

THE CHIMES

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

January 2020

Volume 23 Issue 1



Dear Trinity Community,

The time is now, the time is love. Jesus is shining his light in the darkness and the darkness cannot be overcome. We are surrounded by darkness in our world, country and parts of our lives, and, yet, Jesus comes in to illuminate the darkness to reveal all things. Darkness is not dark to our God.

I recently saw a picture on a Facebook post that showed a person at the bottom of a tall, wide, cement stairwell. There was darkness all around except for a ray of light illuminating the bottom steps. It was a reminder that there is a long road ahead and that we need to take each step as it comes.

What is not shown are the many staircases already climbed. This congregation of Trinity, Bay City has climbed many-a staircase and we continue to be faithful followers of the One who illuminates all things that we may move forward in ministry to live more fully into all God is calling us.

It is exciting to be a part of the movement of the Holy Spirit in this place! For the past two months we've had 20 or more people arrive before church on the second Sunday to sing contemporary praise music.

We hosted our first-ever Community Christmas Hymn Sing in which 48 people participated! We even received phone calls from attendees encouraging us to continue this event in the future! It was just a lot of fun!

There are more fun events planned for 2020

that we hope you will enjoy. *And* we hope you will invite your friends and acquaintances to join in as well. We want to share the Good News of God in Christ and we grasp this reality well when we experience the blessing of shared life in community.

There is a groundswell of energy moving us forward. There are many staircases behind us and we are called to look ahead, focused on Christ, to take the next step. Our next step is to pay attention to those whom we encounter in life and simply ask them to join us in community activities and worship.

The decades-old renewal movement *Cursillo* is a four-day retreat which is followed up by something called grouping. Each participant is encouraged to gather weekly in a small group. They may share a meal but the "meat" of the time is focused on Prayer, Study and Action. Each person shares what they did since they last met in these three areas. The wisdom of this lies in the planning of those areas in the upcoming week and the accountability by sharing it with one another. There is no success if there's no plan. To really think about what one will do in one's time of prayer, study and action is key.

The action portion focuses on this simple phrase: Make a friend; Be a friend; Bring a friend to Christ. This means that the weekly action includes paying attention to those with whom one encounters and how God may be calling you to reach out to that person. In this time of making resolutions, I invite you to make a commitment of noticing who God is putting in your path and to plan on letting

them know of the love of God you experience at Trinity and invite them to attend our social and worship events.

Imagine the joy of the staircase behind us next year if each family unit at Trinity brought in one family that became an active part of our community!

In Christ's love, *Rev. Sue*

OUR SYMPATHIES

To the family and friends of Mary Jo Burdick who died on September 12.

THANK YOUs

The angel who cleared snow off cars after the Community Christmas Hymn Sing.

The decorators of our worship space for Christmas.

Altar Guild and Choir for all their hard work and dedication for all things Advent and Christmas.

Mary K Freel for sharing her many crèches with us.

DID YOU NOTICE?

The linoleum by the kitchen has been removed. The hardwood has been sanded and refinished and the area by the kitchen has a new subfloor and wood tile.

NOISY OFFERING

Our children collect change (noisy money) along with paper money to go to the ministries they choose on the second Sunday of each month. January's offering will go toward McLaren Pediatric Unit.

CONTEMPORARY PRAISE MUSIC

Please join us on the second Sunday of each month in the church from 9:30-9:50am to sing some of the songs learned at our Faith Alive weekend and other contemporary Christian music!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee has been responding to the feedback you provided in the Worship Survey. As an experiment, beginning this month we will have a special service that is different from our regular services. On January 19 we will have an Instructed Eucharist during which time I will provide teachings on the different aspects of our Eucharistic service with a brief sermon (if any). On February 16, we will use contemporary Christian praise music. For the season of Lent we will use Rite 1, and on March 15 we will have a "high church" Sunday using "smells & bells". April we will offer Morning Prayer as the Liturgy of the Word (beginning of the service) and in May will use Enriching Our Worship which uses more contemporary language. In June we will offer one or more spoken services. Since this is a work in progress, we may be making adjustments along the way as we hear from you.

Remember that this is an experiment and we want *all* your feedback. We want to know what you like, what you'd like tweaked and what you don't like. Members of the Worship Committee are: Steve Beckert, Rayechel Berger, Archie Duncan, Sue Hoyle, Mickie Leibrand, Rev. Sue Rich, Anne Trahan.

WELCOME PATRICK WINNINGHAM

We are very pleased to announce that Patrick Winningham has agreed to join Trinity on a regular basis in 2020! He will be playing the organ on Sundays at least twice a month. Welcome Patrick!

ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 26

Our Annual Meeting will be held immediately following worship on the last Sunday of January. This is a time when we, as a congregation, review the previous year in both ministry and finances, elect new vestry members, elect delegates and alternates to diocesan convention and look ahead toward the upcoming year in both ministry and finances. We will hold the meeting in the

worship space and then celebrate with a potluck meal in the Parish Hall.

UPDATE ON BAZAAR NET EARNINGS

Our Bazaar actually netted \$1,200! Thanks to everyone who made this year's bazaar such a success!

FURNACE TEMPERATURE IN CHURCH

We have a new process in place to regulate the temperature in our worship space for the comfort of our people and so the organ has time to adjust to any temperature change (an hour for every degree) prior to a service.

Please do not change the thermostats in the worship space as we will have them set the day or two before Sunday worship and after worship. Depending on other activities, this schedule may be adjusted. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with Bruce Sherbeck or Rev. Sue. Thank you.

REQUEST FROM ST. PAUL'S, SAGINAW

St. Paul's, Episcopal Church in Saginaw feeds the hungry each Sunday. Trinity members used to participate in this program up to four times a year in addition to our four times a year serving Food of Faith at Trinity. We have been asked by St. Paul's to consider providing a meal one Sunday in 2020. Please speak with Rev. Sue for details.

Trinity Church
Her People, Her Building
Then and Now

The Star of Bethlehem

“What star is this with beams so bright
More beautiful than the noon day light
It shines to herald forth the King
And Gentiles to His crib to bring.”

Words: Charles Coffin, 1736;
(translated from Latin, 1861;
John Chandler).

Music: Puer Nobis; 15th century;
124, v. 1; The Hymnal 1982.

The Star of Bethlehem, or Christmas Star, appears only in the nativity story of the Gospel of St. Matthew where “wise men from the East” (Magi) are inspired by the star to travel to Jerusalem. There, they met King Herod of Judea, and asked him:

“Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We have seen His star in the East and have come to pay Him homage.” (Matthew 2:2)

Herod calls his scribes and priests who quote to him that a verse from the Book of Micah interpreted as a prophecy, stating that the Jewish Messiah would be born in Bethlehem to the south of Jerusalem (Micah 5:2). Secretly intending to find and kill the Messiah in order to preserve his own kingship, Herod invites the wise men to return to him on their way home. Warned in a dream, the wise men return to their homelands by a different route.



Detail: The Star of Bethlehem found in the Epiphany Window. Western nave wall; Trinity Church. Willet Studios, 1951; Philadelphia, PA.

Although some modern scholars consider the story pious fiction, to many Christians the star was a miraculous sign. Early Church Fathers such as Origen and John Chrysostom claimed that the star fulfilled a prophecy known as the Star Prophecy from the Old Testament:

“A star shall come out of Jacob;
A scepter shall rise out of Israel.”
(Numbers 24:17)

To us who believe, the star was indeed a sign. The God who created all the heavens and the earth used his own creation, a celestial light, to lead the Magi and us to the true Light, and Giver of the sign.

Faithfully submitted by the Historical Guild



Birthdays

Diane Rapson Gabil
Nancy Mayhew
Jack Esseltine
Gregory Marciniak
Gregory Scharich
Sharon Scharich
Peter Frantz
Susan Harris
Faith Culler

Anniversaries

George & Pat Middleton
Gregory & Heidi Marciniak
Robert & Emilee Sabourin



The Order of St. Luke

OUR MISSION:

OSL empowers God's people throughout the world with Jesus' healing ministry, by:

- * Training in the healing ministry of Jesus
- * Learning to pray for others.
- * Providing opportunities to experience the healing power of Jesus.
- * Empowering you to confidently pray for anyone, anywhere, anytime in the name of Jesus.

OUR VISION:

Individuals, communities and nations made whole, free of sickness, through Jesus Christ.

The **Annual Chili Dinner Fundraiser** for Food of Faith will be held on January 14th. We will have Beef Chili, White Chicken Chili and Vegetarian Chili plus cornbread, crackers and dessert. We hope you will consider attending and letting your friends know about the dinner. Last year was a great success and we are hoping that this year will also. Proceeds will go toward the food served for our Sundays of Food of Faith. Tickets will be sold after Christmas.

MOVING MOVIES



The Bay City Course in Miracles discussion group will begin hosting a Monthly "Moving Movie" movie With a Message" lunch and discussion group following our regular Wednesday morning meeting on the third Wednesday at Trinity Episcopal Church from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

All are welcome to join us. Bring a lunch and your spiritual energy and join us for a monthly series of "Movies With a Message" followed by an hour of discussion and fellowship.

First offering is "Little Budha" on Wednesday, January 15th starting at 12:30 pm



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Home Blessings

It is customary, in some circles, to bless one's home during the season of Epiphany (this year, January 6 – February 29). There is a liturgy that can be used as those gathered walk

through the home and pray over and bless each room. This can be done with those who live in the home or it can be done with other family or friends. If you are interested in this please speak with Rev. Sue.

Couples & Singles

We are forming fellowship dinner groups at Trinity to get to know each other better. The groups will consist of a combination of couples and singles of 6 to 8 members. These groups will meet for dinner at one another's homes three to four times a year. New groups will be formed each quarter. The first quarter will be January through March. Please sign up by calling Ann Shea (318-780-7332). Once we have everyone signed up, groups will be formed and we will begin in January or February. Please feel free to call with any questions or more info.

St. Elizabeth's Guild will meet for lunch on January 7th at 12:30 at Bergers. The address is 6387 Westside Saginaw Rd., Bay City 48706. All are welcome and we hope to see you there.

There are two open dates for **Altar flowers** in January, the 12th and the 19th. Call the office if you are interested in donating flowers for either date.

January



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*Denotes building rental for private event. LEGEND : O.A. - Over Eaters Anonymous N. A. - Narcotics Anonymous A.C.M - A Course in Miracles TBD - To Be Determined			1 10 am ACM 11:30am Worship 6 pm Bell Choir	2 7pm O. A. 7pm Senior Choir	3 8pm N.A.	4
OFFICE CLOSED!						
5 10 am Worship 2:30 Food of Faith	6 10 am O.A. 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Epiphany	7	8 10 am ACM 11:30am Worship 6 pm Bell Choir	9 7pm O. A. 7pm Senior Choir	10 8pm N.A.	11
12 9:30- 9:45am Contemporary Music Sing-a-Long 10 am Worship & Noisy Offering 11 am Blood Press. Clinic 2:30 Food of Faith	13 10 am O.A. 1pm - 4pm Finance Meeting 7pm N. A.	14  5-7p.m. Food of Faith Chili Fundraiser	15 10 am ACM 11:30am Worship 12:30 ACM Moving Movies 4 pm Endowment 6 pm Bell Choir 6pm Vestry	16 7pm O. A. 7pm Senior Choir	17 8pm N.A.	18 5pm - Saginaw River Marine 6pm Perceptions
19 10 am Worship Instructed Eucharist 2:30 Food of Faith	20 10 am O.A. 7pm N. A.	21 9:30am Historical Guild.	22 10 am ACM 11:30am Worship 6 pm Bell Choir	23 7pm O. A. 7pm Senior Choir	24 8pm N.A.	25
26 10 am Worship Annual Meeting Potluck 2:30 Food of Faith	27 10 am O.A. 7pm N. A.	28 9:30am Historical Guild.	29 10 am ACM 11:30am Worship 6 pm Bell Choir	30 7pm O. A. 7pm Senior Choir	31 8pm N.A.	



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