

The Abbeville Anglican

The Newsletter of Historic Trinity Church

Volume 13

DECEMBER 2019

Number 12

Advent

Advent is the first season of the church year. It begins this year on the first Sunday in December (1st) and will continue until Christmas Eve. The name is derived from the Latin *adventus* (coming). The season is a time of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus and the expectation of his return “in power and in glory.” Most priests consider Advent a minor penitential season, though not so austere as Lent. Only greens are allowed on the altars and the Mass of preference is usually the ancient Rite I Eucharist, dating to the 16th century, and celebrated in much of the original Elizabethan English and stirring in its beauty. Advent is often a favorite time of the year for Episcopalians as it brings us into the beauties and happiness of Christmas—a time to celebrate, enjoy and to be thankful for the coming of the Savior. Help us to have the best possible Christmas this year even though we will not be in our beloved church. The altar color for Advent is violet (or blue/indigo). The Gloria is not sung when the altar color is violet. The Seasonal Blessing for Advent is found on page 22 of the BOS. Advent Lessons and Carols are found in the BOS, page 31. Many Episcopalians cannot get through Advent without hearing Lessons and Carols at least once. Readings for weekdays are found on pages 20-24 of LFF.

The Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath appears on the first Sunday in Advent and an additional candle is lit on each Sunday of the season. The circular wreath and the evergreens are symbolic of the eternal nature of God and that He is always with us. The purple candles symbolize the faithful expectation of the coming of the Savior and the rose candle symbolizes joy and hope. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent which is known as *Gaudete* from the Latin word for

rejoice. The Christ candle is the white candle in the middle of the wreath and is lit at the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting this year is scheduled for December 1st and will follow the Eucharist. At this meeting we will be electing new vestry members and hearing reports on the general state of the mission and the restoration. This will be an extremely important meeting. Please make your plans to be with us.

...some say that ever 'gainst that season comes wherein our Savior's birth is celebrated, the bird of dawn singeth all night long. And then they say, no spirits dare stir abroad. The nights are wholesome. Then no planets strike, no fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm. So hallowed and so gracious is the time. (Hamlet, Act I, Scene I).

WE WISH YOU A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve this year falls on Tuesday (24th). Because we do not have access to our church, we will not have a service on Christmas Day. We will, however, have the Christmas Eve Eucharist at 8:00 pm in the parish house. We will omit the carol sing this year and our usual “après masse” time of Russian Tea and Christmas Cheer. Since most of the people who attend Midnight Mass at Trinity are from other congregations, please remind your friends as to the time and location. For a hundred years, Midnight Mass at Trinity was regarded as a beautiful and sacred time, but also a place to see and be seen; a time when persons of French and German ancestry sang *Silent Night* in their ancestral tongues. We are so pleased to have created a beautiful setting in which so many Scots-Irish protestants of Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian persuasion look forward to attending a high liturgical mass on a regular basis. We hope to

be back home next year where we can present a lovely high Eucharist in a proper setting.

Diocesan Convention

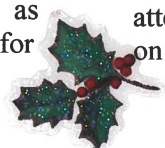
The 97th Diocesan Convention of our diocese met at Christ Church on November 8th and 9th. Many members of the parish and mission churches enjoyed a Friday Leadership Day which provided some excellent training which will prove useful in the parish programs. At the Saturday sessions, the delegates conducted the business of the diocese which involved elections to the boards and commissions of the diocese, reports and resolutions and the approval of the 2020 operational budget. The Bishop presided at the business session and celebrated a beautiful mass (Eucharist) from the High Altar at the historic church. The 98th Diocesan Convention will sit at the Church of the Advent in November of 2020. You were represented at the 97th convention by Jennie, Cynthia and Lewis.

License Renewals Completed

We were down to three licensed Worship Leaders and two licensed Eucharistic Visitors. On October 26th our former vicar, the Rev. Rilla Holmes conducted an excellent training day to relicense worship leaders and Eucharistic Visitors. We are happy to report that we now have seven Worship Leaders (Dick, Rob, Sam, Jennie, Hank, Cynthia, Lewis) and six Eucharistic Visitors (Cynthia, Jennie, Hank, Rob, Sam, Lewis). We also need additional lectors and acolytes. If you have a calling to any of these ministries contact Lewis or Cynthia. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Thank You!!

Thank you to all of you who returned your pledge cards. This makes our lives considerably easier as we attempt to arrive at an annual budget for the financial management of the parish in 2020. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.





Feast Days In December:

Saint Thomas

On December 21st, we celebrate the *Feast of Saint Thomas the Apostle*.

Thomas was called a “doubting Thomas” or Didymus (meaning twin as does Thomas in Aramaic). He is best remembered for doubting the Resurrection of Jesus when first told of it, and then proclaiming “my lord and my God” upon touching the Savior (John 20:28). Saint Thomas was perhaps the only apostle who went outside the Roman Empire to preach the Gospel. It is also believed he crossed the largest area, which includes the Parthian Empire and India. Saint Thomas preached extensively in India and established many churches there. Tradition holds that he was martyred in India (killed by a spear) and that his remains were buried in Edessa. Perhaps the most interesting legend concerning St. Thomas, reported by St. John Chrysostom (Bishop of Constantinople), that after the Resurrection of Christ, St. Thomas was preaching in Persia where he met and baptized the same Magi who brought gifts to Jesus at his birth. It is also reported that the Magi became associated with St. Thomas in the proclamation of the Gospel and did much to advance the Christian Faith.

Lord Jesus Christ, let our prayer today be that of Saint Thomas, that upon seeing you truly present in our midst in the most Holy Sacrament of the altar, that we may proclaim in our hearts and on our lips, My Lord and My God. Amen.

Saint Stephen

We celebrate the *Feast of Saint Stephen, Deacon and Martyr* on December 26th. Saint Stephen's name is derived from the Greek word meaning crown. Saint Stephen was the first martyr in the *New Testament* and set the pattern for suffering in Christ. He is particularly remembered as one of the seven deacons appointed by the Apostles to appease the widows among the Greek Christians in the Church in Jerusalem. Jealous of Stephen's success in his ministry, important Jewish authorities plotted against him. Finally they resort to torture, but still the saint attempts to convert them; and at the end of his life, he prays for them as they stone him to death.



Saint John the Devine

On December 28th, we celebrate the *Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist*. Saint John, who is styled the beloved apostle of Christ, and is called by the Greeks, the Devine, was a Galilean, and the younger brother of Saint James the Great, with whom he was brought up in the

trade of fisherman. Saint John was extremely proficient in proclaiming the most sublime mysteries of the divinity of Christ. He was the youngest of the apostles, probably about 25 years old when he answered Jesus' call and he continued preaching the Gospel for many years following the Lord's Ascension. Many writers have referred to Saint John as Jesus' favorite apostle. With the Apostles Peter and James, John was a witness to the Transfiguration. Saint John stayed with Jesus in many of his troubles and trials and attended him at the crucifixion, standing near the cross and owning him in the midst of danger and tribulation. In his dying words, Jesus committed to Saint John the care of the Blessed Mother. The beloved disciple, though full of grief, yet left not the cross and saw Jesus' side opened with a spear and the blood and water issue from the wound of which he bore record. It is believed that he was still present at the taking down of the Lord's body from the cross and helped present it into the waiting arms of the Holy Mother (*Stabat Mater Dolorosa*). The writings of Saint John are some of the most profound and remarkable in the Holy Scriptures, none more so than his *Revelation*, which was given to him by the Holy Spirit while he was in exile on the Isle of Patmos. Although several attempts were made to kill Saint John, Jesus sustained him and he was the only Apostle to die peacefully of old age in his own bed. It is possible that during his long life, that he placed bishops in all the churches in Asia. While the Apostles lived, they supplied the churches with bishops of their own appointing through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and by virtue of their commission to plant the Church.



The Holy Innocents

On December the 29th, we observe the *Feast of the Holy Innocents*. The massacre of the innocents is the Biblical narrative of infanticide by Herod the Great, the appointed king by the Romans. According to the Gospel of Matthew, Herod ordered the murder of male infants in Bethlehem so as to avoid the loss of his throne to a newborn king of the Jews whose birth had been related to him by the Magi. In typical Matthew style, it is understood as fulfillment of *Old Testament* prophecy: *Then was fulfilled that which was spoken through Jeremiah the Prophet, saying a voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no*

more. (Matthew 2:17). The number of infants killed is unknown, however, the *Holy Innocents* have been claimed as the first Christian Martyrs. The Magi did not return to Herod and avoided any further contact with him after having seen Jesus.

Lunch and Fellowship

Trinity members and friends enjoyed a delightful luncheon on November 24th following the Eucharist at the Talk of the Town Café. The occasion of great food and fellowship also gave the Senior Warden an opportunity to tell us about her recent trip to Chicago where she met with the Sacred Places Committee which has awarded Trinity a new \$250,000 matching grant to support the restoration. Cynthia was also able to meet the representatives of the other nine parishes to also have been awarded grants. Only one other of the parishes was Episcopalian. She was also able to help us understand what the expectations are for us to support this initiative. When one lady was asked what was the most important she learned from the event, she stated that despite what she had always been told, there was such a thing as a free lunch!

The Ghosts of Christmas Past

We have many visitors at Trinity all through the year who often bring interesting family artifacts which connect them historically to this parish. A lady from New York, who shows up about every two years, brings a diary which belonged to one of her grandmothers who was born and reared in Abbeville. The writings date to the end of the 1800s and describe elaborate Christmas Eve parties in many of the great houses of this city. It reports that about 10:30 pm many folks in their formal attire, left the parties and walked the short distances to Trinity to hear the Midnight Mass, converging on the church from all directions. It was apparently the place to see and be seen on Christmas Eve in Abbeville—although one would hope that they were there mainly to commune with the New Born King in the Sacrament of his most precious Body and Blood. Many of their carriages had been left at the livery stable where the grooms and coachmen awaited the conclusion of the Mass and then came down Trinity Street to collect their families. Many of these people had managed to recover somewhat from the great war and this wonderful tradition of being at Trinity on Christmas Eve continued into the 1900s until the church was closed. It must have been a grand sight to see these ladies and gentlemen in formal dress at Trinity on these occasions. Unlike our Russian Tea, perhaps their flasks contained something a little more substantial to keep them warm on the ride home. As has been the tradition for more than a hundred years, most of these welcome visitors are from other congregations in the community. Hopefully we will all soon be enjoying the wonderful pleasure again of hearing the wonderful Eucharist at Trinity on Christmas Eve. And no, you don't have to be formal.



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DECEMBER 2019

And she shall bring forth a Son and thou shall call his name Jesus: for He shall save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21 KJV

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Advent 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist	2	3	4 Evening Prayer 6:00 pm	5	6	7 Trinity Benefit Concert—3:30 pm Opera House
8 2nd Advent 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 Noon Vestry Meets	9	10	11 Evening Prayer 6:00 pm	12	13 Saint Lucia (Saint Lucy's Day) Martyr	14
15 3rd Advent (Gaudete) 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist	16	17	18 Ember Day Evening Prayer 6:00 pm	19	20 Ember DAY	21 Ember Day Saint Thomas The Apostle (Altar: Red) Winter Begins
22 4th Advent 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist	23	24 Christmas Eve Mass (Altar: Coronation) 8:00 pm	25 The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ: Christmas Day (Altar: White) No Mass Today	26 Saint Stephen, Deacon and Martyr (Altar: Red)	27 Saint John, Apostle And Evangelist (Altar: White)	28 The Holy Innocents (Altar: Red)
1st Christmas 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist	30	31	BCP—Book of Common Prayer BOS—Book of Occasional Services LFF—Lesser Feasts And Fasts	All Lessons and Readings are from the Revised Common Lectionary.	Eucharistic Lectionary Year A Office Lectionary Year 2	For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6 KJV

December 1, 2019 (1st Advent)

Celebrant: Mother Alice Haynes
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
 Lector: Dick
 Acolyte: Andrew
 Altar Guild: Myra
 Altar Colors: Violet
 1st Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5
 Psalm: 122
 The Epistle: Romans 13:11-14
 The Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

December 8, 2019 (2nd Advent)

Celebrant: Mother Alice Haynes
 Eucharistic Minister: Dick
 Lector: Jennie
 Acolyte: Lewis, Andrew
 Altar Guild: Lewis
 Altar Colors: Violet
 1st Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10
 Psalm: 72:1-7, 18-19
 The Epistle: Romans 15:4-13
 The Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

December 15, 2019 (3rd Advent)

Celebrant: Mother Alice Haynes
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
 Lector: Mary Anne
 Acolyte: Andrew
 Altar Guild: Michele
 Altar Colors: Violet
 1st Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10
 Psalm: 146:4-9
 The Epistle: James 5:7-10
 The Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

December 22, 2019 (4th Advent)

Celebrant: Mother Alice Haynes
 Eucharistic Minister: Dick
 Lector: Ruth
 Acolyte: Lewis, Andrew
 Altar Guild: Michele
 Altar Colors: Violet
 1st Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16
 Psalm: 80:1-7, 16-18
 The Epistle: Romans 1:1-7
 The Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

December 29, 2019 (1st Christmas)

Celebrant: Mother Alice Haynes
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
 Lector: Dick
 Acolyte: Andrew
 Altar Guild: Lewis
 Altar Colors: White
 1st Lesson: Isaiah 61:10—62:3
 Psalm: 147
 The Epistle: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
 The Gospel: John 1:1-18



<i>Happy Birthday</i>
12/7— <i>Mary Lynn</i>
12/17— <i>Richard</i>
12/31— <i>Debbie</i>

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
 If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
 But what can I give Him?
 I will give Him my heart!*
 Christina Rossetti 1830-1894





Trinity Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 911, 200 Church Street
Abbeville, South Carolina 29620
www.trinityabbeville.org

Our Mission Statement:

To do the work that Christ has given us to do.

Our Bishop

The Right Reverend W. Andrew Waldo

The Vicar:

The Vicariate is currently vacant.

The Vestry:

Cynthia Jefferies, Senior Warden
Andrew Hartsfield
Myra Keith
Betty Tucker
Mary Anne Campbell
Dick Haldeman
Lewis Ashley

Parish Administrator

Dick Haldeman

Treasurer:

Lewis Ashley

Musicians:

John Pullin, Organist & Choirmaster
Lewis Ashley, Assistant Organist
Mary Anne Campbell, Cantor
Ruth Freeman, Cantor

Eucharistic Ministers:

Dick Haldeman
Lewis Ashley
Ruth Freeman

Worship Leaders:

Dick Haldeman
Lewis Ashley
John Pullin

Altar Guild:

Michele Wells, Chairman
Myra Keith
Ruth Freeman
Lewis Ashley

Lectors (Lay Readers):

Mary Anne Campbell
Jennie Leverich
Dick Haldeman
Ruth Freeman

Acolytes:

Lewis Ashley
Andrew Hartsfield

Eucharistic Visitors:

Lewis Ashley
John Pullin

Greeters/Ushers:

Ilona Anderson
Hank Baggett

Parish Historian:

May Hutchinson

Children's Programs

Jan Haldeman

Bulletins, Special Projects:

John Pullin
Jennie Leverich

Sexton (Buildings & Grounds):

Buddy Wells

Diocesan Convention Delegation:

Jennie Leverich (Voting)
Lewis Ashley (Voting)
Cynthia Jefferies (Alternate)
Jan Haldeman (Alternate)

Newsletters:

Lewis Ashley
Jennie Leverich

Sunday School/Bible Study:

Hank Baggett

For all who faithfully support this mission congregation, we give God thanks and praise.

"Save the Steeple" Concert

There will be a performance of the Upstate Men's Choir from Greenville on December 7th at 3:30 pm at the Opera House to benefit Trinity's restoration. The price for a ticket is \$10.00. All proceeds will go toward the restoration. The program will mostly feature a Christmas theme of hymns and classical selections. This choir has performed extensively in South Carolina and is very popular in their home city of Greenville. Saturday afternoon is not a popular time for concerts in Abbeville, so please make your plans to attend if at all possible and encourage your friends to be there to support the restoration. Hope to see you there.

Coming In January

Father Swartsfager has written an excellent series of articles on the *Book of Common Prayer* which we will run monthly to begin in January. The series will deal with history, contents and historical documents included in the BCP. Our prayer book is held in deep affection by most Episcopalians and considerable emotional distress has been caused in the Church every time the General Convention decides it is time to update the BCP. We are now in the 1979 and many of us old Episcopalians still hold great affection for the 1928. In the old days, most Episcopalians sat at Mass with their BCP in their laps. In modern times with the convenience of service bulletins, many of our people do not really know much about the importance of the BCP. Look forward to Father Swartsfager's upcoming series. It will be helpful to follow this series if you have a prayer book at home. Feel free to borrow one from the church if necessary.

Restoration Update

Good News! Preservation South Carolina Executive Director Mike Bedenbaugh has announced that the work has begun. At this writing (11/19) workers are in the churchyard setting up a boundary to keep visitors out of the work area. There has also been a change in the overall construction plan which will also have the roof work being done and some of the steeple work at the same time. It is necessary for the steeple to be enclosed in a protective covering to keep the water out of the church. So you can now expect to see workers and vehicles at the church on a regular basis. What can you do to help? Encourage as many people as you can to attend the "Save the Steeple Concert" at the Opera House on December 7th and continue to encourage your friends to send their contributions directly to Preservation South Carolina at their website. It is going to take all of us working together to make this restoration successful. Let's make it work and bring our beloved Trinity back to her original beauty. Thank you for all you already do for Trinity!

LETTERS FROM OUR FRIENDS:

Dear Editor:

My wife and I, who live in Atlanta, were visiting some friends in Abbeville on Christmas Eve in 2016. They insisted that we accompany them to Midnight Mass at your lovely church. We were enchanted upon entering the beautiful church lit in candlelight and the welcoming smells of incense and Russian Tea. The Mass was very high and imposing. My wife actually had tears in her eyes several times. By the end of the service when everyone was holding their candle and singing Silent Night, we had both about decided that we wanted to be Episcopalians. We had not been attending church for years. You folks sold us and we have been attending the Episcopal Church since that time. This year we will hear Midnight Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Philip in Atlanta which is quite grand, but no more imposing than your own beautiful Trinity, Abbeville. We have been trying to follow you restoration on your website. We need a Trinity fix and will be back for a visit when the work is complete. Merry Christmas and thank you for inspiring us to change our lives for the better.

Chloe and Chris Stevenson
Atlanta, Georgia

Good Tidings of Great Joy—

For unto us is born this day in the City of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:11-14

