

# Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church  
The Episcopal Church in Athens since 1842  
703 South Main Street (office at 701) Athens, PA 18810  
The Rev. Benjamin Lee Lentz, Long-Term Supply Priest

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## Advent - Christmas - December, 2021

### STEWARDSHIP

Time ♦ Talent ♦ Treasure

When the vestry sent out a letter along with your stewardship pledge card for 2021 last December, it was

a more painful than usual letter to write. We were closed – again – no one was vaccinated, and we had no idea when we might be able to gather again, but there was hope:

*This will be a difficult winter, but there is light ahead: two of the many trial vaccines for Covid-19 are looking extremely promising. Sometime in the coming year we will be able to return to what we once thought of as normal life. Hopefully, none of us will take that for granted anymore, but will cherish each day, each person we meet, each moment we worship, and give thanks.*

It was a difficult winter. But we were so blessed by the creativity and generosity of our small church family - Fr. Ben worked incredibly hard on an exceptional Bible study, Barbara and Alan Caum produced videos for Christmas and Easter, and our vestry kept meeting, masked and socially distanced, to take care of the business of the church while you all took care of each other. And by Spring, nearly all of us were

vaccinated, we were able to resume worship in July, and we did give thanks – we are still giving thanks – for our fellowship and for each one among us.

As we noted in our brochure from two years ago, there is a great deal of truth in the children’s song: *The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting-place, the church is the people: I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together – all who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes, we’re the church together.*

As the church, we celebrate the abundance of all the gifts we have been given; and from that abundance we are called to give back - to each other, the community, and to the wider church and its ministries. Although the vestry asks you to make a monetary pledge so that the bills can be paid – insurance, salaries, utilities, diocesan assessments and such, you are also asked to share yourself – your gifts and talents. Please, fill out both sides of this form, prayerfully considering how you might contribute your time as well as your treasure. With each passing year we all realize that time is precious, and a great gift when we share it as the church – together.



**Trinity Episcopal Church** 703 S. Main Street ♦ Office at 701 S. Main Athens, PA 18810 ♦ 570-888-5715

As a faithful steward of God’s bounty, I/we pledge a definite share for the work of the church in 2022, within the parish and beyond. *[This commitment may be increased or decreased due to changing circumstances]*

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per  week;  month;  one-time gift

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

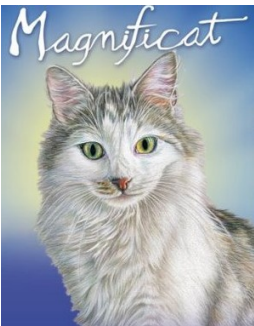
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Cell \_\_\_\_\_

**Rumination: Advent, 2021**

The Rev. Benjamin Lee Lentz

At this time of year, during the season of Advent,



our attention is drawn to the *Magnificat*. Although many of you might expect of me something about felines, the *Magnificat* is better known as the *Song of Mary*. Episcopalians know the opening line: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” I’d encourage

you to look up the rest of it – Luke 1:46b-55 – because it is ultimately a sermon on humility.

Humility: a subject that many “Christians” in America should not avoid contemplating.

It was in 1933 that a young Dietrich Bonhoeffer, then serving two German-speaking congregations outside of London, reflected upon the *Song of Mary*. He celebrated Mary’s gratitude that God “has been mindful of the humble state of his servant”. Bonhoeffer declared: “[God] loves the lost, the forgotten, the insignificant, the outcasts, the weak and the broken. Where men say, ‘lost,’ he says, ‘found’; where men say, ‘condemned,’ he says, ‘redeemed’; where men say, ‘no,’ he says ‘yes.’ Where men look with indifference or superiority, he looks with burning love, such as nowhere else is to be found. Where men say, ‘contemptible,’ God cries, ‘blessed.’” [Dec. 17, 1933; 4th Sunday of Advent]

Bonhoeffer knew that in Germany in 1933 Adolf Hitler had been appointed chancellor. He knew that the Third Reich – the Nazi Regime – brought an end to the Weimar Republic. He knew that the first concentration camps under the new regime had been established, imprisoning its political opponents, homosexuals, Jews, and others classified as “dangerous.” Extensive propaganda was used to spread the Nazi Party’s racist goals and ideals.

Perhaps most importantly, Bonhoeffer knew that the church in Germany was silently standing aside, never condemning the racism that was beginning to run wildly throughout the country.

Racism starts ever so subtly: a snide remark here, a derogatory comment there. We laugh; we fear making a rebuke toward the utterance; we acquiesce in our silence.

In her own way, Mary spoke up for them. Do we dare to speak up?

Mary spoke of her humility – of the humility that all humanity should have when approaching the throne of God. She is the voice of the humble, of those who recognize God’s graciousness.

I suppose her song would be much easier to contemplate if it were only about “cats”. But it’s not. It’s about those in society that many of us would like to forget. And, it’s about us and how we respond to their need.

Fini

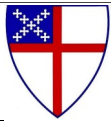
In addition, I will pledge to the Renovation fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per  week;  month;  one-time gift

Ministry

I am interested in learning more about or participating in the following ministry areas:







- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help to host a coffee hour                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with clean-ups           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Become an acolyte   | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with maintenance         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Become a lector   | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Stewardship         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Become a worship leader                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Altar Guild         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Become a Eucharistic minister (chalice bearer)            | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Evangelism          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Become a Eucharistic Visitor (take communion to shut-ins) | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with gardens and grounds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)                                    |  |

*Stewardship Sunday is December 12; you may put it in the Offering plate or mail it in the enclosed envelope.*



# Trinity Episcopal Church - December 2021

## Advent and Christmas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Trinity Cycle of Prayer</b> <b>12/5</b> Kim, Chuck and Logan Cornell. <b>12/12</b> Becky Fiorello, David O'Dell, Brendon Brophy. <b>12/19</b> David and Shelly Fish. <b>12/26</b> Charles and Virginia Ford.		 <b>Fill the Carol Reed Memorial Mitten Tree with socks for all ages through December 19.</b>	<b>Anglicans around the world: 12/5</b> The Anglican Church of Burundi, Archbishop Martin Blaise Nyaboho. <b>12/12</b> The Anglican Church of Canada, Bishop Linda Nicholls. <b>12/19</b> The Church of the Province of Central Africa, Archbishop Albert Chama. <b>12/26</b> The Anglican Church of Central America, Bishop Julio Murray Thompson		<b>The Diocese of Kajo Keji: 12/5</b> Emmanuel Kansuk Parish. <b>12/12</b> St. Philip Dibe Parish. <b>12/19</b> Emmanuel Parish Sokare. <b>12/26</b> Mangalotor Parish and Sodogo-Trinity Easton Primary School.	
<b>The Diocese of Bethlehem - 12/5</b> Calvary, Tamaqua. <b>12/12</b> Christ Church, Towanda, Deacon Lawrence Holman <b>12/19</b> St. Anne's, Trexlertown, The Don Schaible. Education For Ministry. <b>12/26</b> St. Paul's, Troy, The Rev. Hazel B. Hunt.			<b>1</b> AA Intergroup, 5 pm AA 7:30 pm	<b>2</b> AA 5:30 pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  <i>Marny Gerhart</i>
<b>5 Advent II</b> 10 - Holy Eucharist II 11 - Coffee Hour 	<b>6</b> AA 7 and 8 pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> AA 7:30 pm	<b>9</b> AA 5:30 pm <i>Heather Hunsinger</i> <i>Mthr. Hazel Hunt</i> <i>Fr. Ben Lentz</i> <i>Ian Biovins</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12 Advent III</b> 10 - Holy Eucharist II 11 - Coffee Hour <b>Stewardship Sunday</b> 	<b>13</b> AA 7 and 8 pm	<b>14</b>  <i>Nate Schwartzberg</i>	<b>15</b> AA 7:30 pm	<b>16</b> AA 5:30 pm  <i>Dorothea West</i>	<b>17</b>  <i>David Bubniak</i>	<b>18</b>
<b>19 Advent IV</b> 10 - Holy Eucharist II 11 - Coffee Hour <b>**Vestry meets**</b> <b>The Greening of the Church</b> 	<b>20</b> AA 7 and 8 pm	<b>21 St. Thomas the Apostle</b>	<b>22</b> AA 7:30 pm	<b>23</b> AA 5:30  <i>Kay Horton Bennett --&gt;</i>	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> <b>8 pm - Carol Sing and Musical Offerings</b> <b>8:30 - Festal Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> 
<b>26 St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr</b> <b>Christmas I</b> TBA	<b>27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</b> AA 7 and 8 pm	<b>28 The Holy Innocents</b>	<b>29</b> AA 7:30 pm	<b>30</b> AA 5:30 pm	<b>31</b>	<b>The 180th Annual Meeting of the Members of Trinity Church, January 30, 2021, 11 a.m.</b> <i>To seek and serve Christ in all persons</i>

## December at Trinity

Holy Eucharist II, Sundays at 10 a.m. followed by coffee hour in the parish hall, which is located across South Main Street.

**December 12 – Stewardship Sunday** – Please use the form found on Page 1 (and also fill out the back) and place it in the Offering plate. Or, you may mail it so that it arrives at Trinity before 12/19.

**December 19 – Advent IV – The Greening of the Church.** Vestry is scheduled to meet.

**December 24 – Christmas Eve** – 8 p.m. Carol sing and musical offerings followed by our Festal Holy Eucharist.

**Sunday, December 26 – TBA** – Fr. Ben will be out of town. We can either worship with Morning Prayer or cancel our service. The vestry would like to hear from you before making a decision, so please talk to Dan, Marny, Nate, Laura or Marie.

### Coming in January:

**January 30 – the 180th Meeting of the Members of Trinity Church**, following worship. Potluck brunch and meeting. Everyone who regularly attends Trinity is invited to fully participate with seat, voice, and vote. We ask you to prayerfully consider serving on the vestry for the coming year.

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**Sign up to host a coffee hour.** You'll have help with making coffee; your job will be to provide snacks. We'll be grateful for anything you choose to bring.



### Outreach

Our coordinator, **Marie Bubniak**, has been working on gift bags of personal items to be given to clients at the Abuse and Rape Crisis Center. They include towels, toiletries, and more. As you can see (above), we have six ready. This is an on-going Outreach project and you can participate by donating items – consider what you would need if you had to leave home with nothing but the clothes on your back and your children. Talk to Marie if you'd like to know more.

We also continue to fill our grocery basket, located at the base of the baptismal font, weekly with items for the local food pantry. Next time you shop, pick up a few extra items for the basket.

**Many thanks to the intrepid band of ten who helped polish, decorate, move and fix things on November 27 in preparation for Advent. They worked hard and did an amazing job!**

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**Advent - Christmas**  
**December at Trinity**

*To seek and serve Christ in all people*