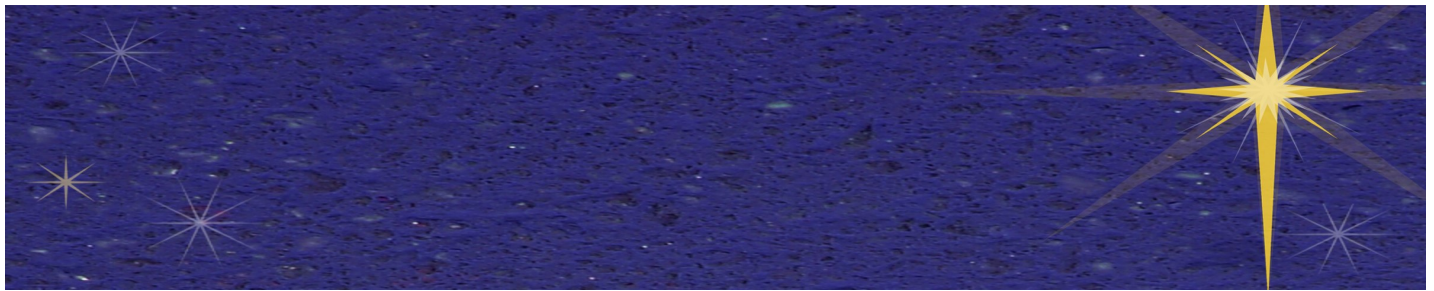


The Rector's Pen

By The Rev. Robert L. Banse, Jr.



My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Welcome to a new year according to the Christian calendar. Welcome to the holy season of Advent. There are four Sundays in this season, each leading us closer to the great celebration of Christmas. It is a time during which we are to pay particular attention to Christ's promise that he will return at an unexpected moment. One of the great spiritual disciplines encouraged in the life of every Christian is to live in readiness. Thus, Advent is a season of expectation marked by individual and communal acts befitting such preparation.

These preparatory acts include slowing down, waiting patiently, and living each day hopefully. Frankly, none of these practices are much honored in our world today. The lead-up to Christmas tends to be both frenetic and stressful. Waiting patiently for God is replaced by a seemingly unquenchable desire for instant gratification through material possessions wrapped in ribbon and foil. Furthermore, the fears and concerns we have about what is going on in our world today tend to overwhelm whatever hope we hold for Christ's coming again. There is so much noise, worry, and distraction. It makes standing still and looking up into the night sky for that one bright sign of "God with us" almost impossible. But that is the reason why we need this season of Advent all the more.

This year, as I prepare to depart this wonderful congregation, I am particularly mindful of one of Advent's great themes, the theme of light. While I remain excited about "the next chapter" and the possibilities that the new chapter holds, I will not deny both the sadness and anxiety of this time. Any departure contains an element of death and we often associate death with darkness.

I have served as a parish priest for over thirty-three years now, the last eleven years as Rector of this congregation. I have had the privilege of working beside so many saints in the course of this journey. I have had the blessing of being with you in the moments of great joy, deep grief, and all the other states of heart and mind in between. This has been my life and my vocation and it is not easy to let go.

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But this I know. The light of Christ has been with me my entire life. That light will remain with me and will guide me until the moment that Christ comes again, one way or another. I also know that that very same light is always present in each of your lives. As we move through this Advent season, we will light an additional candle on the Advent Wreath each Sunday until we get to that blaze of light revealed in the morning star of that holy night. Yes, this is the darkest time of year. It is into this time that God sends us His son, who is the light of the world. Darkness turns into morning. Death becomes the gateway to resurrection and eternal life. New life begins.

Many years ago, I played the part of Mortimer, “the man who dies”, in “The Fantasticks”. His colleague was Henry, “the old actor”. As Henry departs the stage for the last time, he turns to the audience and says, “Remember me...in light”. Please know that I will remember each of you, and pray for each of you, in the light that is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope that you will continue to hold Janie, Holland, Lee, Will, and yours truly in that same light as well as we all move into the next chapters of our lives.

Thank you, Trinity. Thank you, Staff. Thank you, the people of God who comprise this great congregation. It has indeed been the greatest of honors and blessings to serve as the Rector of this parish family.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

The Rev. Robert L. Banse, Jr.



Sighting of Nicholas Bishop of Myra



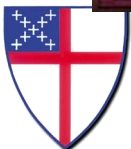
DECEMBER 2ND, AFTER THE 10:30 SERVICE

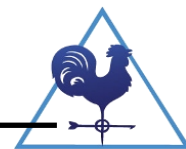
THERE MAY BE A POTENTIAL SIGHTING OF THE BISHOP OF MYRA

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, was a Bishop who lived in the fourth century in a place called Myra in Asia Minor (now called Turkey).

St. Nicholas was a Christian bishop who helped the needy. After his death, the legend of his gift-giving grew.

St. Nicholas transformed into the legendary character called Santa Claus, who brings Christmas presents to children around the world.





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.

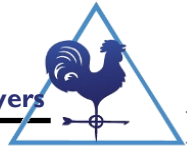
Christmas Day Service

10:30 am Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

ADVENT WREATH MAKING

Please join us
on December 2nd after the 10:30 service
for our Advent Wreath Making





This Christmas is the 200th anniversary of “Silent Night”. Here is a brief history according to the great source of all wisdom, Wikipedia.

The song was first performed on Christmas Eve 1818 at St Nicholas parish church in Oberndorf, a village in the Austrian Empire on the Salzach river in present-day Austria. A young priest, Father Joseph Mohr, had come to Oberndorf the year before. He had written the lyrics of the song "Stille Nacht" in 1816 at Mariapfarr, the hometown of his father in the Salzburg Lungau region, where Joseph had worked as a co-adjutor.

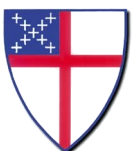
The melody was composed by Franz Xaver Gruber, schoolmaster and organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf. Before Christmas Eve, Mohr brought the words to Gruber and asked him to compose a melody and guitar accompaniment for the Christmas Eve mass. It is unknown what inspired Mohr to write the lyrics, or what prompted him to create a new carol.

According to Gruber, Karl Mauracher, an organ builder who serviced the instrument at the Oberndorf church, was enamoured with the song, and took the composition home with him to the Zillertal. From there, two travelling families of folk singers, the Strassers and the Rainers, included the tune in their shows. The Rainers were already singing it around Christmas 1819, and once performed it for an audience that included Franz I of Austria and Alexander I of Russia, as well as making the first performance of the song in the U.S., in New York City in 1839. By the 1840s the song was well known in Lower Saxony and was reported to be a favourite of Frederick William IV of Prussia. During this period, the melody changed slightly to become the version that is commonly played today.

Over the years, because the original manuscript had been lost, Mohr's name was forgotten and although Gruber was known to be the composer, many people assumed the melody was composed by a famous composer, and it was variously attributed to Haydn, Mozart, or Beethoven. However, a manuscript was discovered in 1995 in Mohr's handwriting and dated by researchers as c. 1820. It states that Mohr wrote the words in 1816 when he was assigned to a pilgrim church in Mariapfarr, Austria, and shows that the music was composed by Gruber in 1818. This is the earliest manuscript that exists and the only one in Mohr's handwriting.


As we do every year, we will sing some version of Silent Night at each of our Christmas Eve Services. However, at the 11:00 service we will sing it with guitar accompaniment just as it was written 200 years ago. We may even throw in a verse in German.

Christian





Poinsettia Order Form

 **Christmas Flowers**

**Christmas Poinsettias Order Form
(please print clearly)**

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,

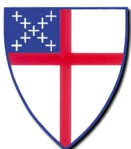
December 18

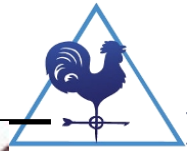
Given in memory of:

Given in honor/thanksgiving:

Your Name(s):

Phone:





Trinity Episcopal Church Christmas Auction

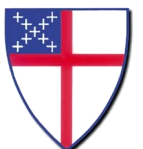
*To make it happen
we need your donations now!*

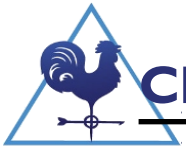
Jingle, Mingle, Bid and Buy

Preview Party at Cox Hall
Friday, December 7
5:00 to 7:00
Enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres

Live Auction
Sunday, December 9
Following the 10:30 service

With your help....
auctions will feature antiques, art,
gifts, jewelry, treasures,
amazing trips and adventures





Christmas Live Auction

Available in Live Auction

Charming Pony Cart



Known as a “Meadowbrook,” this cart is perfect for your driving pony or as an antique to treasure.

Attractive, Amish-made of sturdy oak, about 20 years old. Should work with medium or large pony,.

Does not include Harness/Traces.

Donated by
Jack Burke and Judith Ayres Burke

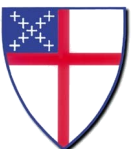
Lovely 2 bedroom condo with 2.5 baths and a wood burning fireplace. Condo is nestled near the foot of Bald Mountain overlooking a scenic stream.

Available for 7 days/ 8 nights
With no blackout dates
Does not include
airfare / transportation

Certificate valid for one year

Available in Live Auction

One Week in Sun Valley, Idaho
Paradise in Winter or Summer





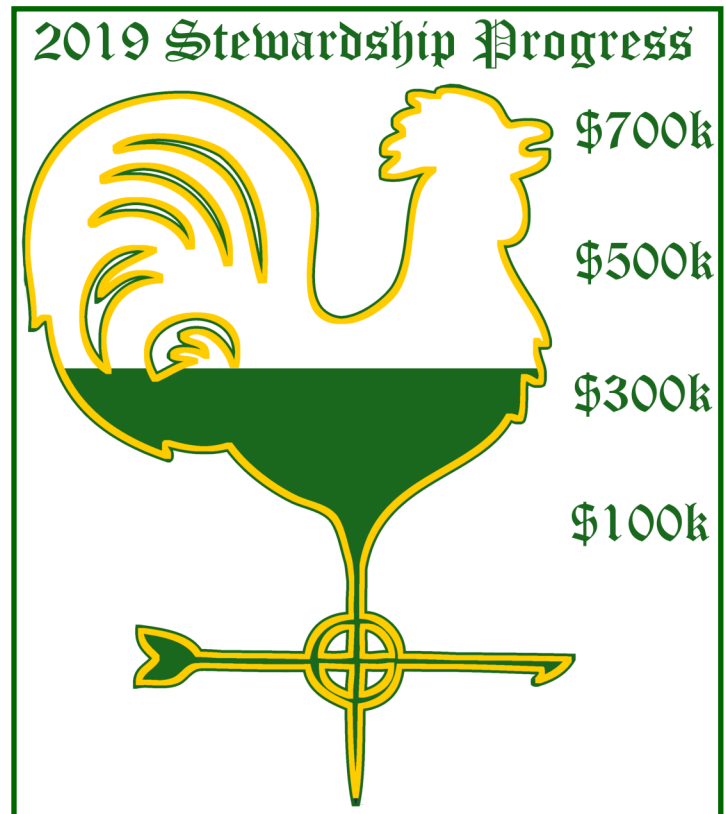
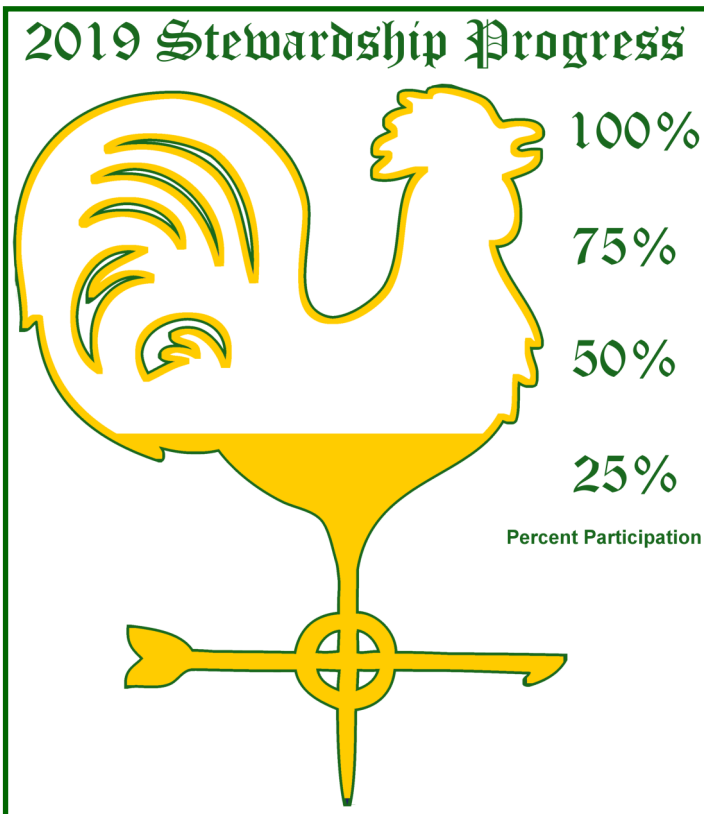
As of November 25, Trinity received 2019 pledges from about one-third of the congregation, totaling \$313,000. Our 2019 goal is \$675,000 to cover slightly more than half of our personnel and other operating costs. We have some distance to go, fellow parishioners.

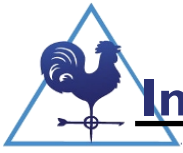
Have you made your pledge to Trinity for 2019?

This is a time of transition here at Trinity Church as well as in the nation and the world. At Trinity, we know that – like a rock – you are always there to provide help and support. Steadfast support for Trinity is an example for others and a material representation of your affection for the Lord and for our community. As a Steward of Trinity, you are helping manage and protect that which belongs to God. We hope you agree that we are Stewards of the lives we are given, stewards of this church, the outdoor chapel, stewards of the environment, and much more. These are God’s gifts on loan to us. We each must decide how to repay that loan. Growing in our spiritual lives means, in part, growing in our lives as stewards of Trinity Church, one of God’s many gifts.

Please consider sending in a pledge card before the end of December if you haven’t already done so. Consult your financial advisor to find out how a contribution to Trinity can work to your benefit. If you need a pledge card, please call the Church office.

If you have not fulfilled your pledge for 2018, we hope you can do so promptly.



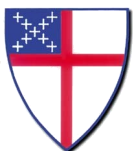


A HIGHWAY SHALL BE THERE
Lay Observations on Stewardship at Trinity Episcopal Church
James Hoecker, Stewardship Chairman & Senior Warden
November 11, 2018

Once again, let me express my gratitude to Reverend Banse and you, the parishioners of Trinity Church, for the privilege of addressing both services today on behalf of the Vestry and your fellow parishioners. This is a moment of transition as well as tradition for this Church and for the world beyond. As Christians, as citizens, as flawed but striving human beings, we always need something to hang onto in times like these. It is a basic human desire, to want to feel safe, secure, and certain about what's to come. We all invest in and cling to family, friends, and to the institutions and beliefs that help us make sense of an environment so often in a state of change, if not chaos.

For that reason, I want to share a somewhat personal perspective. Among other things, I practice law, most often working in the area of energy law and with companies and entrepreneurs that find energy resources, produce energy in all its forms, market it, and deliver it. But even I don't stay awake nights dwelling on the infrastructure that enables me to drive to Upperville or Washington, lights my house, warms my granddaughter's school. In other words, I assume that the material foundations upon which the economy or my life are built will always work reliably. As energy users, we all have a vague notion that there are pipes, wires, tanks, digital technologies out there somewhere doing important things and that there are machines that change the sun's rays, the wind, and methane in the ground into energy to do work, to transport us, to light up the world. By its very nature, these infrastructures are seldom seen; they are under-appreciated perhaps, but they are the essential foundation of our modern standard of living. Physical infrastructure is a critical foundation; when it fails, the consequences can be dramatic. Yet, they are taken for granted, even though we'd prefer to take these systems on faith. But, on reflection we know they require strategic investment.

Thinking about stewardship this year has forced me confront the whole idea of infrastructure in a different way. There's one kind of infrastructure the importance of which we all (even Congress) tend to understand, primarily because we use it most often and are willing to pay for because its benefits and the consequences of a failure to plan are so obvious. I'm referring to roads and bridges; that is, highways. Something biblical always comes to my mind in thinking about highways. I learned but have long since forgotten many of the things I studied as an undergraduate at a small liberal arts college in northern Wisconsin (called Northland College). But I have never forgotten the school's motto --"A Highway Shall Be There." This is a scriptural reference that is redolent with the kind of things that fire the minds and fuel the ambitions of young people starting out in life. But, in addition to being *apropos* as an identifier for a school in the chilly far Northwoods, I realize now that there's more to the motto than that. It comes from one of the prettiest passages in the book of Isaiah 35:6-8:





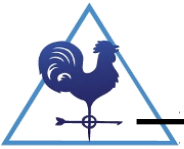
*For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
The burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
The haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes;
A highway shall be there.
And it shall be called the Holy Way . . .
Isaiah 35:6-8*

At the risk of revealing my amateur status as a Biblical scholar, I think that infrastructure, in the sense meant by Isaiah, is sustaining and transformative. It is a gift from God. “Life is made of highways built by human hands” – so begins our college song. In fact, highways are emblematic of the foundation upon which our lives rest. When you get on a highway, you have a direction. A highway implies a destination, even a destiny, without which we might be aimless and in the wilderness. You don’t get on one unless you’re going somewhere in particular. Similarly, this marvelous edifice in which we worship today is a highway; it is the very infrastructure of our lives as followers of Christ. Our families are also our highways; our professions, our jobs, and our friends are another highway, each with its direction and obstacles. Most important, our faith is a highway.

Trinity Church in Upperville Virginia, as an institution, is part of our shared sustaining infrastructure. It is that infrastructure that has a lot to do with who we are and what decisions we make. Like any infrastructure, it supports us; everything should rest on it. And we in turn must support it. Trinity provides us with direction and we should therefore be most happy when we are providing for and sustaining it. Trinity Church is taking us forward, to our destination – however differently God might define that destination for each of us or we might define it for ourselves and others. Individually and as a community of Christians, we are builders of these highways upon which we travel. As such, you and I are the stewards of God’s creation, as we move down life’s highways and give of ourselves to build families and communities – those human infrastructures that come from the physical, intellectual, and spiritual human energy we devote to living our lives.

Let me just say that stewardship is not an obligation or the price of admission or a sacrificial offering. A pledge to Trinity Church is nothing more and nothing less than a paving stone on the highway we must all travel. We’re all doing the best we can as we manage something that ultimately belongs to someone else, namely God; whether it is our assets, finances, or relationships, the natural environment, or our domestic lives and children, we are custodians. It’s important work. That is the stewardship we are called upon to provide. The reason I am up here this morning is simply to remind everyone that we are stewards of this Church, the outdoor chapel, its outreach to the community, the Christmas auction, our Rector and his legacy. We must even be stewards of the stable tour – remember, it was Mary and Joseph who took history’s most important stable tour.





In my letter to the parish last week, I explained the Church's needs. For Trinity to conduct all its ministries and activities and continue as a vital part of the community, it requires a budget of over \$1 million each year. Annual pledges cover slightly over 50% of that. I celebrate your generosity but it is not sufficient. Building highways is not easy. Highways are not without obstacles. Recognizing that, we have once again established an ambitious goal this year of just under \$700,000. My letter to you may be just another one of those "highway signs" but I urge you to meditate on it. Hopefully it will provide direction about how to measure the value of Trinity Church in your life.

Last summer, we were visited by Ms. Julie Simonton, Director of Congregational Development and Stewardship at the Diocese in Richmond. I thought we were going to talk about how churches do fundraising and which strategies appeal best to various communities for support. What we ended up discussing was Why Trinity Church? What does it mean to us? Where is it going? Those existential questions are simply unavoidable and Julie was not about to let us chat just about money. Whether she knew it or not, she was helping us think about what direction to take on this particular highway.

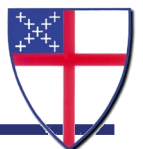
At this time of mixed emotion, as we prepare to say farewell to Rob and Janie Banse – as members of this Church, but certainly not as faithful friends – it may be tempting to pull off to the side of the road and wait to see what happens, and maybe dis-invest in Trinity Church until the Lord calls you or the road ahead becomes clearer. Don't yield to that temptation, I urge you. Trinity Church needs your stewardship today more than ever – your dollars, to be sure, but also your time, effort, creativity, and your prayers. Rob Banse has laid many a paving stone here at Trinity during his tenure. The highway that we built together with him has been inspiring and fulfilling. We must continue his good work.

In the next few weeks, you will hear more from Trinity about stewardship. We ask that you bring your 2018 pledge card to church with you on November 18, and that you place it worshipfully in the plate. Of course, you may pledge anytime, including today. In the final analysis, I am only asking that a pledge made is thereafter a pledge kept. Your Vestry thanks you for the opportunity that your annual pledge gives us to plan wisely for the coming year and to meet the challenges and uncertainties that 2019 will bring. Let us therefore go forth and forge new directions, build new roads and bridges, and illuminate the darkness.

Lord, we pray that you open our hearts to the spirit of giving. Help us to prayerfully work on the infrastructure of a life of good deeds for ourselves and for others on the road to our destination.

Surely, "a highway shall be there. And it shall be called the Holy Way."

Amen





A little slush on the roads and heavy traffic could not deter our ardent group from getting to DC on time to prepare and serve a hearty fish meal for over 360 guests at SOME in November.

Among the highlights was a visit from the Grand Poobah himself, Father John Adams, the co-founder and President of SOME. Father Adams, Father Horace McKenna and an interfaith group of priests, ministers and lay persons began SOME in 1970 to help feed the city of Washington's destitute citizens. Father Adams recognized our distinguished group as a long-serving, Provide-a-Meal (PAM) volunteer organization. We were honored that he took time in his busy schedule to stop in the dining room and share his mission.

As we approach 2019, we will mark our 32nd year of service. And right there from the very beginning, when we carted our food into DC in a horse trailer in the wee hours of the morning for breakfast service, was the indomitable Ann MacLeod, our fearless leader. The mere presence of Ann is always among our highlights as she hands out plates and warmly greets the guests.



Another major attraction was the beautiful assortment of turkey cookies lovingly, professionally and patiently prepared by Gina Hammond. They were a real hit among the guests as was the pumpkin pie and whipped cream topping, along with Mary MacDonnell's homemade pumpkin bread.

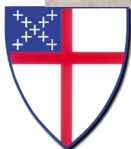


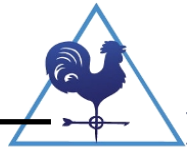
Learning of a major bridge closure in Washington and in haste, we set out on our journey a few minutes early, leaving two of our valuable participants behind, Paul Edmonson and Josephina Hooker. However, they thankfully decided to make the drive themselves and joined us in the dining hall. We were grateful for their determination and will make a better effort to take the anxiety level down a notch when the going gets tough.

Yet another highlight was the loyalty demonstrated by our Thursday cooks, who showed up in the Cox Hall kitchen in the middle of a raging ice storm. We dispensed with the chopping in record time and everyone thankfully made it safely home.

Among the DC crew: Ann MacLeod, Bob Appenzeller, Ken Knapp, Jim Gemmer, Bob and Mary MacDonnell, Margaret New, Carol Miller, Josephina Hooker, Paul Edmondson and Robin Keys. Laurie Volk unfortunately could not get out of her icy driveway.

Our team of rice casserole cooks included: Ann MacLeod, Bob and Joan Eliot, Ellen Hall, Tommy Breeden (who also loaded the van singled handedly), Holly Bimba, Stephanie Knapp, Robin Keys





Our proposed dates for 2019 are as follows:

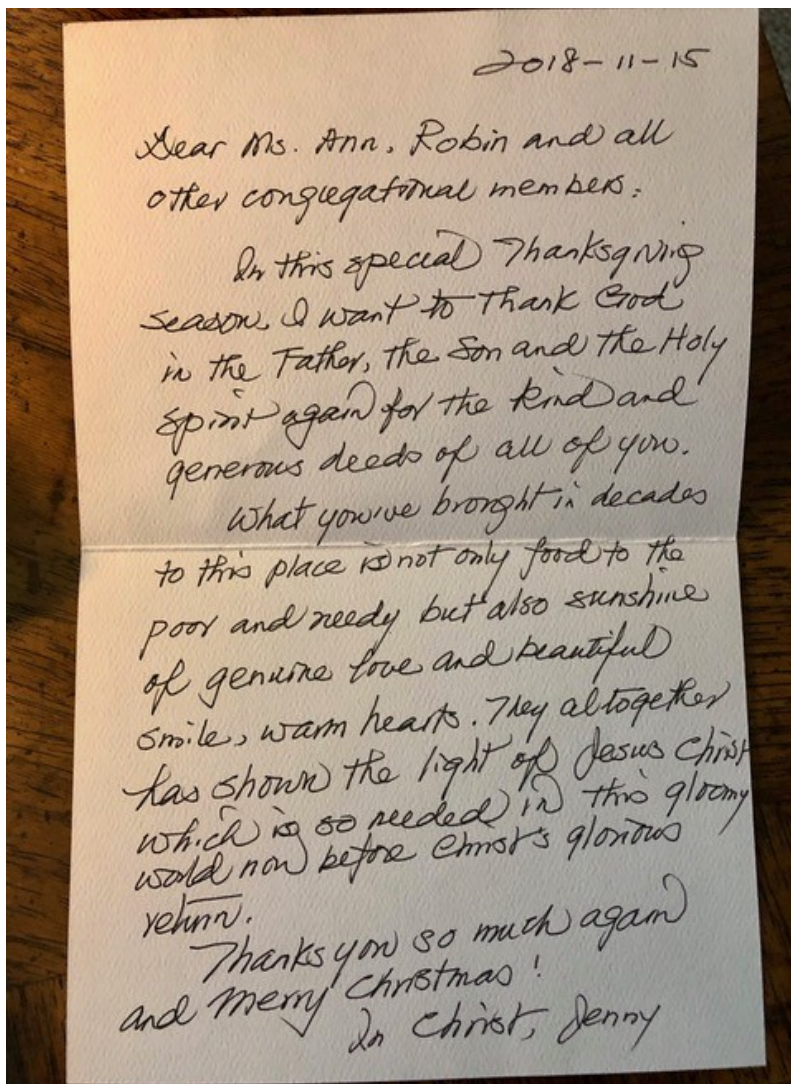
January 17/18
July 18/19

March 14/15
September 19/20

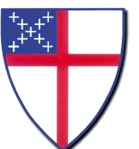
May 16/17
November 14/15

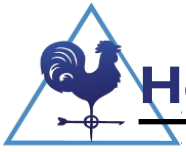
We invite everyone to join us either in the kitchen or in DC for this important ministry. Your support and donations of baked goods is appreciated.

As the year winds down, we also would like to take the opportunity to thank Father Banse, our Vestry, church Administration and congregation for all their prayerful support over the years. We also want to give thanks for our service provider, Schenck Foods Co. in Winchester, VA as they celebrate their 90th year of quality wholesale distribution. Keeping our costs down is a hallmark of the SOME program and Schenck Foods strives to always give us the best possible price.



A letter from Jenny, a recipient of our outreach.



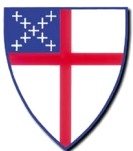


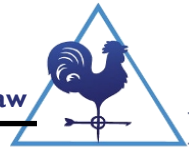
Honoring our Heroines

On Wednesday, December 14, many of our most active parishioners gathered at Cox Hall to celebrate the work of four of our most dedicated champions of outreach - Janie Banse, Ann MacLeod, Robin Keys and Leigh-O Wood. I'm sorry if you missed it. We enjoyed great fellowship and a spectacular potluck. Congratulations and thanks to our four honorees. With that, Debra Principi turned over Outreach leadership to Jennifer Moore for 2019.

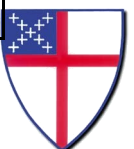


LeighO Wood, Janie Banse, Rob Banse, Ann MacLeod, Robin Keys





	January 6	January 13	January 20	January 27
Altar Guild	Jan 6 - Feb 3 Walta Warren, Elizabeth Courts, Bunny Shick, Shannon Stimson			
Flower Guild	Valerie Dove Beth Gibbens Susan Grayson Kelly Johnson Lynn Wiley Joan Elliot	Stephanie Bates Sarah Ellison Brooke Myatt Nicky Perry LeighO Wood Sheila Harrell	Gina Hammond Jane Kates Pat Sharp Edie Smart	June Hambrick Jessica Diday Margaret Hilliard Jason Labrador Janet Noland Marissa Hasser Ashley Hambrick Elizabeth Thomas
Memorial Flowers Given By	Elizabeth Courts	Penelope Yungblut Ray Ewing Mary Stokes		Foxcroft School
8:00 AM Service: Holy Eucharist Rite 1				
Lay Eucharistic Minister	Lewis Martin	Carol Miller	Walta Warren	Ellen Hall
Lector	Cheri Martin	Kelly Johnson	Jolly deGive	Walta Warren
Ushers	Barbara dePont Duke duFrane	Nicky Perry Walta Warren	Debbie Gerbich Jeff Millington	Robert Bonnie John Miller
Healing Ministry	Cheri Martin Walta Warren			
Coffee Hour				Ann MacLeod
10:30 AM Service: Holy Eucharist Rite 2				
Lay Eucharistic Ministers	Sheryl Mazzatenta Johanna Jackson	Ginny Fluet Gina Hammond	Ken Knapp Barbara Augenblick	Ed Moore Randy Mullett
Lector	Ashley Hambrick Samantha Whitesides	Penelope Yungblut Ray Ewing	Gray Coyner Randy Mullett	Richard Myers Sheryl Mazzatenta
Ushers	Stanley Dees Jessica Diday Sandy Diday	Jim Gemmer Bunny Shick Barbara Augenblick	Jim Hoecker Ray Ewing Penelope Yungblut	Pamela Wynfield Ken Knapp Chip Chapman
Healing Ministers	Melissa Neal Jerry Eisley	Samantha Whitesides Sheryl Mazzatenta	Michael Scholes Stephanie Knapp	Jerry Eisley Sheryl Mazzatenta
Ambassadors	Ed Moore	Marguerite Sweeny	Kyle Croson	Jessica Diday
Coffee Hour				





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*
Christian Myers, *Director of Music Ministry*
Di Demaree, *Parish Administrator*
Betsy Crenshaw, *Administrative Assistant*
Richard McPherson, *Organist*
Mary Deppa, *Bookkeeper*
Tommy Breeden, *Sexton*
Angela Lake, *Housekeeper*

Officers & Vestry

Jim Hoecker, *Senior Warden*
Sanford Diday, *Junior Warden*
Gina Hammond, *Treasurer*
Jolly de Give, *Registrar*

Class of 2019

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

Class of 2020

Kevin Fox, Kat Gemmer,
Johanna Jackson, Melissa Neal

Class of 2021

Barbara Augenblick, Louise Crane, Joe Fluet,
Hurst Groves



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The Church Office will be closed from
Noon on Dec 21 and reopen on Jan 2.

Important Upcoming Dates

- **December 2:** Advent Wreath Making after 10:30 Service
- **December 5&6:** Christmas Auction Set up
- **December 7:** Christmas Auction Shop & Bid 5-7pm
- **December 9:** Christmas Auction after 10:30 Service
- **December 14:** Musica Viva 7:30pm
- **December 15:** Men's Breakfast - 8am
- Men's Bible Study - 9am
- **December 16:** Lessons and Carols - 4pm
- **December 17:** Vestry Meeting - 6:30pm
- **December 22:** Pageant Rehearsal - 9am
- **December 22:** Flower Guild Decorates - 10am
- **December 24:** Services at 4pm, 8pm, 11pm
- **December 25:** Service at 10:30am
- **December 30:** Services 8am & 10:30 Baptism(s)

*Articles for the January 2019 issue of "Genesis" are due
December 18, 2018*



9108 John Mosby Highway
P.O. Box 127, Upperville, VA 20185

Phone: 540-592-3343

Fax: 540-592-3408

E-mail: info@trinityuppperville.org

www.trinityuppperville.org

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