



The Abbeville Anglican



The Newsletter of Historic Trinity Church

Volume 15

JANUARY 2021

Number 01

New Year's Resolutions

It has been a good year for Trinity, especially in October when we were able to resume our services in our church building after a three-year absence. Considerable progress has been made and we are now in the crucial stage of replacing the rotten wood in the tower with new wood which make the tower safe for another 200 years. It is hoped that this important part of phase two of the restoration may be complete by some time in the spring and we will not be in a position to have to leave the church again. Visitors have begun to return to Saturday afternoons at Trinity and some of the bus tours are resuming their annual visits. Lets all be resolved to make this a great year for Trinity as we combine our efforts to help SC Preservation raise the necessary funding to return Trinity to the important role it has always played in the life of this community.

Onward and Upward

As the restoration continues to make progress, our parish leaders and members are moving forward to make this a productive year for the parish. On the first Sunday in December at the Annual Meeting, you elected Cynthia and Ilona as new vestry members to replace Lewis and Mary Anne who are concluding their three-year terms. On the next Sunday the vestry meeting was a joint meeting with the 2020 and 2021 vestries. The 2021 vestry elected Cynthia as the new Senior Warden and Hank will continue as Junior Warden. Dick will continue in his roles as Parish Administrator and Clerk of the Vestry. Ilona will continue as Treasurer.

A Personal Note: As outgoing Senior Warden, I would like to express my sincere thanks to you all for all your help and cooperation extended to me during my term as Senior Warden. It is always an honor to be able to serve one's parish in this role, but especially so in a parish like Trinity with so many wonderful people such as yourselves. Thank you and God Bless! Lewis.

The Epiphany Party

The annual Epiphany Party has long been one of the most enjoyed events in our church year. This year's get-together will be held on Sunday evening, January 10th at 5:00 pm at the Belmont Inn. As the inn is highly regarded for its excellent service, you may expect good food, wine and as always, most agreeable society. Please make your plans to be with us for this event. And just think, since you will not have to prepare a covered dish, you will have time for a nice nap after church.

Happy New Year!!

Christmas at Trinity

Christmas at Trinity has always been a special time for our folks and many others in the greater community. It was especially a meaningful time this year to be able to hear midnight mass in our own church after a three year absence. The mass was beautiful with just two attendees under the number allowed by the Bishop's formula for spacing. It was difficult not to be able to sing the much loved carols and to receive the Holy Sacrament in the usual Episcopal tradition, but with the new vaccines now in process it is entirely possible that the devil covid will be a thing of the past by next Christmas and everything will be back to normal. Thank you to all of you who worked so hard to get the church ready for the midnight mass and other services. Thanks also to Chris, Nicholas and Erzhan who served as special acolytes and did such a great job.

The Labyrinth

It is so good to see many of you walking the labyrinth and saying your prayers, especially in the cold weather. If you are able to endure the cold, just think how pleasant it will be in the spring and the fall when the weather will be more congenial. See the copy of Dr. Elsner's excellent new guide for the understanding and use of the labyrinth which is included with your newsletter. It is very possible that its use will

help us to make a real positive difference in our spiritual journey. Thank you to all the Elsners, Rob, Sam and Betsy who helped make Trinity's new labyrinth a reality. Please join us in our continued prayers for Rob as he pursues his postulancy for Holy Orders to the Diaconate and the Sacred Order of Priests and for Sam as he completes his seminary studies. As stated in the brochure, help us to make this labyrinth available to all interested persons in this community and elsewhere who may be interested in enhancing their prayer life and spiritual growth.

Bishop's Christmas Message

In case you missed it, you can still see Bishop Waldo's beautiful Christmas message and blessing on the diocesan website (edusc.org) and also the Christmas message of the Presiding Bishop, The Most Reverend Michael Curry. Both are inspirational and uplifting with some good thoughts for the new year.

From the Diocese

The Nominating Committee for the IX Bishop of this diocese invites you learn more about who we are and the bishop we seek through the pages of our Diocesan Profile. Explore our diocese in detail. Within the profile you will find underlined blue text that is also hyperlinked to information about us and our ministries. You will also be able to read the results from the Diocesan Survey which many of you completed in October. This whole section on the website will answer any question you may have about the status, progress and process related to the election of the new bishop.

Bible Study

Hank is presenting some very good Bible studies on Sundays at 10:00 am in the parish house often illustrated by his own art work. This Bible study is now down stairs which is much more convenient for you folks with bad knees. Some of the lessons are based on the daily readings from your *Forward Day By Day*. You are invited to attend!

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 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). Bernardino of Siena placed great emphasis on the Holy Name which he associated with the *Christogram* {IHS (denoting the first three letters of the Greek name for Jesus and sometimes referred to as the Latin *Jesus Hominum Salvator* (*Jesus Savior of Men*))} and may be 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 *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 Holy Day celebrates the revelation of God the Son as a human being in Jesus Christ. In the Eastern Church it is referred to mainly as the *Theophany* which exclusively, in this case, refers to the revelation or manifestation of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The well known tradition also 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* (Apocrypha) 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* is always celebrated 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 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 Saint Peter and Jesus's acceptance of the title is a definite 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 a divine revelation by stating that his Father in Heaven had given it to Peter, unequivocally declaring himself to be both Christ and the Son of God. In this episode, Jesus also selects Peter as the leader of the Apostles and states that upon this rock I will 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 *Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul* on January 25th. We all know the story of the events in the Bible which led Paul 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' crucifixion and the accounts of Paul's 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 be 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 many of the churches he established. Many church historians and theologians

believe 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 St. Stephen's execution, and that Paul was additionally troubled by his knowledge that Jesus' death and Resurrection was attested to by hundreds of persons which had fulfilled many of the prophetic scriptures from the Old Testament. The events in the conversion of Saint Paul are unique in that they took him from being one of the most profound persecutors of the early Christian Church to becoming one of its most profound 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 engaged in the ministry of Saint Paul and we read much about them in Saint Paul's epistles. These three traveling companions shared in his propagation of the Gospel. Titus also served as Paul's secretary, carefully writing down the letters Paul addressed to the churches he had established. Paul often sent Silas and Timothy ahead to prepare the people in a new area where a new church was to be established. After a new church was developed, Paul would often move on to some new mission field where the Gospel was needed; and he often asked Timothy and Silas to remain for awhile to encourage and support the new converts. Titus and Timothy 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, Titus and Timothy all played a major role in Saint Paul's Ministry, especially in his later days when he was not physically well.

New Church Calendar

Hopefully by now most of you have received your new church calendar as we have been giving them out for the past two Sundays. Please note the back of the monthly pages and the back of the calendar itself for a huge amount of information about the Episcopal Church year and how the Church operates. If you have not yet received your 2021 calendar, ask Lewis for a copy.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

JANUARY 2021

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 One	Our Service Books: BCP—Book of Common Prayer BOS—Book of Occasional Services LFF—Lesser Feasts and Fasts	All Lessons and Readings are from the Revised Common Lectionary.			1 The Holy Name Of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Altar: White)	2
3 2 nd Christmas 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist	4	5	6 The Epiphany Of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Altar: White) Evening Prayer 6:00 pm	7	8	9
10 1 st Epiphany 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 Noon Vestry Meets <i>The Baptism Of Our Lord Jesus Christ</i>	11	12	13 Evening Prayer 6:00 pm	14	15	16
17 2 nd Epiphany 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Holy Eucharist	18 The Confession Of Saint Peter The Apostle (Altar: White)	19	20 Evening Prayer 6:00 pm	21	22	23
24 3 rd Epiphany ----- 31 4 th Epiphany	25 The Conversion Of Saint Paul The Apostle (Altar: White)	26 <i>Timothy and Titus Companions Of Saint Paul</i>	27 <i>John Chrysostom Bishop, Theologian 407 W</i> Evening Prayer 6:00 pm	28 <i>Thomas Aquinas, Friar and Theologian 1274 W</i>	29	30

January 3, 2021 (2nd Christmas)
 Celebrant: Mother Alice Haynes
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
 Lector: Mary Anne
 Acolyte: Andrew
 Altar Guild: Myra
 Altar Colors: White
 1st Lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-14
 Psalm: 84
 The Epistle: Ephesians 1:3-6
 The Gospel: Matthew 2: 13-15

January 10, 2021 (1st Epiphany)
 Celebrant: Mother Alice Haynes
 Eucharistic Minister: Dick
 Lector: Ruth
 Acolyte: Andrew
 Altar Guild: Lewis
 Altar Colors: White
 1st Lesson: Genesis 1:1-5
 Psalm: 29
 The Epistle: Acts 19: 1-7
 The Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

The January meeting of the vestry will be on January 10th at noon to immediately follow the Eucharist.

January 17, 2021 (2nd Epiphany)
 Celebrant: Father Ken Tucker
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
 Lector: Betty
 Acolyte: Andrew
 Altar Guild: Michele
 Altar Colors: Green
 1st Lesson: 1 Samuel 3:1-10
 Psalm: 139: 1-5, 12-17
 The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
 The Gospel: John 1:43-52

January 24, 2021 (3rd Epiphany)
 Celebrant: Mother Alice Haynes
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
 Lector: Dick
 Acolyte: Andrew
 Altar Guild: Michele
 Altar Colors: Green
 1st Lesson: Jonah 3:1-5, 10
 Psalm: 62: 6-14
 The Epistle: Titus 2:11-14
 The Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

*Create in me a clean heart O God;
 And renew a right spirit within me.
 Cast me not away from thy presence;
 And take not thy Holy Spirit from me.
 Psalm 51:10-11.*

January 31, 2021 (4th Epiphany)
 Celebrant: Mother Alice Haynes
 Eucharistic Minister: Lewis
 Lector: Dick
 Acolyte: Andrew
 Altar Guild: Lewis
 Altar Colors: Green
 1st Lesson: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
 Psalm: 111
 The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13
 The Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

<i>Happy Birthday</i>
<i>01/07—Myoung</i>
<i>01/07—Andrew</i>
<i>01/10—Lewis</i>
<i>01/18—John</i>
<i>01/22—Freda</i>
<i>01/23—Father Tucker</i>

NOTE: Ordinary Time begins on the Monday following the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord and continues through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday and the Monday after Pentecost through the Sunday before the first Sunday of Advent.

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 & rounds):

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.

The Gifts of the Magi

In Christian tradition, the Magi, also referred to as the Three Wise Man 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 features in the accounts of the birth 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 Gospel to mention the Magi, states that they came from the east, possibly the Parthian Empire, to worship the Christ, newborn King of the Jews. Later Christian writings which identify them as kings are linked to Old Testament prophecies such as those in Isaiah (60:3) which describe the Messiah as being worshipped by kings. The Gospel of Matthew (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*; and contrary to what you have been viewing in manger scenes all of your life, they did not see Jesus in Bethlehem, but instead in Nazareth when he was about two or three years old (sorry about that). In the western Church the names of the Magi are usually called Gaspar, Melchior and Balthazar. What are the symbolic meanings of the gold, frankincense and myrrh? Gold is obviously a gift for a king. The Holy Family would have had many uses for gold at that time. Myrrh and frankincense have their own separate curative properties and both were used to treat everything from scratches to simple injuries which were common in children. However, when mixed in various proportions and used in various folk-style treatments, these essential oils made an entire drug store of powerful and effective medications. 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 the worship of Jesus and giving good gifts. Now to further complicate your lifelong picture of the visit of the Magi, modern scholars now state that these visitors were not exactly kings, but important prince-potentials from the Parthian Empire. Modern research also suggests that that it would be highly unlikely that persons of this prominence would be casually traveling across a vast distance through dangerous environments on three camels. There were probably many camels, soldiers, personal slaves and attendants in a retinue that probably included several hundred persons. At this time, there were several thousand Jews in the Parthian Empire, some of whom occupied important positions. The Parthian priestly class were familiar with the *Old Testament* prophecies and also had access to other ancient manuscripts which alluded to the birth of a holy child whose life on this earth would greatly affect the future and destiny of all mankind. (Taken in part from an article appearing several years ago in the *Anglican Digest*.)

Parish Priests and Pandemic

The Episcopal News Service has reported that many parish priests are suffering extreme stress, fatigue and anxiety as they have been functioning somewhat as front line responders as the pandemic rages on. Some have actually resigned their parishes as the stress has just become too great. Some have reported that many of their parishioners have declined to observe their bishop's safety requirements placing themselves and others at risk. You folks are to be commended for your careful observance of Bishop Waldo's guidelines which have made our Masses move more smoothly for our communicants and priests. Due to Trinity's ability to seat 300 people, we were able to accommodate our members and visitors at a beautiful midnight Mass and stay completely within the Bishop's spacing stipulations. We are told by our state and federal health experts that the vaccinations will begin soon. Maybe this tribulation will soon be over.

Reminder:

Once the altar candles have been lit for the Mass, we are requested to refrain from conversation and use this time for personal prayer and meditation. *The Lord is in his Holy Temple, let all the earth keep silent before Him. Habakkuk 2:20. Thank you.*
