

## The Rector's Pen

By The Rev. Robert L. Banse, Jr.

Dear Friends,

Welcome to 2017. I have great hope, and grace-filled expectations, for our congregation in the coming months.

One of those expectations has to do with the continued strengthening of our efforts in the areas of the Christian education and spiritual formation. When discussing what signs pointed to the life of a thriving church at our Annual Meeting back in October, I included these:

- 1. When the congregation is growing in it's understanding of what it means to live as Christians, following Jesus more nearly, day by day. This is the true nature of discipleship.**
- 2. When we are faithfully connecting our children, youth, and young adults to the Gospel (Good News) about Jesus Christ.**

These goals will not be achieved by way of osmosis. In order to thrive, we will need to invest our time, talents, and participation. Thus, in addition to Church School at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings, here are some other opportunities you can look forward to:

A **Confirmation Class** for all teenagers in the eighth grade and above will begin with an introductory session on Sunday, January 8 at 9:30 AM. It will culminate with Bishop Ted Gulick's visit to Trinity on Sunday, May 7. These discussions will help each participant better understand and appreciate what we mean when we call ourselves "Christians". Rachel and I will take turns leading the class. For further information, please contact The Rev. Rachel Rickenbaker.

An **Inquirer's Class** for adults interested in being confirmed will also be offered. This will take place primarily in the context of a weekend retreat (a Friday evening and then all day on Saturday.) I am presently looking at the weekend of April 7 and 8, with Palm Sunday being April 9. Please contact me if you think you would like to take part.

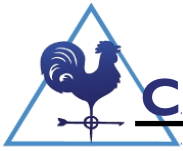
**The Christian Parenting Class** will continue in the New Year. Various topics will be covered. This discussion

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



Epiphany: See page 12.

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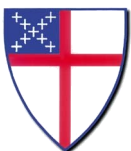
# Christmas Auction

By Phil Mohr

Many, many thanks to all who donated to and/or participated in the 2016 Christmas Auction. The auction was a huge success, with over \$30,000 raised to support the ministries of the Church. We want to offer special thanks to Debra Latiolais, Lori Connelly-DeFranco and Cindy Thompson for their tireless efforts in making the event a success. A host of others, from Mrs. Claus (Gina Hammond), to our church staff, refreshment servers, and countless other volunteers made the event possible. Congratulations Debra and company, on a job well done!

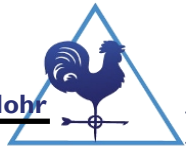


# Christmas Caroling & Middleburg Parade



# Rachel Rickenbaker Ordination

By Phil Mohr



On December 10, Trinity Church had the joyous opportunity to participate in a wonderful celebration. We joined with Rachel Rickenbaker and her husband James, as they were both ordained as Priests in the Episcopal Church! Congratulations Rachel and James!



# Staff Thank You

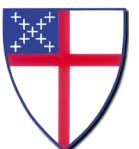
By Church Staff

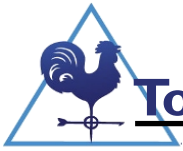


The church staff would like to thank the Vestry and the congregation for all of the love and support you expressed to us during the Christmas season.

From the Christmas bonuses given to us by the Vestry, to the many gifts and sweets showered upon us by the congregation (most of which we will carry with us on our waists for the months to come), we are grateful for your love and friendship.

It is our privilege to serve the Lord in this place, and with God's people. We wish you all a blessed new year!





Thanks to all who generously gave to Toys For Tots this Christmas Season!  
Your care for these forgotten children is heartwarming!



## Did You Know?

By Gray Coyner

*Little known facts about Trinity Episcopal Church – Upperville, VA*

Whenever there is a discussion about the Trinity Church buildings, the conversation often leads to a question about the many craftsmen involved in the construction. While the building design was done by Mr. H. Page Cross, architect of New York City, the stock answer is that the work was done by local artisans.

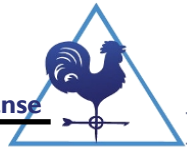
Mr. Robert Hanback of Warrenton served as the general contractor for the project and the actual building was performed by local craftsman.

However, Mrs. Mellon had access to some of the finest designers in the world and many helped with the intricate work in this building. A list a few of the more prominent designers:

- Joep Nicolas – large stained glass windows
- Joe Fiebiger – ironwork
- Heinz Warneke – design of carvings in wood and stone
- Rowan Lecompte – round stained glass window in the chapel
- Dieter Goldkuhle – installation and leading of the stained glass

*Next month: the Mellons' gifts to the craftsmen.*





coincides with our Church School, meeting from 9:30-10:15 AM on Sunday mornings.

On Sunday mornings during the Epiphany season (January 8-February 26), I plan on offering an **Introduction to the Good News about Jesus**. Specifically, we will discuss both the background and the major themes found in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. If ever you wanted to understand what these texts are about, and where they come from, but were too shy to ask, here's your opportunity. We will also meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15 AM.

**During Lent**, Rachel will lead a class for adults on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM, while yours truly will lead a program on Wednesday evenings in conjunction with a simple supper. More details will be forthcoming.

In addition to the above, our **Wednesday morning Bible Study continues**. We meet from 10:30 AM until 11:45 AM in the living room of Peard House. I also plan on continuing with the **Pilgrim Course on Monday evenings**. I am certain other opportunities will arise and we will keep you posted!

Yes, our lives are incredibly busy. Nonetheless, if we believe that our faith in God is important, and our growth in the same is our goal, then spending time together in conversation about the essentials is required. Indeed, our souls, and our lives, depend upon it! I look forward to our time together in the months ahead.

R<sup>+</sup>  
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## Flowers

By Anne Coyner



On Sunday mornings we decorate the church with beautiful flowers, given to the glory of God.

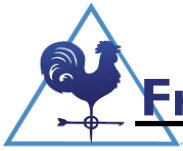
Often families and individuals choose to donate the flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, or in celebration of an anniversary or a special day.

The cost is \$135. Please contact Betsy in the church office (540-592-3343 or [betsy@trinityuppperville.org](mailto:betsy@trinityuppperville.org)) if you would like to donate flowers.

Currently the following dates are available in 2017:

January 22  
February 12 and 19  
April 23  
May 28  
June 11 and 18  
July 2, 9, 23 and 30  
August 13  
September 17  
October 1, 8 and 29  
November 26  
December 31





## From the Assistant Rector

By Rachel Rickenbaker

Happy 2017, and God's blessings on this new year ahead! It's that time of year when many of us consider New Year's resolutions, even if we don't plan to take one on for the year ahead. I must admit that I am not a big fan of resolutions because they so often are unattainable. We set goals that are so high that the first time we slip up, we feel there's no getting back on track. Nevertheless, I find that we, as human beings, do like to challenge ourselves.

The blessing of the Christian faith is that we have the reassurance that our mess-ups and our failures do not determine our identity. We have been called daughters and sons of God (John 1:12-13), and in our Baptisms, our identity is recreated through the Holy Spirit. No matter how often we fall short, we are reminded that forgiveness is freely offered when we turn our sights to God. We are offered a clean slate again and again.

One of the things of which we are reminded in a new year is that there is a clean slate, a new beginning. This past year has been a difficult one in many ways for many people. We are looking for a sign of hope, something or someone to help guide us. No matter what we face, our hope in this year ahead must lie in Jesus.

This does not mean we choose complacency in the new year. Choosing to place our hope in Jesus means we give our attention to the greatest commandment, love the Lord God and love our neighbors. Consider in the year ahead how you might live into this commandment more fully. If you choose to join a Bible study or Adult Sunday School, or choose to increase your worship attendance, you will likely find that you'll grow in your faith and love of God. I find that every time I read Scripture, it is new and fresh, and there is always something I didn't catch in my previous reading. I challenge us all to grow in our reading of the Bible. If you choose to add a service component to your week, you could join in the SOME ministry on a Friday morning in Washington, D.C., serving our homeless brothers and sisters. You will likely find they offer more than we could ever offer them. Any of these are good opportunities for growth in faith and love in the new year.

These goals are not mutually exclusive. Often, when we find a way to connect more fully with our neighbors in need or choose to grow in our faith through study, we will find that we grow in love of both God and neighbor. I pray that in this new year, we set our sights on God, knowing that whatever goals we set, as individuals and as a world, our identity is first and foremost in Christ. His love and His mercy are much bigger than the biggest goals we could set for ourselves. May we not forget this in 2017, no matter what comes our way.



## Confirmation Class

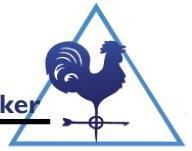
By Rachel Rickenbaker

Calling all youth in 8th grade and older! What is Confirmation, and why is it important for our lives as Christians? We will have an information meeting on Sunday, January 8, from 9:30-10:15 AM. Any parents and kids who are interested in finding out more, please come to the meeting. We will hold classes every Sunday, from 9:30-10:15, leading up to the Bishop's visit on May 7. For more info, please contact Rachel in the office at 540-592-3343.



# Vacation Bible School

By Rachel Rickenbaker

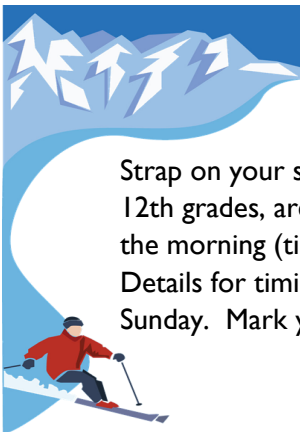
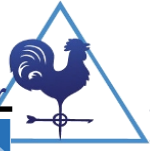


Right now, it's cold outside, but we are looking ahead to our summer Vacation Bible School (VBS), titled, Maker Fun Factory: A world where curious kids become hands-on inventors who discover they're lovingly crafted by God. Bible School will run from Monday, June 12, through Friday, June 16, from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM. VBS is open for all kids up to 5th grade!

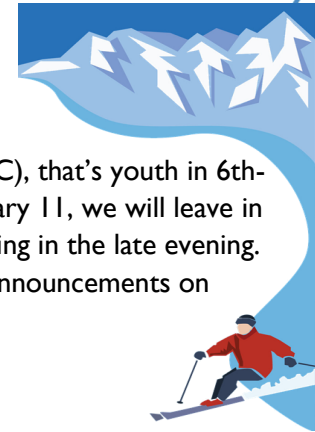
But, we won't be able to hold Bible School if we don't have volunteers to teach, run games, provide snacks, etc. **We need your help!** If you are interested in helping as a teacher or volunteer, please let Rachel know. We also need youth, 6th grade and older, to assist in the different areas. Please contact Rachel as soon as possible if you can help out.

# Ski Trip

By Rachel Rickenbaker



Strap on your skis, and hit the slopes! The Episcopal Youth Community (EYC), that's youth in 6th-12th grades, are invited for an all-day ski trip at Whitetail Resort. On February 11, we will leave in the morning (time TBD) and head to Pennsylvania for a day of skiing, returning in the late evening. Details for timing and cost are being finalized, so stay tuned for emails and announcements on Sunday. Mark your calendars for a day of fun in the snow!



# Coffee Hour

By Janie Banse



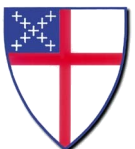
It's time to sign up for the next round of coffee fellowships! There are two ways to sign up. You can either sign up online, or you can sign up on the board in Cox Hall.

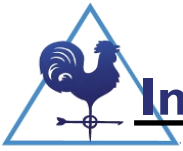
To sign up online, type the following web address into your browser:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4faaad2caa8-feed>

There are still many openings in the new year.

You can sign up as an individual or as part of a team!





## Introducing Our New Website

By Marguerite Sweeney

Last month we introduced the new church website. By now, I hope you've had a chance to visit the site and get familiar with it.

Since last month, we have added a "Resources" tab on the main dropdown menu. This is where you can find the church calendar, as well as other important resources such as back issues of the Genesis Newsletter.

We also hope to start regularly recording the sermons on Sunday mornings, and archiving them here. That way you can always go back to a favorite sermon, or just catch up if you missed a week or two while you were away on vacation.

Watch for more improvements to come! Next up: a new and improved Stable Tour page coming late January.



Visit Us  
ONLINE



## 2017 Pledge Campaign Update

By Dan Murphy

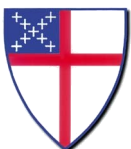
To date, we have received 143 pledges, totaling \$539,618. This includes 26 new pledges (families who did not pledge last year) and 39 others who have increased their pledge from last year! Thank you to all 143 families who have already pledged their support for Trinity Church's ministries in the coming year.

However, 43 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.

It is the goal of the vestry to see 100% participation within the congregation in this year's pledge campaign. Those families who have not yet completed their pledge card for 2017 may be contacted in January by a vestry member to invite them to participate.

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

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in the work of our Lord through Trinity Church.







Happy New Year! What a wonderful time we all had at this year's Christmas Auction! Much merriment was had on Friday night at the preview party and it continued right on to the live auction on Sunday. Thanks to the efforts of many at Trinity including our Chair, Debra Latiolais and her most noteworthy assistant Lori Connelly-DeFranco, our Trinity staff, congregation, friends and visitors, we were able to raise over \$30,000 – thanks be to God! If you missed this year's event, you'll want to be sure you don't next year as we have already started planning for another great time.

Our Vestry met on Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> for its monthly meeting. The minutes for the meeting will be posted and are always available for your review. Our meeting started with a welcome visit from former Vestry member Joe Fluet. Joe presented a lovely Christmas season sermonette reminding us about Christ's unwavering love.

We received the Treasurer's reports which indicate that our finances are sound and we should finish the year in good order. Pledges for 2017 continue to come in. If you have not made yours for the coming year, please do so today. The Vestry is committed to achieving full participation in our Stewardship giving. As a responsible Vestry, we cannot make plans for needed expenditures without your promise of support. Together, we have built the foundation for a monumental year. A year that will challenge our commitments to strengthening our congregation, supporting our community and expanding our outreach. We hope and pray that you and every member of Trinity will join us this year.

Our Vestry approved the provisional budget for 2017. The final budget for 2017 will be approved this month following the Finance committee's review of our 2016 financials. We have set the date of January 22 to present the new budget to the congregation. We invite your participation and input at that meeting as we put in place the fiscal foundation for the new year.

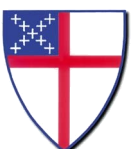
Our meeting continued with another lengthy discussion about our priorities and goals for 2017. We are close to having them completed. The Vestry will be holding our Winter retreat in mid-January when we will finalize our goals and develop objectives to achieving them. These will also be presented at the congregational meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

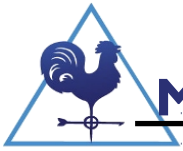
Vestry received a detailed report from the Buildings and Grounds committee. The Chair, Sanford Diday, and his committee have been diligently reviewing and prioritizing needed repairs across our beautiful campus. The Vestry approved several expenditures perhaps most notably the replacement of our 50+ year old lighting system in the church proper.

Finally, I hope that you all had a Blessed and Merry Christmas and are prepared for the best year you can imagine in 2017! Your Vestry continues its commitment to help make this year one to remember at Trinity Upperville as we enrich our Faith, improve our Place and grow our Mission. We look forward to you joining us in any way you are motivated to do so.

## Vestry Planning Retreat

Vestry members: Save the date!  
Our next planning retreat is scheduled for Saturday, January 14  
at Martha Williamson's house 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM





Each year in the days following Christmas, I always remember one of my favorite Christmas cards, both sent and drawn by one of our talented parishioners. It was a picture of Santa Clause sound asleep in his rocking chair with the calendar on the wall reading December 26. I guess they don't have a January newsletter at the North Pole.

As this Christmas was a particularly difficult one for me personally, thinking of this Christmas card made me wonder, does Santa get cranky during December under the pressure of making toys for the entire world? And then there is the real Christmas story. I've always had a soft spot for Joseph. The poor fellow; as if being taxed is not bad enough but to have to walk half way across the country just to give up your carpentry earnings, and to top it all off, when he finally arrives the only motel has no vacancy. Do you suppose he had a few choice words right then that were not recorded in the Gospels? And what about Mary? Nine months pregnant and riding on a donkey. Need I say more? She surely had some moments that were not so meek and mild.

Well, maybe this isn't the case. Maybe actually carrying the Son of God makes all the tension go away. This year, however, I found that just singing about him does not. The tension builds all through Advent with busy schedules and high expectations until by Christmas Eve I'm ready to tell Jesus himself "quit bugging me, and next year you can take care of your own birthday". (Don't worry, he and I have an understanding relationship.)

Now, finally, after all the pomp and circumstance is done and after waking from the Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> nap I am better able to focus on some of the most important messages of Christmas. And so, to singers and ringers, children and adults, instrumentalists and organists, from soloists to those singing in the pews; thank you. Together we celebrated well, the greatest gift of all. The gift of love and eternal life given to us is the form of a baby humbly born in a manger. Thanks be to God.

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*



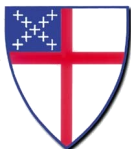
**MUSIC  
TOGETHER®**

**BRINGING HARMONY HOME.®**

Presented by:  
The Community Music School of the Piedmont

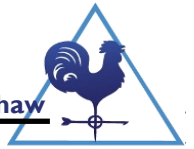


To Register or for more information:  
(540) 592-3040  
[www.piedmontmusic.org](http://www.piedmontmusic.org)  
[piedmontmusic@aol.com](mailto:piedmontmusic@aol.com)



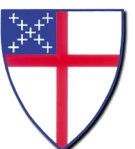
# Serving in February

By Betsy Crenshaw



	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Ellen Hall, Holly Bimba, Harriett Condon, Celeste Wheelwright, Martha Williamson, Barbara Riddleberger			
<b>Flower Guild</b>	Ann Coyner Barbara Augenblick Sally Fletcher Becky Hoecker Cindy Mullett Cathy Boswell	Valerie Dove Beth Gibbens Susan Grayson Kelly Johnson Lynn Wiley Joan Eliot	Celeste Wheelwright Stephanie Bates Sarah Ellison Brooke Myatt Nicky Perry LeighO Wood Alston Myatt	Gina Hammond Joyce Brower Jane Kates Pat Sharp Edie Smart
<b>Memorial Flowers</b>	Suzanne & John Martin			
<b>8:00 a.m. Service: Holy Eucharist Rite 1</b>				
<b>Chalice</b>	Lewis Martin	Ellen Hall	Carol Miller	Walta Warren
<b>Lector</b>	Cheri Martin	Kelly Johnson	Greg Ellison	Cindy Thompson
<b>Ushers</b>	Debbie Gerbich Jeff Millington	Robert Bonnie John Miller	Holly and Chuck Bimba	Sarah and Greg Ellison
<b>Healing Ministry</b>	Cheri Martin Clyde Lamond			
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Barbara Riddleberger			
<b>Ambassadors</b>	Barbara Conner	Robin Keys	Barbara Riddleberger	Barbara Conner
<b>10:30 a.m. Service: Holy Eucharist Rite 2</b>				
<b>Chalice</b>	Ken Knapp Sheryl Mazzatenta	Sabine Bibb Joe Fluet	Arch Randolph Janie Banse	Barbara Augenblick Debra Latiolais
<b>Lector</b>	Gray Coyner Joe Fluet	Page Gravely Randy Mullett	Barbara Augenblick Jill Vogel	Arch Randolph Bucky Slater
<b>Ushers</b>	Barbara Augenblick Jolly deGive Bunny Shick	David and Mac Hartley Brett Bibb	Chip Chapman Jim Hoecker Ken Knapp	Pamela Wynfield Elizabeth Courts Ray Ewing
<b>Healing Ministers</b>	Michael Scholes Stephanie Knapp	Ginny Fluet Michael Scholes	Melissa Neal Stephanie Knapp	Joe Fluet Stephanie Knapp
<b>Ambassadors</b>	Steve Billingsley	Walt Hasser	Marguerite Sweeny	Brett Bibb
<b>Coffee Hour</b>				

**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

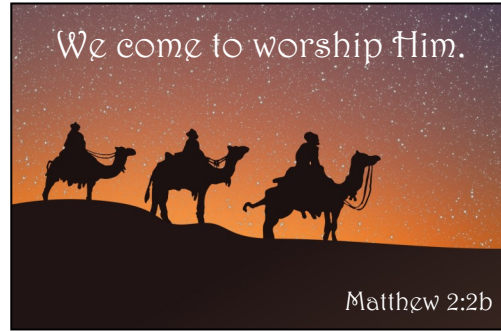
**Class of 2019**

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



#trinityuppsville

[www.trinityuppsville.org](http://www.trinityuppsville.org)



# Epiphany

Friday, January 6, 2017

6:30 PM Dinner

(This is a free catered dinner. All are welcome!)

7:30 PM Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Articles for the February 2017 issue of "Genesis" are due January 20, 2017

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STAMP  
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