

The Trinity Bell

Rector's Reflections

Worship Advent-ures



Happy New Year! No, really. I'm not a month off. Unlike the Roman calendar, the Christian year begins on the first Sunday of Advent, which falls on November 29 this year. In our worship we will be moving from Year B to Year C, which means that most of our gospel readings will be from Luke for the next twelve months. (Year A is Matthew, Year B is Mark, and John is sprinkled throughout all three years.)

Advent, of course, is also a season of getting ready for the birth of Jesus. Often referred to as a kind of mini-Lent, its themes include quiet preparation, penitence, and wakefulness. It's sort of ironic, isn't it, that what turns out to be the most busy, hectic, and harried season of the year is *supposed* to be exactly the opposite. We are *supposed* to be hunkering down, meditating quietly, and preparing our hearts for the birth of God in human form.

Since it's so hard to carve out a space in our lives for these Advent observances, we are going to incorporate them into our 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship this year.

First of all, to touch on the theme of wakefulness, the worship service will change up a bit. We will speak in places that we often sing, and vice versa. We will use some new language at times. Why? Because when we use the same language all the time, our words can become automatic and lose their meaning. Using new language will help to *wake us up* to what it is we are actually saying.

Secondly, to observe the theme of quiet preparation, we will be incorporating a bit more silence into our worship. Please honor this season by maintaining quiet in the sanctuary before worship begins. The Prayers of the People will also extend its periods of silence a bit, to give us all a chance to breathe and lift up our own prayers in a contemplative way.

Of course, it is not likely that we are all going to like every single change in our December services. But I invite you to enter into these liturgical adventures in the spirit of the season: prepare for Christ's coming with wakefulness, light the candle of quiet prayer, watch and wait.

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The Deacon's Pen

Bishop Larry Benfield, Bishop of Arkansas recently wrote an article in *THE ASSOCIATION FOR EPISCOPAL DEACONS* monthly newsletter reminding Deacons of our responsibilities saying “We are to help the poor, help the weak find their strength, help the sick see the wholeness that is inside them, help the lonely feel confident.” In addition to what Bishop Benfield wrote, it is also expected that by taking the Gospel into the world, we seek justice and equality.



With that in mind, I want to share my thoughts on areas that I think concern us all. What is going on in France, the downing of a Russian plane, the threat to Germany and our own country are a big concern to all of us I am sure. I have no one word solution as to how to do away with terrorism, I wish I did, but I know what I think will help and that is PRAYER. Several people have told me they have a rough time saying prayers “off the cuff”. Well, if you have that difficulty, I recommend the section of prayers in our *BOOK OF COMMON PRAYERS*, from pages 814 to 834. There are not many areas of concern that are not covered there.

Another area that really bothers me is how, yet again, our colleges and universities need to bring racial issues to the country's attention. Much progress has been made since the days of Selma, Little Rock and the ministry of Dr. King. But recent events make me wonder if we've gone backwards? Things may have gotten a little better, but we still have major issues of concern. What bothers me the most is WE, persons of all races, do not recognize that we're all human beings, our bodies are all built the same. Some people are shorter in stature and some are taller, skinny or not, the ONLY major difference is the color of our skin. So why can't we, all of us, accept these facts and start finding ways to respect and acknowledge what we really are, brothers, sisters and children of God? Remember the second major Commandment says “Love your neighbor as yourself.” NOWHERE does it say anything about skin color.

So what do I recommend to help in these times of racial and civil unrest in the world and here at home? Again I say, PRAYER. As I see it, there are two major ways we can pray for peace, justice and respect for others. One, every morning, before we start our busy day, stop and pray and especially pray for peace and justice for all human beings. Secondly, pray as a community. Mainline churches are only half-full today according to statistics, so let's fill them up again. Pray as a community on Sunday-- put off shopping, sports, television or whatever for a couple of hours and join us, if you've been away for a while. Remember, our community called Trinity, is a very diverse congregation and although leadership may change, the community has not. In these unsettled times in this world, we need to come together and join in prayer, it's the best answer I know.

In closing, I want to bring back a saying that was very popular not so many years ago. “A family that prays together, stays together” I want to change that to “A community that prays together stays together.” Let's defeat terrorism, racism, hate and disrespect for others by turning to PRAYER. God Bless us all.

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Faithfully yours,
Deacon Richard



Children's Ministries

December 2015

Christmas Pageant/Chicken Soup Sunday

Mark your calendars, we will be doing a all congregation Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 13.

Everyone is invited to participate. There are no lines to memorize and no practices to attend. Just show up and help tell the story of Jesus's birth.

After the service, join us in the fellowship hall for some wonderful chicken soup and rolls. Bring fresh, cut-up veggies for the soup pots prior to morning service.



Cedar Woods Christmas Party

December 20, please consider an afternoon of caroling, snacking and service with the residents of Cedar Woods. The party lasts around an hour and a half. During this time, we serve snacks, sing, and visit with the seniors.

Family Christmas Eve Service

I am looking for 12 people to help tell the story of the birth of Jesus during the family service at 5:30pm on Christmas Eve. A sign up sheet will be by the Children's worship rooms the first Sunday in December. Please consider being a part of this story telling experience. Most of the parts are non-speaking, if you can walk to a spot and stand in place for a few minutes, you are qualified.

Important Dates

Pageant & Chicken soup	12/13
Cedar Woods Christmas Party	12/20
Christmas Break—No Class	12/27
Christmas Break— No Class	1/3
Youth Sabbath	1/10

Heifer Garden

- We will be choosing animals soon.

Youth Ministries

Rite-13

Rite –13, is our class for 8th and 9th graders this year. This group is similar to J2A in the lessons and discussions, but usually starts each session with a fun game or two to get them started.

Rite 13 Update

Grateful. In the Rite 13 class we're feeling grateful. Grateful for the opportunity to help those in need.

With the support on our Trinity family and some others in the community during our Socktober sock drive, we were able to deliver 345 pair of New, Warm socks to the SOS Resource Center in Ypsilanti to be distributed to people in need.

Socks seem so simple, like they don't require thought and for those of us fortunate enough to have enough they don't require much thought. But for those without enough, I bet they occupy some thought, cold, tired, uncomfortable feet might make some of us think a lot more about socks....

We were also able to deliver 28 pairs of gloves, 4 bags/boxes of assorted clothing and a generous \$250 check from our Trinity Outreach Committee. Our hearts were full!

Thank you for empowering Rite 13 youth and leaders to do some good in this world.

And Thank You for teaching the youth of our parish that we're all responsible for one another and that no matter how old (or young) we are or how much money we have, together we can accomplish great things in the name of God and in Love for One Another.

In Christ

Journey to Adulthood (J2A)

What's Happening inWhat's Happenin' in J2A

We continue our lessons in J2A. We took it light on lessons the Sunday after Halloween, since we had a low attendance. We continued our video series "Joan of Arcadia" which takes similarities from Joan of Arc, but in a more modern high school setting, with God talking to a teenage girl named Joan (of course).

We took one of our class times to invite Eric Travis (our Youth Missioner for Youth and Young Adults (YAYA) from the Diocese of Michigan (and Trinity member) to give us an overview of what is to come, as we prepare for our summer Pilgrimission JUNE 27th - JULY 4th 2016 to work in the Dominican Republic with Episcopal churches there, renovating and

restoring church buildings, and maybe building a septic system. Parents and youth both attended this very informative discussion we had with Eric. By join our small group of youth with the Diocese Youth Camp Compassion Program this summer, this will allow us to save money, and allow our youth to have a much better experience with other youth from our diocese, as well as the opportunity to work, talk and have meals together with local youth and adults. J2A youth and leaders went to the DR in 2013 for the first time with Eric Travis and Camp Compassion. And from my experience with high school youth thru the years, I think that Pilgrimission was one of the best experiences we have given our youth. PARENTS, make sure you have applied for your youth's PASSPORT. If your youth's

passport expires in 2016, you WILL need to apply for a new one ASAP.

Cindy continued our Religions discussion with the youth using their cell phone technology to look up and research the religions that started from the family of Abraham. There are 3 main religions that came from this lineage. Do you know? If not, ask a J2A youth! They did quite well, and we all learned new things (I believe) that we didn't know before. It was interesting to watch the different ways the youth approach there searching and queries on the internet. Thanks Trinity so much for getting our Wi-Fi back up and running downstairs! We will be using it much over the next few weeks. We also will begin doing research on the DR. researching history, industries, population, culture,

religions, etc. for that country before going there this summer.

Our youth will once again be selling Luminary bags to put out for our Christmas Eve's late service. Bag sells will begin in December for \$1, after services in the Parish Hall, and during the Chicken Soup Dinner on December 12th.

Events:

Luminary sells start December 5th.

Cedar Woods Christmas Party - Dec. 20th 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Activities Coming Up

T.B.D.

Cyndi & Peter

Your J2A Leaders

December Birthdays

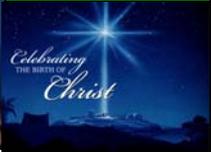
4th	Nosa Obaseki	18th	Trenton Hill
6th	Tammy Mayrend	20th	Cynthia Coleman
7th	Kathryn Truesdell	21st	Lucille Jean Wilson
8th	Maggie Penhorwood	27th	Virg Stoltz
9th	Doris Novak	29th	Valarie Altizer
10th	Anu Power		Jenifer Dapsi-Morse
12th	Diane Wilson		
16th	Joe Dapsi		
	Mary Hill		



May your marriage be blessed with love, joy and companionship!

A very *Happy Wedding Anniversary* to you!

3rd	Rae & Bev Thom
6th	Lynn & Arleen Robson
18th	Melvin & Sharon Peters
19th	Eric & Julie Travis
22nd	John & Janet Oliver
29th	Pete & Jackie Gregory
30th	Steve & Cheryl Miller
	Christopher & Tracee Kloian
31st	Joe & Marlene Dapsi
	Randy & Lou Hotten
	Okechukwu & Sara Ezuika
	Ian & Maggie Penhorwood

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		11:00 a.m. A.A. 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	10:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts	6:30 p.m. High School Mentoring	7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	8:00 a.m. Altar Guild 6:00 p.m. Bradberry/ Zbytowski Wedding
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
*Regular Sunday Services 12:00 noon Vestry Meeting 2:00 p.m. Cedar Woods Ministry 4:30 p.m. Synoptic Gospel Study	7:00 p.m. A.A.	11:00 a.m. A.A. 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	10:30 a.m. Bible Study	6:30 p.m. High School Mentoring	7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	8:00 a.m. Altar Guild
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Christmas Pageant/Chicken Soup *Regular Sunday Services Healing Prayer 4:30 p.m. Synoptic Gospel Study	7:00 p.m. A.A.	11:00 a.m. A.A. 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	10:30 a.m. Bible Study	6:30 p.m. High School Mentoring	7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	8:00 a.m. Altar Guild
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
*Regular Sunday Services 1:30 p.m. Cedar Woods Christmas 4:30 p.m. Synoptic Gospel	7:00 p.m. A.A.	11:00 a.m. A.A. 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts		 Office closed	 Office Closed	8:00 a.m. Altar Guild
27	28	29	30	31		
*Regular Sunday Services 4:30 p.m. Synoptic Gospel Study	7:00 p.m. A.A.	11:00 a.m. A.A. 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts		 Office closed		

Dec. 2015	Sunday December 06	Sunday December 13	Sunday December 20	Sunday December 27
8 am EM	Randy Hotton	Cynthia Coleman	Cleda Smartt	Randy Hotten
10:00 am EM Bread	Deacon Richard	Bev Jenkins	Deacon Richard	Deacon Richard
10:00 am EM 1	Bev Jenkins	Dennis Bramigk	Erica Fulton	Kate McCutchen
10:00 am EM 2	Darryl Conliffe	Adesuwa Obaseki	Eddie Fulton	Brenda Thom
10:00 am Acolytes	Colin Fulton Ellie Russell Katherine Russell	Reilly Penhorwood Ethan Fulton Cajsa Melms	Miranda Twiss Ethan Locke Tanner Locke	Volunteers Needed
Welcomer	Dave Anderson	Deb Green	Sue Carpenter	Judy Anderson
Welcomer	Judy Anderson	Nancy Copeland	Sara Eziuka	Dave Anderson
Giftbearer	Nancy Copeland	Eric Travis	Fay Taylor	Eddie Fulton
Giftbearer	Andy Melms	Charlotte Drake	Grace Wangbickler	Erica Fulton
Lector	Sharon Peters	Charlotte Drake	Eric Travis	Jennifer Melms
Altar Guild	Bev Thom (On Call)	Bev Thom (On Call)	Bev Thom (On Call)	Bev Thom (On Call)
Altar Guild	Erica Fulton	Erica Fulton	Erica Fulton	Erica Fulton
Altar Guild	Kathy Graham	Kathy Graham	Kathy Graham	Kathy Graham
Altar Guild	Sally MacMullan	Sally MacMullan	Sally MacMullan	Sally MacMullan
Counter	Julie Travis	Harry ven Gelder	Debra William	Kraig Wilson
Counter	Dave Anderson	Eric Travis	Kate McCutchen	Sean Hanoian
Coffee Hour Host	Liz Cameron	Obaseki	Ezuika	Sign up in Parish Hall
Bread Makers				December Kathy Graham



December 2015

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Holy Eucharist: Sundays — 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
Church Office Manager: LeAnna Dickerson

Vestry

Senior Warden—Sue Carpenter	697-7229	Junior Warden—Morris Altizer	730-8247
Vestry Secretary—Pat Gearns	905-0322		
Sara Eziuka	248-207-8201	Ian Penhorwood	485-6254
Jeff Hill	587-2060	Bonnie Martin	699-6487
Mia Gregory		Eddy Fulton	484-1694
Debra Williams	368-1138	Jamie Owen	604-9741

Rector—The Rev. Ian Reed Twiss

Deacon—The Rev. Richard O. Boulter

Church Treasurer—Sean Hanoian

Sexton (janitor)—Brenda Bonior

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