

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Visitor 2015

Nov/Dec

Deadline for next issue will be December 12th

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Advent Study

This Advent we will be reading Taste and See: Experiencing the stories of Advent and Christmas by Jan Johnson. The title caught my eye as the first three words come from Psalm 34:8 (Taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are they who trust in him!). The author explores the stories of Jesus' infancy while inviting the reader to imagine him/herself as present in the story. We will meet at 10:30 AM on Wednesdays in Behringer Hall. If you can't attend but would like to read along with us, please let me know so I can get you a book.

Growing up in a Baptist Church, I learned a lot about scripture. It wasn't until I was older that I learned how different the birth narratives of Matthew and Luke were one from another. I invite you this advent to explore these stories. Read Matthew 1:18-2:23 and make a very brief outline. Then read Luke 1:5-2:52 and make a brief outline. If you have never done this, I think you will be surprised by the similarities and differences. (If you don't know what the numbers above indicate, the first number indicates the chapter and the number after the colon indicates the verse. You would begin with the first chapter of Matthew verse 18 and read through the second chapter verse 23.) Mark never mentions Jesus' birth, and John writes not of his birth, but of the "beginning".

Hope is one of the themes of Advent. Mary hoped for a healthy baby. Joseph hoped for a good outcome. The Magi hoped to worship the infant king. The shepherds hoped to see the child the angels sang about. Herod hoped to keep control. For what do you hope this Advent?

Faithfully,
Briggett+



GIVING THANKS

By the time you receive this you will be planning your Thanksgiving celebrations and beginning to think about Christmas. A recent Record article about family businesses and community responsibility included the following *“Philanthropy is a remarkable effective table at which all family members can sit- where they can share, teach, learn, value, grow, change and consistently improve.”* As we give thanks for all we have, let us think of those who have so much less

and pass on the lessons of caring and sharing and promoting the welfare of others to our children.

TURKEY DROP OFF

Create Thanks giving dinner for those less fortunate than we are. Frozen turkeys and any or all that goes with it can be dropped off at the Helping Hands Food Pantry, Magnolia Ave., on Saturday 11/21 between 9 & 12.





UNITED THANK OFFERING

Bring your blue box of thanks on Sunday, November 22. The United

Thank Offering is a ministry to promote thankfulness and mission throughout the Episcopal Church. In 2015 55 grants were awarded domestically and overseas for projects that address human needs and help alleviate poverty. For more information, see: <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2015/>

ADVENT FAMILY BREAKFAST

will take place on Sunday November 29th. Church will start at 9:30 with breakfast following. Plan to enjoy a wonderful meal and great fellowship as a start of the Advent season.

MENTORING MOMS

Thank you for your continuing support of the Mentoring Moms Program. As of Sunday there were still a few tags on the Chimney – a few children who needed gifts. The gifts will be picked up after service November 29th to be prepared for Santa’s appearance at the Mentoring Mom’s Holiday Party December 5th.



HILLSDALE HOUSE COLLECTION

We are currently collecting objects to be used in for the 120+ Holiday gift bags which we will assemble in December for low income senior residents of Hillsdale House. No more cards or calendars are needed. **Items lacking are: travel size toiletries (especially items for men), non-slip socks, note/memo pads, hard sugar free candy, batteries, or novelty items.**

If you work for or are connected with an organization which could donate items for the gift bag, please ask. The last day for the collection will be Sunday December 6th.

Volunteers are needed on Sunday Dec. 13th at 9 AM to help organize and set up the bags to be filled after service. Contact Lorraine Montalbano at or 201-925-0957 or lorraineamontalbano@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP

Sincere thanks to Doreen Ayers and Dawn Conway for sharing their journeys to membership in the Holy Trinity Family. It is heartwarming to hear that “the Friendly little church with a big commitment to loving and serving God” continues to make a difference in people’s lives. The church family is important!

Thank you also to those of you who have made your pledge for 2016 and fulfilled your pledge for 2015. Unfortunately, 25 families are currently in arrears on pledges to a total of over \$7,000. The church, as any family or business has expenses which must be covered. We know this is a difficult time of year to ask for money, but if those of you who are behind in your pledge could catch up it would be GREAT. We budget based on your pledge and must take from our steadily decreasing savings to make up the difference. Give thanks for the role Holy Trinity plays in your life or the life of your children and send a check in appreciation.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

Voices are welcome in the Junior or Senior Choir – and in the congregation. And the bell choir is up and running. Senior choir normally rehearses 7:30 – 9 pm Thursday and 9:15 Sunday morning in the choir loft. Try it for Advent, no training required. Contact director Doug Jordan or any choir member if you have questions.



Children’s Bell Choir practices during coffee hour. Children should get a cookie and drink after church and meet Jennie Arlin in the Meese Room.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING JAN. 3, 2016

Watch your mailbox for the letter with the slate of candidates for Vestry. Vestry members will be elected and the budget presented at coffee hour on January 3rd. This is a VERY IMPORTANT meeting, particularly with Briggett’s upcoming retirement, so please plan to attend!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The facilities tour and meeting with the Ward Herbert Grant panel 10/29 went well. If the grant is approved, we can begin work on designated projects.

Total pledges remain at approximately **\$68,000**, which is **\$22,000 less than our goal**. So far slightly less than \$28,000 has been received. *Anyone who has not pledged to this important project to repair the church is encouraged to do so soon.*



HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY

Donations are always needed. When you shop pick up a few extra items to help an individual or family in need. Or purchase and donate grocery store gift cards from Joe Morley on Sundays. You will receive a confirmation of a charitable deduction and the Food Panty has resources to purchase needed products. At this holiday shopping time **remember when you make a purchase through Amazon.com, go to Amazon Smile at check out and pick Helping Hand Food Pantry as your Amazon Smile recipient.**

CHECK THE WEBSITE

<http://www.holytrinityhillsdale.org>.

This is the public image of Holy Trinity as well as a place for you to see pictures, get updates and find out what is going on. News to post? Send to fitzpatricksl@optimum.net.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Kim Atwater, daughter of Bill and Valerie Atwater married Gregory Moore September 12, 2015 in Santa Monica, California. We wish them all the best in their life together.

SAVE THE DATE

November 21 Turkey Drop Off at Helping Hands Food Pantry 9-12am

November 22 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service 7:30 pm, Methodist Church

November 26 *Thanksgiving*

November 29th Advent Family Breakfast
Mentoring Moms gift pick-up

January 3rd Annual Parish Meeting

February 7th Bishop's Visit

April 2nd Chili Cook-off

September 12th Golf Outing

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES DECEMBER

- 12/5 Christopher Raupers, Joey Weiss, & Katharine MacDonald
- 12/7 Patricia Lauro
- 12/8 Diane Tekirian
- 12/11 Vanessa Rocos & Elizabeth DeLaura
- 12/15 Nicholas Penza
- 12/18 Neil & Sandra Wates
- 12/19 Alexander Teague
- 12/20 Elizabeth Raupers
- 12/21 Russell Chapman & MaryEllen Berndt
- 12/23 Wilma Wigfield and Kristen Menniti
- 12/26 Susan Ferara
- 12/27 Steven Arlin
- 12/30 Phyllis Supino, Nicholas Meyer, & Remy Meyer

THOUGHTS FOR ADVENT

"Each of us is an Innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus."

"Aliveness, he will teach, is a gift available to all by God's grace. It flows not from taking, but giving, not from fear but from faith, not from conflict but from reconciliation, not from domination but from service. It isn't found in the upper trappings of religion -rules and rituals, controversies and scruples, temples and traditions. No, it springs up from our innermost being like a fountain of living water. It intoxicates us lie the best wine ever and so turns life from disappointment into a banquet."

— [Brian D. McLaren](#)



“Advent is the time of promise; it is not yet the time of fulfillment. We are still in the midst of everything and in the logical inexorability and relentlessness of destiny....Space is still filled with the noise of destruction and annihilation, the shouts of self-assurance and arrogance, the weeping of despair and helplessness. But round about the horizon the eternal realities stand silent in their age-old longing. There shines on

them already the first mild light of the radiant fulfillment to come. From afar sound the first notes as of pipes and voices, not yet discernable as a song or melody. It is all far off still, and only just announced and foretold. But it is happening, today.”

— [Alfred Delp](#), *Advent of the Heart: Seasonal Sermons and Prison Writings, 1941-1944*.