

Trinity Church Record



Your Church, My Church, God's Church: Becoming the Beloved Community

Sunday morning or Saturday night, our routine is to calculate the measure of our day, and to leave time to come to church. We make sure we have time to change clothes, perk ourselves up, and head off to the church building. It is a time of joy and comfort. We 'fill up our spiritual tank' and we have time to touch base with dear friends and companions on the way. Some of us even wrap a meal, either before or after, into the mix. It's pretty routine and may not require much calculation. We just get in our vehicle and drive to church. However, it has not always been so.

I remember being told at the first church I served that the service time was set because it worked well for those people who still milked cows. The farmers in the group had enough time to do morning milking and then get to church before having to head back to the farm for the rest of the day. The time for church was very calculated and well thought out.

On my overseas travel, I have seen small villages with only one or two churches, and the houses are close enough together that most people walk to church. Along the way you would pass neighbors, and likely join with them in the procession to church. Kids might wait for friends. Adults might chat about business, or a community happening, or a story they had recently been told. The intimacy of having a church within walking distance is a feeling very few of us have. In fact, in neighborhoods of large (or small) cities, few if any people walk to church, and the church members are quite disconnected from the area in which the church building is located. At St. Christopher's in Roseville where I last served, people came from about seven different communities. There was no way for everyone to be connected to the church's neighborhood.

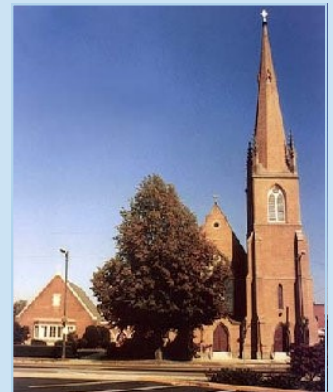
In an era of increased disconnectedness, how then do people come to our churches? It's likely not because they see us walking their sidewalks, or sitting out on the lawn next to theirs. Most likely, if people come to church through any of us, it's because we are in the same book club, or our kids are on the same teams or league, or because we regularly interact with people through our work. The separation and self-fulfilling issue of churches becoming more isolated and isolating feeds on itself.

In 1960, The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., speaking on *Meet the Press*, identified "the [church] hour as the most...segregated hour in Christian America"¹ In the intervening 58 years, that rift has not been overcome. While Rev. King was talking specifically about racial segregation, it has become more than that. We are now segregated by social class, educational achievement, social circles, neighborhoods, as well as race. Rev. King goes on to point out that any church so segregated goes against the teachings of Jesus Christ, and fails to be a witness to Christ in the world.

I wonder what witness we want to be? While our church attendance is important in our lives because of the healing balm we feel, the spiritual life is not limited to our presence in a church building one hour a week. Being part of the community of God is about celebrating the good news of Jesus come near us. It is about the kindness we convey to the world. It is about spreading that joy with all people. And because our lives can be so insular and segregated from others, much of the time we have to be intentional to spread that joy. We have to get out of our regular circle of movement and influence, and engage with others.

January 2019

Volume 8 Issue 1



I wonder what witness we want to be? Are you called to wear clothing that identifies you as Episcopalians and so are a 'visual' witness? Are you called to pray regularly for needy areas and situations in the world where God's children are in danger or under duress? Are you called to engage in a social media presence on behalf of Trinity so that others may know what we profess? Are you called to serve in the Thrift Shop or the Saturday Breakfast Club? Are you called to a regular practice of Bible Study and reflection on how the scriptures might be lived out? Are you called to working on our quarterly community lunches? Are you called to greeting people who walk through, near or around our church property and engage with them in their needs, concerns, and/or joys? Are you called to be at church for specific hours so that the church can be open for people to come in and pray? These are only some of the many ways to be disciples and witnesses on behalf of Jesus Christ. Some of these, hopefully all of these are ways in which God's presence can break into someone's life with our help.

I wonder what witness we want to be together? Do you feel you have the skills and tools to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? Do you need a place to practice your 'message' of what Jesus has done for you? To grow and mature in discipleship, what do you feel that you need that I or others can give you? I will continue to ask in the weeks and months ahead.

In the end, it's about ensuring that God's message can extend to everyone no matter their neighborhood, their class, their occupation, or their age. In order for us to truly become the beloved community that Jesus envisions, we have to invite all to join us. And why would we not want to. Jesus didn't come to remind just me that I am beloved, but that we are all beloved. Let that be our message also.

NOTE:

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King speaking on Meet the Press. Found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1q881g1L_d8

Gifts for Life

Just a reminder that the deadline for donating to Gifts for Life is December 30th.

We have had a great response to this very worthy and meaningful project especially at this time of year as we celebrated the birth of Jesus. Thank you so much to everyone who participated. Wishing a blessed new year to all!

—Jeanne Battisti



Goats



Moms & Children



Clean Water

Vestry Report-November 2018

The December Vestry meeting was held on Tuesday, December 11, 2018.

Finance

The November financial reports were reviewed and accepted. Likewise, the proposed 2019 budget was approved with amendments as discussed. The Financial Audit, done by Nancy Isaacs and Jeanne Battisti, was completed and approved by the Vestry. Treasurer Dori Riggs will send the audit to the Diocese.

The Vestry approved by resolution the Rector's Housing Allowance for 2019.

Discussion began about revisiting implementation of a PayPal or other electronic option to facilitate giving to the church of pledges, memorial gifts, community gifts and others.

Worship

On Sunday, January 27, Bishop DeDe Duncan Probe will be making her visitation to Emmanuel Church. Trinity has accepted Emmanuel's invitation to worship there on that day. Therefore, Trinity's Annual Meeting, has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 3.

In January we will return to worshipping in the Arnot Chapel and, following UBC's departure at the end of January, the plan is to relocate worship to the Parish Hall, which is less costly to heat than the chapel.

January's First Thursday Eucharist will be held on the Second Thursday January 10, due to the absence of Pastor Wanda on January 3rd.

Outreach

The Thrift Shop continues to request donations, in particularly of gently used blankets and coats of all sizes.

Buildings & Grounds

Ted Brooks of Brooks Painting will be submitting a quote for repair of the church ceiling.

Sue Draht and Hank Fuller of All Pro Locksmithing did a walk-through of our buildings. A proposal and quote for reducing the number of keys needed is expected soon.

Arrangements have been made to have the parking lot plowed as needed.

Administration

Susan Nagle reported on the joint Christmas ad for the Episcopal Churches of Chemung County. Trinity's website will be the link associated with the ad; however, once a user reaches our site, links to the other churches for further details will be available. She will pass that information on to the churches along with ad copy for approval.

Personnel Committee members Sue Draht and Shelly Bacmanski have submitted revised job descriptions for the Parish Administrator and Sexton positions.

Following the departure of United Baptist Church, there will be a concerted effort to market spaces in our buildings. Anyone with expertise in this area or community contacts is encouraged to talk to Pastor Wanda or the Wardens.



**Next Vestry
Meeting
December 11
5:30 pm**

Dates to Remember

Sun. Dec. 30	9 am	Lessons & Carols
Thurs. Jan. 10	5:30 pm	1 st Thursday Worship Service & Fellowship Dinner (on the 2 nd Thursday this month)
Sat. Jan 12	11 am-1 pm	Free Community Lunch at Grace, provided by area Episcopal churches
Sat. Jan 19	8:30-9:30 am	3 rd Saturday Breakfast Club, free
Sun. Jan. 27	9 am	Worship & Bishop's Visitation At Emmanuel (No worship at Trinity)
Sun. Feb. 3	8:45 am	Annual Meeting. Slate of Officers presented at 8:45, Worship begins at 9 am.

Faithfully submitted,
Judith Sheasley
Susan Nagle
Wardens of Trinity Church



Parish Office Notice

The Parish Office will be closed on December 31st & January 1st in observance of the
New Year Holiday



Second Place East, Inc.

Second Place East, Inc. is still counting on the individual churches that are involved with its program to donate selected goods in the coming months. January's selected goods are hairbrushes and combs. These goods can be of any brand name, type and size will be acceptable and can be purchased at any Family Dollar, Dollar General, Big Lots, Dollar Tree, or area grocery stores. Please put the designated goods in the basket near the Chapel doors. Second Place East, Inc. thanks everyone for their help in this mission.

Rector's Discretionary Fund

January is Rector's Discretionary Fund Month on the Trinity Ingathering Schedule.

Envelopes will be available in church each Sunday or in the Parish Office if you would like to make a donation.



Fellowship/Hospitality Update

Fellowship/Hospitality Update:

December was a busy month for us. Our first Thursday Fellowship dinner was prepared by Joe Battisti and his sous chef Jeanne. The meal was delicious! Join us on January 10th for January's first Thursday worship service and fellowship dinner. Worship begins at 5:30.

With the coming of the holiday that also means decking the halls. The church looks lovely! Thanks to Jackie, Al, Dan, Judi, Jeanne, Joe, John, Carol, Judy, Gabby, Daureen, Nancy and Elaine. We could not have done it without you! Delicious hospitality provided by Judy and Nancy was also enjoyed by all!

Santa's Christmas pancake breakfast was a great success. Thanks to Mike Buchholz and his family for being head cooks for this event. Tom Padgett made a special request to Santa to come and greet the children who attended the event. Each child got a wonderful snowman ornament for their tree at home. I think Tom also put in a special request to Santa's elves to make these in Santa's workshop. Thank you to all who had a part in this wonderful family event.

We finished the month on the 22nd with another Breakfast Club event. We are happy to invite our community to Trinity for a hot breakfast and fellowship.

As the new year begins, we look forward to welcoming you to our next First Thursday worship service and fellowship dinner.

Submitted by: Lisa Kelly



“Breakfast Club” Free Breakfast

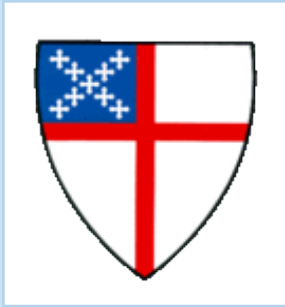
**Third Saturday
January 19**

**8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
Arnot Chapel**

Open to the Community

**Volunteers Welcome
Preparation starts at 7 a.m.
Serving starts at 8:30**





Trinity History Corner

Trinity Church Pew Rental Ends 100 Years Ago

As was customary in the early Episcopal Church, pews were sold or rented to communicants to provide income for the parish and to encourage the worship attendance of entire households. Rental of pews at Trinity existed as early as 1838 according to this notice, which appeared in *The Elmira Gazette* on April 18, 1838:

“The pews of Trinity Church will be rented for the ensuing year, the 1st of May next, at 1 o’clock P.M. at the church, Elmira Vestry.”

Following World War I, there was an initiative at Trinity New York City to discontinue the rental of pews, thus making free seats available to those returning from the war. In January of 1919 their Vestry resolved to make pews free when their current leases expired during the year.

At Trinity Elmira it was announced the same year, during the tenure of the Rev. Henry Hubbard, that all seats were free. It is conjectured that this was in response to the action taken in New York City and likely other Episcopal churches in the country. At that time, offering envelopes came into use at Trinity for the entire support of the church.



Rector’s Open House

Wanda and Melody will be hosting their Annual Open House

January 6, 2019

1-4 pm

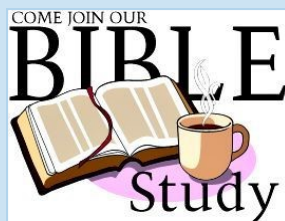
233 Scenic Drive

Horseheads, NY 14845

All are welcome to attend

Paper products and beverages provided.

A dish to pass would be appreciated.



Bible Study

There will be no Bible Study January 2, 2019. We will resume again on January 9th at 10 am at Bell’s Country Coffee, 258 E. 14th Street, Elmira Heights, NY 14903. Come join us!!

**Thursday Eucharist
January 10**

The Season of



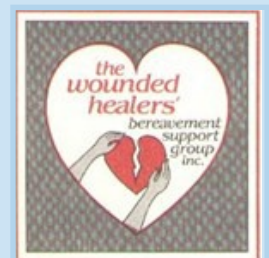
5:30 p.m.

Arnot Chapel

**Dinner following
(free will offering)**

The Wounded Healers' Bereavement Support Group, Inc.

Will meet at St. Mary our Mother School in Horseheads on Tuesday, January 8, 2019
from 7:30 until 9:00 pm. The Topic will be: Annual Memorial Service





Labyrinth News

Third Friday Labyrinth Walks for 2019 begin in February with the popular

Third Annual Walking Meditation and Tibetan Bowl Sound Healing

February 15, 6:30 p.m.

Details will be printed in the February Record.

Watch for the 2019 Labyrinths of Chemung County Schedule, available in mid-January.



EOP Clothing Closet



The EOP has reached out to local churches, seeking assistance in stocking a clothing closet for those individuals who are looking for employment but don't have appropriate clothing to wear to an interview. They are also hoping to stock prom clothing for students who want to attend a prom but don't have a dress or suit.

We will be putting a box in the rear of the church for those donations that you may have. We're looking for men's clothing in the form of suits, sport coats, dress pants and shirts. Women's clothing should be business-type that would be appropriate for an interview.

Thrift Shop Report

What a year! We've exceeded our goal for 2018 thanks to the devoted volunteers we have who are willing to keep the shop open as often as possible. We are a good revenue source for Trinity's operations as well as a great ministry for downtown Elmira's residents.

Our holiday season was very successful with several weeks in a row of over \$200 each week. It will be a change to go back to the January slowdown ;-(

As always, donations are crucial to our operations. Don't forget to mention our need to your neighbors, family and friends. I get a lot of donations from neighbors, they're thrilled to get rid of stuff, I pick it up from them and deliver it to the church, so it's a win/win!

We'll be having a meeting in early January for all current teams and anyone who would like to join us in being on a Thrift Shop team. More details to follow, we hope to have great participation with new and different ideas for 2019. – Sue Draht



Buildings and Grounds Report

We've finished a busy year, maintaining the grounds and keeping the building in good repair. Current projects include inside painting of halls and rooms. We hope to paint the rooms downstairs in the Thrift Shop, starting with the Sunday School room that the UBC will be vacating. We'll get that painted, then move another room into that space, paint that room, and move around again. This is a great chance for us to re-set our Thrift Shop space and spread out some of our displays.

We are also working with a locksmith to look at rekeying the locks, creating zones controlled by one key and standardizing on a single key in an area, rather than multiple keys controlling individual doors.

The nave ceiling project will be done in the spring when the painter is available. With us moving out of the sanctuary for the winter, it will be vacant so waiting until the spring is a good move.

If you see something that needs attention, feel free to note it on the white board in the kitchen or let me or Wanda know so we can communicate with Paul.

—Sue Draht



January Birthdays and Anniversaries

January Birthdays:

1:	Nancy Isaacs	23:	Carol Van Deusen
4:	Benjamin Buchholz	27:	Cathy Callas
12:	Susan Nagle	31:	Steven Snyder
14:	Lorraine Banfield		
20:	Chester Thomas		

January Anniversaries:

30: Steven & Maureen Costello



Free Community Lunch

Hosted by the Episcopal Churches of Chemung County

Saturday, January 12th from 11-1

at Grace Episcopal Church

375 W. Church St., Elmira



Volunteers Welcome!

Set up begins at 9:15 a.m.

Donations of cookies, brownies and bars requested.

(No cakes, cupcakes or pies, please)

Please deliver to Grace Church

by 9:30 a.m. on Sat. Jan. 12.

THANK YOU!!

January 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Office Closed New Year's Day	2 No Bible Study	3	4 Office Closed	5 Thrift Shop Open 9-12
6 Holy Eucharist 9	7 Office Open 1-5	8 Office Open 1-5	9 Children's Clothing Closet 9-11 Bible Study 10 Office Open 1-5 2nd Place East 11	10 Office Open 1-5 Thursday Worship Service & Fellowship Dinner 5:30	11 Office Closed	12 Thrift Shop Open 9-12 Free Community Lunch at Grace 11-1
13 Holy Eucharist 9	14 Office Open 1-5	15 Office Open 1-5 Vestry Meeting 5:30	16 Children's Clothing Closet 9-11 Bible Study 10 Office Open 1-5	17 Office Open 1-5	18 Office Closed Deadline for The Record	19 Breakfast Club 8:30-9:30 Thrift Shop Open 9-12
20 Holy Eucharist 9	21 Office Open 1-5	22 Office Open 1-5	23 Children's Clothing Closet 9-11 Bible Study 10 Aktion Club 5-9	24 Office Open 1-5	25 Office Closed	26 Thrift Shop Open 9-12
27 Holy Eucharist 9	28 Office Open 1-5	29 Office Open 1-5	30 Children's Clothing Closet 9-11 Bible Study 10 Office Open 1-5	31 Office Open 1-5		

Trinity Episcopal Church

304 North Main Street
Elmira, NY 14901
Phone: 607-732-3241
Fax: 607-732-3894
E-mail: info@trinitychurchelmira.org



**Trinity Church: Serving God and
All People in Heart, Mind and Soul**

www.trinitychurchelmira.org

Trinity Staff

Rector: The Reverend Wanda Copeland
Email: pastorwanda24@gmail.com

Office Staff: Melissa Ransom
Email: info@trinitychurchelmira.org

Organist: Sharon Reynolds

Wardens: Judith Sheasley and Susan Nagle

Vestry Members: Lisa Kelly, Sue Draht, Ben Buchholz

Treasurer: Dori Riggs

Clerk of the Vestry: Melissa Ransom

Sexton: Paul Palmer

