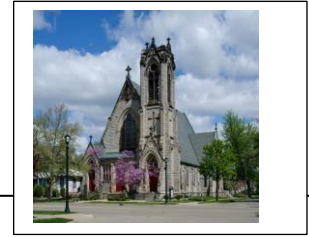


# THE CHIMES

Trinity Episcopal Church  
815 N. Grant St.  
Bay City, Michigan 48708

January 2024

Volume 27 Issue 1



Dear Trinity Community,

The longest night of the season has passed and the light grows each day. There is much darkness in our world and sometimes in our lives and it can be hard to see the light.

In my Christmas Eve sermon, I shared that seventeen years ago I was diagnosed with breast cancer. To remove the cancer, I had a lumpectomy. And in order to provide a significant decrease in recurrence, I chose to have chemotherapy and radiation.

There was one catch though. The chemo would force me into menopause and I wouldn't be able to become pregnant or give birth.

My world swirled around me. I was frightened and wondered if I would live through this ordeal even though I was going to fight it. There were so many emotions going on simultaneously that it was hard to see or feel God.

My spiritual director suggested that I sit quietly and listen to some gentle music and let that be my God-connection. I couldn't pray using words so my prayer became the groanings of my soul. God knew everything about me, my wants, my desires, my hopes, my dreams, and even when I couldn't feel God in the same way, Jesus was right by my side.

People were kind to me. Rides, dinners and healing prayers were provided with lots of other gestures of care offered.

It took time for me to be able to pray with words but that came. There were some bumps in the road.

Through it all, as I look back on that time, Jesus was by my side, loving me, grieving with me, laughing with me.

In the darkness of my loss, God's light was still there even though my emotions were overwhelming me. The reality of this experience was life-changing. I can see how Jesus has been by my side. I can now feel Jesus by my side. And I know beyond the shadow of a doubt that Jesus will always be by my side.

Obviously, I don't have any children of my own, and that will never change. However, I do have a powerful experience of the love that God has for me and for the many graces and blessings that came through that painful experience.

The same is true for you. No matter what your loss or hardship may be, God loves you so much that Jesus is right by your side, loving you and experiencing all you're going through.

Just like the darkness of my experience with cancer was deep, God's light shone even when I couldn't see it. As I continued on my journey, the swirling emotions began to subside and I could begin to see and feel God's light, which brought me hope.

As the physical days get longer, may you, too, see and feel God's light more and more and know that Jesus has always been by your side, is by your side, and always will be by your side.

In Christ's love, *Rev. Sue*

## Footprints in the Sand

by Mary Stevenson (1936)

One night I dreamed a dream. I was walking along the beach with my Lord. Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to me and one to my Lord.

When the last scene of my life shot before me I looked back at the footprints in the sand. There was only one set of footprints. I realized that this was at the lowest and saddest times of my life. This always bothered me and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma.

"Lord, You told me when I decided to follow You, You would walk and talk with me all the way. But I'm aware that during the most troublesome times of my life there is only one set of footprints. I just don't understand why, when I need You most, You leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you, never, ever, during your trials and testings. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

## THANK YOU



Mary K Freel for generously sharing her manger scenes with us.

Everyone who participated in getting the church so beautifully ready for Christmas.



Rayechel Berger, Patrick Winningham and Exultate Deo for a lovely Christmas Lessons & Carols service.



The choir left to right Mary K. Freel, Dorothy Marinan, Tod Meisel, Cathy LaBerge, Patrick Gray, Kelly Burnett, Mike Huntress, Rayechel Berger



## Birthdays

Diane Rapson Gabil  
Paulette Royer  
Rob Salazar  
Jean Traxler  
Jack Esseltine  
Gregory Marciniak  
Lauren McCullen  
Gregory Scharich  
Sharon Scharich  
Susan Harris  
Faith Culler

## Anniversaries

Gregory & Heidi Marciniak  
Nathan & Rayechel Berger



**SPECIAL JANUARY DATES**

- Sunday, January 7
  - Sunday Fun Day – Lunch & games
  - Friends of Music empty can drive
- Tuesday, January 9
  - St. Elizabeth’s Guild (see below)
  - 2pm – Finance Committee
- Sunday, January 14
  - Due date for Annual Meeting ministry reports
- Mondays, January 15 & 22
  - 6:30pm – Vestry
- Sunday, January 28
  - Annual Meeting after church

We were busy In December! Thank you Mary K for sharing your pictures with us!



We held our annual Christmas Singalong on December 12<sup>th</sup>. We all enjoyed the story behind some of the carols and we really enjoyed singing them! The choir sang “Christmas in about 3 minutes” while the audience tried to figure out all the carols that were in the song!! A reception was held following the singalong.



For the food pantry: This year the Food Pantry provided 15 Christmas baskets of food and personal items. These baskets serviced 25 adults and 25 kids with food, self care items, small toys, and books provided by the Bay County Library System. All this was made possible by donations from Meijers, Trinity’s parishioners and the students and staff of Valley Lutheran. Many thanks to all for helping to make the best possible Christmas for 15 families!!!



**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

- Sundays:**
  - Worship @ 10am
  - FOF doors open 1:30, meal served 2:30
- Mondays:** Overeaters Anonymous 10am
- Tuesdays:** Compline online 9pm
- Wednesdays:**
  - Morning Prayer online 11:30am
- Thursdays:**
  - Fun & Games 1pm
  - Senior Choir rehearsal 7pm
  - Overeaters Anonymous 7pm
  - Compline online 9pm
- Fridays:** Narcotics Anonymous 7:30pm



**TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET.**

*Matthew 1:22, ESV*

**PUZZLE**

**SEEING AND BELIEVING**

Until Thomas saw Jesus' nail scars with his own eyes, he doubted the resurrection. What did Jesus tell Thomas?

**Directions:**  
Use the code to fill in the vowels and complete  
John 20:29, NIV.

A  
E I  
O U

"B\_c\_s\_y\_h\_v\_s\_n m\_,  
y\_h\_v\_b\_l\_v\_d;  
bl\_ss\_d\_r\_th\_s\_wh\_h\_v\_n\_t  
s\_n\_nd\_y\_t\_h\_v\_b\_l\_v\_d."

**JOHN 20:29, NIV**

Answer: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29, NIV

**PRAYER LIST UPDATES**

If you have someone you would like to add to or remove from our prayer list, please email [trinitychurchbaycity@gmail.com](mailto:trinitychurchbaycity@gmail.com) or call the office at 989-892-5813.



Here are some of those who decorated the Sunday School Christmas tree this year.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**



**SUNDAY FUNDAY**

January 7 - lunch & games!



**FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE**

Please make sure to subscribe to our YouTube channel, like our Facebook page and then share our events and posts on Facebook. We get lots of views when you share our posts and services!

## MK HAS A RIDDLE:



What's the difference between the 2 wreaths and (bonus points) why?

You'll have to ask MK for the answer!

### WORSHIP AT TRINITY

Please note: Our virtual services are live streamed or recorded/preserved to be available to others by way of our website, social media, or other on-line platforms. Even though there is no deliberate attempt to include the congregation in the broadcast or publication, you are hereby notified there is the possibility of your image being shown and your presence and participation constitutes your permission for that to occur.

### SAVE THE DATE

January 28, 2024 – Annual Meeting after church

### ST. ELIZABETH'S GUILD

January 9. 11am at Trinity to write cards. 12:30pm lunch at Coonan's Irish Pub. All are invited!

### UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Have you changed your address, phone number or other information lately? If so, please make sure that information gets to us! Thank you.



### DID YOU NOTICE?

We now have a new florist to provide our altar, columbarium and piano flowers. If you would like to sponsor one Sunday, please speak with Elisabeth Campbell. New rates are as follows: altar flowers \$60, columbarium flowers \$50, and piano flowers \$25.

### VESTRY INFORMATION

Trinity's Vestry has 6-9 members, which means 2-3 people are elected each year for a 3-year term. If you are interested in finding out information on what this responsibility entails, please speak with a Vestry member (see list on page 7) or Rev. Sue.

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Your continued financial support of Trinity is greatly appreciated. Your Finance Committee and Vestry continue to work diligently to utilize all resources available to us during this unprecedented time.

Ways to provide us with your contributions:

- Write and mail a check to Trinity
- IRA contribution
- Go to [www.trinityepiscopalbaycity.org](http://www.trinityepiscopalbaycity.org), click on the online giving link which will take you to the diocesan webpage.



## PRAY FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

### WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* is an ecumenical Christian observance in the Christian calendar that is celebrated internationally. It is kept annually between Ascension Day and Pentecost in the Southern Hemisphere and between January 18 and January 25 in the Northern Hemisphere. It is an octave, that is, an observance lasting eight days.

The *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* began in 1908 as the *Octave of Christian Unity*, and focused on prayer for church unity. The dates of the week were proposed by Father Paul Wattson, an Anglican who became Roman Catholic, and cofounded the Graymoor Franciscan Friars. He conceived of the week beginning on the Feast of the Confession of St. Peter, January 18, and concluding with the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul on January 25.

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### WISE MEN WAITING

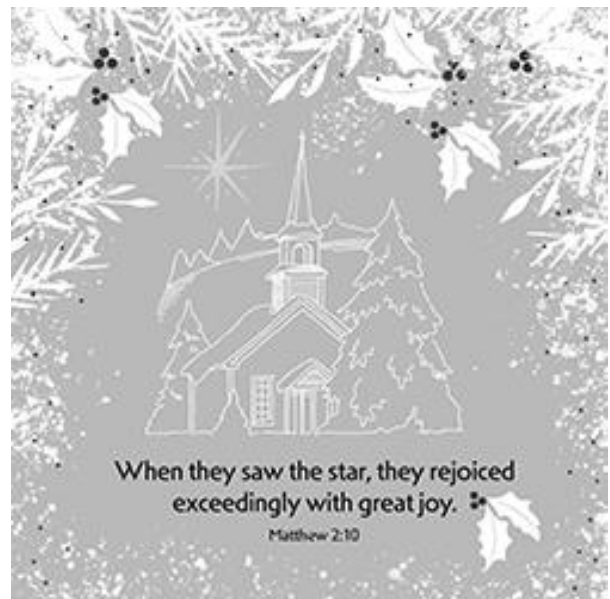


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Trinity Church  
Her People, Her Building  
Then and Now

### *Sacred Gifts of Mystic Meaning*

Eastern sages at His cradle  
Make oblations rich and rare;  
See them give in deep devotion,  
Gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:  
Incense doth their God disclose,  
Gold the King of Kings proclaimeth,  
Myrrh His sepulcher foreshows.

(From “Earth Has Many a Noble City”  
Originally written in Latin, late 4<sup>th</sup>  
century by Prudentius; Translated by  
Fr. Edward Caswall in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.  
The Hymnal, 1982; Hymn # 127;  
vv. 3, 4; Melody: Stuttgart)

It is only in St. Matthew’s Gospel, (2:11), that we become aware that Gentiles, or non-Jews came to worship the baby Jesus. It is here that we also learn that in their journey of approximately two years, they brought gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. What unusual gifts to bring a new-born, and by people who traveled so long and so far, and who were not even related. Irenaeus, an Early Church Father in the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century, says that the gifts signify the mystery of the incarnate Word (God who became human): Gold, a symbol of royalty represents Jesus’ kingship; frankincense used in worship points to His divinity; and myrrh, represents His humanity, particularly His passion and death (*Against Heresies*).

Matthew Henry, (1662-1704), scholar and author of a *Commentary on the Whole Bible* provides further insight on the Magi and their gifts:

In the eastern nations, when they did homage to their kings, they made them presents. With ourselves, we must give up all that we have to Jesus Christ. Nor are our gifts accepted, unless we first present ourselves to him living sacrifices. The gifts they presented were gold, frankincense, and myrrh, money and money’s worth. Providence sent this for a seasonable relief to Joseph and Mary in their present poor condition. These were the products of their own country; what God favors us with, we must honour him with. They offered him gold, as a king, paying him tribute; frankincense as God, for they honoured God with the smoke of incense; and myrrh as a Man that should die, for myrrh was used for embalming dead bodies. (Matthew Henry’s Commentary; Zondervan Publishing House; Copyright 1961; pp. 1207-1208.)

In Jesus, the *mystic meaning* becomes crystal clear: The Gift of the Sacred One becoming flesh, only to die a painful death, to give us life eternal.



Detail from the Epiphany Window. Young Family Memorial. Willet Studios; Phil., PA. 1951. Western nave wall.

Faithfully submitted by the Historical Guild

**OFFICE HOURS**

By appointment

**WORSHIP ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE**

In-person and Online:

Sunday-10:00 AM – Holy Communion

Online only:

Wednesday-11:30 AM – Morning Prayer

Tues & Thurs-9:00 PM – Compline

**FOOD OF FAITH**

Sundays: 1:30 PM – Doors open

2:30PM – Meal served

**OFFICE HOURS**

By appointment

**CONTACT US**

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**Web Site:**

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

**Facebook:**

Trinity-Episcopal-Church-Bay-City

**YouTube:**

Trinity Episcopal Church Bay City

**MISSION STATEMENT**

To encourage growth through fellowship, follow the teachings of Jesus, and reach out to our community through prayer and service.

**VISION STATEMENT**

We strive to grow the body of Christ by being a welcoming, vibrant, service-based faith community that actively lives our values, especially the commandment to “love God and our neighbor.”

**VESTRY**

Senior Warden – Archie Duncan

Junior Warden – Don Middleton

Clerk/Secretary – Dan Keeler

Michelle Hunsberger

Mickie Leibrand

Carolyn Pawlaczyk

Patrick Gray

Treasurer

**DIOCESE**

The Rt. Rev. Skip Adams

Bishop Provisional

**CLERGY**

The Rev. Susan C. Rich

Rector

**STAFF**

Mrs. Rayechel Berger

Choir Director

Mr. Terry J. Oliver

Sexton

Mrs. Brenda Weaver

Bookkeeper

Mr. Patrick Winningham

Congregational

Accompanist

**CHURCH SCHOOL VOLUNTEER STAFF**

Faith Culler

Michelle Hunsberger

Bruce Sherbeck

Carolyn Pawlaczyk

Chimes Editor

Pat Maxim

Web Site Manager



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