



THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Trinitarian

December 2016



CHRISTMAS
WORSHIP
SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 11th

11:30am Christmas Caroling
To Homebound
Parishioners

4pm Blue Christmas Service

6pm Women's Christmas
Party at Restaurant 45

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24th

4pm Christmas Eve Service with Christmas Pageant

7pm Christmas Eve Service with Adult Choir

10:30pm Christmas Eve
Adult Choir and Congregation
Carol Sing

11pm Christmas Eve Service with Adult Choir

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25th

9am Christmas Service
with carols led by Jagan-Nath on violin



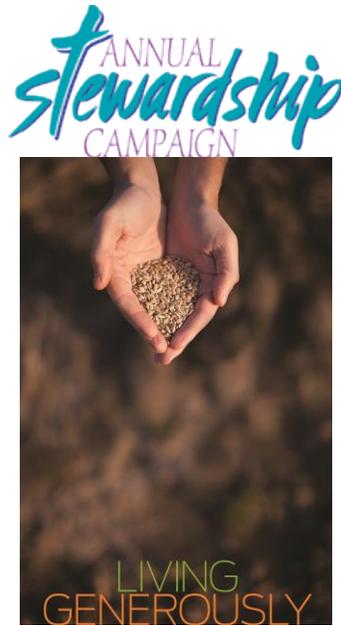
On Sunday, December 11th at 4pm Trinity will host a Blue Christmas service.

This is a service that is meant to provide a serene and a quiet space to allow you to have time to slow down and reflect. Hopefully this will be therapeutic to people who are weary.

Christmas - and the build up to it can be overwhelming. Most of us are burning our candles at both ends. I invite you to come to a peaceful service where you can stop burning those virtual candles. And come light real candles and then sit and be still.

Listen to a song, sing if you feel so moved, listen to a reading and then sit and think about what you heard or how you feel.

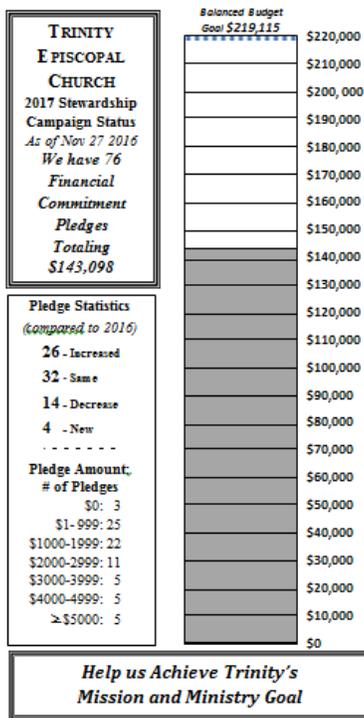
Sometimes it is in the quiet stillness that we hear God and feel that strong presence. I ask you to watch your surroundings the next few weeks. Look at the people around you and think about which of those people look like they need an hour to stop and be still? Invite them to come to this service, offer to go with them if you think you could use an hour of stillness.



On November 13th, we celebrated Commitment Sunday, wrapping up our seven week annual giving campaign, with this year's theme of Living Generously.

For those of you who turned in your pledge, we are grateful for your commitment of both your time and your generous financial support.

The Stewardship Team and Fr. Mac also want to thank our parishioners who volunteered to participate in our Voices from the Pews. Each heart-felt testimony enabled us to reflect upon the unique gifts we are blessed with and how we can best use them to support Trinity Church and our community.



We have now reached 65% of our targeted pledge goal. We have received 76 pledge cards totaling \$143,098 towards our 2017 goal of \$219,115. If you haven't returned your pledge card yet, please do so at your earliest convenience so the Finance Committee can complete its work preparing our 2017 fiscal budget.

- If you are new to Trinity Church and/or the practice of intentional giving...Please feel free to talk to Fr. Mac or the Stewardship team to learn more before making your decision.
- If you are having difficulty in completing your pledge or need additional information about our mission....Please speak to Fr. Mac or a member of the Stewardship team.
- If you can't make an annual pledge at this time...Please return your Pledge Card marked appropriately so we know you still consider Trinity Episcopal Church to be your spiritual home.

Blank forms are available and can be found in the front hallway or speak to Fr. Mac or the Stewardship team to obtain a new one. You can also submit your pledge through the website: www.trinitychurchmilford.org and look for the link at the top of the page.

In closing, let us, together, go forth supporting Trinity's many important and vital ministries made possible only through your generous gifts of your time, talent, and treasures. Thank you!

Father Mac and your Trinity Stewardship Team:
Dianne Belamarich,
John Ellis and
Annie Toffey

***In Heaven
We Feed Each Other***

There is an ancient Chinese parable about an old man who knew he would die soon. He wanted to know what Heaven and hell were like.

He visited a wise man in his village to ask "Can you tell me what Heaven and hell are like?" The wise man led him down a strange path, deep into the countryside. Finally they came upon a large house with many rooms and went inside. Inside they found lots of people and many enormous tables with an incredible array of food. Then the old man noticed a strange thing, the people, all thin and hungry were holding chopsticks 12 feet long. They tried to feed themselves, but of course could not get the food to their mouths with such long chopsticks.

The old man then said to the wise man "Now I know what hell looks like, will you please show me what Heaven looks like?"

The wise man led him down the same path a little further until they came upon another large house similar to the first. They went inside and saw many people well fed and happy, they too had chopsticks 12 feet long.

This puzzled the old man and he asked, "I see all of these people have 12 feet chopsticks too, yet they are well fed and happy, please explain this to me.

The wise man replied, "in Heaven we feed each other."



We will gather to go caroling on Sunday, December 11, after the 10am service, coffee hour, and children's choir rehearsal. This is a wonderful outing for singles, couples, families, and children of all ages! There will be directions for drivers and the words to the carols that we will be singing. After the Christmas Fair there will be a sign-up sheet in the upstairs hallway for singers and car pool drivers.



Financial Report as of October, 2016:

Operating Income: \$180,332
Operating Expenses: \$226,409
Net: (\$46,077)

Pledge Actual: \$149,236
Pledge Budget: \$162,000
Net: (\$12,764)

Prayer for Provision:

Most gracious and generous Father, who gives us each day our daily bread, You have called this parish family to love You, to love our neighbors, and to love one another. We look to You to provide all the resources necessary to fulfill that call, whether they be spiritual gifts, human time and talents or material goods. Thank You for meeting all of our needs through Your riches in Christ Jesus our Lord; who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns now and forever. Amen.



VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR NOVEMBER

Parishioner Sharing – Kudos to Justin Varteresian, Randy Bloom, the Trinity Choir and Dave Scott for their organization and planning of the Community Thanksgiving Evensong service and celebration of Fr. Mac's 10 years at Trinity.

Treasurer's Report – We are \$12K behind on pledges, much of it due to people moving, passing away or changes in economic circumstances.

Expenses were over \$6K but we expect that overall expenses should balance out by year end.

We're underspent on oil at the rectory now that there's a new furnace in place.

Finance Committee Activities – have focused on discussions about the building, the windows, the floor and the rectory bathroom. Planning has begun for the 2017 budget. Magee will be out for much of December and January. Beth Washburn will fill in while she is out.

Capital Campaign Status – We are ready to move forward but a Capital Campaign Committee needs to form. **Note: If you are interested in this work, contact Steve Ketcham, Steve Masse or Fr. Mac.**

Acceptance of Assessment for Common Ministry – A motion was made and seconded from the floor to accept the assessment for common ministry as presented from the diocese. It passed unanimously.

Ministry Issues / Actions

Mission and Outreach –The Laundry Love team is working through some process issues. Our goal is to focus on the people who really need the assistance not to pay for every load of every person that walks through the door.

Women's Dinner – December 11th Sign up in the Parish Hall

Nativity Display – December 17th and 18th. **Note: Share your Nativity Display. Bring it to the church on Saturday morning, December 17th.**

Safe Church – There was a great turn out for our first Trinity hosted/Trinity led Safe Church class. Additional classes will be offered in the spring.

Wardens' Report

Planning Committee for the February Vestry Retreat – The vestry will meet on retreat on Saturday, Feb. 18th. Later in the Spring the vestry will visit the community garden.

RenewalWorks – There was a session on RenewalWorks at convention. We are looking to move forward with this program in the fall.

10th Anniversary Celebration – Fr. Mac expressed his thanks for all the celebrations.

Succession Planning – Vestry nomination forms are available by the sanctuary door. **Note: Consider running for a leadership position. Questions? – Talk to Fr. Mac or any vestry member.**

Rector's Report:

Lessons and Carols Services – Randy Bloom will play and Mary Johnson will lead the Lessons and Carols services on 12/31-1/1.

Sabbatical Planning – Fr. Mac was going to delay his 2017 Sabbatical if Trinity was able to afford to hire an assistant or associate Rector. As it has become clear that hiring an assistant is not feasible, sabbatical will not be delayed. A Sabbatical Committee is being formed to work on the plans for Trinity's Sabbatical while Fr. Mac is away. **Note: If you have an interest in helping shape Trinity's Sabbatical, contact Fr. Mac.**

The Dominican Republic mission trip is on for this summer. The team will be in the DR from July 7 through July 17. **Note: Talk to Fr. Mac or Beth Moeller if you are interested in finding out more about this mission opportunity.**

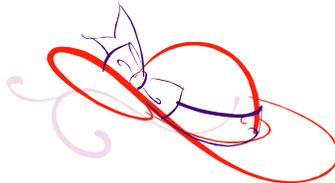
As always, all vestry minutes are available on the Trinity website.



One of the most rewarding and enjoyable tasks I have had over the past few years has been serving as editor of our monthly newsletter, *The Trinitarian*. A few months ago, I made the decision to retire and move to a warmer climate and, a few days ago, I purchased a home in Florida. Since I will be relocating in January, we need someone to volunteer to come forward and take over this very important communications ministry. Generally speaking, it is the job of the editor to initiate, coordinate, write, and edit the newsletter on a monthly basis. No experience needed and training/support is provided.

This is a great way to give back to the church a few hours per month from the comfort of your home. Please prayerfully consider if you are being called to this ministry. Fr. Mac or I will be glad to answer any questions you might have.

Joanne Buerger



FROM THE EDITOR: ADVENT

“For God so love the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

Advent begins a new liturgical year. It is the coming of Jesus. It is the time of coming home. Coming means “arriving, appearing, happening, occurring, and meeting.” Home is defined as “a place where one lives, or was born, reared, or just the place thought of as home.”

Why and when do people come home? They come home for Christmas and other holidays, for family, from the hospital, college, war, trips, remembering childhood memories, and many come home to the church of their choice.

What do they find when they come home? Many find peace, comfort, memories, and a time to visit with family, friends, and God.

Whether you are coming home, going home, or are already home, I pray that the peace of the Lord be with you and yours this Christmas season.

Joanne Buerger

Editor



The Christmas Eve Pageant will take place during the 4pm service on Saturday, December 24th. There are roles for all of our children and all children who may be visiting on Christmas Eve.

Children will choose roles and costumes during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, December 18th. Children who are not present on the 18th will still be able to participate. All children should plan on arriving at Trinity by 3:30pm on December 24th to prepare.

There are also opportunities for adults who would like to help coordinate the pageant. Please let Fr. Mac know if you can help out.



JESSE TREE

If you or someone you know needs assistance at Christmas, please contact the office. *All requests are kept confidential.* The Jesse Tree is at the back of the Church and has slips on it containing requested items. If you'd like to help out someone in need, please take an 'ornament' (slip) off the tree & purchase the item(s) listed. All gifts must be returned to Trinity (placed under the tree) by Sunday, December 18th – **with tags attached!** – to begin distribution. Thank you for your generosity!

Andrew Yaroshefski
For the Mission Committee



TRINITY WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER

Our annual women's Christmas party will be held on Sunday, December 11th at 6pm at Restaurant 45 in Medway. Information is posted in the parish hall with menu choices and sign-up sheet. All monies must be to Gayle Ruscitti by December 4th. Please bring a \$10.00 (maximum) ornament for our fun Yankee swap and your voices for our "Twelve Days" sing along.

All women in the Church and their friends and relations are invited to attend this festive holiday event. A fun and festive time is always had by all.



Poinsettias will be ready for Delivery on Saturday, December 10th. There will be a sign up list on a bulletin board at the top of the stairs for volunteers to sign up to bring a plant to some of the people in our church who cannot get out on their own.

Please remember that the poinsettia plant is as delicate as the homebound person you are going to visit. I would not want you to leave either one alone in a cold car, even for a little while.



PRAYER SUPPORT UPDATE

Every first and third week we have a team of people who are in the back of the church to listen to your prayer requests and then we pray with you.

We have two people at the eight and the ten o'clock services. After you have communion you can stop in and visit with us for a moment or two.

We were meeting in the narthex (which is the back of the church, but near the front door.) Now, why wouldn't that be confusing? Like Yogi Berra saying, "Nobody goes to that place anymore, it's too crowded." The Narthex gets awfully cold and it was suggested it may be warmer in the choir room. So we are trying out the choir room.

Anyway, we listen to your concerns. They may be about yourself or someone you care about. Then we pray together. Sometimes we have one person who speaks and the other person just listens and says amen. Sometimes both of us pray out loud. The person asking for prayers usually says amen and most times they thank us.

Many of us are not used to praying out loud. We know how to read out loud along with others out of the bulletin at church, or we think our prayers quietly, but the prayer team does what is called extemporaneous prayer. That means it is off the top of your head. It is a prayer that is custom fit to each person.

So the next time you just want tell someone else about a problem you are having or a concern that you would like to share with others, stop in to visit the prayer team on your way back to your seat after communion.

Remember that we are told when two or more are gathered in prayer, God is there. And anything you tell us is confidential.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Johnson



SYMBOLS OF CHRISTIANITY – ANGEL

Angel, which means "messenger" in both Hebrew and Greek, is a spirit-being God created to perform tasks for him. In the Bible, angels appear in human form (always as men) to deliver divine messages.

Angels appear separately to Joseph and Mary, announcing Jesus' upcoming birth, and "a multitude of the heavenly host" (Luke 2:13) tells shepherds of the Savior's arrival.

Scripture offers little information about angels, though we know some rebelled against God. Among the holy angels, categories include Archangels, cherubim and seraphim.



The ROMEO's will not be meeting in December. The next luncheon will be January 6th. More information will be available closer to the meeting date.



COMMUNITY DINNER

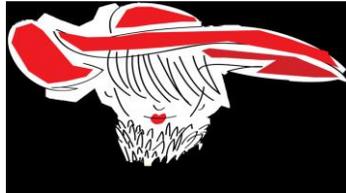
Trinity Church offers free dinners on the last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday every month in a clean, pleasant, and friendly environment.

Anyone who is hungry or lonely is welcome. There are no eligibility requirements. All are welcome to come enjoy fellowship with a satisfying meal.

Our upcoming dinners will take place on December 28th, 29th and 30th. If you are interested in helping prepare and serve the dinner, please contact communitymeal@trinitychurchmilford.org for how to serve in this meaningful mission.



December 15th is the deadline for the January edition of *The Trinitarian*. All articles should be sent to: news@trinitychurchmilford.org



PARTING THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR: HAPPY PEOPLE

Happy people...

Live minimally, tell the truth, never make excuses, take time to listen, don't hold grudges, speak well of others, choose friends wisely, establish personal control, dream big, see problems as challenges, nurture social relationships, avoid social comparisons, treat everyone with kindness, exercise, don't sweat the small stuff, accept what cannot be changed, pray, avoid seeking approval from others, express gratitude for what they already have, eat well, wake up at the same time every morning, and get absorbed in the "now."

May you be a happy person.

Joanne Buerger

Editor

news@trinitychurchmilford.org



**WHO YA GONNA CALL?
ABOUT ANY MINISTRY IN THE PARISH**

Please remember that all Trinity contact email addresses end “@trinitychurchmilford.org”.

Loving God and Each Other

	Leader	Contact
Acolyte Scheduling	Terese Cook	acolyte.scheduling
Acolyte Training	Fr. Mac and Terese Cook	acolyte.training
Altar Guild	Maryellen Yaroshefski	altar.guild
Birthday Card Ministry	Carol Brutsch	birthday.card
Building Maintenance	Paul Sweet	property
Children’s Choir	Randy Bloom & Beth Stochaj	childrens.choir
Children’s Ministry	Marybeth Sweet	sunday.school
Christmas Fair	Gayle Ruscitti & Maryellen Yaroshefski	christmas.fair
- Busy Fingers Table	Lucille Clinkman and Gloria Falcone	busy.fingers
Coffee Hour	8am Debi O’Toole; 10am Audrey Kerxhalli	coffee.hour
Community Dinners	Ruth Warner and Sharon Manoogian	community.meal
Confirmation Classes	Fr. Mac and Wayne Stochaj	confirmation
Covenant Committee	Mary Frances Best	covenant
Dominican Republic Mission	Fr. Mac	dr.mission
EfM	Fr. Mac	fr.mac
Eucharistic Ministers	Peach Warren	lem
Finance Committee	Cheryl Taylor	fincom
Girls Friendly Society (Scholarships)	GFS Committee	gfs
Grounds Committee	Dwight Kee	property
Healing Meals	Mary Johnson	parish.nurse
Lay Eucharistic Visitors	OPEN	parish.nurse
Lay Readers	Peach Warren	lem
Membership Development	John Ellis	membership.development
Mission Committee	Andrew & Maryellen Yaroshefski	mission
Music	Randy Bloom	music
Newsletter	Joanne Buerger	news
Nursery/Child Care	OPEN	nursery
Office	Magee Lambert	office
Parish Nurse	OPEN	parish.nurse
Parish Records	OPEN	records
Pastoral Care	Fr. Mac	Fr.Mac
Prayer Shawl Ministry	June Jones	prayer.shawl
Property Committee	Paul Sweet	property
ROMEO’s	Dave Clinkman	romeos
Senior Choir	Randy Bloom & Mary Frances Best	choir
Sexton (Church Maintenance)	Paul Del Molino	sexton
Stephen Ministers	Fr. Mac	Stephen.ministry
Stewardship	John Ellis, Dianne Belamarich and Annie Toffey	stewardship
Treasurer	Cheryl Taylor	treasurer
Trinity Episcopal Church Women	Sarajane Duncan-Richter	tecw
Ushers	8:am Andrew Yaroshefski; 10am Justin Varteresian	ushers
UTO	Ginny Starkis	office
Vestry	Dwight Kee and John Ellis	wardens
Website Support	Steve Ketcham	webmaster
Welcoming Committee	Annie Toffey and Mary Torian	welcoming
Youth Group	Beth Moeller and Justin Varteresian	youth.group



Thursday, December 1

5pm Laundry Love
6:30pm Yoga Class

Friday, December 2

Saturday, December 3

8:30am AI-Anon
9am Christmas Fair
5pm Worship Service

Sunday, December 4

2nd Sunday of Advent

8 & 10am Worship Services
9am Youth Group
9:15am Choir Rehearsal
11:30am Confirmation Class

Monday, December 5

6pm Senior Girl Scouts Meeting
6:30pm AA – Women’s Meeting
6:30pm AI-Anon – Group Reps
8pm AI-Anon

Tuesday, December 6

6:30am Networking Meeting
12pm AA Meeting
6:30pm Tai Chi
7pm Finance Committee
7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 7

9am Eucharist & Fellowship
12pm AA Meeting
5:30pm Children with Special Needs Support Group

Thursday, December 8

9:30am Staff/Leadership Meeting
6:30pm Yoga Class

Friday, December 9

Saturday, December 10

8:30am AI-Anon
5pm Worship Service

Sunday, December 11

3rd Sunday of Advent

8 & 10am Worship Services
9am Kitchen Crew
9:15am Choir Rehearsal
9:45am Sunday School
11:30am Christmas Caroling
4pm Blue Christmas Service
6pm Women’s Christmas Party

Monday, December 12

6:30pm AA – Women’s Meeting
7pm Vestry Meeting
8pm AI-Anon

Tuesday, December 13

6:30am Networking Meeting
12pm AA Meeting
6:30pm Tai Chi
7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 14

9am Eucharist & Fellowship
12pm AA Meeting

Thursday, December 15

Newsletter Deadline

2pm Cadette Girl Scouts Meeting
6:30pm Yoga Class

Friday, December 16

Saturday, December 17

8:30am AI-Anon
10am Girl Scouts Meeting
5pm Worship Service

Sunday, December 18

4th Sunday of Advent

8 & 10am Worship Services
9am Youth Group
9:15am Choir Rehearsal
9:45am Sunday School
11am Organ Committee
11:30am Confirmation Class

Monday, December 19

6pm Senior Girl Scouts Meeting
6:30pm AA – Women’s Meeting
8pm AI-Anon

Tuesday, December 20

6:30am Networking Meeting
12pm AA Meeting
6:30pm Tai Chi
7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 21

St. Thomas, Apostle

9am Eucharist & Fellowship
12pm AA Meeting
5pm Laundry Love
5:30pm Children with Special Needs Support Group

Thursday, December 22

6:30pm Yoga Class

Friday, December 23

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

8:30am AI-Anon
3:30pm Children dress for Christmas Pageant
4pm Christmas Eve Service with Pageant
7pm Christmas Eve Service with Adult Choir
10:30pm Carol Sing
11pm Christmas Eve Service with Adult Choir

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day

9am Christmas Day Service

Monday, December 26

*St. Stephen, Deacon & Martyr
Church Office Closed*

6:30pm AA – Women’s Meeting
8pm AI-Anon

Tuesday, December 27

St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

6:30am Networking Meeting
12pm AA Meeting
6:30pm Tai Chi
7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 28

Holy Innocents

9am Eucharist & Fellowship
12pm AA Meeting
4:30pm Community Dinner

Thursday, December 29

4:30pm Community Dinner
6:30pm Yoga Class

Friday, December 30

4:30pm Community Dinner

Saturday, December 31

New Year’s Eve

8:30am AI-Anon
5pm Worship Service



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Milford, MA 01757

Telephone 508-473-8464
Email (office) office@trinitychurchmilford.org
Email (Fr. Mac) rector@trinitychurchmilford.org
Web www.trinitychurchmilford.org
Worship Schedule Saturday, 5pm
Sunday, 8am and 10am
Wednesday, 9am

December, 2016