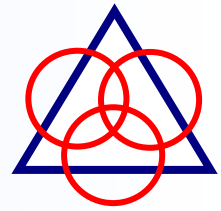


# THE TRINITY TRUMPET



December 2009

[www.trinitychurchflushing.org](http://www.trinitychurchflushing.org)

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## Sunday Service 10 AM

*Sharing Our  
Gifts and  
Blessings  
With our  
Community*



Many thanks to all who contributed to our first "Sharing the Bread" event on Sunday, November 15th. We received a very enthusiastic response, and the collection table was mounded with wonderful yummy goodies. The tally for this first effort included approximately 24 dozen cookies, 7 1/2 dozen muffins, 9 loaves of bread and 12 packages of "puppy chow" snack mix!

On Monday, November 16th, we delivered 4 dozen muffins, 8 dozen cookies and the puppy chow to the YWCA's Domestic Violence Shelter in downtown Flint, where 34 adults and children are in residence. The remainder, plus 3 whole pumpkins, went to the North End Soup Kitchen, which also supplies meals to My Brother's Keeper and Shelter of Flint. The receiving personnel at both locations were very excited and grateful for the donations.

Thanks again for the time, effort and money that went into this event. Your generosity helped feed a lot of hungry people!  
*Rebecca Jess and Nancy Pickard*

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute...for the sick and the suffering...

She is a widow with enormous utility bills; he has to get to his radiation therapy and has no money to buy gas or bus fare; there are four young grandchildren left when cancer claimed a grandparent their mother; there is a patient undergoing treatment who has had work hours cut in half which leaves a very small pay check to cover food, rent, medicine, utilities and bus fare--only the check does not begin to cover the essentials; there is the wreckage of a family left after an accident and the parent is severely injured.

The above are all variations of true stories right here in Genesee County and there is no end. The events, mishaps, poverty, illnesses seem to go on all year. The Deacon's Discretionary Fund is available for some assistance when possible. If you feel you could help, please consider a donation to the Fund. Make checks out to Trinity Episcopal Church and note Deacon's Discretionary Fund on the MEMO line. It will be deposited in the Chase account. Checks are written and then sent to the agency, utility, etc. that needs to be paid. Your care and concern are a reflection of God's love in you and there will be some very grateful individuals and families

God's love and peace, Vause Carlsen, Deacon

[vcarlsen@comcast.net](mailto:vcarlsen@comcast.net)



**“O Gracious Light”**

**Hymn 25**

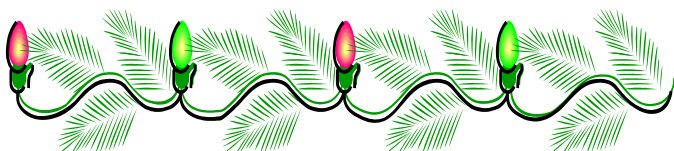
**1. O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ, in you the Father’s glory shone. Immortal, holy, blest is he, and blest are you, his holy Son.**

**2. Now sunset comes, but light shines forth, the lamps are lit to pierce the night. Praise Father, Son and Spirit: God who dwells in the eternal light.**

**Worthy are you of endless praise, O Son of God, Life giving Lord; wherefore you are through all the earth and in the highest heaven adored.**

Recently it feels like we’ve turned a seasonal corner. The leaves have turned and fallen, it’s cold and gray out, and we should have some real snow before long. Over the long Thanksgiving weekend as I drove down Main Street I noticed another seasonal change. My eyes took in a phenomenon we see once a year for a few short weeks. Apparently, while it was still warm and with Candle Walk upon us, folks got out and began decorating houses and businesses with festive lights. They shined brightly and twinkled cheerily in the night. It was beautiful and there was a sense of warmth and hospitality as lights pierced the night lighting the way home.

Comedian Jim Gaffigan has quipped the tradition is odd and backward because we take a tree from outside and bring it in the house, then take lights that are normally inside and place them out in our yard. Even so, it’s hard to imagine Advent and Christmas without lights and candles. So where does the tradition of lighting trees and homes originate? I found a couple sources of our current tradition. An unproven myth says Martin Luther was the first to put candles in a tree to recreate an experience of seeing stars through trees as he walked in a forest on Christmas Eve.



Candles were placed on a wooden pyramid called the lightstock or Christmas pyramid. It typically stood near a “Paradise Tree.” This tree was decorated with paper flowers, apples, wafers and treats, a tradition that grew out of telling the story of Adam and Eve at Christmas. The two traditions merged to become the tree decorating we see today. Another tradition, particularly from Ireland, was placing a candle in the window Christmas Eve. This symbolized Mary and Joseph’s search for shelter, and that the Christ child and travelers were welcome there.

Now that we know a little about decorative lights of the season... what about the more central yet often overlooked light of the season? Advent and Christmas are a time for us to reflect on the mystery of the enfleshment of God. To take in our breath in awe and wonder that the divine has come to live as one of us, bringing light to pierce the darkness and heal our broken world.

One of my favorite hymns (above) names Jesus as Light, describing how light pierces the night. A Christmas collect reads: “you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives,” and in San Antonio we closed children’s chapel by blowing out the candle and saying, “now the light of Christ is everywhere, it surrounds us and fills us.” Wouldn’t it be nice if lights were up all year to remind us Christ’s light is enkindled in us, surrounds us, fills us, can shine forth in our lives warmly and brightly like many strands of blinky lights? This Advent and Christmas season, may the light of Christ shine through us so that we can be lamps that pierce the night drawing others to the Light of Christ. Let us strive to not lose sight of the light or let our own lights be dimmed after the seasonal decorations have been put away until next year.

Advent Blessings and Merry Christmas! Lori+

[Hanging of the greens changed to Dec. 13](#)

[Please have giving tree gifts to church by Dec 20th](#)



### SENIOR WARDEN NOTES

Where has 2009 gone? It seems like it was only a month or so ago the vestry first gathered to discuss the upcoming year!

“There is so much to do and never enough time to get it all done!” We have all said this more than once in our lives. If you were to ask Lori and the vestry about leadership service at Trinity, this would be something they would say.

I’ve lost track, but I believe I’m completing my 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year as Senior Warden. With each passing year, I learn a little more about being the Senior Warden. I learn a little more the about what needs to be accomplished, the things that should be done and the time and attention required to do the business of Trinity. I have been very fortunate (some would likely say “crazy”) to be Senior Warden in successive years which has provided for a lengthy and continuous learning curve of knowledge. I am convinced our tradition of 3-year vestry terms, usually involving multiple Senior Wardens, does not allow a vestry member time to learn the ins and outs of church business. I hope by the end my vestry term, we will be able to better document and organize enough information to pass on the responsibilities of being a Senior Warden and a vestry member to those that follow.

I would like to say a sincere “thank you” to Lori and all of the vestry membership for your hard work and dedication to Trinity this past year. Having been on and off the vestry since coming to Trinity in 1999, I do not recall a collection of members that have worked with this much energy and dedicated as much time to do get things done. Make no mistake about it there is still much more to do, but I am convinced we will get there.

To he membership, know your vestry is working hard for you. However, in some ways; we have had to take a couple of steps backwards in order to move forward. Unfortunately, there will always seem to be much more to do. When I am frustrated and overwhelmed at work, my boss at Hurley tells me that the only way to get rid

of the elephant in the room is one bite at a time. That is what the vestry is doing, biting off one thing at a time in an effort to correct past deficiencies, near sightedness, and forgotten business practices. We are discovering inactivity and a lack of continuity following the abrupt departure of our fulltime rector in 2003 is affecting present organizational activities. In the past, the rector filled the roles of business manager as well as the spiritual leader, while the vestry served his needs. Unknowingly to the leadership that followed and without fulltime staff, things slowly fell through the cracks and were not updated or done at all.

2010 and will again be a busy year and engaged and dedicated leadership will continue to be a necessity. Like all congregations, there will always be challenges. Nevertheless, I am convinced that if we “stay the course” and continue to work hard and do the right things, Trinity will continue to grow and be a viable and relevant part of the community.

During this season of giving and offering thanks, I ask you pray and give thanks for all of the good things and blessings that Trinity provides. Give thanks for the gift of a wonderful and supportive membership. Give thanks the Lord has provided us with a beautiful place to gather, worship, and share our fellowship with one another. Give thanks and pray for all of those who serve in leadership roles. Pray the Lord will lead and guide us step by step as were journey forward together in order to create a spiritual environment for generations to come. Most of all give thanks, pray for and CELEBRATE each other!

To all in the congregation, please accept my gratitude for all each of you do to support and serve the Lord and the ministries at Trinity. We are family and each of you holds a special place in my heart, Trinity would not be the same without you.

Please have a safe and happy holiday season!!

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

Yours in Christ, Norb



*Oh! Oh! Forgot to order your wreaths?  
Don't Panic, there are extras!  
Call Dave at 659-9552*



**Flushing  
Candlewalk**

We are providing warm drinks on **Thursday and Friday**. Come help us serve our community

**December 3 & 4th  
5:30-10:00**

## FOR SEASONABLE WEATHER...

Unfortunately, seasonable weather in Michigan may include snow, ice, and below zero temperatures. Too many of our people are receiving heavy duty chemo therapy or other medications and their hair begins to thin or even disappear altogether. That chills their bodies beyond belief. Another group of our citizens are without heat and/or warm clothes. Many sleep in unheated homes or rooms and often without coats, hats or blankets. This is where Trinity can help. This is where Trinity does help.

Some may donate yarn or money to buy yarn. Some may donate time to knit or crochet that yarn into caps and blankets. Some go to any of the many stores selling fleece blankets or fleece by the yard and donate warmth to those who are so cold. Some of the donated yarn is given to inmates at the Lapeer Correctional Facility and they have made some very handsome blankets and hats and then returned to us to give to patients or to those who seek food and warmth at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Flint. Some of our smallest citizens receiving medical treatment at Hurley Medical Center have been given our small size blankets and caps.

Left over yarn has been turned into small size mats for cages at the Humane Society and when the little animal is adopted, his blanket goes home with him. One of our Trinity members has created quilted mats for the animals comfort also.

If you would like to help with any of the above, please let me know or leave a message for me in the church's office. We need people to help knit, sew, crochet, donate washable yarn, deliver the completed items. And the Deacon's Discretionary Fund can always accept donations to buy yarn. Make checks out to Trinity and note on the MEMO line that it is for the Deacon's Discretionary Fund. There will be some very grateful and warm people.

Vause Carlsen, Deacon  
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vcarlsen@comcast.net



## **Progressive Dinner**

## **Eat, Sing and**



## **Be Merry**



As we have entered the Fall Season and Advent soon, we will again use the hand chimes. The chimes and accompanying music will be on the stairway at the Sanctuary entrance. Please feel free to pick up one with the music. The chimes are easy to play. Grasp the handle (with the hammer pointed away from you) and basically, flick your wrist with a good strong push. The notes to be played on each hymn are circled. Following the service the chimes and music may be left on the back pews.

## **Taize**

We have been using some Taize music during communion recently. So what is Taize? Taize is a christian monastic community in Taize, Burgandy, France. The Community is run by about 100 brothers. Christians make pilgrimages from all over the world for retreat, prayer, Bible Study, sharing and communal work.

Music is designed to assist in preparing participants for prayer (listening to God). Many times, low lighting, candles and this chanting type music is used. Most of the music is only 2 lines, sung over and over in different ways. There can be volume changes, tempo changes, and instrumental versions of the music to aid in personal worship. For more information and background google Taize or Brother Berthier.

## VESTRY MEETING

November 17, 2009

The meeting was called to order with sharing of concerns, celebrations and prayer by Rev Lori Johnson at 6:35 p.m. Absent: John Rowe and Ralph Niedecken. Guests: Jack Carlsen and Korina Knerr.

Seven Good Things: Progressive dinner, new tent with lettering, Claire Jess happening, Church Directory project done, Helen's return, great job with Stewardship Campaign and Outreach projects, and Jim Graham's preaching.

New Business: Recovery Service on November 28<sup>th</sup> with evening prayer, music and refreshments.

Trinity will be singing Christmas Carols on December 4<sup>th</sup> at the Candlewalk. Christmas Service will be on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Greens will be put up the week before.

The old Trinity website has been dissolved. Rev Lori and Jim Dietrich are updating the new website. The Domain name has been renewed for three years for \$87.83.

Stewardship Sunday is November 22<sup>nd</sup>. A reminder to turn in pledge envelopes has been sent out. There are fifty-four on the mailing list.

Church committees are being reviewed. Evangelism/Newcomer Committee will be the first to be re-organized. The Worship Committee recommended an inclusive Sunday bulletin be available soon.

Continuing Business: The Convocation is putting together a booklet and a picture of Trinity Church will appear in it. Funds from the Convocation for 2010 will be going to outreach and food projects. Trinity will be reimbursed by the Convocation in the amount of \$2,818.72 for Start Up/Start Over expenses.

The wreath sales are falling short this year by one-half. Decorating of the wreaths will be on November 28<sup>th</sup> at Krueger's.

Guitar lessons will be available at the church once a week after January 1<sup>st</sup>. Charges are \$12.00 per person per hour.

Treasurer's report showed offerings to be under budget for October. Actual loss for October is \$777.00.

Financial report will be reviewed in December.

Vestry minutes of October 13, 2009 were approved as written.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Henneke, Clerk



# Wreath Making



## Let's Play

# Euchre

### Thursday

## December 17th

## in the Salay Room

### 7 PM

**You don't know how to play?  
No problem we will teach you !**

**Bring your friends  
drinks will be furnished.**

# Calendar

Day	Date(s)	Time	Event & Location
Mon.		7:00pm	Adult Ed. Class: DVD Series Great World Religions by Dr. Timothy Johnson
Wed.		7:00pm	Lectionary Study
Thurs.	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursdays- Dec. 10, not Dec. 24	6:30 - 8:00pm	Hooks & Needles: Come Knit & Crochet, beginners welcome. Participate in Chemo Cap and Comfort Cover Ministry
Sun.	Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, and 20	9:00am	Adult Ed.: Pausing on the Road to Bethlehem: a Spiritual Journey through Advent
Tues.	Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22	11:00am	Advent Study and Noonday Prayers: Rejoice! Reflections on 4 Advent Hymns
Wed.	Dec. 2	6:30 - 7:00pm	Candlewalk Chimes & Carols practice
Thurs.	Dec. 3-4	5:30 - 10:00pm	Candlewalk: Trinity is the Hay Ride Turn-Around Point We'll sing Carols with Chimes downtown on Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup> and will take our turn in the Entertainment Tent from 7:30 - 8pm
Thurs	Dec. 3	8:00am	Men's Breakfast (Liberty Restaurant)
Tues.	Dec. 8	6:30pm	Vestry Meeting
Wed.	Dec. 9	6:00 - 9:00pm	Movie Night: "The Nativity Story" - come watch a recent version of the story of events leading to Jesus' birth.
Thurs.	Dec. 17	7:00pm	Euchre Night: Beginners Welcome, Bring Friends!
Sun.	Dec. 13	After service	Hanging of the Greens
Thurs.	Dec. 24	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Service



## The Nativity

Story

movie

**Dec. 9th**

**6-9**

**Come to the Salay Room**

**For popcorn and fun.**

## December Birthdays:

Lucas Knerr	Dec. 4
Pam Elder	Dec. 8
Sue Porn	Dec. 8
John Rowe	Dec. 10
Bev Jacobs	Dec. 18
Vause Carlsen	Dec. 25
Robert Michaels	Dec. 27
Shirley St. John	Dec. 31

[WWW.juniorwardensreport.now](http://www.juniorwardensreport.now)

As we enter Advent, there have been many changes at Trinity. One thing that hasn't changed so far is the weather! This makes some happy to postpone winter. Others, who like the cold weather and winter snow related activities, are anxiously anticipating the first measurable accumulation. One thing is for certain, you can't change the weather! With sunny and warm weather you will also certainly receive cold and adverse weather. As some say, "In every sunny day, a little rain must fall"! We are not promised a smooth road in life. We are not promised that life will be easy. What we are promised is that God will be with us every step of the way!

What does all of this have to do with, [www.juniorwardensreport.now](http://www.juniorwardensreport.now)? The title of this article refers to the fact that your junior warden has taken on the duties of webmaster. I would rather be called, the "fledgling webmaster". My charge is to complete and update the new church website, [www.trinitychurchflushing.org](http://www.trinitychurchflushing.org). Our old website, [www.episcopalchurchflushing.org](http://www.episcopalchurchflushing.org) is no longer in existence. But, this old website address will point you to the new website automatically. Rev. Lori and I have completed all the transfers necessary to make this a reality. The old link will continue to function until 2011. It has been suggested that we go back to the old domain name since there are more than one Trinity church in the Flushing area. We are letting the dust settle for now, but this is a possibility for sometime in the future.

Rev. Lori has done an excellent job of setting up the website and adding much church related information. Work remains to be done to complete the website content. There has

been a cloud of frustration expressed by some regarding the calendar. The calendar should be kept updated to inform members and visitors of events happening at Trinity. I will strive to update the calendar and complete the website. In any organization I have been involved with, the leader was never asked to be the webmaster. That is a separate task assigned to another member of that group. Trinity Church should not be any different. Lori continues to review and edit the website, but I am doing the majority of the physical mechanics.

Following up on this is my request to you, the congregation. Help us make the Trinity website friendly, inviting, appealing, welcoming, and easy to navigate. All ideas and suggestions are welcomed and encouraged. It will take input from everyone to make this happen. The calendar is updated and more events and photos have been added. If you don't happen to see your picture on the site for an event, I apologize. I will try to include everyone in the events area. The best way to see yourself on the events portion of the site is to participate in as many events as possible. You will find this will also help you grow in your faith and fellowship!

Please visit the website and try to look at it as though you just discovered Trinity Church in Flushing. Contact me with any suggestions or criticisms. You can email me at [jim-dietrich52@gmail.com](mailto:jim-dietrich52@gmail.com) or call me anytime at 810-241-3651. With everyone's' help, we can make Trinity even more inviting than it already is!

Respectfully Submitted ,  
Jim Dietrich, Junior Warden

SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2009

Ministry	Dec. 6	Dec. 13	Dec. 20	Dec. 27	Week 5
Altar Guild	Dorothy West (Chair) Betsy Eller Ann James Fay Kenrick	Same	Same	Same	N/A
Acolyte	Claire Jess	Tori Lockhart	Austin Boulter	Alex Lockhart	N/A
Lector/Chalice	Larry Elder	Ed Henneke	Larry Elder	Shirley St. John	N/A
Greeters	Elaine Martin	Kathy Boulter	Jim Dietrich	Lynnette Peppler	N/A
Ushers	Rebecca Jess Jim Dietrich	Jack Carlsen John Rowe	Elaine Martin Jane Rousseau	Dennis and Nancy Pickard	N/A
Kids Word	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	N/A
Coffee Hour	Dorothy West Sue Porn	Sharon Krueger Donna Henneke	Betsy Eller June Rowe	Donna Jessop Ralph & Linda Niedecken	N/A
Eucharistic Visitor	Ed Henneke or Lori Johnson	Vause Carlsen or Lori Johnson	Ed Henneke or Lori Johnson	Vause Carlsen or Lori Johnson	N/A

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**“Called to Love and Serve”**

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Trinity Episcopal Church  
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Sunday Service Time 10:00