

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Visitor

Dec 2015/Jan 2016

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Deadline for next issue will be January 17th

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
...and praises sing to God the King...
...let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring...
...we would embrace thee, with love and awe...
...Jesus, our Emmanuel! ...
...come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.



We enter to worship. We depart to serve!

Several months ago Sam Braverman pointed out these words to me from the Mission Statement for Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

“We enter to worship.” At this time of year, we attend services to worship. We worship the holy child born in Bethlehem. We worship the God who became incarnate and lived among us. We worship our God who is so much greater than our minds can conceive. We worship the Mystery of One who loves us, all of us, and came to reconcile all creation to God. At this time of year, we put aside our selves and our needs and as much as possible, we contemplate, we adore, we worship God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

“We depart to serve.” If I were given only one word to describe a Christian, I would choose “servant”. We are called to serve the world in Jesus’ name. We receive sermon and sacrament each week to nourish us for service. We serve family and friends. At our best we serve not only the neighbors we know, but the neighbors who are strangers. We serve with hands and feet, arms and ears and lips. We depart to serve rather than to be served.

May your Christmas (all twelve days) and New Year be peaceful and bright as you worship God and serve Christ in all people.

Faithfully,
Briggett+

A REASON TO REJOICE!

We have received word from the Diocese that our Ward Herbert Fund grant application has been approved for \$3,050 to replace the Behringer Hall windows and fire doors in the hall and church. This represents 50% of the estimated cost.

An additional pledge of \$2,500, plus the grant, brings the total pledged to \$73,488, which should be enough to begin work on the siding in 2016!

As of 12/13 we have received payments totaling \$29,768.70. Any parishioner who promised to pay a pledge this year is requested to do so. Any parishioner who has not pledged is encouraged to make a contribution so we can complete **all** the projects. Some employers will make matching gifts, so please ask.

Sincere thanks are extended to Gail Bates for writing the grant application and to Bruce Firkins and William Ferrara for working with

contractors and providing necessary information to the diocesan representatives. Additional thanks to Briggett, Dante Ricciardi & Charlie Franzman for the pictures, Joe Morley for getting the estimates for the Air conditioner and Nancy DeNoble for getting the estimates for the floor and the 33 parishioners who have pledged and the one for getting the matching grant.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING JAN. 3, 2016

Yes, it is New Year's weekend, but this is a **VERY IMPORTANT MEETING**, particularly with Briggett's upcoming retirement, so please plan to attend! Vestry members will be elected and the budget presented at coffee hour, so plan to stay around for an extra half hour and participate in the operations of your church.

At this meeting we will recognize Vince Raupers for his wonderful service as publicity chairman on the Vestry. Thank you Vince.

We will also celebrate a true changing of the Guard. After 25 years of dedicated service Charlie Franzman is stepping down as treasurer. We honor him for his conscientious and meticulous money handling and record keeping, and reporting and say "Well done good and faithful servant.!" Now enjoy your free time and favorite activities.

And we welcome Bill Ferrara to the position of Treasurer. May he have to juggle and worry less than Charlie did.

FUTURE PLANS

Our Wardens, Patty Bradley and Annette Loblanco have a meeting at Episcopal House on January 12th to discuss options and procedures following Pastor Briggett's retirement. They will report to the parish after this meeting.

STEWARDSHIP

Thanks to everyone who made a pledge for 2016 and/or fulfilled your pledge for 2015. If you have forgotten one or both, please take action. The Vestry budgets and plans based on pledged income; whatever happens we must pay for heat, light, insurance, salaries, etc. If you are behind in your pledge think about catching up

before the end of the year; maybe you need the tax deduction. If you have not pledged for 2016, please consider doing so realistically. When income does not meet outflow, we must take from our steadily decreasing savings to make up the difference. At this giving season, consider the role Holy Trinity plays in your life and/or the life of your children and send a check in appreciation.

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

On Sunday November 22nd a lovely service of thanksgiving was held at the Methodist Church. The messages were thought provoking and music spirited (choir members really enjoyed singing with a bigger group) and the mood appreciative. Though we worship weekly in different buildings and in different ways it was affirming to come together to give thanks to the Lord for our blessings.

ADVENT FAMILY BREAKFAST

Over 80 people enjoyed great food and conversation after church on November 29th. Thanks to everyone who made the breakfast a wonderful church family event. Kudos especially to chefs, sous chefs and set-up crew Russ Chapman, David Bradley, John Lane, Bonnie Fitzpatrick and Mark Loblanco, Joe & Libby Morley, and Cheryl Lane. Special thanks to everyone who pitched in to serve and clean-up. Volunteers make things happen!

HILLSDALE HOUSE COLLECTION

Santa's elves were busy after church on 12/13 packing the goodie bags for the the 120 low income senior residents at Hillsdale House. Thank you to all who donated items, solicited donations and packed and delivered bags. The recipients were delighted & enjoyed some special treats and a grocery gift card raffle at their party. Hats off to Lorraine Montalbano and her family for managing this worthwhile and most appreciated project. Haven Bank made a sizeable donation; would whomever contacted them please tell Lorraine.

Save large shopping bags & boxes for 2016.



MENTORING MOMS



Thanks to your generosity Santa was able to fulfil the wishes of 70 children in the Mentoring Moms Program. The smiles were infectious and the anticipation palpable as Santa greeted each family with their bags full of gifts. Your generous and willing support of this program is greatly appreciated. A thank you note is posted on the Parish Hall bulletin board.



HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY

Thank you everyone who donated a turkey and or fixings for Thanksgiving!!

In this season of giving, remember it is not always the “other” individual or family who needs help. Not too long ago a corporate banker and his family sought help at the food pantry. He had lost his highly paid Wall Street job in a merger, a few months after taking on a 2nd mortgage to expand the family’s home for an anticipated new baby. With unemployment running out, high mortgage payments, school loans, three children and the wife out of work with complications from the pregnancy, the family was on a financial precipice. Assistance from the food pantry kept them afloat for about nine months until he could find another job. Once back on their feet the family donated to the Pantry regularly until they were transferred out of this area.

When you shop count your blessings and 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.

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@optimun.net.

December, 2015/January 2016

UNITED THANK OFFERING

Thanks to the eight families who brought your blue box of thanks. 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. Consider putting your small change aside each night, or once a week to add to the collection next year. For more information, see: <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2015/>

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. 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.

SAVE THE DATE

December 21st Children’s Holiday Party

December 24th Holy Eucharist 5 & 10pm

December 25th Holy Eucharist 10:30am

January 3rd Annual Parish Meeting

January 9th District 9 Epiphany Party, 6:30-9:30 pm; St. Luke’s, 43 Washington Ave, Haworth

January 24th Church School Breakfast maybe

February 7th Bishop’s Visit

March 24th Maundy Thursday Dinner

April 2nd Chili Cook-off

April 10th Confirmation, 3:00 pm, Trinity & St. Philips Cathedral, Newark

May 8th Mother’s Day Breakfast

June 12th Service in the Park & picnic

September 12th Golf Outing

