

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Deadline for next issue 1/15/2017



Interim Rector's Message:

Jesus, Lord at thy birth...

In the quiet of the night a Jewish peasant child was born, very long ago and very far away; however, that child would grow up to be the most revered person the world has ever seen. The Gospel writers wove stories about him even from the time before he was born.

As Jesus matured and began his itinerant ministry, he made himself the object of fear and hatred by the Roman government and by the Temple hierarchy of Jerusalem. Within a few brief years following his crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, his story began to grow and spread throughout the known world. His story has become our story. We find our identity in Jesus.

From Jesus' birth, he offered the world a different way of being: God in our flesh demonstrating how to live and how to die. Look to him and learn from him. He opens his arms wide and beckons us "COME!" He is waiting for you. Will you truly go to him, love him, worship him, and give him your life this Christmas? If so, it will take courage and some risk. Our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry said that this requires us to be "Crazy Christians!"

As we end this year and begin 2017, ask how your life and actions will reflect the Christ who already dwells in your heart, soul, and flesh. In the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta, "Give yourself fully to Jesus – He will use you to accomplish great things on the condition that you believe much more in His love than in your weakness."

A blessed Christmastide to all, **R. +**

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 12/11/16

A good crowd stayed after coffee hour for the meeting. Minutes from last year were accepted and committee reports for 2016 were reviewed. Appreciation was expressed to Dante Ricciardi and Cheryl Lane for their service on the Vestry. (See Cheryl's article page 2). Neil Wates was elected to take over Building and Grounds and Bruce Firkins to take charge of Stewardship and Finance. We welcome them both. Annette LoBlanco and Chris Fitzpatrick will stay on as Warden and Publicity/Webmaster for another term. Kevin Jennings will continue as clerk. Diocesan delegates will be Bonnie Fitzpatrick and Chris and Rebecca Fitzpatrick, with Pattie Bradley and Bill Ferara, Sr. as alternates.

Bill Ferara, Jr. and Kevin Jennings explained the budget and were pleased to announce that for the first time in several years we do not anticipate having to borrow to keep the budget balanced in 2017. Pastor Ronnie and the Wardens discussed the status of the search process and provided assurances that Holy Trinity is not closing its doors. We will survive and thrive. The situation with the rectory rental and the capital fund & siding was explained. Plans for the golf outing and the decision to find a new co-recipient were outlined. Pastor Ronnie addressed the value of participation in the church community and the importance of regular Church school attendance. Want to know more – ask a vestry member.

Christmas Services

12/24: 5 pm: Christmas Eve: Eucharist with Choir & bells. Family Service. Bring the children and visitors.

12/24: 10:30 pm: Christmas Eve: Festive Eucharist with music. Come and experience the mystery of the Birth of Christ once again.

12/25: 10 am: Christmas Day: Eucharist with music. Come worship at His crib and experience the blessing of His birth.

RECTORY

Yes, the Wates are now living in the Rectory. Their need for a new residence handily corresponded with our learning that we could rent the building if the income is offset by expenses. We are delighted to have the house occupied and know Neil & Sandy will be exceptional tenants!

Come help green the church 9 am Sat 12/24

HILLSDALE HOUSE HOLIDAY COLLECTION

Thanks to all the donations we filled 120 bags with goodies for the residents of Hillside House. A great crew turned out to help Lorraine organize and pack – see pictures at right. The gift bags were distributed at the residents' holiday party and the \$10 Shop Rite gift cards were used as prizes for games. Your generosity and efforts for this project are greatly appreciated as you made the holidays a little brighter for those in need.

VESTRY SERVICE – A message from Cheryl Lane

Reflecting back on the last six years as member of the Vestry, I can only say that it has been rewarding and fulfilling. The many discussions and decisions made during Vestry meetings were always challenging. It was a great honor being a member of the operating board of the church. Having the opportunity to have been on the Vestry 8 years prior to this round, with one year off in between was so important to me. Should you ever get asked to join the Vestry, or to serve on a committee, please say yes, it is a decision well worth your time.

During the first term, I worked with Fr. John and Pastor Susan, and participated in searching and interviewing for Pastor Brigggett. Then I worked with Pastor Brigggett and now with Pastor Ronnie and started the search for a new Rector. Unfortunately, I will not be further involved in this search, but I am sure the Vestry will make the right choice.

Bruce Firkins has taken my position as Finance/Stewardship. He is well versed in this position having previously served as member of the Vestry at another Episcopal parish. Please give him the same support you provided me.

YOUTH SUNDAY and HOLIDAY PARTY – Pictures p.4

Sunday December 18th was a special day! Our 3 candidates for confirmation participated as youth servers, gospel bearers, ushers/greeters and lectors. [Interim Pastor Dr. Ronnie Stout-Kopp's sermon was geared towards our young leaders.](#) After service Mr. & Mrs. Santa made an early visit to Holy Trinity. The children, most of them, loved sitting on his lap and getting gifts. Santa gave a special thank you to Pastor Ronnie and Father Charles Arlin. The festivities, fellowship and food were enjoyed by all.

Sincere appreciation is expressed to Craig & Kristen Kardell, Nancy DeNoble and Chris & Becky Fitzpatrick for facilitating the party, to Deb Rutt for helping the children with crafts, to Santa for coming bringing joy and to Marc & Annette Lablanco for supplying a new Christmas tree.

CAPITAL FUND

Because of cold weather, rain and snow, the start of residing Behringer Hall has been delayed. Hopefully the work will start next week and finish early in January.

As the end of the year approaches parishioners who wish to take advantage of a charitable tax deduction are encouraged to make their pledge payments or contributions to the Capital Fund by Dec. 31, 2016.

Thanks are extended to anyone who has made contributions to help complete these major repairs to the church and Behringer Hall. We have still not met our goal, however and there are more projects to be done. If you have not pledged or contributed, please do!



Note the Date

12/26: Church office closed.
No E-Newsletter this week.

12/31: New Year's Eve: 4:30 pm: A Mass for the New Year followed by a champagne toast.

1/1: New Year's Day: 10 am Eucharist with Choir. HAPPY NEW YEAR! Festive Service of Lessons and Carols.

1/6: Epiphany Day: 12:05 Quiet Eucharist and healing.

1/8: 10 am, Eucharist with Choir and Children's **EPIPHANY PAGEANT.**

1/15: Epiphany 2. Eucharist with Choir.

1/22: Epiphany 3. Eucharist with Choir. **YOUTH SERVICE & CONFIRMATION KICKOFF.** Diocesan Youth Director Kia Alston will join us and have a forum for youth following.

1/27 & 1/28: Diocesan Convention.

1/29: Epiphany 4: Eucharist with Choir.



MENTORING MOMS THANKS YOU

Holy Trinity helped Santa fulfill the wishes of 75 children in the Mentoring Moms Program. Libby Morley's car was packed to the roof as she drove the donations to Hackensack. It was heartwarming to see the smiling faces as the families received their gift pack from Santa at the Mentoring Moms Party on 12/5. (Party picture at left.) Thank you for your continued support of this program which provides mentors to mothers in need of guidance and support.

Church Communications

Church Communications is in a great place heading into 2017, but this year, I would like to see it become a major team effort. As such, I have come up with a short list of tasks I hope the Parish will take on in the New Year:

- ❖ Are you on Facebook? If so, when you are at church for Sunday Eucharist, please consider checking in, **before or after service**. Not only does that activity look great on the page, but when you show others that you're attending, it empowers you to lead by example.
- ❖ Are you on Twitter? If so, please follow @HolyTrinityNJ and like / retweet what we post so we can continue to build our Twitter footprint.
- ❖ Are you on Instagram? If so, please take pictures of Holy Trinity events and tag the church in them --we can show everyone how vibrant our parish is.
- ❖ Even if you are not on social media, do you log on to the internet? If so, please spend a few moments on our website, click some of the links, and send me any suggestions you have. Also, read the Parish Visitor and E-Newsletter
- ❖ Do you take photos on at church events? If so, please consider sharing them with me at fitzpatrick1@optimum.net for the website, Parish Visitor and social media pages.
- ❖ Last but not least – are your kids connected on social media? Social media is the biggest way the younger generations communicate, so encouraging your kids to be involved in the Holy Trinity Facebook / Twitter / Instagram is also a great way for them to show their peers that Holy Trinity is an important part of their lives.
- ❖ Our church communications are far stronger when we all take part in them. Let's share our outreach efforts and all the terrific events that we host.

Chili Cook Off - Saturday, April 8th, 2017

The Annual Holy Trinity Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction will be held on Saturday evening, April 8th, beginning at 6:00 pm in Behringer Hall. This is one of Holy Trinity's most consistent and successful fundraisers, and we are seeking to increase that level of success yet again. To do so we need a team effort – especially with my impending Fatherhood. Here are a few ways I am seeking people to help with this event:

- Procure items for the Silent Auction - donations from local businesses, gift baskets, donations from sports teams, etc. Items must be new.
- Invite friends to the event to drive attendance. The more the merrier, let's aim for capacity! Tickets will be sold in advance.
- Dedicated set-up and clean-up crews. Set-up will begin around 3:00 pm and usually goes right up to the start time. Clean-up begins after the announcement of the winners, usually between 9:15 pm and 9:30 pm.

* Also needed will be bakers to provide corn-bread and desserts to go along with all the chilli. If you are able to help in any way, please call or e-mail Chris Fitzpatrick at [\(973\) 271-9849](tel:9732719849) or fitzpatrick1@optimum.net or on Facebook.

Congratulations to Tim Jennings! He has been selected to be the District youth representative at the 2017 Diocesan Convention

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 12/18 Neil & Sandra Wates
- 12/19 Alexander Teague
- 12/20 Elizabeth Raupers
- 12/21 Russell Chapman & Mary Ellen Berndt
- 12/23 Wilma Wigfield & Kristen Menniti
- 12/26 Susan Ferara
- 12/27 Steven Arlin
- 12/30 Nicholas & Remy Meyer
- 1/1 Gerard Erano
- 1/6 Jack Stalb
- 1/9 Bonnie Fitzpatrick
- 1/11 Jean-Luc Meyer
- 1/12 Grace Behringer & Bill Ferara
- 1/19 Jane Arlin
- 1/22 Charles Franzman
- 1/28 Jessica Donovan & Justin Hendrix

