



The Abbeville Anglican



The Newsletter of Historic Trinity Church

Volume 16

JANUARY 2022

Number 01

Restoration Continues

2021 was a good year at Trinity. Thank you to you all for all you did to make it so. The restoration appears to be moving along well and we are looking forward to many new developments in the new year.

Annual Meeting

Trinity's Annual Meeting was held on December 5th following the Mass. Reports were heard from the Senior warden, the Junior Warden, the Treasurer and the Parish Administrator. Mary Lynn and Lewis were elected to the vestry to replace Betty and Dick who completed their terms. Thank you to Betty and Dick for an excellent job in their three years of service to the parish. Mike and Lewis were elected as alternates to the Diocesan Convention in November 2022.

Parish Luncheon

Our parish luncheon followed the annual meeting and was held at the Talk of the Town Café. As always, the lunch was excellent and the fellowship congenial. We look forward to these "get-togethers" several times a year.

The Midnight Mass

This year's Midnight Mass was beautiful and inspirational. We are thankful for our 70 guests in addition to our own members. Some of our guests stated they had come from as far as fifty miles away. Other of our guests from Episcopal and Roman Catholic parishes were at Trinity as they preferred to hear the Christmas Mass at midnight. As usual, John gave us spectacular music and our guest soloist, Ruth McDaniel, sang the Schubert *Ave Maria* in Latin. Ruth is a great friend of Trinity and holds a bachelors degree in Voice Performance from Converse College and her masters degree in Voice Performance from Winthrop University. Numerous people highly complimented Father Manning's Christmas Homily and the beautiful high Mass he celebrated. We also used three additional acolytes for the Mass (Nicholas,

Chris and Brandon), and we greatly appreciate their service. Midnight Mass is always a special time at Trinity and we appreciate all you do to make Trinity such a special place.

Epiphany Party

The Feast of the Epiphany always falls on January 6th. We usually hold our annual Epiphany party on the Sunday closest to the feast. This year's party will be held on Sunday evening, January 9th, 5:00 pm at the Belmont Inn. The inn always provides a beautiful setting and very good food and drink. The Epiphany party is a lot of fun and the pleasure of your company is invited.

Happy New Year

Convocation

The Foothills Convocation will conduct its first 2022 meeting at the Church of the Redeemer on January 23rd at 2:00 pm. One of the main duties of the convocations is to assist in making the plans and arrangements for the diocesan conventions which are held on the first weekend in November each year. The convocations usually meet once every three months. Delegates to the diocesan convention are encouraged to attend all convocation meetings. All other interested members of the parishes are also welcome to attend meetings of their convocation.

Archbishop Honored

Numerous praises and condolences have been expressed by many priests, bishops and lay people of the Anglican Communion at the recent passing of Archbishop of South Africa, Desmond Tutu, including Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby and the Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the US. Archbishop Tutu, along with former South African President Nelson Mandela had considerable success in bringing down the harsh apartheid regime

that had dominated life in South Africa for more than a 100 years and to bring to the South African black citizens their birthright of equal opportunities and freedom with white Africans. Archbishop Tutu and Mandela endured much abuse in a Godly and Christian manner to bring about these important reforms for their people. Archbishop Tutu departed this life in his 90th year. *Resquiescat In Pace.*

Not Such Good News

According to the Bob Dylan song, "the times are a'changing" and sometimes not for the better. Our beloved Episcopal Church now has the dubious distinction of losing members at a higher rate than any other church in the mainstream denominations. The Office of the General Convention statistics reported 1,637,945 members in 2019 (down 2.29% from 2018). The Episcopal News Service offered these blunt words from the Rev. Dwight Zscheile, an Episcopal priest and expert on Church renewal and decline: "the overall picture is dire—not one of decline as much as demise. Within the next generation, at this rate, there will be no one in worship by around 2050 in the entire denomination. Episcopal Church membership peaked at 3.4 million in the mid 1960s. This decline has excellerated with membership falling 17.4% in the past ten years. The majority of those fleeing the Episcopal Church are going to the more conservative Anglican Church in North America, with many others going to the Lutheran and Roman Catholic Churches. The decline in membership is also having an adverse effect on diocesan budgets. Should we be greatly concerned about this condition? Probably. Many Episcopal church leaders are recommending that we return to a more conservative perspective with a greater emphasis on Holy Scripture. Recent internet reports from persons critical of the Episcopal Church, refer to it as "the Church where anything goes." This, of course, is not factual.

Feast Days in January:

The Holy Name

The Feast of the Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ is celebrated on January 1st. This feast commemorates the circumcision of the Baby Jesus as recounted in the Gospel read on this day. *At the end of the eight days when he was circumcised he was called Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb* (Luke 2:21). Bernadino of Siena placed great emphasis on the Holy Name which he associated with the Christogram (IHS), and may be responsible for the coupling the two elements. In the *Book of Common Prayer* since 1979, the Circumcision of Christ, celebrated on January 1st, is now referred to as the *Feast of the Holy Name of our Lord Jesus Christ*.

The Epiphany

While most Christians think of it mainly as the occasion on which the Wise Men presented gold, myrrh and frankincense to Jesus, the *Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ* is one of the principal feasts of the Church and occurs on January 6th. This major feast day celebrates the revelation of God the Son as a human being in Jesus Christ. In the Eastern Church it is referred to as the *Theophany*, which basically means the manifestation or vision of God. This well known tradition commemorates principally (but not solely) the visitation of the Magi to the Baby Jesus, and thus Jesus' physical manifestation to the Gentiles. In the Greek translation of the *Old Testament*, the word for epiphany is used for a revelation of the God of Israel (2 Maccabees 15:27). In the *New Testament*, the word is used in 2nd Timothy (1:10) to refer either to the birth of Christ or to his appearance after his Resurrection and five times to the Second Coming.

The Baptism of Our Lord

The Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ commemorates the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, by his cousin, John the Baptist. Originally, the baptism of Christ was celebrated on the *Feast of the Epiphany*, commemorating the coming of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus and the wedding at Cana. Over time in the western Church, the celebration of the baptism of Christ has come to be celebrated as a distinct feast from the Epiphany. In the Episcopal Church, the *Feast of the Epiphany* is always celebrated on January 6th and the *Feast of the*

Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ on the following Sunday.

The Confession of Saint Peter

In Christianity, the *Confession of Saint Peter the Apostle* refers to the episode in the *New Testament* in which the Apostle Peter proclaims Jesus to be the Christ—the expected Messiah. The proclamation is described in the three Synoptic Gospels (Mark 8:27-30), Matthew (16:13-20) and Luke (8:27-30). This important proclamation of Jesus as Christ and Messiah is fundamental to the basic concept of Christology and the confession of Peter and Jesus' acceptance of the title is a definitive statement for it in the *New Testament* narrative. In this event, Jesus not only accepts the title of Son of God, but also declares the statement as a divine revelation by stating that his Father in Heaven had given it to Peter, unequivocally declaring himself to be Christ and the Son of God. In this episode, Jesus also selects Peter as the leader of the Apostles and states *upon this rock will I build my Church*. Most Christians agree that the statement refers to Peter, but they diverge in their interpretations of what happens after Peter. The *Feast of the Confession of Saint Peter* is observed on January 18th.

The Conversion of Saint Paul

We commemorate the *Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle* on January 25th. We all know the events related in the *Bible* which led Saul of Tarsus to cease his persecution of the early Church and to become one of the greatest evangelists for the Christian Faith. Paul's conversion occurred after Jesus's Ascension and the accounts of his conversion describe it as a supernatural and miraculous event. Paul was stricken from his horse on the road to Damascus and when he came to his feet, he was blind. He went into seclusion and had a long and powerful experience with the Holy Spirit and his sight was restored. He came out of it all to become the great Apostle to the Gentiles and one of the foremost evangelists in the history of the Christian Church. In many ways he rivals Peter in importance. We get the complete story of Paul's conversion in the *Acts of the Apostles* and also in his own epistles to the many churches he established. Many theologians believe that Paul's conversion was gradual and that the damascene road experience was the climax of his conversion. This theory is based on Acts 26:14 which states: *and when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice*

saying to me in the Hebrew language, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads (ESV). The inference being that God had troubled Paul's conscience at Saint Stephen's execution, and that Paul was additionally troubled by his knowledge that Jesus' death and Resurrection was attested to by hundreds of people which had fulfilled many of the prophetic scriptures from the *Old Testament*. The events of the conversion of Saint Paul are unique in that they took him from being one of the most profound persecutors of the Christian Church to becoming one of the Church's greatest champions.

The Pauline Brethren

On January 26, the Church has traditionally celebrated a minor feast day honoring Timothy, Titus and Silas, sometimes referred to as the Pauline Brethren. These men were actively involved in the ministry of Saint Paul and we read much about them in Saint Paul's epistles. All three traveling companions, shared in his propagation of the Gospel, carefully writing the letters Paul addressed to the churches he had established. Paul often dispatched Silas and Timothy ahead to prepare the people in a new area where a new church was to be established. After a new church had been developed, Paul would move on to somewhere else where the Gospel was needed. He often asked Titus and Timothy to remain for awhile to support and encourage the new converts. Both Timothy and Titus, in their later years, were appointed as bishops, which was a sign of their leadership and faithfulness to the early Church. History reports that Silas, Timothy and Titus all played a major role in Saint Paul's ministry, especially in his later days when he was not physically well.

Thank you!!

A thank you is in order for all you Wardens, Vestrymen, Lectors, Worship Leaders, Acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers, Teachers, Altar Guild, Musicians, Greeters/Ushers, Pastors, Ilona (Treasurer), Dick (Parish Administrator), Tina, Woody and all other persons who have made our parish continue to function effectively in these last few years while we have been under the stresses of restoration and pandemic. You have made our programs continue to run smoothly and lessened the anxiety which always follows change. Trinity is a very special place. Thanks to all of you who worship and labor here! God Bless and thank you!!

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

JANUARY 2022

This is the day which the Lord hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Eucharistic Lectionary Year C Office Lectionary Year 2	Our Service Books: BCP—Book of Common Prayer BOS—Book of Occasional Services LFF—Lesser Feasts and Fasts The Hymnal 1982	All Lessons and Readings from the Revised Common Lectionary				1 The Holy Name Of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Altar: White)
2 2 nd Christmas 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist	3	4	5	6 The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Altar: White)	7	8
9 1 st Epiphany 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 Noon Vestry Meets	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 2 nd Epiphany 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist	17	18 The Confession of Saint Peter the Apostle (Altar: White)	19	20	21	22
23 3 rd Epiphany 30 4 th Epiphany	24 31	25 The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle (Altar: White)	26 Timothy and Tatus Companions of Saint Paul	27 John Chrysostom Bishop and Theologian 407 W	28	29

January 2, 2022 (2nd Christmas)

Celebrant: Father Manning
Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
Lector: Mary Anne
Acolyte: Andrew
Altar Guild: Michele
Altar Colors: White
1st Lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm: 84
The Epistle: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a
The Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

January 9, 2022 (1st Epiphany)

Celebrant: Father Manning
Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
Lector: Ruth
Acolyte: Andrew
Altar Guild: Myra
Altar Colors: White
1st Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm: 29
The Epistle: Acts 8:14-17
The Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 16, 2022 (2nd Epiphany)

Celebrant: Father Manning
Eucharistic Minister: Dick
Lector: Dick
Acolyte: Andrew
Altar Guild: Myra
Altar Colors: Green
1st Lesson: Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm: 36:3-10
The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
The Gospel: John 2:1-11

January 23, 2022 (3rd Epiphany)

Celebrant: Father Manning
Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
Lector: Mary Anne
Acolyte: Andrew
Altar Guild: Ruth
Altar Colors: Green
1st Lesson: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm: 19
The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
The Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

January 30, 2022 (4th Epiphany)

Celebrant: Father Manning
Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
Lector: Dick
Acolyte: Andrew
Altar Guild: Lewis
Altar Colors: Green
1st Lesson: Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm: 71:1-6
The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
The Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

Happy Birthday
01/07—Myoung
01/07—Andrew
01/10—Lewis
01/17—Rebecca
01/18—John
01/22—Freda
01/23—Father Tucker

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:

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
Betty Tucker

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:

Cynthia Jefferies, Delegate (Voting)
Dick Haldeman, Delegate (Voting)
Lewis Ashley (Alternate)
Mike Clary (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.

The Gifts of the Magi

In Christian tradition, the Magi, also referred to as the Wise Men or the Three Kings, were a group of distinguished foreigners who were said to have visited Jesus after his birth, bearing gifts of gold, myrrh, and frankincense. They are regular figures in the accounts of the Nativity of our Lord and the Epiphany of our Lord. Magi is a term derived from the Greek meaning a priest of Zoroaster. In the Gospel of Matthew, the only one of the four Gospels to mention the Magi, states that they came from the east to worship the newborn king of the Jews. Later Christian writings which identify them as kings is linked to *Old Testament* prophecies such as those in Isaiah (60:3) which describe the Messiah as being worshipped by kings. The Matthew Gospel (2:1-12) gives a detailed account of the visit of the Magi to Jesus. They arrived on what we now call the *Feast of the Epiphany*. In the Western Church the names of the Magi are usually called Casper, Melchoir and Balthasar. What are the symbolic meanings of the gold, myrrh and frankincense? Gold is obviously a gift for a king. Myrrh and frankincense have their own separate curative properties and both were used to treat everything from scratches and bruises which were common in babies and children. However, when mixed in various proportions and used in a variety of folk-style treatments, these essential oils made an entire drug store of powerful and effective medicines. Perhaps when the Magi "opened their treasures" (Matthew 2:11), they imparted some of their secret learning also. But whether or not they gave Mary and Joseph dosage information, one thing is for sure: the Wise Men left us with a lasting example for worshipping Jesus and giving good gifts. In this Epiphany season let us receive from the hands of our Lord the gifts he desires to give us, the same gifts He received: frankincense (faithfulness)

myrrh (holiness) and gold (salvation); and that we may be one with Him as He is one with the Father. (From the Anglican Digest).

LETTERS FROM OUR FRIENDS:

Dear Trinity Church Friends:

My wife and I visited your church several weeks ago on a Saturday afternoon and were invited to your Midnight Mass. My wife and I were reared in the Diocese of Ely, Province of Canterbury, England and have lived in this country for 20 years. We live in Aiken, but decided to attend your mass at Trinity which was a wonderful experience. Your church is absolutely beautiful and reminds us of very much of our native England. We have travelled extensively in the US, but have never seen a more beautiful Christmas Communion anywhere in this country. The mass moved with the precision of a choreographed dance, the priest's Homily was exceptional and his celebration very "Church of England." Your mass was as beautiful as any mass we ever saw at Ely Cathedral. Thank you for a memorable experience on a warm Christmas Eve in South Carolina. The Russian tea was not bad either. We are looking forward to our next visit.

Sincerely,
Nigel and Angela Stuart
Aiken, South Carolina

Dear Nigel and Angela:

We were so pleased to have you with us at Trinity on Christmas Eve. We hope to see you again soon.

Dear Sir:

We brought our young friend David to your Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. He is mentally ill, had been drinking for days and was in a bad state of mind with some suicidal ideation. He is the son of an Episcopal priest who is now with the Lord. Yes, David was the most scruffy looking person at the mass. But the mass brought him comfort and he asked me to help him write this letter. The chalice bearer, who must have perceived his anxiety, smiled at him and touched his shoulder to comfort him when he took the cup. I was told by a member of the church that the chalice bearer was a Neuropsychologist with many years' experience in the treatment of psychiatric patients. I plan to hand deliver this letter to the church and to request some help for this patient. Thank you.

Name withheld by request

NOTE; David is now in a treatment facility in Greenville and is responding well to psychotropic meds. May Christ be praised! Please pray for David and all who suffer from mental illness.
