

THE CHIMES Dec 2016

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

Volume 19 Issue 11



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year...or should I say, Happy New Liturgical Year! Advent begins the Church's year and we have begun our preparation for the coming of Christ.

We prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ child. The scripture readings we hear during Advent also help us prepare for the return of Christ and the Kingdom of God on earth.

The readings tell us to stay alert and keep watch. We also hear God's people being told to behave as if everything we do is illuminated by the light. When we are kind, extend forgiveness, seek forgiveness, offer hope and reach out in peace as we love God and our neighbor we usher in God's kingdom on earth.

As we come together on December 24 and 25 we will celebrate the arrival of the Christ child who is the hope of the world. Christ is the hope of the world for yesterday, today and tomorrow. He came once and he will come again as he promised.

There are many ways we can prepare ourselves for this sacred celebration. In our worship we use the color blue to acknowledge the kingship of Jesus. We also use the Advent wreath that marks each Sunday as we get closer to Christmas.

Growing up my family had an Advent wreath on the dining room table and before dinner

each night we would say a prayer or sing an Advent hymn as we lit the appropriate number of candles for that week.

My siblings and I each had our own Advent calendar which helped us countdown to Christmas by opening a door every day in December. Behind each door was a picture. I still like to use the paper Advent calendar but have come across *AdventWord*, a world Advent calendar.

AdventWord is a new twist on this old theme: it invites people to sign up to receive a daily meditation. Recipients are invited to submit a photograph in response on their social media account with the hashtag #AdventWord. The photographs are pulled together in real time to create a living Advent calendar. For this and some other great Advent ideas you can go to <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/tag/advent2016/>.

May God's blessing of hope, joy, peace and love during this time of preparation and celebration be with us. Being full of these blessings may our lives be abundant witnesses to God's generosity as we share God's gift of love given for us and for all the world.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Sue

**Statement from Presiding Bishop
Michael Curry**

"The Episcopal Church Welcomes You," is not just a slogan, it's who we seek to be and the witness we seek to make, following the way of Jesus.



[November 14, 2016] Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael B. Curry has issued the following statement:

Last week I shared what I pray was a reconciling post-election message to our church, reminding us that 'we will all live together as fellow Americans, as citizens.' Today I want to remind us that during moments of transition, during moments of tension, it is important to affirm our core identity and values as followers of Jesus in the Episcopal Anglican way.

Jesus once declared, in the language of the Hebrew prophets, that God's "house shall be a house of prayer for all nations" (Mk 11:17). He invited and welcomed all who would follow saying, "come to me all who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens" (Mt. 11:28).

We therefore assert and we believe that "the Episcopal Church welcomes you" – all of you, not as merely a church slogan, but as a reflection of what we believe Jesus teaches us and at the core of the movement he began in the first century. The Episcopal Church welcomes all. All of us!

As the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement today, we Episcopalians are committed, as our Prayer Book teaches to honor the covenant and promises we made in Holy Baptism: *To proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ; To seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving*

our neighbor as ourselves; to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being.

As Christians, we believe that all humans are created in God's image and equal before God – those who may be rejoicing as well as those who may be in sorrow.

As a Church, seeking to follow the way of Jesus, who taught us, "you shall love your neighbor as yourself," (Mt. 22:39) and to "do to others as you would have them do to you" (Mt. 7:12), we maintain our longstanding commitment to support and welcome refugees and immigrants, and to stand with those who live in our midst without documentation. We reaffirm that like all people LGBT persons are entitled to full civil rights and protection under the law. We reaffirm and renew the principles of inclusion and the protection of the civil rights of all persons with disabilities. We commit to the honor and dignity of women and speak out against sexual or gender-based violence. We express solidarity with and honor the Indigenous Peoples of the world. We affirm the right to freedom of religious expression and vibrant presence of different religious communities, especially our Muslim sisters and brothers. We acknowledge our responsibility in stewardship of creation and all that God has given into our hands. We do so because God is the Creator. We are all God's children, created equally in God's image. And if we are God's children we are all brothers and sisters.

"The Episcopal Church Welcomes You," is not just a slogan, it's who we seek to be and the witness we seek to make, following the way of Jesus.

**The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church**

THANK YOU

to Dee Mulholland, Mickie Leibrand, Pat Maxim and all of the other hospitality volunteers who helped with the funeral meals

to the choir volunteers who sang for the funerals in October

to Bruce Sherbeck for his work painting the windows upstairs in the classrooms

to Taylor Longstaff and Diane Rapson-Gabil for their work getting candle wax off of pew cushions and carpet in the nave

to Jan Waldman and Katherine Freel for their work in the Food Pantry during the demanding holiday season

to Shelley Whitehead and all of the workers for another successful Holiday Bazaar

Congratulations

Rev Sue was elected as a member of the Standing Committee, which is like Vestry on the diocesan level.

She was also elected as Deputy to the 79th General Convention 2018 in Austin, TX. This is like our Diocesan Convention on a much larger scale and is held every three years in different parts of the country.

A Flower Sponsor is needed for the first Sunday in December. Please call the office if you are interested in this date.

St. Elizabeth's Guild will meet for lunch on December 13 at Lucky's on Wilder at 12:30. We hope to see you there, everyone is invited!

2016 Holiday Bazaar

Thanks to all who participated in the November 5th Holiday Bazaar. For a 6 hour event over 25 of us worked the day of the event, baked goodies or donated items for the Trinity Treasures table. Many of you generously gave checks towards the event as well. Our goal this year was to meet or beat last year's profit of \$1,153, we met that goal. Our accounting looks like we are around \$1,257. The final number should be in by the end of November.

I would like to see a portion of our profits go towards new 8' tables. Some of the tables are in really rough shape.

We shared an ad with First Presbyterian Church "PARK ONCE/SHOP TWICE" which appeared in the Bay City Times classified section the Thursday and Friday before the Bazaars. The weather was perfect this year and there were lots of shoppers going between the two churches. This seems to work well for both churches to hold our bazaars on the same day.

We had approximately 200 shoppers this year. Of course I want to see the number of shoppers go UP. Having more vendors would help us grow the Holiday Bazaar. We have room in the hallway and guild room to expand. I welcome your comments, suggestions, and HELP in planning next year's Holiday Bazaar.

Thank you

Shelley Whitehead
CEC (Chief Elf in Charge)

DECEMBER CHORAL MUSIC

Christmas Poinsettia and Friends of Music

This is the time of year that donations are made to Trinity's Christmas Flowers and Friends of Music Fund. The Friends of Music fund goes to guest musicians that we enjoy during the Christmas season. For the Christmas flowers please give a minimum gift of \$15.00. Please make checks to Trinity Episcopal Church then signify whether the check goes to "Christmas Flowers" or "Friends of Music Fund". Signify whether the contribution is given in Thanksgiving for (e.g. blessings received, an important person in your life, an anniversary or birthday) or in loving memory of (name of person).



- 4 Advent 2
How Beautiful Upon the Mountain
John Stainer
- 11 Advent 3
How Lovely Are the Messengers
Felix Mendelssohn
- 18 Advent 4
As the Dark Awaits the Dawn
Carl Schalk

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Please join us at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 18, 2016 for our annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Participants include, Rev. Susan Rich, Exultate Deo Chamber, organist Adrienne Wiley and Robert Sabourin, conductor. We usually fill the church for this event so get there early. Friends of Music will host a reception in the Guild Room following the service.

Once In Royal David's City - Irby - David Willcocks

Adam Lay ybounden - Boris Ord

Away In A Manger - Bob Chilcott

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing -

Mendelssohn - David Willcocks

Love Came Down at Christmas - Leo

Sowerby

On Christmas Night - Philip Ledger

See Amid the Winter's Snow - Richard

Lloyd

Sing Lullaby - Anthony Prower

Shepherds Pipe Carol - John rutter

Suo Gan - Philip Ledger

The Angel Gabriel Came Down From

Heaven - Anthony Prower

The Glory of the Father - Egvil Hovland

The Holly and the Ivy - John Gardner

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES, Dec. 24

We offer a 5:00 p.m. Children's Service and a 10:00 p.m. traditional service with classic choral repertoire and organ music to celebrate the birth of Christ. The Choristers will lead the early service and our Trinity Choir will sing for the 10:00 p.m. candlelight service. Music begins at 9:30 p.m. before the 10:00 p.m. service.

Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m.

How Far Is It To Bethlehem
William Schoeneld

Carol of the Light
David Barton

Christmas Eve 10:00 p.m.

Music Begins at 9:30p.m.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
Arthur Sullivan

Al My Heart This Night Rejoices
David Cherwien

Mass in C, Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus Dei
Charles Gounod

Christmas Lullaby
John Rutter

25 Christmas Day

As On the Night Before this Blessed

Morn

Orlando Gibbons

January

1 The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love
Everett Titcomb

6 The Feast of the Epiphany

11:30 a.m. Sung Mass followed by
English Tea



Birth Days:

02 Perrien Hayhurst
02 Marnie Syring
04 Isabella Moulthrop
07 Marc Mulholland
07 June Swanson
09 Shelley Anderson
11 Christopher Shannon
13 Guy C. Moulthrop
15 Heidi Marciniak
17 Dee Mulholland
19 Denise Middleton
19 Karen Schmidt
20 Ray Luebs
21 Thomas Hiss Tabor
22 Donald Freel
23 Priscilla Reitler
26 Jane Willard
29 Olivia Moulthrop

Anniversary:

08 Cathy LaBerge
20 James and Susan Hoyle
20 Tod and Barbara Meisel
26 Gerald and Sharon Jehnsen
28 Marc and Dee Mulholland

Mary, Mother of Our Lord

Mary was the mother of Jesus. She is also known as the Virgin Mary, the Blessed Virgin Mary, or the Blessed Virgin. According to the Gospels of St. Luke and St. Matthew, Mary gave birth to Jesus in Bethlehem.

The Christian church proclaims Mary as the Virgin who was open to God's grace and said yes to the archangel Gabriel's message that she would become the God-bearer allowing the power of the Most High to overshadow her and to conceive Jesus without human intervention. She is both virgin and mother and had a unique role in the Incarnation – God becoming flesh is Christ Jesus.

As Jesus was growing up, Mary and Joseph search to find Him as He was teaching in the Temple. At the wedding feast of Cana she tells the servants to "do whatever He tells you" as Christ performed His first miracle. Finally, she is present at her beloved Son's crucifixion.

In his commentary on the Magnificat, Mary's Song of Praise, Martin Luther mentions that the gospel writers refer to her as the mother of Our Lord eight times. Both he and Protestant reformer John Calvin believed in the perpetual virginity of Mary. Mary is venerated by the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Eastern Orthodox churches as the "Mother of God."

Author and hymn writer, John A. L. Riley, says it well when he describes Mary as higher than the highest order of angels because she bears the eternal Word, Jesus Christ. While humans are made lower than the angels and are a different order of

creation, Mary's unique role as the sinless Mother of God gives her this distinction:

"O higher than the cherubim,
More glorious than the seraphim,
Lead their praises, Alleluia!
Thou bearer of the eternal Word,
Most gracious magnify the Lord..."

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones
The Hymnal, 1982; # 618, v. 2.



The fleur de lis is a symbol of both Mary's purity and the Holy Trinity. As a Trinitarian symbol, the three petals stand for the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity.

In Gabriel's message to Mary we note that the Father sent the Holy Spirit whose power overshadowed Mary and Jesus became incarnate, thus all Three Persons of the Trinity are represented.

May we with all the angels and saints join Mary as she praises and magnifies the Lord, our Savior and Redeemer from sin and death, Immanuel – God with us, now and for all eternity.

Faithfully submitted by the Historical Guild

WORSHIP

Sunday – 10:00 AM - With Music
Wednesday – 11:30 AM - Without Music
Food of Faith 2:30 P.M.

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00AM– 4:45 PM
CLOSED FOR LUNCH 12:30 – 1:15 PM
Friday - Closed

CONTACT US

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