

# The Abbeville Anglican

The Newsletter of Historic Trinity Church

Volume 16

DECEMBER 2022

Number 12

## We're Back

We apologize for the two month absence of our newsletter from the Trinity scene due to some computer and technical problems. Your patience and understanding are appreciated. Many of you expressed to the editor and the Senior Warden your concern about the absence of the newsletter. We very much appreciate the fact that you find the newsletter useful and hope it presents the information you require about the events and the “goings-on” in the parish. We continue to request your ideas and suggestions about what you wish to see included in the newsletter. We also invite you to submit articles and comments that you might like to see included in the publication. Lewis would still like to retire from the newsletter after 15 years and hopes someone else might like to take on the role as editor.

## Diocesan Convention

The 100<sup>th</sup> diocesan convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina sat at Trinity Cathedral on November 12, 2022. Following an excellent address from Bishop Daniel, the convention moved expeditiously through it's agenda which included elections to the various commissions and committees of the diocese, the approval of the Statement of Mission (2023 diocesan budget), and changes to some of the diocesan canons concerning procedural matters. The convention also expressed its gratitude and a sad farewell to the Venerable Archdeacon, the Rev. d'Rue Hazel who leaves our diocese after 18-years of distinguished service. She will move to a diocese in Virginia to serve as the Canon to the Ordinary to a new bishop there. Our Trinity delegation had a few minutes to spend some private

time with the Archdeacon and the Senior Warden expressed to her our thanks as she was always a faithful and reliable friend to Trinity Church. We wish her well in her new ministry. The Bishop concluded the convention with a beautiful Mass in the Cathedral proper. All you new folks remember that all Episcopalians have two churches—your parish church and your cathedral church. If you have not visited Trinity Cathedral it is a place you will want to visit (across the street from the State House), fashioned after York Minster and one of the most beautiful small cathedrals in the American Church.

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

...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 to 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.)

## Advent

Advent is the first season of the church year. It began this year on the last Sunday in November (27<sup>th</sup>) 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 mini 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 16 century, and celebrated in much of the old 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 be thankful for the coming of the Savior. The Altar color for Advent is

purple (or blue/indigo). The *Gloria* is not sung when the altar color is purple. 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. In years past we always heard *Lessons and Carols* at Trinity and hope to get back to that tradition soon!

## The Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath appears on the first Sunday in Advent and an additional candle is lighted 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 midnight on Christmas Eve at the Midnight Mass.

## Midnight Mass

For at least 100 years, the Midnight Mass at Trinity has been a special occasion for all of Abbeville. This year's Christmas Eve Mass will begin at 11:00 pm. There is usually a large number of people from other congregations as the Midnight Mass in the Anglican Church has been traditionally rated as the most popular service which occurs in the Church throughout the world. This has long been a favorite time at Trinity to sit quietly in shimmering candlelight; to smell the aromas of incense and Russian Tea; and hear the words of a majestic Mass that is almost a thousand years old. If you enjoy all the “bells and whistles” of the Episcopal Church, this is the Mass for you. Please make your plans to be with us and bring your friends!



**Feast Days in December:**



**Saint Thomas**

On December 21<sup>st</sup>, we celebrate the *Feast of Saint Thomas the Apostle*. Thomas was referred to as 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” on seeing and 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 Saint Thomas (but unsubstantiated) reported by Saint John Chrysostom (Bishop of Constantinople) was 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 Saint 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 26<sup>th</sup>. 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 of 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 Divine**

On December 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 Divine,

was a Galilean, and the younger brother of Saint James the Great, with whom he was brought up in the trade of a fisherman. Saint John was especially proficient in proclaiming aloud 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 to preach the Gospel many years after 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 the spear and 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 Redeemer’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 in his own bed of old age. It is possible that during his long life, that he placed bishops in all the churches of 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 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 execution 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 the 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 not stated, 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 the Savior.

**The Bishop’s Meditations**

The Bishop has been writing an excellent meditation each month on the diocesan website under the heading *Notes Along the Way*. If you have not seen these meditations, you might want to check them out. They are extremely well thought-out and cunningly apropos to events and situations most of us encounter in our everyday lives and situations. You may find these meditations at [www.edusc.org](http://www.edusc.org). If you do not have access to the internet and would like to see these articles, ask Cynthia or Lewis for a copy. Thank you, Bishop for this helpful guidance. The Bishop usually ends his comments with the comforting statement Be faithful, and I will see you Along the Way.

**Annual Meeting**

Our yearly annual meeting will be held on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> immediately following the Mass. At this meeting we will be electing three new members to the vestry to replace Hank, Mike and Myra who will be rotating off the vestry this year, hearing reports (brief) on the state of the mission from the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden, the Parish Administrator and the Treasurer, and the election of two alternates to the 101<sup>st</sup> Diocesan Convention . There must be a quorum of electors present for an annual meeting to proceed (confirmed members of the parish). Please be present if you are able. Thank you.

**Christmas Program**

Popular Abbeville chanteuse, Nicole Quinn, will sing a program of popular Christmas songs on Friday night, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Trinity Church. Nicole has performed at numerous Abbeville events and throughout the southeast. There may be an opportunity for the audience to sing along on some of the very well known seasonal standards to help you get into the Christmas spirit. The program will feature both secular Christmas music and much loved sacred carols of the season. This program is presented as a part of Trinity’s community wide programming and is always presented free of charge. Please come and bring your friends.



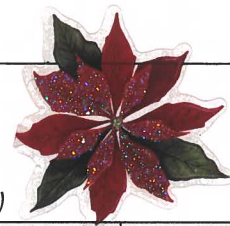
Merry Christmas





# TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## DECEMBER 2022



*Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world (John 1:29)*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Eucharistic Lectionary Year C  Office Lectionary Year 2	<b>Our Service Books:</b> BCP—Book of Common Prayer BOS—Book of Occasional Services LFF—Lesser Feasts and Fasts The Hymnal 1982	All Lessons and Readings are from the Revised Common Lectionary.	<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 Give him my heart. Christina Rossetti 1830-1894</i>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  Cookie Walk 12:00 noon Until 3:00 pm.
<b>4</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Advent 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am <b>Holy Eucharist</b> 12:00 Noon Annual Meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  6:00 pm Evening Prayer	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  Christmas Concert 7:00 pm Trinity Church	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Advent ( <i>Gaudete</i> ) 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am <b>Holy Eucharist</b> 12:00 Noon Vestry Meets	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  6:00 pm Evening Prayer	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Advent 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am <b>Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  Saint Thomas The Apostle (Altar: Red)  6:00 pm Evening Prayer	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b>  Christmas Eve Midnight Mass 11:00 PM
<b>25</b> Christmas Day  The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ	<b>26</b>  Saint Stephen Deacon and Martyr (Altar: Red)	<b>27</b>  Saint John, Apostle And Evangelist (Altar: White)	<b>28</b>  The Holy Innocents (Altar: Red)  6:00 pm Evening Prayer	<b>29</b>  Thomas Becket Archbishop of Canterbury and Martyr, 1170 R	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  <i>Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee. Blessed art Thou among women and Blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus; for Thou hast brought unto us the Savior of our souls. Alleluia and Amen. +</i>

### December 4, 2022 (2<sup>nd</sup> Advent)

Celebrant: Father Flanagan  
Eucharistic Minister: Lewis  
Lector: Dick  
Acolyte: Andrew  
Altar Guild: Michele  
Altar Colors: Violet  
1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10  
Psalm: 72:1-7, 18-19  
The Epistle: Romans 15:4-13  
The Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

### December 11, 2022 (3<sup>rd</sup> Advent)

Celebrant: Father Schnatterly  
Eucharistic Minister: Lewis  
Lector: Charleen  
Acolyte: Andrew  
Altar Guild: Myra  
Altar Colors: Violet  
1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10  
Psalm : 146 :4-9  
The Epistle: James 5:7-10  
The Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11



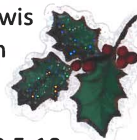
The Vestry meeting will be on  
Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> immediately  
following the Mass.

### December 18, 2022 (4<sup>th</sup> Advent)

Celebrant: Father Schnatterly  
Eucharistic Minister: Lewis  
Lector: Ruth  
Acolyte: Andrew  
Altar Guild: Michele  
Altar Colors: Violet  
1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Isaiah 7 :10-16  
Psalm: 80:1-7, 16-18  
The Epistle: Romans 1-7  
The Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

### December 24, 2022 (Midnight Mass)

Celebrant: Father Schnatterly  
Eucharistic Minister: Lewis  
Lector: Dick  
Acolytes: Andrew  
Altar Guild: Michele, Lewis  
Altar Colors: Coronation  
1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Micah 5:2  
Psalm: 80:1-7  
The Epistle: Hebrews 10:5-10  
The Gospel: Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)



Excellent Bible Study with Hank every  
Sunday, 10:00 am, parish house. Great  
lessons and discussion. You are invited!

### December 25, 2022

Note: When Christmas Eve falls on a Saturday and there has been a Midnight Mass, we do not have a Christmas Day service. Persons at the Midnight Mass have usually received the Blessed Sacrament already on Sunday just after midnight. The church will be open Christmas day from noon until 3:00 pm for prayer, meditation, visitors and those who come to light candles for their friends, the sick and those departed.



### Happy Birthday:

12/7—Mary Lynn  
12/17--Richard  
12/31--Debbie

For unto us a child is born,  
unto us a Son is given: and  
the government shall be upon  
his shoulder; and his name  
shall be called wonderful,  
Counsellor, The Mighty God,  
The Everlasting Father, The  
Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6  
KJV.



## Trinity Episcopal Church

Post Office Box 911  
200 Church Street  
Abbeville, South Carolina 29620  
www.trinityabbeville.org

### **Our Mission Statement:**

Joyfully proclaiming the love of Christ in worship, outreach, welcome and care.

### **Our Bishop**

The Right Reverend Daniel Paul Richards  
The IX Bishop

### **Our Vicar:**

The Vicariate is currently vacant.

### **The Vestry:**

Cynthia Jefferies, Senior Warden (23)  
Hank Baggett, Junior Warden (22)  
Mary Lynn Lyle (24)  
Myra Keith (22)  
Ilona Anderson (23)  
Lewis Ashley (24)  
Mike Clary (22)

### **Parish Administrator and Registrar:**

Dick Haldeman

### **Treasurer:**

Ilona Anderson

### **Musicians:**

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

### **Eucharistic Ministers:**

Dick Haldeman  
Lewis Ashley

### **Worship Leaders:**

Dick Haldeman  
Lewis Ashley  
Cynthia Jefferies  
Hank Baggett  
Jennie Leverich



### **Altar Guild:**

Michele Wells, Chairman  
Myra Keith  
Ruth Freeman  
Lewis Ashley

### **Lectors (Lay Readers):**

Dick Haldeman  
Ruth Freeman  
Mary Anne Campbell  
Jennie Leverich  
Charleen Clark

### **Acolytes:**

Lewis Ashley  
Andrew Hartsfield

### **Eucharistic Visitors:**

Lewis Ashley  
Hank Baggett  
Cynthia Jefferies  
Jennie Leverich



### **Greeters/Ushers**

Ilona Anderson  
Hank Baggett

### **Parish Historian:**

May Hutchinson (In Memorium)

### **Children's Programs:**

Jan Haldeman

### **Bulletins, Special Projects:**

John Pullin

### **Sexton (Buildings & Grounds):**

Buddy Wells

### **Diocesan Convention Delegation:**

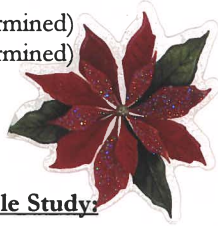
Lewis Ashley (voting)  
Mike Clary (voting)  
Alternate (to be determined)  
Alternate (to be determined)

### **Newsletters:**

Lewis Ashley

### **Sunday School/Bible Study:**

Hank Baggett



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

### **The Cookie Walk**

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Abbeville will present its annual Cookie Walk, a time in which shops on the square and other agencies have cookies for visitors who have purchased a ticket and enjoy walking about the town and enjoying cookies at various stops. We are pleased to be a part of the Cookie Walk this year and we will receive visitors at our usual time that we receive visitors each Saturday (12:00 to 4:00). If you have a favorite cookie recipe and you would like to make some cookies for Trinity, please contact the Senior Warden. If you might like to be a host or hostess and help receive our visitors, just show up on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Some say the cookie walk is not so exciting as the annual wine walk (I wonder why?), but a nice event for those with a "sweet tooth." Please join us if you can.

### **Visiting Clergy**

This is an excellent time to invite visitors to Trinity as we are very much enjoying our visiting clergy. Pastor Diane Wales (Lutheran), Father Michael Schnatterly and Father Michael Flanagan are bringing dramatic and inspirational preaching and beautiful celebrations of the Sacred Liturgy of the Mass. Father Schnatterly will celebrate the High Christmas Midnight Mass with all the "bells and whistles" that make the Episcopal Church so wonderful and exciting at Christmas time. We will be using additional acolytes and singers to further enhance the beauty of the service. For the past ten years throughout the worldwide Anglican Communion, the Midnight Mass at Christmas has been rated as the favorite service of the year for Anglicans everywhere. We are so pleased to have created a beautiful setting at Trinity in which so many Scots-Irish protestants of Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist persuasion attend a high liturgical mass on a regular basis. Hope to see you there.

## Letters From Our Friends



Dear Editor;

Several years ago, my wife and I, who live in Atlanta, were visiting some friends in Abbeville on a Christmas Eve. They insisted that we accompany them to Midnight Mass in your beautiful church. We were enchanted upon entering the magnificent church lit in candlelight and the welcoming smells of subtle 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 for the past five years at the Cathedral Church of Saint Philip which is quite grand, but no more imposing than your own beautiful Trinity, Abbeville. We hope to with you all again this year. Please email to the enclosed address the time for the Mass. Merry Christmas and thank you for inspiring us to change our lives for the better!

Chloe and Chris Stevenson  
Atlanta, Georgia



Dear Chloe and Chris:

We look forward to seeing you on Christmas Eve at Trinity. God Bless you! Editor.

### **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 distance 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. Many of the carriages had been left at the livery stable where 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 very welcome visitors were from other congregations. Thanks be to God!

