendly smiles and embraces. Yes, the simple things are what I cherish most about Trinity!

As we move through the holiday season and begin another year together I'd like to pass along a couple of reminders and topics to think about.

First we have been blessed to have a number of visitors/guests join us over the past few weeks. To assist those who are unfamiliar with us, I ask all of you to do what you can to remember to wear your nametags. This is a great help to our visitors and newcomers. If you have misplaced yours or do not have a nametag, please let us know so we can have one made for you.

Please keep in mind Bishop Todd's request to help the people of Haiti rebuild. As a diocese, the goal is to raise \$100,000 before the end of the year. As mentioned previously this works out to about \$33.33 per person attending Sunday service. To contribute, please make a check payable to Trinity Episcopal Church and write Haiti Appeal on the memo line. We will collect these donations and send a monthly check (November, and December) for the total collected each month to the Diocese of Eastern Michigan.

Lastly, please mark your calendars for January 16th, this is the date of our annual meeting and it would be wonderful if all attended. We will close out 2010 with reports and look forward to 2011. As usual we will be electing new vestry members/leadership and I pray everyone will look deeply within themselves and consider this important service, realizing many of you have "been there and done that".

Work will always remain, but I believe if we are patient and continue to pray and listen to our Lord, the Spirit will guide and provide for us all we need or want. Thank you for teaching me to appreciate the "little things" and may your holiday season be filled with joy, laughter and love.

"We are **CALLED**, in fellowship, **TO LOVE AND SERVE** God by reaching out and sharing the good news!"

Yours in Christ,
Norb

VESTRY MINUTES November 9, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. with members sharing concerns and celebrations, followed by prayers led by Rev Lori Johnson. Absent: Jim Dietrich and Mike Busch. Guests: Dave Krueger and Linda Niedecken.

Seven Good Things:

Spaghetti dinner and guests, rental of the rectory, Trumpet, beads have arrived for the Bead Party, comfort covers and chemo caps have been delivered, Presiding Bishop Katherine's visit and Marty Fields is Bishop Elect.

New Business:

The 2009 Audit report will be reviewed at the December meeting. Trinity will provide a warming station at the church for the Flushing Candlewalk on December 2nd and 3rd. Hot chocolate and cider will be available along with entertainment, arts and crafts.

Trinity Systems Document Phase VI was reviewed. The 2011 Stewardship Campaign envelopes along with a letter summarizing where Trinity is at now will be mailed.

Continuing Business:

The Wreath Sale is in progress. Wreaths are to be decorated over Thanksgiving weekend.

The latest draft of the Vision Statement was up for review. A final draft will be available at the Annual Meeting on January 16th.

John Steele is now President of the Convocation. A new Dean of the Standing Committee will be appointed by the Bishop.

Reports:

Treasurer's full report will be available at the December meeting. October offerings were \$9,278.00. YTD shows a minus \$10,230.00.

Vestry minutes of October 12th were approved as written.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Henneke, Clerk



Busy Wreath Makers

Just a thank you to Reverend Lori and Sharon for always having their cameras ready and taking such good pictures. Their efforts really help make this Trumpet better.

OUTREACH REQUEST

Anyone who has a set of dishes for a family in need it would be appreciated.

We are also still looking for blankets, warm clothing, and personal hygiene needs.



Day	Date (s)	Time	Event & Location
Weds.	None on Nov. 24 th Dec. 1, 8, 15	7:00 pm	Lectionary Bible Study
Sun.	Nov. 28	After Service	Hanging of the Greens / Decorating for Candlewalk /
Thurs.	Dec. 16	7:00pm	Euchre: Beginners Welcome
Thurs.	Nov. 25		Thanksgiving Church Office closed Thurs. & Fri.
Thurs.	Dec. 2	8:00am	Men's Breakfast At Liberty Family Restaurant, Pierson Rd
Thurs.	Dec. 2	2:00pm	Afternoon Knitting
Thurs, Fri	Dec. 2, 3	5:00-9:00pm	Flushing Candle Walk Trinity will be a warming station
Thurs.	Dec. 9 (none on Dec. 23)	6:30pm	Hooks & Needles Come Knit & Crochet, beginners welcome. Participate in Chemo Cap Ministry
Tues.	Dec. 14	6:30pm	Vestry Meeting
Sun.	Dec. 19	After Service	Additional Christmas decorating as needed
Fri.	Dec. 24	TBA	Christmas Eve Service
Sat.	Dec. 25		Christmas (church office closed Dec. 27-31)

Successful Beads for Life Party

We are proud to report that we hosted a very successful bead party that raised over \$1500.00 for the women of Uganda. These women are supporting their families by making beautiful jewelry. We are proud to help eradicate poverty one bead at a time.



Additional Advent resources:

[Advent Calendars & Bookmarks:](#)

This year for Advent we will have available for you a Month at a glance Advent Calendar with a theme and brief verse in each square, with the verse listed if you want to look it up and read more of the text around that verse. Great for posting on your refrigerator, bulletin board, work cubicle, or anywhere else you'll see it regularly. Some of these are currently in the lounge. the church has permission to make copies, so if we run out and you would like one, please let us know and we'll make more. Take one for home and one for office and one for your school locker.

We will also have some bookmarks with a suggested verse one can look up each day by the theme "Love Finds a Voice in Bethlehem", which is the title of the Sunday Morning Study we will be doing.

[Praying Advent page from Creighton University:](#) has a page for each week with info/reflection and then links for prayers for each day of that week of Advent <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/>



A Christmas Gift Idea



The original idea for the Trinity Cups was to have a gift we could send home with visitors.

The cups are handmade by a Flint potter
Guy Adamec.



For sale at the church
for \$10 each, our cost.

BIRTHDAYS



Mark Niedecken	Dec. 5
Pam Elder	Dec. 8
Sue Porn	Dec. 8
John Rowe	Dec. 11
Korina Knerr	Dec. 21
Vause Carlsen	Dec. 25
Robert Michels	Dec. 27
Shirley St. John	Dec. 31

ANNIVERSARIES

There are no anniversaries this month.



God bless you on your special day

Spaghetti Dinner-yum



Trinity Episcopal Church

745 E. Main St.
Flushing, MI 48433

Phone: 810-659-9716

Fax: 810-659-6013

Email: trinityec@usol.com

Website:
www.trinitychurchflushing.org

“Called to Love and Serve”

STAFF

The Rev. Lori Johnson 810-869-6564
Rector revlori.trinity@gmail.com

The Rev. Vause Carlsen 810-732-3619
Deacon vcarlsen@comcast.net

Eileen Nagy 810-771-4129
Pastoral Musician franklinnagy@comcast.net

Bookkeeper Sandy Evan

Rosie Nicholas 810-659-9716
Secretary trinityec@usol.com

VESTRY

Sr. Warden: Norb Birchmeier 810-487-1693
Email: nbirchm1@hurleymc.com

Jr. Warden: Jim Dietrich 810-241-3651
Email: jimdietrich52@gmail.com

Ann James 810-230-1373
Email: annljames@comcast.net

Michael Busch 810-287-7946
Email: mwbusch@gmail.com

Sharon Krueger 810-659-9552
Email: thepaintlady@comcast.net

Ralph Niedecken 810-687-0076
Email: rlniedecken@aol.com

Denny Pickard 810-733-5432
Email: dpickaec@aol.com

Mary Dietrich 810-241-3652
Email: jamdietrich@yahoo.com

Jane Rousseau 810-732-0597

Clerk: Donna Henneke 810-659-6309
Email: ehenn1@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: John Rowe 810-735-8750
Email: rowe2604@charter.net