

The Abbeville Anglican



The Newsletter of Historic Trinity Church

DECEMBER 2020

Volume 15

Number 12

Advent

Advent is the first season of the church year. It began this year on November 29th and will continue until Christmas Eve. The name is derived from the Latin *Adventus* (coming). It 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, 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 all the joys of Christmas—a time to celebrate, enjoy the magic of the season and to be thankful for the coming of the Savior. Our Christmas will be especially joyful this year as we will be back in our beloved church after an absence of three years. 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 on page 31. Many Episcopalians cannot get through Advent without hearing *Lessons and Carols* at least once. Unfortunately, we will not be able to do it this year due to the implications of the pandemic. 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 violet 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 rejoice. The white candle in the middle of the wreath is known as the Christ Candle and is lit at the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.



Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting this year is scheduled for December 6th 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 restoration. This will be an extremely important meeting. Please make your plans to be with us.

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



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 church in 2021. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve this year will be especially meaningful as it will be our first Christmas Eve back in the church following a stressful three year absence. For about 100 years, Midnight Mass at Trinity has been a special occasion for all of Abbeville and 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 will not advertise the Mass this year as we are still under the constraints of Covid and will have to restrict our numbers. We will also omit the carol sing this year and our usual “apres masse” time of Russian tea and flutes of sparkling cider. Depending on where you were seated, it was always interesting to hear our members and guests of German and French ancestry holding their candles and singing *Silent Night* in their ancestral tongues. Due to the Covid situation and the un-



finished nature of the church, we will not have the usual extensive decorations this year, but will have enough decorations to at least look like Christmas. Although the carol sing will not be done this year, there will be a time of quiet Christmas music and carols beginning at 10:30 pm to proceed the Mass. You might remember that we made several attempts to get SC ETV to broadcast Midnight Mass at Trinity over their network and although they were interested, our electrical capacity was not sufficient to support the requirements of their equipment. That condition has been corrected and we might like to televise the Mass at some point in the future when the restoration is complete. We hope to see you at Midnight Mass.

98th Diocesan Convention

Due to the restraints of the Covid pandemic, the Episcopal Diocese of Upper SC conducted their 98th Diocesan Convention on November 7th in a virtual format with delegates speaking and voting from their computers. I do not know that any conventions are ever flawless, but they sure came close under very difficult circumstances. Kudos to the staff of EDUSC. The whole convention was conducted in a businesslike manner and everything was accomplished that needed to be accomplished. But it was not nearly so much fun as the early morning coffee, the box lunches, “the roar of the greasepaint and the smell of the crowd,” and the beautiful Mass in one of the great parish churches. The new vaccines are about ready to come out, so maybe we will all be back together next year. “O, God, make speed to save us.” (Evening Prayer II, BCP p. 117).

...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 hallow'd and so gracious is the time. (*Hamlet*, Act I, Scene 1).





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 Redeemer (John 20:28). Saint Thomas was perhaps the only Apostle who went outside the Roman Empire to preach the Gospel. It is also believed that he crossed the largest area, which includes the Parthian Empire and India. St. Thomas preached extensively in India and established many churches there. Tradition holds that he was martyred there (killed by a spear) and that his remains were buried in Edessa. Perhaps the most interesting legend concerning Saint Thomas, reported by St. 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 that brought gifts to Jesus after 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 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 resorted to torture. But still the saint attempted to convert them to the True Faith; and at the end of his earthly life, he prays for them as they stone him to death.

Saint John the Divine

On December 27th, we celebrate the *Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist*. Saint John was known as the beloved Apostle of Christ, and was called by the Greeks, the Divine. As a Galilean and the

youngest brother of Saint James the Great, he was brought up in the occupation of fisherman, Saint John was most proficient in proclaiming the 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 through many of his trials and tribulations and attended him at the Crucifixion, standing near the cross and owning him in the midst of danger to himself. In his dying words, Jesus committed to Saint John the care of the Blessed Mother. The beloved disciple, although full of grief, left not the cross, and saw Jesus’ side opened with a 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 Lord’s body from the cross and helped present it into the waiting arms of the Blessed 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 the *Book of Revelation*, which was given to him by the Holy Spirit while he was in exile on the Isle of Patmos. Several attempts were made to kill Saint John, but Jesus sustained him and he was the only Apostle to die peacefully in his bed of old age. It is possible that during his long life, he placed bishops in all the churches of Asia. While the Apostles lived, they appointed many of the bishops for the early church through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and by virtue of their commission to plant the Church.

The Holy Innocents

On December 28th we celebrate 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 the newborn king of the Jews whose birth was foretold 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 22nd following Mass at the Belmont Inn. The occasion of great food and good conversation was another time for Trinity members and friends to enjoy some time together despite the ravages of the pandemic. All safety precautions were observed. Now that we are back in our church following a three year absence, things are getting back to normal at old Trinity.



Bible Study

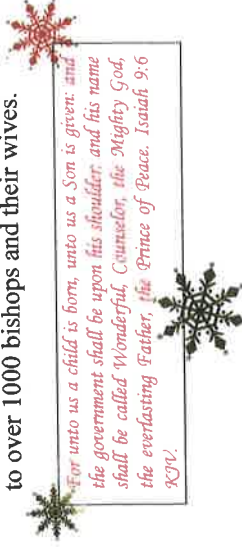
Hank’s popular Bible Study was resumed on the first Sunday in Advent following the hiatus caused by the pandemic. Some of you who were not able to attend due to the stairs, will now be able to attend as the group will now meet downstairs in the parish house. These are very innovative studies and well presented and will begin each Sunday at 10:00 am. Your presence is invited.

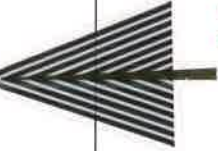
80th General Convention

The 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church (the governing body) has been postponed from July 2021 to July 2022 as the pandemic has disrupted the planning and elaborate preparations which are required to stage the massive triennial gathering. Composed of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies, the general convention determines all rules, regulations, polity and canon law under which the nine provincials of the American Church must operate. The American Church also controls the Diocese of Europe which manages Episcopal Churches in France, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. England is under the jurisdiction of the Church of England which is also our Mother Church. The Archbishop of Canterbury has announced that the Lambeth Conference has also been rescheduled to 2022. This conference is attended by all bishops in worldwide Anglican Communion and is held in London and at the University of Kent and occurs about every ten years. Originally held at Lambeth Palace, the London residence of the Archbishop, the gathering is now too large for the palace as the attendees have now grown to over 1000 bishops and their wives.

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

RVP.





TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DECEMBER 2020



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Eucharistic Lectionary Year B Office Lectionary Year One	1 Our Service Books: BCP—Book of Common Prayer BOS—Book of Occasional Services LFF—Lesser Feasts and Fasts	2 Evening Prayer 6:00 pm	3	4	5	
6 2 nd Sunday Advent 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist	7	8	9 Evening Prayer 6:00 pm	10	11	12
13 3 rd Sunday Advent 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 Noon Vestry Meets <i>Saint Lucia (Lucy)</i>	14	15	16 Ember Day Evening Prayer 6:00 pm	17	18 Ember Day	19 Ember Day
20 4 th Sunday Advent 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist	21 Saint Thomas The Apostle (Altar: Red)	22	23 Evening Prayer 6:00 pm	24 Christmas Eve Midnight Mass (11:00 pm) 	25 Christmas Day The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ (No Mass Today)	26 Saint Stephen Deacon and Martyr (Altar: Red)
27 1 st Christmas 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist Saint John, Apostle And Evangelist	28 The Holy Innocents (Altar: Red)	29 <i>Thomas Becket Archbishop of Canterbury and Martyr, 1170 R</i>	30 Evening Prayer 6:00 pm	31	All Lessons and Readings from the Revised Common Lectionary 	

December 6, 2020 (2nd Advent)
 Celebrant: Mother Alice Haynes
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
 Lector: Mary Anne
 Acolyte: Andrew
 Altar Guild: Myra
 Altar Colors: Violet
 1st Lesson: Isaiah 40: 1-11
 Psalm: 85 *Benedixisti, Domine*
 The Epistle: 2 Peter: 3:8-15a
 The Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

December 13, 2020 (Gaudete)
 Celebrant: Mother Alice Haynes
 Eucharistic Minister: Dick
 Lector: Ruth
 Acolyte: Andrew
 Altar Guild: Lewis
 Altar Colors: Rose
 1st Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
 Psalm: 126 *In Convertendo*
 The Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
 The Gospel: John 1:6-8,19-28

The December meeting of the vestry will be on December 13th at noon to immediately follow the Eucharist.

December 20, 2020 (4th Advent)
 Celebrant: Father Ken Tucker
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
 Lector: Betty
 Acolyte: Andrew
 Altar Guild: Michele
 Altar Colors: Violet
 1st Lesson: 2 Samuel 11-11, 16
 Psalm: 89:1-4, 19-26 *Mesericordias*
 The Epistle: Romans 16:25-27
 The Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

December 24, 2020 (Midnight Mass)
 Celebrant: Mother Alice Haynes
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
 Lector: Dick
 Acolyte: Andrew
 Altar Guild: Michele
 Altar Colors: Coronation
 1st Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7
 Psalm: 94 *Cantate Domino*
 The Epistle: Titus 2:11-14
 The Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Please feel to call your Senior Warden at anytime to express concerns or request addition to prayer list—864-992-2200.

December 27, 2020 (1st Christmas)
 Celebrant: Father Swartsfager
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
 Lector: Dick
 Acolyte: Andrew
 Altar Guild: Lewis
 Altar Colors: White
 1st Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3
 Psalm: 147 *Laudate Dominum*
 The Epistle: Galatians 3:23-25
 The Gospel: John 1:1-8

Happy Birthday
 12/7—*Mary Lynn*
 12/17—*Richard*
 12/31—*Debbie*

Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent is derived from the opening word of the introit antiphon: "Rejoice (Gaudete) in the Lord always." The theme of the day expresses the joy of anticipation of the approach of the Christmas celebration. The term reflects the lightening of the tone of the traditional Advent observance. The celebrant of the Mass often wears rose colored vestments instead of the deeper violet vestments more typical of Advent. This Sunday is also known as "Rose Sunday" and the priest's rose colored vestments correspond to the rose candle in the Advent Wreath.

Trinity Episcopal Church

Post Office 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

Our Vicar:

The Vicariate is currently vacant.

The Vestry:

Lewis Ashley, Senior Warden (20)
Hank Baggett, Junior Warden (22)
Dick Haldeman, Clerk (21)
Myra Keith (22)
Mary Anne Campbell (20)
Betty Tucker (21)
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
Rob Elsner
Sam Elsner



Altar Guild:

Michele Wells, Chairman
Myra Keith

Ruth Freeman

Lewis Ashley

Lectors (Lay Readers):

Dick Haldeman
Ruth Freeman
Mary Anne Campbell
Jennie Leverich
Betty Tucker

Acolytes:

Lewis Ashley
Andrew Hartsfield

Eucharistic Visitors:

Lewis Ashley
Hank Baggett
Cynthia Jefferies
Jennie Leverich
Rob Elsner
Sam Elsner

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:

Cynthia Jefferies (Voting)
Jan Haldeman (Voting)
Hank Baggett (Alternate)
Lewis Ashley (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.

Bells and Smells

The Episcopal Church is famous for its "bells and smells," especially on the high feasts of the Church. This year we will not be able to enjoy the pleasures of the Asperges and incense due to the covid restrictions. If the vaccines are successful we will be back to normal next year.

Ave Maria

In many Episcopal Churches at Midnight Mass (especially in the High Church) special attention is often paid to the other main player in the Nativity of Our Lord at the Christmas Masses—the Blessed Virgin Mary. Often an *Ave* may be said at some point in the Mass; or more often, one of the great settings of the *Ave Maria* is sung while the faithful are receiving the Blessed Sacrament.

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 given birth to the Savior of our souls. Alleluia and Amen.

Special Intentions

The poor have a difficult time at Christmas, especially children. Jesus had a lot to say about the poor and how he expects us to respond to them. *The poor you will always have with you and you are able to do them good whenever you desire.* (Mark 14:7, Berean Literal Bible). You have always been most generous in your contributions to the food basket. Please continue to remember the poor and pray for them at this time of the year. Abbeville County has a large number of poor and needy, a circumstance greatly complicated by the pandemic.

When Visitors Ask—

Unlike other Christian churches, Advent and Christmas are two distinctly different seasons in the Epis-

copal Church. Christmas does not begin until Christmas Eve. During Advent we are allowed to use only greens on the altars. No greens or trees may be lit; no red bows or flowers; and no Christmas carols until Christmas Eve. At times we fudge a little with special programming, but for the most part we follow the expected traditions of the Church. Many of our visitors are confused when they visit and do not see the anticipated decorations. Explain our traditions to our visitors and invite them to see the full splendor of Christmas in the Episcopal Church on Christmas Eve.

Letters from our Friends:

Dear Editor:

My wife and I, who live in Atlanta, were visiting some of our 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 beautiful than your own Trinity Abbeville. We have been trying to follow your 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



Advent Wreathes

Our dear May, who lovingly made the Advent wreathes for Trinity's entrance for more than twenty years, will be spending her first Christmas in Heaven this year after 98 years on this earth. May's daughters, Jean and Ann, will continue their mother's tradition in providing the beautiful Advent wreathes for Trinity's front doors to welcome our many visitors. Thank you Jean and Ann! Jean will be moving to Abbeville soon from Charleston and Ann lives in cold and frosty, but beautiful, Maine.

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim thronged the air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.*



*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

