



Trinity Episcopal Church P.O. Box 127 9108 John Mosby Highway 540-592-3343

www.trinityupperville.org

## The Rector's Pen

By The Rev. Robert L. Banse, Jr.

Friends,

Welcome to the New Year!

No, I have not forgotten the month of December. According to the Christian calendar, the new year begins with the first Sunday in Advent. This year, that was November 27.

Furthermore, Advent is a holy season in which we are invited to be still, to pray, and to remember. I realize that this invitation stands in diametric opposition to the excesses in extravagance that the world encourages at this time of year. But please know that Advent came well before "Black Friday" and all that Wall Street and Madison Avenue hold so dear. Advent is about gift-giving, but it is about a gift that you will never find in online catalogues or at the mall.



What we are called to remember and pray for during these four weeks is the threefold promise that God has made to the world. First, it is about preparing our hearts and minds for the birth of a child, who will be called Emmanuel, "God with us". Secondly, this child, before he dies, declares that when the time comes, he will return in glory to judge and rule the cosmos. Finally, there is the promise that in the meantime, right here and right now, the Holy Spirit is already at work in the world. The reconciliation of God and creation through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is already underway. Advent is the season in which we joyfully embrace all of the above.

These promises of God will be our primary focus here at Trinity throughout the season. In worship and in prayer, in preaching, anthems, and hymnody, we will recall the true meaning of Advent, right up until that moment when we gather on Christmas Eve for the great celebration.

We will also add an opportunity for keeping this holy season. On Wednesday evenings, November 30, December 7, and 14, I invite you to a simple supper at 6:30 PM here at the church, followed by an hour-long program and concluding with the brief night office known as Compline. Making use of guidelines offered by a group calling itself "The



(The Rector's Pen, continued on page 5)

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## **Christmas Auction**

Begins Friday, December 2 in Cox Hall

Friday, 6:00 to 9:00 PM.—PREVIEW PARTY with Live Auction! Saturday, I I:00 AM to 4:00 PM — Silent Auction bidding continues! **Sunday, 12:00 Noon** — Final Live Auction and Silent Auction conclusion!

This year's auction offers an array of "one of a kind" and "once in a lifetime" items! The auction will begin with online bidding of truly unique experiences. Visit the auction website and start your bidding today at: www.bluetreemarketing.com/trinityupperville. Then, attend the Preview Party on Friday, December 2 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. A few select items will be auctioned off at the preview party this year. Gourmet food, drink and beautiful music! Come early and bid often! Bidding will

continue through Sunday, December 4, when we will close the silent auction bidding at 12:30 PM and begin the LIVE auction. Take a peek at some of the items we're featuring this year!!

# ARTWORK

# VACATIONS







**RUN FOR THE ROSES** Kentucky Derby

FURNITURE

JEWELRY

HOME GOODS ...And SO MUCH MORE!!!

**NASCAR** 

**MASTERS** Golf Tournament



5 Ist Annual **COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS** 





NAPA VALLEY

Not to mention, many more fabulous silent auction items!! Visit www.bluetreemarketing.com/trinityupperville and start your bidding today!!!

NORWAY





#### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

#### 4:00 pm Family Service

Featuring the Children's Christmas Pageant, and celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

#### 8:00 pm Festival Service

With the full Trinity Choir, soloists, strings, and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

#### 11:00 pm Candlelight Service

A more quiet and contemplative liturgy, a cappella music and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

#### CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

10:30 am Celebration of the Christ Child Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

#### **NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE**

10:30 am Ushering in the New Year Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

#### **EPIPHANY SERVICE**

Friday, January 6 6:30 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Worship



## Children's Christmas Pageant

By Rachel Rickenbake

This year our annual Christmas Children's Pageant will be presented by our children on Christmas Eve. The 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship service will include the pageant, as well as the traditional Holy Eucharist.

Any children who are interested in participating in the pageant are invited to contact Rachel Rickenbaker in the church office. There will be a rehearsal for ALL PARTICIPANTS on Friday, December 23 from 10:00AM



until noon. Costumes will be distributed at the rehearsal. If you are unable to attend the rehearsal, please be sure to contact Rachel so she knows that you plan to participate.

Parents, we can use your help for the pageant as well. Please contact Rachel.

Congregation, join us for a wonderful celebration of Christ's birth as we support our children this Christmas Eve!

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**Christmas Poinsettia Orders** 

By Betsy Crenshaw



# Christmas Flowers

Order Christmas poinsettias to be placed in the church in honor of or in memory of a loved one this Christmas.

Please enclose your contribution (in the amount of your choice) with this form (for checks, be sure to write "Christmas Flowers" in the memo line).

Complete this form and place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office no later than Friday, **December 16.** 

Christmas Poinsettias Order Form	(please print clearly)
Given in memory of:	
Given in honor/thanksgiving:	
Your Name(s):	
Phone:	



## Rector's Pen (continued from Page I)



Advent Conspiracy", we will discuss the themes of 1) Worshipping Fully, 2) Spending Less/Giving More, and 3) Loving All.

Lest we ever forget, Jesus really is the reason for the season. I hope that we will all keep that truth in heart and mind in the coming weeks and will encourage those around us to embrace this truth as well.

Faithfully in Christ,



## **KAIROS** at Christmas

By Cheri Martin

KAIROS at Christmas: The Gift of Forgiveness

This fall KAIROS weekend (October 7-9) took a different direction for our team and the women of Fluvanna Correctional Center at Troy, VA. Instead of our usual preparation (which includes your wonder cookies!), our leader felt that God had called her and each of us to explore the very important topic of forgiveness.

As you may know, God's unconditional love and forgiveness are at the heart of the KAIROS Prison Ministry. And within prison walls, unforgiveness runs rampant; however, unforgiving spirits lurk far beyond the confines of a prison. They can affect each of us in our daily existence, robbing us of experiencing God's love and peace for ourselves and for those with whom we share our lives.

The topic for our retreat was, "Forgiven People Forgive." In a series of shared personal talks and discussions, several things became clear.

- Forgiveness is a choice we make out of obedience to God. Matthew 6:14-15 tells us: For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
- The world tells us to get even, to revenge; but as followers of Christ, we are to become God's mirror. God desires His forgiven people to be those who forgive.
- We forgive for ourselves. When we withhold forgiveness, we hold ourselves hostage to something or someone else. This act causes anger and bitterness. This spills over into our lives and only hurts us.
- Forgiveness is a process. We may forgive others, situations, or ourselves, but to forget is difficult. Forgiveness doesn't erase the past, but it gives us a chance for a better future. We must surrender the issue to God, lay it in his hands, keep our focus and trust in Him, for He as promised to deal with our hurts in His time and on our behalf.

For me, personally, forgiveness is a gift - a gift given to each of us by the grace of God through the shed blood of His precious Son at Calvary. That act of true love and true forgiveness was one for which we will always be grateful.

As we approach this holy season of Advent, may we focus on the most valuable Christmas gift of all – the love, forgiveness, and freedom granted to us by our Lord through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Yours faithfully, Cheri Martin





Dear People of Trinity Church, God's peace be with you!

We've now entered into Advent, a time where we are called to be alert, watch, prepare, and wait for the Lord. While we look forward to celebrating Jesus' birth, with worship, songs, decorations, and a Christmas pageant, we know that the world around us continues to be in turmoil. If you leave the news on even for 5 minutes, it can be overwhelming.

Furthermore, with the results of the election in, I have seen and heard awful things coming from people, things I would never expect. I have seen friends turn against friends and family members cut down other family members, especially on social media. When we are separated from others by a computer screen or by our own barriers, it seems so much easier to condemn and criticize and label, without any sort of listening.

How are we as Christians supposed to be alert, watch, prepare, and wait for the Lord, when our very lives feel so frantic? We can each disconnect from social media and talk with people face-to-face. Invite someone with whom you have not spoken in a while to lunch or coffee. Introduce yourself to someone at coffee hour, especially if you've never seen or spoken to them before. Take the time for quiet, as I discussed in last month's Genesis article. Connect with family members over a new tradition, such as a nightly Advent devotional or serving a meal to a family in need. Create space to listen for God.

As the words of Isaiah and the popular Advent hymn say, "Comfort, comfort, ye my people." Like the context in which these words were first spoken, as the Israelites were returning home after the Babylonian exile, we, too, may find them helpful now. In the midst of such a busy time of year and so much chaos in the nation and world around us, we need the reassurance that God is in control and is with us all. This season is the perfect time to renew our faith and trust in God, not in human hands.

This does not mean we sit passively as we await the Lord's return. When we feel that the two greatest commandments from our Lord (love God and love your neighbor) are being tested, we must stand up for God and for our brothers and sisters, including those in generations to come. Yet, everything we do, we are to do in love. Not out of fear or anger or a need to retaliate. No, as Christians, we are to be known by our love.

That love is what we await this Advent season, the love that came into the world in the person of Jesus Christ, the love that was poured out for us upon the cross. As we watch for Christ's return, may we all seek to share the love of Christ now wherever we go and with whoever we meet.

God's peace, The Rev. Rachel Rickenbaker

#### THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

God willing
The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston
Bishop of Virginia
will ordain

Catharine Toulmin Gibson
Kristine Ann Johnson
Rachel Amelia Rickenbaker
James R. Rickenbaker (for East Carolina)

to the Sacred Order of Priests

Saturday, December 10 at 10:30 a.m. Church of the Good Shepherd 9350 Braddock Rd; Burke, Va.

The Bishop and the Standing Committee request the honor of your presence.

Clergy: Red Stoles



If you would like to carpool to the ordination, please call Betsy in the church office.



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## S.O.M.E News



Trinity Church volunteers fortified a crowd of over 350 diners for our November SOME mission in Washington, D.C., our last luncheon of 2016.

Held in memory of Sarah Sisk, a long time volunteer who faithfully washed our vegetables for 29 years, the Outreach effort brought several challenges but nothing was insurmountable for our seasoned crew.

One of the main ovens was not in working order, a typical occurrence. The special menu included country-fried chicken, a product that required extra baking time and more inspection from our resident "food police." SOME staff were diligent in making sure the product was cooked thoroughly. One of the mashed potato casseroles suffered a little spillage on the journey in, largely due to the absence of expert van packer, Tommy Breeden, still recovering from knee surgery.

Those potatoes however were in good hands once we reached the SOME kitchen as Becky Hoecker skillfully prepped them for the oven, adding melted butter and French fried onions for the finishing touch. One guest expressed great surprise and pleasure over being served real mashed potatoes, a rarity in the dining room.

The task of cooking the chicken fell largely on Ken Knapp and Jim Gemmer who managed to get out the finished product largely on schedule. Supervising the green beans, gravy and coleslaw were Bob Appenzeller and Len Shapiro, both veterans of food prep for the masses.

Organizing the desserts and bread trays were Carol Miller, Maggie New and Jennifer Youngman as well as Ann MacLeod, who presided over the entire team. Robin Keys greeted the guests and enjoyed conversations about our church and the community of Upperville, children and many other more sensitive topics.

No one seemed to miss preparing the rice casserole and instead stirred mashed potatoes and added onion powder, sour cream and cream cheese, as well as half and half. Thanks to Gina Hammond for a wonderful recipe that was our guide.

Also deserving much thanks were our other fine contributors including: Gar Royer, who dropped off his hot

baked bread just as we were loading the van; Bunny Shick who made cookies, and the students at Foxcroft School who earlier made an abundance of brownies and froze them just for this occasion, among many others.

If approved by the Outreach Committee, our mission will continue for year 30 on Friday, January 20, 2017, inauguration day. We expect to return to our standard fish repast and will prepare the meal the day before, Thursday, January 19 in Cox Hall.



All told we were able to feed a hearty meal to over 2400 hungry individuals in 2016 at an average cost of under \$2.50 per person. May God bless every one of you for your generous support.

#### S.O.M.E. Cooks in November

Robin Keys Richard Taylor Kit Hemion Ellen Hall Beth Lamond Holly Bimba Ann MacLeod

#### S.O.M.E. Servers in November

Robin Keys Jim Gemmer Bob Appenzeller Sheryl Heckler Carol Miller Len Shapiro Ken Knapp Ann MacLeod Margaret New





**December 4 – Christmas Auction:** Please use the forum time to view our treasures and make bids.

**December II - Mary and The Magnificat**, led by The Rev. Rob Banse.

**December 18 - "Holy Image: Holy space.... Keeping the Hope of Advent ":** Parishioner Jerry Eisley, Director and owner of Eisley Fine Art LLC, and former founder and director of Foxhall Gallery, will share with us the world of Icons, particularly those focused on Advent themes.

December 25 - No Forum. MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!



## Introducing Our New Website

By Marguerite Sweeney

We are pleased to introduce the new Trinity Church Website! Go to www.trinityupperville.org and see it for yourself!

As we continue to make changes to our site, you will continue to see new features coming online.

One feature you can take immediate advantage of is our online church calendar. The most up to date church calendar is now available on the website, updated in real time as the calendar is kept current in the church office.

If you need to add a meeting or event to the calendar, or to request calendar changes, please contact Phil in the church office.





By Phil Mohr

### **Holiday Office Hours**

Please note the following church office hours during the holiday season:

December 23 - Church Office Closes at Noon December 26 & 27 - Church Office Closed December 28 & 29 - Church Office Open December 30 - Church Office Closes at Noon January 2 - Church Office Closed

#### Year-End Giving

In order for your financial donations to be credited to your 2016 tax return, they MUST be:

- Received in the church office no later than noon on Friday, December 30, OR
- Be postmarked no later than Saturday, December 31.

Any donations received or postmarked after those times will be credited to your 2017 charitable giving.



**GENESIS** 

## **Vestry Notes**



Our Vestry met on Wednesday, November 16th for its monthly meeting. The minutes for the meeting will be filed and available for your review.

The meeting started with a presentation from Martha Cotter, Director of the Community Music School of the Piedmont (CMSP). If you don't know, CMSP uses the basement of Trinity during the week as their World Headquarters. The school was founded in 1994 and moved into Trinity in 2002. Trinity's partnership with CMSP provides us the opportunity to extend our outreach ministry through music education across the counties of Loudoun, Fauquier, Frederick and Clark. In 2017, the CMSP will celebrate 15 years at Trinity. You can find additional information at www.piedmontmusic.org.

We received the regular Treasurer's reports. I am glad to report that our pledge income for October exceeded the budget which is good since we were running behind for the year. The pledge collections for the year were at 80.4%. Vestry is counting on you and everyone to complete their pledge commitments for 2016. This is critical as we seek to fulfill our obligations and end 2016 successfully.

Finance committee recommended to Vestry that we increase our 2017 pledge to the Diocese of Virginia by the same 1.05% COLA increase we applied to our staff compensation. This was passed and will be reflected in the 2017 budget. Vestry was presented with an initial draft version of the 2017 budget that included 100% of the budget requests received by the Treasurer. The Finance committee will present a provisional 2017 budget to Vestry at the December meeting and then the final 2017 budget will be approved in January. We will have a congregational meeting in January to present the budget after it is approved.

Next we heard from our Stewardship chairman. While we are making progress on our 2017 pledges, we still have to make progress in order to reach our goal of 100% participation. To those who have pledged already, we thank you and we encourage you to talk to others at Trinity about your decision. We will be having our first in-gathering of pledges during the services on Dec 4<sup>th</sup> as we prepare to offer our treasure, talent and time to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ. If you have not already made your pledge, please bring your pledge card that Sunday.

We received the Trinity Christmas Auction update next. This is going to be a wonderful event and we hope that you and your family will join us and bring a friend too! Please join us for the preview party on Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup> and again for the live auction on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. The funds raised from the auction support the current year's budget in fulfilling our mission and ministry goals.

Stable Tour planning is well underway. If you can help with this important event that supports Trinity's Mission efforts, please let us know. We will need as much help as we can get so please don't be afraid to raise your hand. This year's tour will be led by Kat Gemmer who has an enthusiastic support group including several of our former Stable Tour leaders.

As if that's not enough for one meeting, we then spent a significant amount of time continuing the discussion we started at the October retreat. We are working hard to develop new Vestry goals for 2017 and our discussions to that end included continued efforts to encourage ownership of our place, advancement of our missions and deepening of our faith. It is Vestry's intent to present our 2017 goals at the congregational meeting in January.

Your Vestry is committed to developing ideas and actions that will enhance the Faith, Place and Mission of Trinity Upperville. As we continue this journey, please let us know where you want to be included.

In faith, Jim Gemmer, Senior Warden

DECEMBER 2016



Family Music Classes for Children Ages Birth–Kindergarten

# Music and Movement for You and Your Child

Session begins January 12th at 10:00 am!
Trinity Episcopal
9114 John Mosby Hwy.
Upperville, VA

Presented by:

The Community Music School of the Piedmont





To Register or for more information: (540) 592-3040 www.piedmontmusic.org piedmontmusic@aol.com

# 2017 Pledge Campaign Update

By Dan Murphy

Our financial commitment to Trinity Church (our spiritual home) is a faith response to God. It is an act of trust in God, an act of faith in His goodness, and an act of thanksgiving for His innumerable blessings.

To date, we have received 104 pledges, totaling \$408,704. This includes 16 new pledges and 28 others who have increased their pledge from last year! Thank you to all 104 families who have already pledged their support for Trinity Church's ministries in the coming year.

However, 74 families who pledged last year have not yet returned their 2017 pledge cards. Please do so urgently, so that we can plan for next year's ministries, staffing, facility repairs, and the like. Without knowing your giving plans for 2017, we cannot do the prudent planning that is part of the church's act of being good stewards of God's resources that He has entrusted to us.

On Sunday, December 4, we will have an in-gathering of pledge cards during the worship services. We ask ALL families of Trinity church to submit a pledge of financial support for 2017 on or before that date. All cards received on or before the 4th will be consecrated and presented to the Lord in worship that day.

Your pledge can also be made online on the new church website.







	January I	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29		
Altar Guild	Jan. 1-Feb. 5 Walta Warren, Elizabeth Courts, Bunny Schick, Shannon Stimson						
Flower Guild	June Hambrick Jessica Diday Margaret Hilliard Jason Labrador Marissa Hasser	Gina Hammond Joyce Brower Jane Kates Pat Sharp Edie Smart	Celeste Wheelwright Stephanie Bates Sarah Ellison Brooke Myatt Nicky Perry LeighO Wood	Jimmy Hatcher Nancy Phenicie Ann Coles Barbara Sharp Melissa Neal Peggy Arundel	Carolyn Smith Arla Lewis Mary MacDonnell Linda Newton Alix Coolidge Mark Thompson		
Memorial Flowers		Janet & William Tayloe William Bladen Tayloe	Celebration of Wedding Anniversary William "Tommy" Stokes		Miss Charlotte Haxall Noland		
	8:	00 a.m. Service:	Holy Eucharist R	ite I			
Chalice		Walta Warren	Lewis Martin	Beth Lamond	Jeff Millington		
Lector		Carol Miller	Cheri Martin	Walta Warren	Beth Lamond		
Ushers		Robert Bonnie John Miller	Holly & Chuck Bimba	Sarah & Greg Ellison	Nicky Perry Walta Warren		
Coffee Hour							
Ambassadors		Robin Keys	Barbara Riddleberger	Barbara Conner	Robin Keys		
	10	):30 a.m. <b>S</b> ervice:	Holy Eucharist R	ite 2			
Chalice	Ginny Fluet Joe Fluet	Barbara Augenblick Debra Latiolais	Pamela Wynfield Gina Hammond	Ed Moore Johanna Jackson	Randy Mullet Kaye Nazarian		
Lector	Jolly deGive Margaret Hilliard	Becky Hoecker Carolyn Smith	Ginny Fluet Ray Ewing	Hank Long Sandra Markus	Richard Myers Arch Randolph		
Ushers	Ken Knapp Bunny Shick Brett Bibb	Anne Coyner Stanley Dees Jolly deGive	David Hartley Mac Hartley Henry Chapman	Jim Hoecker Kaye Nazarian Barbara Augenblick	Pamela Wynfield Elizabeth Courts Ray Ewing		
Healing Ministers							
Ambassadors	Jessica Diday	Kyle Crosen	Robbie Moore	Pamela Wynfield			
Coffee Hour							

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled day, please find someone to trade with.

Please remember to notify the church office of any changes. Thank you.





#### The Diocese of Virginia

The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston, Bishop of Virginia The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff, Bishop Suffragan The Rt. Rev. Edwin F. "Ted" Gulick Jr., Assistant Bishop

#### Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Robert L. Banse, Jr., Rector The Rev. Rachel Rickenbaker, Asst. Rector Christian Myers, Director of Music Ministry Phil Mohr, Parish Administrator Betsy Crenshaw, Administrative Assistant Richard McPherson, Organist Mary Deppa, Bookkeeper Tommy Breeden, Sexton Angela Lake, Housekeeper

#### Officers & Vestry

Jim Gemmer, Senior Warden Ellen Hall Junior Warden Carol Miller, Treasurer Jolly de Give, Registrar

#### Class of 2017

Barbara Conner, Susan Grayson Jim Gemmer, Dan Murphy

#### Class of 2018

Ellen Hall, Mark Thompson, Debra Latiolais, Matt Blunt

#### Class of 2019

Sanford Diday, Jim Hoecker, Elisabeth Troye Plaskitt, Martha Williamson



www.trinintyupperville.org



## **Christmas Caroling!**

Join us on December 20 from 3:00-5:00 PM for a fun outing of Christmas Caroling to those who could use a little extra holiday cheer.

This is an event for youth and adults alike. Join us!

Contact Rachel Rickenbaker for details.



#### with **The Master Singers** of Virginia!

The Master Singers of Virginia is a select, auditioned, volunteer ensemble, comprised of 28 singers.



Articles for the January 2017 issue of "Genesis" are due December 21, 2016

#### TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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