



The Vine...

Connecting the Body of Christ one to another

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Essex, 1131 Mace Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21221

(410) 687-5531

www.holytrinityessex.org

December 2020



FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

Advent is a season of preparation . . . and expectation . . . and HOPE.

Our Advent preparation and expectation are focused on Our Lord's coming to us at Christmas, and in this strange and frightening year, we HOPE that when Christmas comes, we will be able to celebrate – if not quite “as usual,” at least with joy and thankfulness.

Christmas is not always “merry.” Circumstances around us and in our lives can erode the “merry.” But Christmas is *always* holy and blessed. It celebrates a God who loves us so much that he came to us as one of us, to live among us, to share our joys and sorrows, our fears and our hopes. It celebrates the birth of our Savior.

As we measure the days of Advent and approach Christmastide, we can open our expectation wide, welcoming whatever may come, because our HOPE is in Our Lord's coming, and we know that that hope is never in vain.

“May the God of all hope fill us with joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.” *Romans 15:13*

God bless you all in Advent and at Christmas!

Faithfully,

Mother Annette





FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH

Greetings All,

I hope you are well and are staying safe. We have no way of knowing what Christmas will look like this year; everything will depend on the COVID rates and what our Diocese recommends. Advent and Christmas are going to happen regardless, and we will continue with live-stream services. I have listed below some Advent Daily readings as well as the meaning of the Advent Candles and prayers that can be said each Sunday as you light your Advent Candle. The collects for the 4 Sundays in Advent can also be found on page 211 of your Book of Common Prayer, followed by prayers for Christmas and Epiphany.

No matter where we are at Christmas, we are together in our love of Christ and in the hope of His resurrection. I pray that you all have a blessed Christmas Season.

Yours in Christ,

Cindy+

From St. Matthews Episcopal Church

The first blue or purple candle that is lit is called the "Prophecy Candle", reminding us of the prophets who foretold the coming of the Messiah. This first candle represents HOPE. The second purple or blue candle that is lit represents LOVE. Some traditions have named this candle the "Bethlehem

Candle", representing Christ's manger. On the third Sunday, the rose candle is lit. This candle is called the "Shepherd's Candle" and it represents JOY. The fourth candle is often referred to as the "Angel's Candle", and it represents PEACE. On Christmas Eve, the white center candle is lit. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents Christ coming into the world

Advent Wreath Readings

<https://www.crosswalk.com/special-coverage/christmas-and-advent/what-are-advent-readings.html>

The Common Rule- advent readings

<https://www.thecommonrule.org/advent-readings>

SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Communication has been more difficult with the COVID pandemic. I wanted to take this opportunity to share the process the search committee used in their work.

We met with the Vestry on October 1, 2020, for an overview of the search process and then again on October 6 for anti-bias training. On October 14, we met to discuss how we wanted to go forth.

We had received ministry portfolios and resumes from 5 priests who were interested in coming to Holy Trinity. However, we still had some questions that we did not feel were answered in the previous documents.

We developed a list of our own 16 questions. We met again on October 19 and narrowed down our questions to 7. Since there were 7 of us on the team, we each chose a number and asked that specific question during each of the interviews.

We had our first interview on October 21, followed by two interviews on October 26, another interview on October 29. We had our final interview on November 2.

After each interview, we asked the candidates to send us links for their sermons (Facebook, YouTube). Our last and 9th meeting was on November 6. As a group, we discussed our concerns, the candidates' strengths, and our overall impressions of how each priest could grow, and help us to grow, at Holy Trinity. We made a decision, and on November 10 we met with the vestry to make our first and second choices known. The decision is now in the hands of the vestry.

Holy Trinity's search committee consisted of truly dedicated parishioners. They were generous with their time and extremely flexible in setting up meetings. Their pictures should all be in the dictionary under the word "teamwork." They are:

Gladys Agandi
Barbara Benson
Maggie Giordano
Ron Mardaga
Laura Neilsen
Mary Anne Quinn

Their devotion to this task was beyond compare. Besides coming to meetings, everyone was required to spend hours reviewing resumes and portfolios, reviewing sermons (written and online), and openly sharing their thoughts and feelings. Maggie volunteered to be the recording secretary, and Mary Anne Quinn prepared and opened every meeting with prayer. I feel truly blessed to have had the opportunity to work with each of them, and I hope for further opportunities in the future.

In gratitude,
Denise Thatcher



CHRISTMAS PLANS

We are challenged to plan for Christmas while not knowing whether we will be able to worship in person. So our watchword is "*Stay flexible!*"

One important element of Christmas that you need to know now: *Whether you worship on line at home or here in the church, you will be able to have Christmas Communion.* We have purchased individual prefilled communion cups for our Christmas Eve celebration. We will distribute these supplies (probably on Saturday, December 19) in the church parking lot, with everyone masked and observing appropriate social distancing. This will be a strictly *drive-up distribution*. You will not leave your car; your communion cups will be in a plastic baggie. Watch your email updates for information on the exact date and times of the distribution. Then when you watch the Christmas Eve service on Facebook or YouTube, you can take communion with the whole congregation.

Remember: No Christmas card exchange at the church. Use email, Facebook, text, or postal mail for your Christmas greetings. No food collection for Christmas: our outreach will be by gift cards. The form for Christmas memorials is in this newsletter. Please use it to make your memorial gifts to outreach and for poinsettias.

How many services will we have on Christmas Eve? How can we make Christmas as meaningful as possible if we have to spend it worshipping on line? These are the questions that are still occupying us. If you have further suggestions, please let me know.

As plans develop, we will be staying in touch through the email updates. Be sure to read your updates so you'll know what's going on!

Mother Annette

Church News

FINANCIAL UPDATE - STATUS AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2020

From Jason Kamrath

What a year it has been!

Beginning with revenue - we are actually right on track with pledges. Many thanks to everyone who has been keeping their pledges current during this pandemic. The areas that we are significantly under budget are not a surprise at all - loose plate offering, envelope no pledge, and feast day envelopes. People not coming to church have impacted these areas and we are under budget by approximately \$15,000 year to date.

We are under budget by around \$1,800 in hall rental, by \$6,000 in rectory rental, and by several hundred dollars in contributions to the discretionary funds.

In total, through October, we have received income of \$129,844 on a budget of \$158,333.

On the expense side, our total expenses through October are \$146,100 on a total budget of \$157,000. \$13,047 of this amount was funded from the capital improvement fund for a net operating expense total of \$133,053 which, while significantly under budget, is \$4,321 more than our operating revenue of \$129,844. Our surplus from 2019 was \$4,527 and that minus the \$4,321 keeps our operating fund balance breaking even at \$206 through the end of October.

All of the above can be summarized into the following: We had hoped our strong year ending 2019 with a surplus combined with the savings relating to the interim rector would give us some extra funds to prepare to call a new Rector. In reality, we are just barely breaking even and will depend on increased financial support as we call a new Rector.



STAYING CONNECTED, STAYING CHURCH

(from Mother Annette)

COVID restrictions continue. This is not comfortable, but it is a reality we have to live with.

What can you do in the midst of this uncertainty?

1. Read the email updates that keep you in touch with what's happening at Holy Trinity.
2. Worship regularly, whether in person or on line.
3. Keep up your pledge. Our mailbox is locked, so your mail-in contributions are safe.
4. Stay in touch. Call or email each other. Call or email Mtr. Annette or Dcn. Cindy. Keep each other in prayer.

5. Pray for Holy Trinity and for the Vestry. Please especially lift the Vestry in prayer as they engage in discernment around calling a new Rector for Holy Trinity.

If you have been sending in your pledge regularly, *thank you!*

When sending contributions, please be sure to distinguish between your pledge and any other donations, such as for outreach. Use separate checks. If you send only one check, it will be recorded as pledge.

Again thank you to all who continue to support Holy Trinity. Your pledges and other contributions are essential.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES



Backpack Ministry:

Baltimore County Public Schools continue in virtual learning mode through at least January 2021. We continue to supply food bags for our Sandalwood students.

If you would like to help, please do not bring food to Holy Trinity! We can accept donations (cash or check) to purchase items. Due to COVID restrictions, we are not using the parish hall.

Baltimore International Seafarers' Center:

On behalf of the Outreach Committee, I want to thank everyone who brought items for this ministry, before Holy Trinity closed in March due to COVID. Special thanks to whoever brought in the hotel size bottles of shampoo/conditioner and hand cream. We had more than enough to fill all bags.

Thanks to all of you for your contributions to all our outreach ministries.

Wishing you a blessed Advent and Christmas,

Denise Thatcher

As a result of our donation, we have received a letter from the Director of BISC, as follows:

*Dear Annette+,
I hope this finds you well. Please share with your congregation my thanks for 20 generous Christmas at Sea packages. Christmas is historically a lonely time for most seafarers, but this year of course is worse, with time on board lengthened and shore leave virtually eliminated by COVID restrictions.*

I'm well aware that this has been a tough year for congregations as well. Thank you to all who participated for finding the time and resources to share with our invisible brothers and sisters on ships.

*Blessings,
Mary+
The Rev. Mary Davisson, Director
Baltimore International Seafarers' Center*

No Christmas Caroling

Due to COVID restrictions, we will NOT be caroling this year. We cannot visit the homebound or those in nursing homes. Please stay in touch with each other by phone, text, or email – you can always sing carols by phone.

No SPCA Angel Tree

We will also not be having the SPCA Angel Tree this year. Deacon Cindy will send SPCA a check on behalf of the congregation. If you would like to make your own donation to the SPCA, the address is:

Maryland SPCA
3300 Falls Road
Baltimore, MD 21211

Ongoing Programs:

We hope that you have been collecting aluminum pull tabs at home for the **Ronald McDonald House**. Please keep them at home until we are able to collect them again.

Eastern Interfaith Outreach (EIO) is still operating. Please see details below under the “Local Food Pantries” section.

LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

Eastern Interfaith Outreach (EIO)

Contact: 410-391-6181 OR 211

Donations: Make your check payable to “Eastern Interfaith Outreach” and mail it to:
Eastern Interfaith Outreach
P.O. Box 7878
Essex, MD 21221

Special Monthly Food Distribution:

Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m - 1:00 p.m. (or until the food supplies run out!)

Location: 99 Stemmers Run Road (parking lot)

St. Clare Catholic Church Food Pantry

Location: 714 Myrth Avenue in Essex

Hours: Tuesdays from 9 a.m. – 12 noon





Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland offers nutritious, fresh, prepared meals delivered to your home. Eat better with Meals on Wheels!

For those unable to cook or grocery shop for themselves – due to age, disability or illness, look to Meals on Wheels for dependable, friendly service.

To learn more, call 410-558-0923 or apply online at:
mealsonwheelsmd.org/client-application



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Heather Jackson – 12/2
- Betty Ann Metz – 12/6
- Joanne Piper – 12/9
- Earl Peters – 12/11
- Barb Benson – 12/13
- Chris Acly – 12/13
- Jackie Spence – 12/14
- Josh Rodriguez-Hobbs – 12/14
- Mary Wise – 12/15
- Laura Nielson – 12/20
- Sam Seay – 12/23
- Ellen Wallace – 12/27

- Sharon Goslin – 12/28
- Mikey Pomraning – 12/29
- Susan Huber – 12/30
- Alexis Balderson – 12/31
- Alyssa Balderson – 12/31



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- Dan and Janice Barber – 12/1
- Bob and Betty Metz – 12/17

ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS, SEE LEAH

MINISTRY SCHEDULE – DECEMBER

As we write, all in-person services have been suspended. If we are able to resume in-person services at some point in December, we will produce a Ministry Schedule and circulate it.



PRAYER LIST

O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your servants, that their weaknesses may be banished and their strength restored; and that, their health being renewed, they may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mary Bogert
Alice Martin
Ellen Wallace
Joan Anderson
Ruth Anthony
Joanne Piper
Margaret Oduor
Gladys Agandi
Valerie Mehl
John Morris
Jeannie Morris
Judy Harle
Bob Metz
Ratajczak family
Jesse Fields (Tim's son)
Bella Wilhide (Lynne Clementoni)
Deb Pirog
Julianne Salamone (Teresa's granddaughter)
Somo Bishop
Jackie Spence
Maranda Powell
Patty and Rich Rubin (Mary Anne's family)
Crosby family (Lynne Clementoni)
Melissa Tubman (Lynne Clementoni's niece)
Tim Morris (John's brother)
Patti Ballwanz

Wally Hossbach
Dina Munford
Sandy and John O'Donnell (Mary Anne's cousins)
Derek Schavelin (Alice's nephew)
James Rice (Arlene's grandson)
Ginny Floyd
Sharon Goslin

PLEASE ADVISE LEAH OF ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

PRAY FOR OUR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Please pray for members of our congregation who work in health care settings:

Laura Nielsen, Cindy Christopher+, Pam Gatchell, Denise Thatcher, Josh Rodriguez-Hobbs+, Don Alves, Mary Acly, Tamara Dishon, Jody Leonard, Joey Reichert, Lisa Balderson.



REGULAR REMINDERS



COFFEE HOUR

There will be no coffee hour so long as we are in Phase Orange. When we are ready to enter Phase Yellow, there will be specific instructions about coffee hour.

PARISH HALL RENTAL

NO HALL RENTALS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.



FLOWER MEMORIALS/ THANKSGIVINGS

If you would like to offer flower memorials or thanksgivings, please complete a form with your instructions, along with a check for \$30.00, and return them to Teresa Schutte-Regester in person or mail them to the church address listed on the form.

The 2021 forms are available from Leah in the church office. There is also a copy of the two-page form at the end of this newsletter. Memorials are on a per Sunday basis, not per name. More than one person may donate on any given Sunday.

HOUSEKEEPING NOTES

Please continue to follow the COVID instructions for sanitizing the pews and the restrooms.

MAILING LIST UPDATES

For changes to your home address or phone number, call the parish office at 410-687-5531 on Tuesday or Thursday between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon.



MESSAGES

Anne Knott maintains the primary list of e-mail information. However, if you change your email address and you don't give the change to Anne, it is not possible for her to notify you of situations impacting the parish. Anne can be reached at anneews@verizon.net.

VESTRY OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Senior Warden - Christine Kinard
Junior Warden - Wes Thatcher
Treasurer – Ellen Reilley
Registrar - Theresa Ridgeway
Financial Secretary - Jean Bowen

Vestry Members:

Arielle Juberg John Morris
Christopher Acly Laura Nielsen
Scott Rodriguez-Hobbs Loretta Gischel



FINAL WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Items for the January Newsletter are due by December 15.



Thank You

Thank you for your generous donations to the Outreach Committee and the Thanksgiving Community Outreach Ministry. Your generosity allowed us to reach 24 families and provide gift cards to local grocery stores.

Special thanks to Lynn French and the members of the Outreach Committee for their help planning the Ministry.

Sign Up Genius Instructions

We are using a new computer program to assist us with keeping track of who signs up for each church service. This is necessary because we can only have limited occupancy in the church at any one time.

Please note: We will continue to have weekly sign-up instead of monthly. **Please remember to sign up for each Sunday's service the week prior, preferably before Thursday.** If you do not have Internet access, call the church office on Tuesday or Thursday between 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

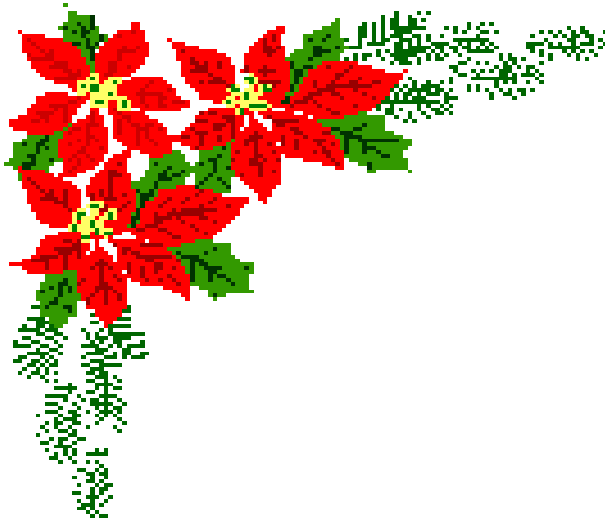
To sign up by computer:

1. Type the following address into your Internet browser:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/findasignup>
2. Under "Search for a sign up" type the following email address:
HTOfficeSecretary@gmail.com
3. Click the "Search" button
4. Click on the "HT Church Services _____ 2020" item (choose the appropriate date)
5. Choose either the 8:00 or 10:00 service by clicking on the appropriate blue "Sign Up" button.
6. Click the blue "Submit and Sign Up" button at the bottom of the page.
7. Type your name(s) in the "Comment" line and the number of people in your immediate family who will be coming, including yourself.
8. Follow all of the remaining prompts until you are notified that you have successfully signed up for the service time that you want.

Please note: The software will not let you sign up if all of the spaces have been taken at that time. If this happens, call the church office on Tuesday or Thursday between 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon to notify Leah. We want to know if there are any parishioners who have not been able to sign up so we know if we need to consider adding a third service.

If you cannot sign up via the Internet:

Call Leah during church office hours only! The church office hours are Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. The church telephone number is 410-687-5531. You must speak to Leah directly. Messages left on the answering machine will not get you signed up for the service. Please do not call Leah at home; she cannot sign you up from her house.



Christmas Memorials

This year, because of COVID restrictions and the increased need in our community, some of your Christmas Memorials will be spent for poinsettias at the altar and the rest will be used for Christmas Outreach to those in need.

We are asking for a \$10 donation for each memorial this year. Please send your donation as soon as possible, preferably to be received by Holy Trinity by December 15. Remember to note "Christmas Memorial" on the memo line of your check.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Your Name _____

Your telephone number (in case we have a question) _____

In Memory of _____

Or In Thanksgiving for _____

FLOWER MEMORIALS & THANKSGIVINGS – 2021

Dear Friends in Christ:

If you wish to have flower memorials or thanksgivings this year, and we hope you will, please return this entire sheet with your instructions below to Teresa Schutte-Regester.

In order to cover the entire cost of flowers and materials for each Sunday, memorials listed are on a per Sunday basis, not per name, at \$30.00. You may include as many names as you wish for the Sunday you choose to have flower memorials. As is customary, when more than one person chooses any given Sunday for memorials, the additional monies over cost are set aside for flowers on Sundays or feasts not covered by memorials. Payment is due in advance.

Flowers given as memorials or thanksgivings will be taken to our shut-ins and those who are sick or hospitalized. Since they are a gift and tax deductible, the donor may not receive any benefit other than intangible religious benefit from such gifts.

Remember that flowers are not used during Lent or Holy Week and that Christmas and Easter memorials are handled separately.

Listed below are memorial dates for Sunday's and Festivals from Last Pentecost to First Advent. Place an (x) beside the date(s) you wish to offer memorials or thanksgivings.

January 3 ___ 10 ___ 17 ___ 24 ___ 31 ___

February 7 ___ 14 ___

NO FLOWERS DURING THE SEASON OF LENT (February 21 – March 28)
EASTER SUNDAY (April 4) FLOWER MEMORIALS WILL BE HANDLED SEPARATELY

April 11 ___ 18 ___ 25 ___

May 2 ___ 9 ___ 16 ___ 23 ___ 30 ___

June 6 ___ 13 ___ 20 ___ 27 ___

July 4 ___ 11 ___ 18 ___ 25 ___

August 1 ___ 8 ___ 15 ___ 22 ___ 29 ___

September 5 ___ 12 ___ 19 ___ 26 ___

October 3 ___ 10 ___ 17 ___ 24 ___ 31 ___

November 7 ___ 14 ___ 21 ___ 28 ___

December 5 ___ 12 ___ 19 ___ 26 ___

To insure clarity, please note below the date(s) you wish to commemorate, together with the full names of thanksgivings or memorials.

Your Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Please enclose this completed form and check for \$30.00 (per date) payable to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (mark flower memorials on the memo line). **Both should be given to Teresa Schutte-Regester or mailed to:**

**Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Attention: Teresa Schutte-Regester
1131 Mace Avenue
Essex, Maryland 21221**

Oblations are also handled by Teresa. Please contact her for information.

Please do not put in the Offertory Plate!



December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <i>10am-12pm Office Staffed</i>	2	3 <i>10am-12pm Office Staffed</i>	4	5
6 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (also Livestream on Facebook)	7	8 <i>10am-12pm Office Staffed 7 pm – Vestry Meeting (Zoom meeting)</i>	9	10 <i>10am-12pm Office Staffed</i>	11	12
13 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (also Livestream on Facebook)	14	15 <i>10am-12pm Office Staffed</i>	16	17 <i>10am-12pm Office Staffed</i>	18	19
20 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (also Livestream on Facebook)	21	22 <i>10am-12pm Office Staffed</i>	23	24 Christmas Eve <i>OFFICE CLOSED</i>	25 Christmas Day	26
27 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (also Livestream on Facebook)	28	29 <i>10am-12pm Office Staffed</i>	30	31 New Year's Eve <i>OFFICE CLOSED</i>		