



The Abbeville Anglican

The Newsletter of Historic Trinity Church

Volume 15

DECEMBER 2021

Number 12

Restoration Continues

We have enjoyed a very successful year in our restoration process with very few setbacks. Most of what was anticipated to be accomplished for the year, was accomplished and we are grateful to the diocese, Preservation SC, the architects and all others who helped bring us to where we are today. It is our understanding that meetings will be held with those concerned shortly after the 1st of the year after the consecration of the new Bishop. We are definitely getting back to normal and Trinity is rapidly regaining her important role in this community which she has played for almost 200 years. Friends of Trinity has recently received \$2000.00 from the county accommodations fund for the important role Trinity plays and has always played in drawing tourists and visitors to Abbeville. Several internet websites list Trinity and the Opera House as the two main tourist draws to this area. Thanks to Trinity Vestry Member, Mike Clary, for writing that grant request. For clarification purposes Friends of Trinity is a nonprofit organization whose only function is to raise money for Trinity which they have done successfully for almost 30 years.

Parish Luncheon

These is a very well well-known saying that there is no such thing as a free lunch. Don't believe it. You are invited to join our parish family for lunch on Sunday, December 5th at the Talk of the Town Café, immediately following the Mass and annual meeting. They serve a great lunch. No long speeches. Just a time for fellowship and relaxation. Hope to see you there.

Annual Meeting

Trinity's Annual Meeting for 2021 will take place on Sunday, December 5th to immediately follow Mass. We promise to get finished as quickly as possible. You will be hearing brief reports from the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden, the Parish Administrator and the Treasurer.

You will also be electing two new members to the vestry to replace Dick and Betty. We will also be electing two alternates to Diocesan Convention. In the absence of a Vicar, the Senior Warden will be presiding and will grant "seat and voice" to any person wishing to be heard on any matter concerning the Parish. Please be with us for this important meeting and lunch following. Thanks!

WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY 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 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).

Midnight Mass

This year's Christmas Eve Mass will begin at 11:00 pm. There is usually a large number of people from other congregations who attend our Mass. In frequent polls, the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve has been rated by Anglicans worldwide as their favorite Mass and time to be in church on Christmas Eve. This has for a long been a favorite time at Trinity to sit quietly in shimmering candlelight, to smell the aromas of incense and Russian Tea; and to hear the words of a majestic mass that is almost a thousand years old. If you enjoy all the "whistles and bells" of the Episcopal Church, this is the Mass for you. Father Manning will begin the High Mass immediately following the Carol sing which will this year be reduced to 15 minutes and will begin at 10:45 pm. Please make your plans to be with us at this special service and invite your friends.

Al-Anon at Trinity

Our church is pleased to be hosting the new meetings of Al-Anon and Alateen in Abbeville County on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm in our parish house.

The weekly meetings will begin on December 8th. Al-Anon family groups, founded is 1951, is a worldwide fellowship that offers a program of recovery for the families and friends of alcoholics, whether or not, the alcoholic recognizes the existence of a drinking problem or seeks help. Alateen is a part of the Al-Anon fellowship designed for younger relatives and friends of the alcoholics through the teen years. Although people commonly turn to Al-Anon for help in stopping other's drinking, the organization recognizes that the families and friends of alcoholics are often traumatized themselves and in need of emotional support and understanding. It is not uncommon for potential new comers to attend Al-Anon because someone they care about is dependent on alcohol and or drugs. Al-Anon and Alateen focus on alcoholism and alcohol issues, not on other substance abuse issues. Only concerns related to the impact of a relative or friend's drinking and application of the Al-Anon/Alateen principals are discussed at the meetings and appear in the Al-Anon/Alateen literature. As you are aware, AA has been meeting in our parish house on Mondays and Thursday nights for many years. All interested persons are invited to attend this organizational meeting on December 8th in the parish house at 7:00 pm. We thank God for the opportunity to assist this very worthwhile programming in the Abbeville area.

Diocesan Convention

The 99th Diocesan Convention of our diocese sat at Christ Church on November 6th. The Convention moved expeditiously through its agenda in the dispatchment of elections, appointments, resolutions, canonical changes and the ever-important passage of the Statement of Mission (2022 annual diocesan budget). The convention was followed by a lovely reception for the Bishop and Mrs. Waldo who will be retiring in December. May God continue to bless the VIII Bishop and his family.



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 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 St. Thomas, reported by St. John Chrysostom (Bishop of Constantinople), is 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 St. 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 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 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 28th, 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 fisherman. Saint John was extremely proficient in proclaiming 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 preaching the Gospel for many years following the Lord’s ascension. Many writers have referred to Saint John as Jesus’s 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 a spear and the 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 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 of old age in his own bed. It is possible that during his long life, that he placed bishops in all the churches in 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 29th, 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 murder 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 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.

Ave Maria

In many Episcopal congregations, especially in the High Church, considerable attention is often paid to the other main player in the great drama of 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 classical 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 brought unto us the Savior of our souls. Alleluia and Amen.

Christmas Flowers

Many of you enjoy contributing to the costs of the poinsettias and other Christmas flowers in memory of a departed loved one or as a gift in thanksgiving for someone still with you. These gifts are appreciated and go a long way toward making the church beautiful during the Christmas season. Please make your check to Trinity Church and note flowers in the memo section. You may place your check in the offering plate or hand to the Altar Guild Chairman (Michele). Also, please give to Michele or Lewis your name and the name of the person or persons for whom the memorial is made. This memorial information will be noted in the Christmas Eve Mass bulletin. Donations should be received by Sunday, December 19th. Thank you!

Thank You!!

Thank you to Jean Hutchinson for the beautiful wreaths she made for Trinity’s front doors. She gave them in loving memory of her mother, May, Trinity’s long-time church historian. May made the wreaths for many years and Jean helped her in the later years of her life. May was extremely active in the affairs of the community and our church for many years and served several terms as senior and junior warden while on the vestry. May’s mother and aunt were instrumental in the reopening of Trinity following many years of closure. May’s other daughter, Ann, serves as president of Friends of Trinity. May departed this life in her 98th year. *Resquiescat in Pace.*






TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DECEMBER 2021

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)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Eucharistic Lectionary Year B Office Lectionary Year I	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	2	3	4
5 2 nd Advent 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 (Gaudete) 3 rd Advent 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 Noon Vestry Meets	13 Saint Lucia (Saint Lucy's Day) Martyr 304 R	14 John of the Cross Mystic and Monastic Reformer 1591	15 Ember Day	16	17 Ember Day	18 Ember Day
19 4 th Advent 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist	20	21 Saint Thomas The Apostle (Altar: Red)	22	23	 24 Christmas Eve Midnight Mass In Candlelight (Altar: Coronation) 11:00 pm	25 The Nativity Of Our Lord Jesus Christ; Christmas Day No Mass Today
26 1st Christmas 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist Saint Stephen Deacon and Martyr (Altar: Red)	27 Saint John Apostle and Evangelist (Altar: White)	28 The Holy Innocents (Altar: Red)	29 Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury and Martyr, 1170 R	30	31	<i>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.</i>



December 5, 2021 (2nd Advent)
Celebrant: Father Manning
Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
Lector: Dick
Acolyte: Andrew
Altar Guild: Michele
Altar Colors: Violet
1st Lesson: Baruch 5:1-9
Canticle: Song of Zachariah
The Epistle: Philippians 1:3-11
The Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

December 12, 2021 (3rd Advent)
Celebrant: Father Manning
Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
Lector: Ruth
Acolyte: Andrew
Altar Guild: Myra
Altar Colors: Rose
1st Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20
Canticle 9
The Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7
The Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

VESTRY MEETING:
Sunday, December 12th directly following the Eucharist.

December 19, 2021 (4th Advent)
Celebrant: Father Manning
Eucharistic Minister: Dick
Lector: Mary Anne
Acolyte: Andrew
Altar Guild: Myra
Altar Colors: Violet
1st Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a
Psalm: 80:1-7
The Epistle: Hebrews 10:5-10
The Gospel: Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

December 24, 2021 (Midnight Mass)
Celebrant: Father Manning
Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
Lector: Mary Anne
Acolyte: Andrew
Altar Guild: Ruth
Altar Colors: Coronation
1st Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2-7
Psalm: 96 *Cantate Domino*
The Epistle: Titus 2: 11-14
The Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our savior, Jesus Christ. Titus 2:13



December 26, 2021 (1st Christmas)
Celebrant: Father Manning
Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
Lector: Dick
Acolyte: Andrew
Altar Guild: Lewis
Altar Colors: Red
1st Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm: 147
The Epistle: Galatians 3:23-25:4:4-7
The Gospel: John 1:1-18



<i>Happy Birthday</i>
<i>12-7—Mary Lynn</i>
<i>12-17—Richard</i>
<i>12-31—Debbie</i>

*What can I give Him poor as I am?
If 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*

Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. John 1:29 KJV.



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)
Dick Haldeman, Clerk (21)
Myra Keith (22)
Ilona Anderson (23)
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

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
Jennie Leverich

Sexton (Buildings & Grounds):

Buddy Wells

Diocesan Convention Delegation:

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

Letters From Our Friends:

Dear Editor:

My wife and I, who live in Atlanta, were visiting some friends in Abbeville on Christmas Eve recently. They insisted we accompany them to the Midnight Mass at your lovely church. We were enchanted upon entering the beautiful church lit in candlelight and the welcoming aromas of incense and Russian Tea. The Mass was very high and imposing. My wife actually had tears in her eyes several times. The music was inspirational, especially when the soloist sang *Ave Maria*. By the end of the service when everyone was holding their candles 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 imposing than your own beautiful 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

Copied from a previous newsletter. Christmas Eve at Trinity has long been a very special time! Invite your friends to be with us.

The Carol Heard Around the World

Almost 200 years ago the carol *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht* (*Silent Night, Holy Night*) was heard for the first time in a small village church in Oberndorf, Austria. The choirmaster, Franz Gruber, arrived early on the afternoon of Christmas Eve to light the stoves and play over the music for the midnight mass. One of his choirboys was with him to pump the air into the bellows of the ancient pipe organ. When he reached the second hymn, the organ stopped and would play no more. Not being able to repair the instrument, Gruber rushed to the home of assistant pastor Father Joseph Mohr, to report the bad news. Father Mohr showed Gruber the copy of a new Christmas poem he had written and asked him if he could

set it to music for the mass. The rest is history. That Christmas Eve, in a deep Austrian snow, the two men, backed by the choir, stood before the High Altar at St. Nicholas Church and sang *Silent Night, Holy Night*, accompanied by Father Mohr on the guitar. They could hardly have imagined the impact this composition would have on the world. On each of the six verses, the choir repeated the last two lines in four-part harmony. On that Christmas Eve a song was born that would become dear to the hearts of people all over the world and become the most widely sung Christmas carol. You might like to recall this story as you are kneeling and singing this carol at the end of our midnight mass.

The Missing Five Pound Note

George worked for a small post office in England. His job was to process all the mail that had illegible addresses. One day, just before Christmas, a letter landed on his desk addressed in a shaky hand: To God. With no other clue on the envelope, George opened the letter and read: Dear God, I am a 93-year-old widow living on my state pension. Yesterday, someone stole my purse. It contained 100 pounds, which was all the money I had in the world and no pension due until after Christmas. Next week is Christmas and I had invited two of my friends over for Christmas lunch. Without that money, I have nothing to buy food with. I have no family to turn to, and you are my only hope. God, can you please help me? George was really touched and being kind hearted, he put the letter on the staff notice board. The letter touched the other postmen and they all dug into their pockets for a contribution. They raised 95 pounds. Using an officially franked post office envelope, they sent the cash on to the old lady. For the rest of the day the workers felt a warm glow thinking of the nice thing they had done. Christmas came and went. A few days later, another letter addressed to God landed in the sorting office. Many of the postmen gathered around while George opened the letter. It read: Dear God: How can I ever thank you enough for what you did for me. Because of your goodness, I was able to provide a lovely luncheon for my friends. We had a very nice day and I told my friends about your wonderful gift; in fact, we haven't gotten over it, and even Father John, our parish priest, was beside himself with joy. By the way, there were 5 pounds missing. I think it must have those thieving fellows at the post office. George could not help musing on Oscar Wilde's famous quote: *A good deed never goes unpunished!*

Good Tidings of Great Joy

For unto to you is born this day in the City of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:11-14.