



# The Abbeville Anglican



The Newsletter of Historic Trinity Church

Volume 18

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Number 1

## Resolutions

This is the time of the year when a lot of folks are making their resolutions for the new year—hopefully changes which will make their lives move in a more organized and better rhythm. As the church family, maybe we will do some of the same. As we move into phase three of the restorations process, the vestry and congregation will be making some important decisions as to how we will proceed. We now know that we will also have to make some important decisions with Friends of Trinity into ways to proceed with the preservation and restoration of the valuable stained glass. Recently, a gentleman from Hilton Head flew up to Greenwood on a private jet so he could come to Trinity to see the stained glass. He was very much impressed and stated that he would like to help us with the preservation of the windows. We will certainly accept his kind offer and invite him back soon. We are ever grateful to our forefathers who planted this grand old church which for almost 200 years been a powerful beacon to the Faith. Our stated mission statement is to joyfully proclaim the love of Christ in worship, outreach, welcome and care. It would appear that we are doing a pretty good job at that endeavor.

## Midnight Mass

As usual, the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve was beautiful. A special thank you to all of you who worked so hard to get the decorations up and the church ready for the Mass. Over the course of Christmas Eve afternoon and the actual mass attendance, we received more than 150 visitors. Father Schnatterly presented his usual beautiful celebration of the Christmas Mass, causing one visitor to say: "He's good enough to make someone want to come to this church all the time." We think so too! Thank you to all of you for all you do to make Trinity such a special place. We will be calling names later, but not here in fear that we might accidentally leave someone out.

## New Vestry

The new 2024 vestry was elected at the annual meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The new vestry will be composed of Dick, Charleen, Mary Lynn, Charles Thomas, Lewis, Mike and Hank. The new officers will be Lewis (Senior Warden), Hank (Junior Warden), Dick (Parish Administrator) and Ilona will continue as the parish treasurer. Thank you to all you who served on the 2023 vestry.

A special thank-you is due to Cynthia, out-going Senior Warden who enjoys the unique distinction of having served as the Senior Warden of Trinity Parish more times than anyone else in the almost 200 year history of the parish. Well done, Cynthia!

Your vestry is very interested in your ideas and opinions in all matters concerning the business of the church. You are invited to attend any meeting of the vestry with "seat and voice." The first regular meeting of the new vestry will be on January 14<sup>th</sup> immediately following the Mass.

## The Labyrinth

Don't forget about the Labyrinth even though we are in the bleak midwinter and the weather is not always accommodating. We still have many visitors to visit even in this time of the year when the weather is less pleasant. A recent group of Baptist teenagers appeared on their church bus on a pleasant Saturday about lunch time with their youth pastor. The pastor walked the Labyrinth with them and read the devotional lessons at each station. They concluded their walk with the Lord's Prayer and the singing of the popular and well known hymn, *Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God*. They concluded their visit at the picnic tables with hotdogs and cokes from the "Rough House." I think there might be a Baptist preacher or two in that crowd. God loves His Baptist Church. Many of you former Baptists are reading this and currently enjoy the wonderful blessings of our excellent Bishop who was once a Baptist Pastor.

## New Ministries

We have recently begun the training of new acolytes to help in the service of the Mass. We will also soon be training new Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors, Worship Leaders, Lectors, Altar Guild and Greeters. If you think you might like to serve our parish in any of these roles, please advise the Senior Warden. Please note that most of these ministries require a certificate from the Diocese that you have completed the Safe Church training which is now mandatory in all the dioceses of the National Church. We will be happy to explain in full detail the duties and responsibilities which attach to each of these ministries. These are meaningful opportunities to make an important contribution to the life of your church. Your prayerful consideration is requested. Thank you.

## Saturday Afternoons

Over the last 20 years, Saturday Afternoons at Trinity has become our most successful program in community outreach and public relations. What goes on at this time? The church is open from 12:00 noon until 4:00 pm each Saturday. Some visitors just stop by to rest and watch the sun in the stained glass. Others come by to sing and bring their instruments to play along with the organ. Some come in to light candles and say prayers for some loved one or friend who is sick or in trouble. One recent visitor brought 25 members of his choir and congregation and when he was asked to sing, he introduced his song by saying; "whenever I am at Trinity, I think of this old Methodist hymn. *There is a place of quiet rest near to the heart of God; a place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God. O, Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God. Hold us who wait before Thee, near to the heart of God.* That is what Trinity is on Saturday afternoons—a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God. Thanks be to God for Trinity and its long and fruitful ministry. Amen.

## Feast Days in January:

### The Holy Name

The *Feast of the Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ* is celebrated in many Christian churches, usually on January 1<sup>st</sup>. It commemorates the circumcision of the baby Jesus as recounted in the Gospel reading on that day. *At the end of 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 Sienna 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 1<sup>st</sup>, is now listed as the *Feast of the Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ*. Many eastern churches also celebrate the feast on January 1<sup>st</sup>, as does the Lutheran Church.

### The Epiphany

The *Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ* is one of the principle feasts of the church year and always falls on January 6<sup>th</sup> and 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 tradition commemorates principally (but not solely) the visitation of the Magi to the baby Jesus, and thus Jesus' manifestation to the gentiles. In the *Septuagint* the word for epiphany is used for a manifestation of the God of Israel (2<sup>nd</sup> Maccabees 15:27). In the *New Testament* the word is used in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy (1:10) to refer either to the birth of Christ or to his appearance after his resurrection, and five times to refer to the *Second Coming*. Most modern Christians simply think of the *Epiphany* as the time when the Magi found Jesus and presented Him with the gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense.

### The Baptism of the Lord

The *Feast of the Baptism of the Lord* 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* which commemorated the coming of the Magi, the baptism of Christ 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 6<sup>th</sup> and the *Feast of the Baptism of Our*

*Lord* is always celebrated on the next Sunday. As in the *Church of England, Ordinary Time* does not begin until after the *Presentation of Christ in the Temple*.

### The Confession of Saint Peter

In Christianity, the Confession of St. Peter 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 (9:18-20). This statement of Jesus as Christ is fundamental to *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 episode, Jesus not only accepts the titles of Christ and Son of God, but also declares the proclamation as a divine revelation by stating, that his Father in heaven has given it to Peter, unequivocally declaring himself to be both Christ and the Son of God. In this episode, Jesus also selects Peter to be the leader of the Apostles and states that *upon this rock will I build my Church*. The *Feast of the Confession of Saint Peter* is observed on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

### The Conversion of Saint Paul

We commemorate the *Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul* on January 25<sup>th</sup>. We all know the story of those events as related in the Bible which led Saul of Tarsus to cease his persecution of the early Church and to his becoming the great Apostle to the Gentiles. Paul's conversion occurred after Jesus's crucifixion and the accounts of his conversion describe it as supernatural and a miraculous event. You know the story well. 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; he had a lot of time to commune 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 early Church. In many ways he rivals Saint 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 various churches he founded. Many theologians believe that Paul's conversion was gradual and that the Damascus road experience was the climax of his conversion. This theory is based on Acts 26:14 which states *and when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking to me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why*

*persecutest thou me? It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks* (KJV). The inference being that God had pricked Paul's conscience at Stephen's execution, and that Paul was also aware and troubled that Christ's death and subsequent resurrection was attested to by hundreds, fulfilling *Old Testament* scripture. The conversion of Saint Paul was unique in that it took him from being one of the most profound persecutors of the early Church, to becoming one of its most profound champions.

They only heard it said, the one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy. And they glorified God because of me. Galatians 1: 23-24. NRSV.

### The Pauline Brethren

On July 26<sup>th</sup>, the Church has traditionally celebrated a minor feast day honoring Saint Timothy, Saint Titus and Saint Silas, sometimes referred to as the Pauline Brethren. These men were actively involved in the ministry of Saint Paul and we hear much about them in Paul's epistles to the various churches he established. All three, traveling companions of Saint Paul, shared in his preaching of the Gospel. Titus also served as Paul's secretary, carefully writing down the words of the letters of Paul sent to the various churches he had established. Paul often sent his helpers ahead to prepare the people for his arrival in a new area. After the establishment of a new church, Paul would move on somewhere else where the Gospel was needed. He often asked Timothy and Titus to remain behind for awhile to support and encourage the new converts. Timothy and Titus were appointed as bishops which was a sign of their leadership and faithfulness to the early Church. History reports that Timothy, Titus and Silas all played a major part in Saint Paul's ministry especially in his latter days when he was often not physically well. Sadly none of them were with him in Rome when the Emperor Nero ordered Saint Paul's death.

### Getting Ready for Lent

Next month, February 14<sup>th</sup>, will be *Ash Wednesday* (Fast) and will be the first day of Lent. The 40 days of Lent form the most stringent penitential season of the year. Our annual pancake supper for the community will be on *Shrove Tuesday* (February 13—Mardi Gras.) This supper has become a favorite event for Abbeville. It is a major task to prepare and serve this meal. This pancake supper is always free and a major public relations success for Trinity. Your help would be greatly appreciated. More details to follow in February issue.

# TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## January 2024

*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 B  Office Lectionary Year 2	<b>1</b>  The Holy Name Of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Altar: White)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  The Epiphany Of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Altar: White)
<b>7</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Epiphany 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist  The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Epiphany 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 Noon Vestry Meets	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  The Confession Of Saint Peter The Apostle (Altar: White)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Epiphany 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  The Conversion Of Saint Paul The Apostle (Altar: White)	<b>26</b>  Timothy and Titus, Companions of Saint Paul W.	<b>27</b>  John Chrysostom Theologian and Bishop 407 W.
<b>28</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Epiphany 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	  Week of Prayer For Christian Unity, January 18-25.	Our Service Books: BCP—Book of Common Prayer BOS—Book of Occasional Services LFF—Lesser Feasts And Fasts The Hymnal 1982	NOTE: Weekday Eucharistic Readings for use throughout the year are found in LFF, pages 498-528.

### January 7, 2024 (1<sup>st</sup> Epiphany)

Celebrant: Father Renegar  
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis  
 Lector: Dick  
 Acolyte: Andrew  
 Altar Guild: Michele  
 Altar Color: White  
 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Genesis 1:1-5  
 Psalm: 29 *Afferte Dormino*  
 The Epistle: Acts 19:1-7  
 The Gospel: Mark 1:4-1

### January 14, 2024 (2<sup>nd</sup> Epiphany)

Celebrant: Father Renegar  
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis  
 Lector: Charleen  
 Acolyte: Andrew  
 Altar Guild: Lewis  
 Altar Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: 1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20)  
 Psalm : 139 *Domine, probasti*  
 The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
 The Gospel: John 1:43-51

The Vestry meeting will be on Sunday, January 14 at 12:00 noon.

All Lessons and Readings at Mass are from the Revised Common Lectionary and the Book of Common Prayer.

### January 21, 2024 (3<sup>rd</sup> Epiphany)

Celebrant: Father French  
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis  
 Lector: Ruth  
 Acolyte: Andrew  
 Altar Guild: Michele  
 Altar Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Jonah 3 :1-5, 10  
 Psalm: 62:6-14 *Nonne Deo?*  
 The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
 The Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

### January 28, 2024 (4<sup>th</sup> Epiphany)

Celebrant: Father Flanagan  
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis  
 Lector: Dick  
 Acolytes: Andrew  
 Altar Guild: Lewis  
 Altar Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
 Psalm: 111 *Confitebor tibi*  
 The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
 The Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

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

## Happy New Year

### Evening Prayer

For many years, the Office of Evening Prayer was faithfully read at Trinity on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm from the Book of Common Prayer. The practice was discontinued during the pandemic, resumed for a short while, and then discontinued again due to lack of interest. Several of our members have recently asked about the resumption of the service. Persons interested in the resumption of this service, please see the Senior Warden. The service does not require a priest and may be read by a licensed Worship Leader. Please do not respond unless you are prepared to support the service by your attendance. The attendance varied throughout the years, but usually averaged 8 to 10 people. The service may be found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 115.

### The Mission of the Church

The Mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel and promotes justice, peace and love. The Church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members. From an Outline of the Faith, commonly called the Catechism, BCP, p. 855.

## **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:**

Lewis Ashley, Senior Warden(24)  
Hank Baggett, Junior Warden (26)  
Mary Lynn Lyle (24)  
Charleen Clark (25)  
Dick Haldeman (25)  
Michael Clary (26)  
Charles Thomas Horton (26)

### **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  
Susanne Bender Heinzerling

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

Dick Haldeman  
Ruth Freeman  
Mary Anne Campbell  
Jennie Leverich  
Charleen Clark

### **Acolytes:**

Lewis Ashley  
Andrew Hartsfield  
Charles Thomas Horton  
Shane Horton  
Michael Clary  
Ilona Anderson

### **Eucharistic Visitors:**

Lewis Ashley  
Hank Baggett  
Cynthia Jefferies  
Jennie Leverich

### **Greeters/Ushers**

Ilona Anderson  
Hank Baggett

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

Jan Haldeman

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

John Pullin

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

Buddy Wells

### **Diocesan Convention Delegation:**

Cynthia Jefferies (Voting)  
Dick Haldeman (Voting)  
Lewis Ashley (Alternate)  
Michael Clary (Alternate)

### **Thurifer (Censor):**

Michael Clary

### **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 the Three Wise Men, or the Three Kings, were a group of distinguished foreigners who are reported to have visited Jesus after his birth, bearing gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense. They are regular figures in the accounts of the Nativity and in celebrations of the Epiphany. Magi is a term derived from the Greek meaning a priest of Zoroaster. The Gospel of Matthew, the only one of the four Gospels to mention the Magi, states they came from the east to worship Christ, newborn king of the Jews. Later Christian writings which identify them as kings is linked to Old Testament prophecies such as that in Isaiah (60:03) 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 term the *Feast of the Epiphany*. In the Western Church the names of the Magi are usually called Casper, Melchior and Balthasar. What were the symbolic meanings of the gifts, gold, frankincense and myrrh? Gold is an obvious gift for a king. The Holy Family would have had many uses for the gold at that time. Although frankincense and myrrh each have their own separate curative properties, both were used in various ways to treat everything from scratches to bruises which were common in babies and children. They were also thought to have health and psychological benefits for a new mother. However, when mixed together in various proportions in a large variety of well known folk-style treatments, frankincense and myrrh made an entire drug store of

powerful effective medicines. It is also possible that the Magi, when they "opened their treasures" as stated in Matthew (2:11), they imparted some of their secret learning. Some accounts report that the Magi were from the Parthian Empire which at that time enjoyed a more advanced scientific and medical understanding than that in Israel. But whether or not the Wise Man gave Mary and Joseph medical information, one thing is for sure: the Magi have left us with a lasting example for worshipping Jesus and giving good gifts. In this Epiphany Season, let us accept from our Lord the gifts he desires to give us; the same gifts he received: Gold (Salvation), frankincense (Holiness) and myrrh (Faithfulness); that we may grow to be one with Him as He is one with the Father. Amen. (Taken in part from the Anglican Digest).

### **Letters From Our Friends:**

Dear Trinity Friends:

Several months ago, I stumbled into Trinity on a Saturday afternoon and found a warm and welcome environment of kind and generous people. Although I am college educated, I had fallen into a dissolute life of alcohol and drug addiction. I was high on cocaine when I entered the church. I should have been kicked out the door, but was instead given a warm welcome. The lady who received me immediately turned me over to the man who was playing the organ who was retired from many years as a practicing clinical psychologist and he took me down to the parish house where we could talk privately. He recognized that I was in bad shape and already having some suicidal thinking. He immediately had me admitted the psychiatric unit at the Anderson Medical Center where he had been on staff for a number of years. I am much better now, in regular counseling and trying hard to get drugs and alcohol out of my life. I am looking forward to being at Trinity again soon on a Saturday afternoon. Thank you, Trinity, for your love and caring. Sebastian.

I have recently seen Sebastian for follow-up and he is doing well. He has entered the School of Medicine at the University of South Carolina to study nursing. I have told him that we are very proud of him and hope he will visit us again soon at Trinity. I am reasonably sure that he is now stable. Lewis.

### **+ Jesus +**

*Our hearts were made for you, O Christ, and they are restless until they rest in Thee. St. Augustine of Hippo.*