



The Trinity Bell



Volume 12, Issue 1

Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

January 2014

The vision of Trinity Church is to be relevant to the Lake Region Community serving and drawing others to the gospel of Jesus Christ as a growing Episcopal Church.



A Word from Father Tony

The following is an excellent article by Mary Fairchild, who writes for About.Com. I have also added a paragraph or two at the bottom. Fr. Tony+

“Because Epiphany is primarily observed by Orthodox, Catholic, and

Anglican Christians, many Protestant believers don't understand the spiritual significance behind this holiday, one of earliest feasts of the Christian church. If you were fortunate enough to have grown up in a town such as Tarpon Springs, Florida, where I attended high school, then you are probably quite familiar with some of the unique cultural celebrations associated with Epiphany. What I remember vividly about this ancient church holiday is skipping school each year on Epiphany to see many of my classmates (young men ages 16-18 of the Greek Orthodox faith) dive into the chilly waters of Spring Bayou to retrieve the cherished cross. The "blessing of waters" and "diving for the cross" ceremonies were famous in our predominately Greek community, and that fame was shared for a year by one special Greek classmate who had the honor of recovering the crucifix and receiving the traditional full-year's blessing. After more than 100 years of celebrating this tradition, the annual Greek Orthodox festival in Tarpon Springs continues to draw large crowds, yet many observers do not understand the true meaning behind these Epiphany ceremonies.

Epiphany, also known as "Three Kings Day" and "Twelfth Day," is a Christian holiday commemorated on January 6. It falls on the twelfth day after Christmas, and for some denominations signals the conclusion of the twelve days of the Christmas season. Though many different cultural and denominational customs are prac-

ticed, in general, the feast celebrates the manifestation of God in the form of human flesh through Jesus Christ, his Son.

The word epiphany means “manifestation” or “revelation” and is commonly linked in Western Christianity with the visit of the wise men (Magi) to the Christ child. Through the Magi, Christ revealed himself to the gentiles. In Eastern Christianity, Epiphany puts emphasis on the baptism of Jesus by John, with Christ revealing himself to the world as God's own Son. Likewise, on Epiphany some denominations commemorate Jesus' miracle of turning water into wine, signifying the manifestation of Christ's divinity as well.”

Mary Fairchild

In his second letter to Timothy, Paul writes, “God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life - not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing [Greek: epiphaneia] of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”

Celebrated as early as the end of the second century, The Feast of the Epiphany predates Christmas as one of the Principle Feasts observed in the Church. Throughout the season we will observe the ways God revealed Jesus as his Son. The three most observed by the Church are the coming of the Magi, the Baptism of Jesus and the first miracle of Jesus turning water into wine. During this Epiphany, look for new ways God reveals his Son to you. Tony+

**There will be only one combined service on
The first Sunday of January
EPIPHANY**

**January 5, 2014 at 10:00am
Pot Luck Lunch Following**

**Head of the Church
Jesus Christ**

**The Rt. Rev. Samuel Johnson Howard
Bishop of Florida**

Members of the Vestry

**Virginia Smith, Senior Warden '15
Eric Beshore, Junior Warden '15
Laurie Alsobrook 2014
Anne Lowry 2015
Vi Paul 2016
Paul Stegall 2014
Bob Tickel 2016**

**Carol Pettie, Treasurer
Linda Wilcox, Clerk**

Clergy

Rev. Tony Powell, Rector

Music

**Margaret Rice, Choir Director
Figg Poncher, Organist**

Office

**Figg Poncher,
Financial Administrator
Linda Wilcox,
Parish Administrator
and Editor of the "Trinity Bell"**

Service Times

8:30 am and 11:00 am Sunday

**Trinity Episcopal Church
204 SR 26
Post Office Box 361
Melrose, Florida 32666**

**Office Hours: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Monday thru Thursday**

**Office Phone: 352 475-2177
Fax: 352 475-6181**

Email:

**trinitymelrose@windstream.net
Website: trinitymelrosefl.org**

ECW NEWS



The January, 2014, ECW meeting will be an evening meeting on Tuesday, January 7th, at 6:30 p.m. A light supper will be served and Dr. Mark Barrow will be our speaker. It is sure to be an interesting program. Please come and enjoy an evening out and fellowship with the women of our church.



**DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY
TRINITY BELL
IS JANUARY 15TH**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Jan. 3	Amanda Gray
Jan. 9	David Kidd
Jan. 10	Kathy Garcia
Jan. 16	Lynda Leukel
Jan. 19	Ken Wacha
Jan. 24	Margaret Arenberg
Jan. 30	Tim Paul

O God, our times are in your hand; look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *BCP p. 830*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Jan. 3	Terrell and George Bothwell
Jan. 31	Margaret and Jack Rice

O God, bless our relationships, assist us with your grace, so that with true fidelity and steadfast love we may honor and keep the promises and vows we make to one another. Let us love one another as a sign of your love for us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CURSILLO



If you are interested in learning more about Cursillo or attending a Cursillo weekend, please speak with Clay O'Neal, Linda in the office, Father Tony, or anyone who has already attended a weekend.

Ultreyas are get-togethers of all those who have attended a Cursillo weekend and others who may be interested in attending. They include a pot luck dinner and celebration of the Eucharist. The next Ultreya will be on Sunday, Jan. 12 at 4:00pm at St. Albans in Chiefland.

THOUGHTS FROM THE SR. WARDEN



As I write this, the end of 2013 nears, and I am reminded of all the events which have occurred at Trinity during the year and the members and friends who have so graciously given their time and talents to make each occasion so very special.

When reflecting on the activities at Trinity, some were for fun and fellowship, others fundraising and many so important for our spiritual enrichment. Were you a participant or supporter of some of these most recent opportunities at Trinity? Adult Inquirer's Class, Study of Parables, Low Country Boil, Iron Chef, Noon Pizza and Gospel, Alpha, Blessing of the Animals, Thanksgiving in the Park and the children's float in the Merry Melrose Christmas Parade?

May we all approach the New Year with a keen awareness of our spiritual health and know that God is truly moving Trinity to new heights... places we've never been before. Let us commit to leaping forward with helping hands and a tender heart as we embrace the joy of growth.

Virginia

A HAPPY AND HOLY NEW YEAR FILLED WITH MANY BLESSINGS !



JR. WARDEN'S REPORT



The Christmas Season was very hectic with lots of special use of the Parish Hall. It is amazing how many church and community organizations use our facilities. The community use is a wonderful outreach of Trinity.

The Parish Hall has reached the point where numerous fluorescent light fixture ballasts are failing due to age. The replacement ballasts are very expensive since the current T-12 fixtures are being phased out and a new T-8 fixture is becoming the new standard. As a result we are replacing fixtures as they fail with the new T-8 fixtures which are brighter and more energy efficient. We can purchase a new T-8 fixture for the price of the T-12 ballasts. The new fixtures are in the hallway, kitchen and part of the Wicker Room. Let there be light!!!

The Vestry has approved the 2014 budget for Trinity. This is a very austere budget that constrains all spending to minimize the deficit until we grow. The impact on the facilities is a general reduction in spending and a specific reduction in the Sexton spending. As a result the Sexton hours have been reduced to 8 hours instead of 12. This means that the Sexton will only be at Trinity one day a week instead of the two and sometimes three days a week. The custodial work has been kept at the same level but the minor maintenance has been significantly reduced. So we will need volunteers to step up to help on the maintenance. Additionally, the Sexton will no longer be setting up chairs and taking them down after many events. With this budget, volunteers will need to fill the gap.

Remember - Do not hide your talent but let it shine. Lend a hand and be blessed.

Thank you all for your support.

Eric Beshore
Junior Warden
eabeshore@comcast.net

ANNUAL MEETING AND REPORTS

The annual meeting will be held on the first Sunday, February 2 and we will be able to hear things which have happened during the past year and some of the exciting things which will be coming up in 2014!

If you are chair of a committee, organization or group in the church which has had events, or other news in the past year the deadline for getting your information into the office for this year's Annual Report is January 15th. Please get your information into the office so it can be formatted for distribution to the congregation at the annual meeting.



A BEAUTIFUL STORY - A NEW YEAR'S GIFT FOR YOU

This helps you understand that things happen for a reason. The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry, to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn, arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve. They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc, and on December 18 were ahead of schedule and just about finished. On December 19 a terrible tempest - a driving rainstorm - hit the area and lasted for two days. On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high. The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity, so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory colored, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colors and a Cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church.

By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area.

Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?" The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials 'EBG' were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria. The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten "The Tablecloth". The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. He was captured, sent to prison and she never saw her husband or her home again. The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home. That was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job. What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return. One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighborhood, continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving. The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike? He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again in all the 35 years between. The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine. True story - submitted by Pastor Rob Reid



January 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 First Sunday Epiphany One Service 10:00am Lunch Following	6 11:00 Fellowship Mtg 7:00pm Scouts	7 Access 10am-2pm 10am Sisters' Circle Noon Pizza and Gospel 5:30 pm AA ~ Wicker 7:00pm AIAnon 6:30pm ECW Mtg.	1 Eucharist and Healing Service 6:00pm Choir 7:00	2 10 - 4pm Thrift Shop 7:00 pm AA	3 2-5pm Thrift Shop	4 9am - 12 pm Thrift Shop
12 8:30 & 11:00 Holy Eucharist 9:15 Refreshments 9:45 Sunday School 11:45 Refreshments 4:00 Ultreya at St. Albans, Chiefland	13 7:00pm Scouts	14 Access 10am-2pm 10am Sisters' Circle 1:30 Evangelism Mtg 2:30 Outreach Mtg Noon Pizza and Gospel 5:30 pm AA ~ Wicker 7:00pm AIAnon	8 Eucharist and Healing Service 6:00pm Choir 7:00	9 10 - 4pm Thrift Shop 7:00 pm AA	10 2-5pm Thrift Shop	11 9am - 12 pm Thrift Shop Funeral Service 11:00
19 8:30 & 11:00 Holy Eucharist 9:15 Refreshments 9:45 Sunday School 11:45 Refreshments	20 MLK Holiday 	21 Access 10am-2pm 10am Sisters' Circle Noon Pizza and Gospel 5:30 pm AA ~ Wicker 7:00pm AIAnon	15 Eucharist and Healing Service 6:00pm Vestry 7:00pm Choir 7:00	16 10 - 4pm Thrift Shop 7:00 pm AA	17 2-5pm Thrift Shop	18 9am - 12 pm Thrift Shop  Men's Club Meeting
26 8:30 & 11:00 Holy Eucharist 9:15 Refreshments 9:45 Sunday School 11:45 Refreshments	27 6:00pm DOK Mtg.  7:45 Daughters of the King	28 Access 10am-2pm 10am Sisters' Circle Noon Pizza and Gospel 5:30 pm AA ~ Wicker 7:00pm AIAnon	22 Eucharist and Healing Service 6:00pm Choir 7:00	23 10 - 4pm Thrift Shop 7:00 pm AA	24 2-5pm Thrift Shop PH in use pm	25 9am - 12 pm Thrift Shop Diocesan Convention
			29 Eucharist and Healing Service 6:00pm Choir 7:00	30 10 - 4pm Thrift Shop 7:00 pm AA	31 2-5pm Thrift Shop	



SERVERS' SCHEDULE JANUARY 2014



Date	Service	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Usher	Greeter
5-Jan-14	Single Service 10AM	Rodney Paul Suki Hoffman	Mary Rynd	Robert Menzen Clay O'Neal	Jane Menzen Kelly O'Neal
12-Jan-14	8:30	Chris Greenfield	Chris Greenfield	Eric Beshore	Ann Beshore
19-Jan-14	11:00	Kristi Gregory	Kristi Gregory	Will Flynn	Carol Flynn
	8:30	Paul Stegall	Paul Stegall	Rodney Paul	Vi Paul
	11:00	Sharon Jax	Sharon Jax	Liz Middleton	Joyce King
26-Jan-14	8:30	Rodney Paul	Jeanne Eaton	Jeanne Eaton	Donna Eichelsderfer
	11:00	Bob Tickle	Liz Middleton	Liz Middleton	Bettye Zowarka
Vestry	Virginia Smith and Bob Tickle				
Altar Guild	Cinnie Brown, Betty Griffith				

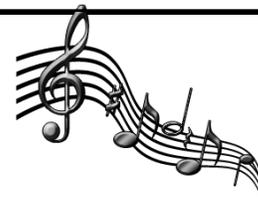
Thank you for placing yourself in the service of Our Lord and His Church. If you are unable to serve on your scheduled date, please arrange for your replacement and notify the office.



VALENTINE'S DINNER

Do you want to do something special for Valentine's Day but don't want to have to travel into Gainesville? We have a very special dinner planned for the evening, photos will be taken and the entertainment will delight you! Everyone attending will receive their own special Valentine and it's a great time to show a loved one (husband, wife, sister, brother, neighbor or friend) that you care.

MELROSE WINTER JAM AT TRINITY



On Saturday, February 8th Trinity will sponsor a "Winter Jam" for all lake area youth in grades 6 thru 12. From 4 to 8pm a band from Jacksonville and a DJ will provide the music and church groups as well as individual kids are invited to the event. This will be the first of several events which will be aimed at increasing youth participation at church sponsored events. Adults who have taken the "Safeguarding Our Children" class are invited to come and help with food or security. If you would like to help in any capacity, please contact John Katterhenry. The event is free for everyone so if you have friends or neighbors with kids who are in Jr. or Sr. High School, please invite them to come and join in the excitement!

The Top Funny, Fascinating, and Unusual World Wide Customs To Celebrate New Year

Baby New Year Tradition - The tradition of using a baby to signify the New Year was started around 600 BC by the ancient Greeks, who, at the start of a year would carry a baby around in a basket. The purpose of it was to honour Dionysus, the God of Fertility and symbolize his annual rebirth. This custom is still practised in parts of Greece.

Hogmanay - The New Year in Scotland is called Hogmanay. Some people in Scotland follow a ritual that appears quite strange but it actually has a great significance. One can find barrels of tar set on fire and gradually rolled down the streets in the villages of Scotland. This ritual symbolizes that the old year is burned up and New Year is going to begin.

Eating Noodles - Late on the evening of December 31st, people from Japan might eat a bowl of buckwheat noodles called "toshikoshisoba" [year-crossing noodles] and listen for the sound of the Buddhist temple bells, which are rung 108 times at midnight. The sound of these bells is said to purify the listeners of the 108 sins or evil passions that 'plague every human being'.

5. Eating 12 Grapes - In Spain people eat 12 grapes as the clock strikes midnight (one each time the clock chimes) on New Year's Eve.

This peculiar ritual originated in the 20th century when freak weather conditions resulted in an unseasonable bumper harvest of grapes. Not able to decide what to do about so many grapes at Christmas time, the King of Spain and the grape growers came up with the idea of the New Year ritual.

Gifts in Shoes - In Greece children leave their shoes by the fireside on New Year's Day, which, incidentally, is also the Festival of Saint Basil in Greece, with the hope that Saint Basil, who was famous for his kindness, will come and fill their shoes with gifts.

New Love - Apparently, in Mexico, wearing red underwear on New Year's Eve is said to bring new love in the upcoming year.

Black-eyed peas - Many parts of the USA celebrate the new year by consuming black-eyed peas. These legumes are typically accompanied by either hog jowls or ham. Black-eyed peas and other legumes have been considered good luck in many cultures.

It is still held, for example, in some regions that special New Year foods are the harbingers of luck. For that reason, the Dutch believe that eating donuts on New Year's Day will bring good fortune. The hog, and its meat, is considered lucky because it symbolizes prosperity. Cabbage is another "good luck" vegetable that is consumed on New Year's Day by many. Cabbage leaves are also considered a sign of prosperity, being representative of paper currency.

**Trinity Episcopal Church
204 SR 26
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2014

SPECIAL EVENTS COMING SOON

JANUARY

- Jan. 1-6 Office Closed**
- Jan. 5 First Sunday One Service at 10:00am
Epiphany Sunday**
- Jan. 6 Fellowship Meeting 11:00am**
- Jan. 7 ECW Dinner Meeting 6:30pm**
- Jan. 14 Evangelism Meeting 1:30pm
Outreach Meeting 2:30pm**
- Jan. 15 Vestry Meeting 7:00pm**
- Jan. 18 Men's Club Meeting**
- Jan. 24—25 Diocesan Convention**

REGULAR EVENTS

Sunday : 8:30 & 11:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:15 am Coffee
9:45 - 10:45am Children's Sunday School
Noon Coffee

1st Sunday of the Month
One Service only at 10:00am
In the Parish Hall

Tuesdays: Noon Bible Study at Betty's

Wednesday: 6:00pm Eucharist and Healing Service

Thrift Shop
Open 10 am to 4 pm Thursday
2 pm—5 pm Friday
9 am—Noon Saturday

Access Program
Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am—2pm

