



The Abbeville Anglican



The Newsletter of Historic Trinity Church

Volume 17

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Number 01

New Beginnings

Here we are in a new year with all the usual hopes and aspirations for a successful year for old Trinity and all her good people. Last year was a great year for us and we were so glad to be back at home in the church. It was a good year for our church family with great priests, good homilies, some new members and many wonderful visitors. We look forward to a year in which we can continue to make progress in our restoration plans. Our diocesan life continues to go well under the exceptional and inspirational guidance of our new bishop. We are especially thankful for our excellent wardens, vestry, parish administrator Treasurer and all of YOU who work so hard to make Trinity the special place that it is. This is the time of year for new resolutions and perhaps ours would be to continue our Mission Statement even more forcefully to joyfully proclaim the love of Christ in worship, outreach, welcome and care!

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting which had been scheduled for December was postponed and is now scheduled for January 8th to immediately follow Mass. At this meeting we will electing three new members to the vestry to replace Hank, Mike and Myra who will be rotating off the vestry this year. We will also be hearing brief reports from the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden the Parish Administrator and the Treasurer on the "state of the mission." We will also elect two alternates to the 101st 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. The Senior Warden will grant "seat and voice" to any friend of Trinity who may not be a member, but wishes to speak on some matter concerning the church. If you plan to present a pledge card and have not done so, please give your card to the

treasurer (Ilona), the Parish Administrator (Dick) or place in the collection plate. Thank you!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Midnight Mass

The Midnight Mass was inspirational and beautiful and was celebrated by Father Schnatterly. The number of persons attending was large for such a bitterly cold night. As usual, most of those attending were visitors from other congregations. Many of our visitors were Episcopalians and Roman Catholics who wished to hear the Christmas Mass as midnight. We are especially grateful to Father Michael for coming to say the Mass at midnight and in such disagreeable and unpleasant weather conditions. We also used two additional acolytes (Chris and Brandon) and we greatly appreciate their service. Midnight Mass is always a special time at Trinity and we appreciate the opportunity to provide this popular Christmas Mass, not just for ourselves, but also for the wider community.

The Epiphany Party and the Parish Luncheon

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 we will be combining the Epiphany party and the annual parish luncheon at the same time on the same day of the Annual Meeting, January 8th. The luncheon will immediately follow the Annual Meeting and will be held at Sips on the Square located inside Pendleton Farms (Andrew's shop). The Luncheon will be catered by Chris Wilkie who is generally regarded as a "renaissance man" of many talents and an excellent chef. Chris is a great friend of Trinity and has served as an acolyte at several of our Christmas midnight masses. Please make your plans to be with us on this festive occasion. The party honoring the Feast of the Epiphany has always been an even-

ing event and will probably be resumed next year.

Not Such Good News

Various church research groups and public relations agencies are reporting some unhappy news regarding our beloved Episcopal Church in the last two years—some even on the Episcopal News Service. The Church continues to have 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 Reverend Dwight Zscheile, an Episcopal priest and expert on church renewal and decline: "the overall picture is dire—not one of decline as much demise. Within the next generation, at this rate, there will be no one in worship by 2050 in the entire denomination." Episcopal Church membership peaked at 3.4 million in the mid-1960's. This decline has accelerated with membership falling 17.4% in the past ten years. Should those of us who love the Episcopal Church be greatly concerned about this condition? Probably. Critics of the Episcopal Church from within and from without state that the currently highly liberal nature of the Church will ultimately prove to be its downfall, especially in the areas of human sexuality and morality—"the church where anything goes." 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 Church and the Roman Catholic Church. The decline in membership is also having an adverse effect on diocesan budgets. Many Episcopal Church leaders are recommending that we return to a more conservative perspective with greater emphasis on Holy Scripture. A wonderful old African-American priest recently said in a sermon: "Pray, children, Pray! Amen!"

Feast Days in January:

The Holy Name

The Feast of the Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ is celebrated on January 1st. The 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 maybe responsible for the coupling of 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, frankincense and myrrh 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' 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 (2nd Maccabees 15:27). In the *New Testament*, the word is used in 2nd Timothy (1:10) to refer 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 in the Jordan River, by his cousin, Saint John 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 expected Christ—the expected Messiah. The proclamation is described in the three Synoptic Gospels, Mark (8:27-30), Matthew (16:13-20) and Luke (9:18-20). 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 diverge in their interpretations of what happens after Peter. *The Feast of the Confession of Saint Peter the Apostle* 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 major 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 a 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 earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul why persecutest thou me? It is hard for thee to kick against the*

pricks; 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 grandest champions.

The Pauline Brethren

On January 26th, 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 an area where a new Church was to be established. After a new church had been successfully 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 faithfulness to the early Church. History reports that Silas, Timothy and Titus 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 of you Wardens, Vestrymen, Lectors, Worship Leaders, Acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors, Teachers, Altar Guild, Musicians, Greeters/ushers, Pastors, Treasurer (Ilona), Parish Administrator (Dick), Buddy and Hank (who spend a lot of time fixing things around here), Tina, Linda (keeping the church clean), Jeremy (grounds and lawn); and especially all you members and visitors who faithfully attend our services and faithfully carry the Holy Gospel out into the world following Mass. You have made our programs continue to run smoothly and effectively under the stresses of restoration and pandemic. Old Trinity is a very special place. God bless you all who worship and labor here.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

JANUARY 2023

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
1 The Holy Name Of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Altar: White)	2	3	4	5	6 The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Altar: White)	7
8 1 st Epiphany Baptism of Jesus 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 Noon Annual Meeting	9	10	11 6:00 pm Evening Prayer	12	13	14
15 2 nd Epiphany 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 Noon Vestry Meets	16	17	18 The Confession of Saint Peter The Apostle (Altar: White) 6:00 pm Evening Prayer	19	20	21
22 3 rd Epiphany 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist	23	24	25 The Conversion of Saint Paul The Apostle (Altar: White) 6:00 pm Evening Prayer	26 Timothy, Titus, Silas Companions of Saint Paul	27	28
29 4 th Epiphany 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist	30	31	Eucharistic Lectionary Year A Office Lectionary Year 1	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 are from the Revised Common Lectionary	January 18–25 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY.

January 1, 2023 (Holy Name)

Celebrant: Father Swartsfager
Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
Lector: Dick
Acolyte: Andrew
Altar Guild: Michele
Altar Color: White
1st Lesson: Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm: 8 Domine, Dominus noster
The Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7
The Gospel: Luke 2:15-21

January 8, 2023 (1st Epiphany)

Celebrant: Father Flanagan
Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
Lector: Charleen
Acolyte: Andrew
Altar Guild: Myra
Altar Color: White
1st Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm: 29 Afferte Domino
The Epistle: Acts 10:34-43
The Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

The Vestry meeting will be on Sunday, January 15th immediately following Mass.

January 15, 2023 (2nd Epiphany)

Celebrant: Father Flanagan
Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
Lector: Ruth
Acolyte: Andrew
Altar Guild: Michele
Altar Color: Green
1st Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm: 80:1-7, 16-18 Qui regis Israel
The Epistle: Romans 1-7
The Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

January 22, 2023 (3rd Epiphany)

Celebrant: Father Schnatterly
Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
Lector: Dick
Acolytes: Andrew
Altar Guild: Lewis
Altar Color: Green
1st Lesson: Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm: 27: 1, 5-13 Dominus illuminati
The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
The Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

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

January 29, 2023 (4th Epiphany)

Celebrant: Father Schnatterly
Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
Lector: Dick
Acolyte: Andrew
Altar Guild: Michele
Altar Color: Green
1st Lesson: Micah 6:1-8
Psalm: 15 Domine, quis habitabit
The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
The Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Happy Birthday:

01/07—Myoung
01/07—Andrew
01/10—Lewis
01/18—John
01/22—Freda
01/23—Father Tucker

NOTE: Weekday Eucharistic Readings for use throughout the year are found in LFF, 2006, pages 498-528. Also, be thinking about Lent which begins this year on February 22nd (Ash Wednesday). Great pan cakes and fellowship at pancake supper on February 21st (Shrove Tuesday). Lent is the strictest penitential season in the Church year. More in the February issue.

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 Gifts of the Magi

In Christian tradition, the Magi, also referred to as 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, Melchior and Balthasar. What are the symbolic meanings of the gifts they brought to Jesus? Gold is obviously a gift for a king. Myrrh and frankincense have curative values and were used to treat everything from cuts and bruises which were common in young children and had many other uses in the preparation "folk-style" treatments and medicines. Perhaps when the Magi "opened their treasurers" (Matthew 2:11), they imparted some of their secret learning also. The popular story of three men traveling alone on camels across the vast Parthian Empire into Israel is highly unlikely and improbable. As they were distinguished personages, it is much more likely that they were accompanied by a large retinue of several hundred body guards and servants for convenience and protection. 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: myrrh (holiness), frankincense (faithful-

ness) and gold (salvation): and that we may be one with Him as He is one with the Father. (Taken in part from the *Anglican Digest*).

LETTERS FROM OUR FRIENDS

From Christmas Eve, 2021

Dear Trinity Church Friends:

My wife and I visited your lovely 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 very much of our native England. We have travelled extensively in the US, but have never seen a more beautiful Christmas Eve 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.

Editor

From Christmas Eve 2022

Dear Trinity Church:

On Christmas Eve I was over in Abbeville having a late Christmas Eve dinner with a friend. It was frightfully cold and your church looked warm and inviting, so we decided to come in for a look and your people were so gracious that we decided to stay for the service. The first thing that caught my eye was the prayer request list in the narthex. I signed for prayer as I have been unwell lately and was fascinated that the list said: "first name only, God knows who you are." It gave me great comfort that God knows me by my first name. Neither me nor my friend have been in a church in the last 20 years. We were moved by the beautiful church, the excellent priest, and the warmth and welcome extended by your wonderful people. I lit a candle for my dear grandmother who is now with God for many years. I actually felt her touch when I lit the candle. Thank you for the gift and pleasure of your company and a wonderful memory.

Steve and Sarah

Dear Steve and Sarah:

So glad to have you with us at Christmas. Please be with us whenever you can. You left your address and we will be sending you our newsletter. God bless!

Editor