

December 2023—January 2024



Keeping the Faith—

Dear Friends in Christ,

We have come to the turning of the Church year. Advent begins on Sunday, December 3 this year. That means we've had a little more time between Thanksgiving and the beginning of the season, but it also means that we have the rare occurrence of Advent 4 and Christmas Eve occurring on the same day. We will have one service that morning—in the Parish Hall to allow our wonderful Altar Guild ample time to "Green the Church" for Christmas. We will have our usual three Christmas Eve services at the normal times and places (see page 7 for the full schedule).

We are also approaching the turning of the secular calendar to a new year. This annual resetting of the calendar naturally leads us to thoughts of reflection over the year that is ending and dreams for the year ahead. The year that is ending has been one of rebuilding, reviewing, and re-thinking. Our Mutual Ministry Study provided a good starting point for assessing the changes that have occurred locally and globally over the past three years. These changes have been significant, and it will take time to process their effects fully. Your Vestry and I will be working on that processing of change, with your input. The year that is ahead will be devoted to discerning and dreaming. Please pray with us for God's wisdom to guide us toward a vision for the future of Holy Trinity's ongoing mission and ministries.

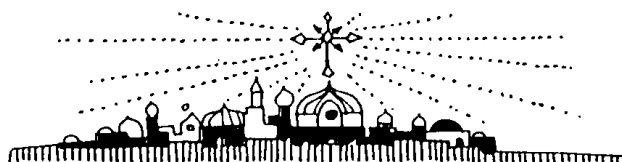
To foster the kind of deep and careful listening that is required in such a process of discernment, I'm asking every member of Holy Trinity to commit to practices of prayer and reading Scripture. A daily practice is ideal, but some may need to ease into that. I have offered some

Leadership Communication

direction in the practice of *lectio divina* on page 22 in this newsletter. *Lectio divina* is simply “holy reading” as an aid to prayer. I encourage you to try it out for a few weeks and to continue with it if it proves to be helpful for your spiritual growth. I also encourage committees and small groups to begin each meeting or gathering with 5-10 minutes of this practice. It is a small thing, but it truly transforms the experience of being together. I hope you will give it a try.

Changes are happening all around us, throughout the fabric of our common lives. Praying and reading holy scriptures together strengthens our relationship with God and each other, which I believe is a key to building the kind of resilience that we all need in order to navigate the coming year. Please join us in this holy experiment—God only knows how it will all work out!

Much love, Suz+



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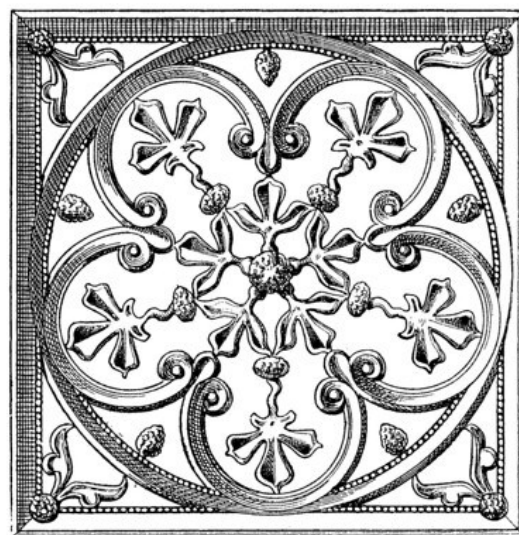
Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00 AM in the Nave: Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:30 AM in the Nave and Livestreamed:
Holy Eucharist, Rite II

5:00 PM in the Nave: Holy Eucharist
(Casual. First Sunday is Evening Prayer.)

5:00 PM at St. Paul's, Pendleton (First Sunday of the Month): Holy Eucharist, Rite I



Tempo Article

Senior Warden's Report – Vestry Update – December 2023

*"If the Lord builds the house, Nobody can tear it down
When it's built on His name, There's nothing gonna shake this ground."*

Lyrics from songwriters Hope Darst & Andrew Holt.

Our monthly Vestry meetings are packed with so much important business, to share it all would fill several pages. So, this Vestry update focuses on progress on a couple of important initiatives identified in the 2023 Mutual Ministry Study.

Assistant Rector. A top priority for Holy Trinity Episcopal Parish is to call an assistant rector to lead Canterbury and support our Parish life. The original reason for the founding and location of Holy Trinity was to serve the Clemson University community. The importance of this mission for Holy Trinity was reaffirmed over the past several years with the acquisition and improvements to Trinity Place and the renovations for Canterbury in the lower level of the Parish Hall. To responsibly call an assistant rector, Holy Trinity needs a sustained financial commitment similar to the financial commitment made for Trinity Place.

Our stewardship campaign had an extended goal to support adding the assistant rector to the 2024 budget. We pray that the generous pledged gifts from parishioners will achieve this goal. A committee consisting of Ellen Haase, Jan Cribb, Jim Reed, Bob Taylor, Bill Purkerson and Charlie Curtis has been established to explore ways to sustainably fund and recruit our next assistant rector. Your prayers and support for the activities of this subcommittee and for successfully calling our next assistant rector will be greatly appreciated.

Vestry Discernment and Transition. Leadership is vital to the future of Holy Trinity. Each year we seek members of the Parish who feel called to serve our church on the Vestry to replace those whose terms are ending. The Vestry offered a discernment session in November to share the roles, responsibilities, and many blessings of Vestry service. Information was provided about expectations and time commitments. If you feel God calling you to Vestry service now or possibly in the future, contact a Vestry member to get more information. Look for Vestry ballots starting on 4 December 2023. New Vestry members will be provided time to get up to speed and be supported during their transition so we can continue to lead Holy Trinity on the mission and ministry God has set for us.

Thank you, Stewardship Ministry! Please join me in thanking our Stewardship Ministry Team for their extraordinary work in guiding us in our prayerful consideration of how we act as stewards of the many blessings God has given us.

Parish-wide Survey. Preparing, launching, and analyzing a survey requires considerable time, effort, and knowledge. Our Survey team of Hap Wheeler, Mel Harriss, Andrew Baker, and Kathy Crouse produced a superb tool to gather information to guide the Vestry as we make plans for our future. Thank you to everyone who has taken time to prayerfully complete the survey.

Next Vestry Meeting is 17 December 2023 at 12:00 PM in the Parish Hall following the 10:30 AM service with Zoom option available. All are welcome to attend. The Zoom link will be provided in the preceding week's **HT Notes**.

Your humble servant and Senior Warden, *Ellen Haase*
Email – elleneddyaase@gmail.com. Mobile – 917.972.6062.



Holy Trinity Stewardship Ministry Update

Our 2024 Stewardship Campaign is well underway and we graciously thank our many Parish Families who have supported this campaign with their pledges of time, talent and treasure. For 2024, our Finance Committee set a Stewardship goal of \$470,000 to support the Mission and Ministry of Holy Trinity. We currently have received **88** pledges for a total of **\$423,594**.

The more we embrace and understand the Stewardship way of life, the more our Parish will grow and flourish. We ask that if you have not pledged to please prayerfully consider making a pledge. Every pledge is important no matter how large or small. We are also asking for your support of our Ministries with your time and talent.

Let's help keep Holy Trinity the beacon of light, love, faith and hope that it has long been for our beloved community.



Sept/Oct 2023 Tempo Financial Report
Bob Taylor, Treasurer

Plate offerings through October 31, 2023 are \$16,631.96 above budget. Pledge offerings for the year are above budget by \$6,968.00 on October 31st. Consequently, total income through October 31st is more than twenty-four thousand dollars above budget.

October 31, 2023 Finances	October Actual	October Budget	Actual Year to Date	Budgeted Year to Date	Difference
Plate Offerings	\$4,776.79	\$4,708.00	\$63,711.96	\$47,080.00	\$16,631.96
Pledge Offerings	\$41,517.21	\$34,167.00	\$348,638.00	\$341,670.00	\$6,968.00
Total Income	\$46,294.00	\$38,875.00	\$413,469.98	\$388,750.00	\$24,719.98
Expenses	\$36,326.26	\$38,877.00	\$357,474.85	\$388,753.00	(\$31,278.15)

Scheduled expenses in November and December will bring the total expenses closer to budget at year's end, but Holy Trinity has been very fortunate this year with very few costly repairs. Unless there are unexpected large expenses/repairs in November or December, expenses will total less than budgeted by several thousand dollars for 2023.

The major reduction in the Trinity Place Loan Balance in 2023 is due to the principal-only payment of \$500,000 from Beth Kunkel's property sale. A few generous parishioners' gifts for principal-only payments have also significantly reduced the loan balance. The loan's originally scheduled payoff of February 2040 has been reduced to April 2031. Football parking revenues and merchant parking revenues are above budget for the year, and Door gifts are near the budget for the year. Thus, Trinity Place funds continue to be sufficient for the monthly \$8,933.77 on the \$1.57 million 2020 construction loan, which is Holy Trinity's only indebtedness. Consequently, it is anticipated that, again, in 2024, all plate and pledge offerings can be designated for Holy Trinity's programs and missions.

Trinity Place Loan Balance, January 1, 2023: \$1,292,524.30
Trinity Place Loan Balance, October 31, 2023: \$707,738.53

Father, truly, we are your servants. In you, we live and move and have our being. We offer you our thanksgiving and call on your name. We love you, Lord, for you hear us and respond in graciousness and compassion and righteousness. You deliver our souls from death, our feet from stumbling, and our eyes from tears. Now receive our tithes and offerings, we pray. Multiply them so that your work and word can go forth. Amen.

Advent: A Time of Preparation

The Season of Advent is a sacred time that allows us many opportunities to watch and wait for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Another name for Jesus we use especially in Advent is Emmanuel, God-with-us. Emmanuel is the Name that reminds us that God chose to live among us, as one of us, being born to Mary in humble circumstances. We also watch and wait for the Second Coming of the Messiah, the Christ, in great glory. In the tension between these two very different Advents, we also watch and wait for the daily visitation with Christ that happens as we pray, read holy scripture, and serve those whom Christ particularly loves, the poor and lowly of the earth. Resources for observing Advent at home will be provided on the First Sunday of Advent when we gather in the Parish Hall to make Advent wreaths and have lunch together.



You will notice several differences in our worship during Advent. The seasonal changes in our worship and in our worship space are meant to call our minds to the themes and moods of the current Liturgical season. Visual cues are a change of color in the vestments worn by the priest, the presence of the Advent wreath, and the lighting of the wreath. You will hear the choir's Introit, a couple of stanzas of O come, O come Emmanuel as the wreath is lit. The hymns will support the Advent themes of preparation, expectation, and contemplation. The collects will highlight the sense of expectation as we move through the Advent Season. We will use Eucharistic Prayer B, with its Incarnational language and imagery. The final blessing will follow the forms provided for seasonal blessing. All of these elements are designed to lead us more deeply into the preparation for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, celebrated in the Christmas Season.



Christmastide: A Time of Celebration

Christmastide is the name that designates the Twelve Days of Christmas, beginning with Christmas Eve. The liturgical color is celebratory white, and the churches will be decked with greenery. We will begin our celebration with **Lessons & Carols at St. Paul's on December 17 at 5:00**. This is not technically within Christmastide, but with a foreshortened Advent Season, this is logistically the best time for the beloved tradition of "hearing the story of salvation through the reading of scripture and singing of carols."

The creche will be the focus of our **Children's Service at 4:00 on Christmas Eve at Holy Trinity**. Our resident artisan woodworker, Chesley Rowe, has created a new, larger, and more visible creche that is quite lovely. The accompanying picture provides the "legend" of the creche's source materials. Of special interest is the information that the "floor, back, and roof of the creche are yellow pine salvaged from the original floor of Holy Trinity Church built in 1899."

The creche was made with salvaged wood from our yard and woods. The woods used in the 'beams' are Eastern red-cedar, Eleagnus, Dawn-Redwood, Tulip-poplar, and Coastal Redwood. The wood used for the floor, back, and roof of the creche are yellow pine salvaged from the original floor of Holy Trinity Church built in 1899.

Chesley Rowe November, 2023

Our Traditional Christmas Eve Service at Holy Trinity at

7:00 will feature our favorite string trio and Christmas Choir. The final service of the night will be an **Almost Midnight Christmas Mass at St. Paul's at 10:30**. Finally, on Christmas morning, we will have our **Christmas Day Service in the Parish Hall at 10:00**. At this service, we prepare Christmas Dinner for Clemson Meals on Wheels clients in lieu of a sermon—what better way to respond to the story of Christmas? Details about contributing prepared dishes for this ministry are located on page 12 of this newsletter.

LET US
ADORE HIM
Christ the Lord

Schedule of Seasonal Events

Advent Festival: Sunday, December 3, following the 10:30 am service in the Parish Hall

Lessons & Carols: Sunday, December 17 at 5:00 pm at St. Paul's

Christmas Eve Children's Service: Sunday, December 24 at 4:00 pm at Holy Trinity

Christmas Eve Traditional Service: Sunday, December 24 at 7:00 pm at Holy Trinity

Christmas Eve Almost Midnight Mass: Sunday, December 24 at 10:30 pm at St. Paul's

Christmas Day Service with Meals on Wheels: Monday, December 25 at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall





CLEMSON COMMUNITY CARE

SAVE THESE DATES!

Clemson Community Care Kicked Off the Holiday Food Drive November 6.

During the Holiday Food Drive, local grocery stores participate with Clemson Community Care to collect frozen turkeys and other holiday food items for distribution to their clients before Thanksgiving, so all in our community can share with us in a joyous holiday season. Frozen turkeys can be purchased at Publix, Ingles, or the Food Lion in Pendleton, starting on November 6. You can take your turkey to the check out, pay for it and leave it there, or you can bring it and drop it off at CCC, Monday through Thursday between 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Volunteers will be picking up turkeys daily from sponsoring grocery stores.

Additional items on the Holiday Food Drive wish list are:

2 lb sugar	Pasta sauce (plastic jar)
Canned vegetables	Dry pasta/spaghetti
Canned beans	Canned tomatoes
Pork and beans	Tomato sauce
Soup	Peanut butter and jelly
Canned meat/fish	2 lb flour/cornmeal
Shelf-stable milk	Canned fruit
Grits/oatmeal	Dry beans

December 1 TRIO Fundraiser

Start your holidays with us!

Clemson Community Care will join our friends at the Clemson Free Clinic for a holiday event focusing on helping those in need. The TRIO fundraiser supporting Hope, Health, and Community will be held from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and will include hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer, and an auction. A flyer is included in the newsletter on the next page.

CCC and Clemson Free Clinic work closely together to serve the residents in our community by providing basic needs-- food, shelter, utilities, and medical care. The money raised from this event will help both organizations to provide for their clients. Tickets are \$50 each, and thanks to local sponsors, all proceeds go to CCC and Clemson Free Clinic. Come join us on December 1 to kick off the holiday season with a focus on helping our neighbors in the Clemson, Central and Pendleton communities.



Come Join Us



FOR A COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING EVENT



Trio



HOPE • HEALTH • COMMUNITY



WINE AND BEER TASTING

Come taste a variety of wines and specialty beers!

Heavy hors d'oeuvres
Raffles and Live Auction



HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH • FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1 • 6:00 - 9:00PM

Tickets

AVAILABLE AT HUBBARD YOUNG PHARMACY
\$50 PER PERSON OR \$175 FOR FOUR



Ruth B. Wood Foundation



Isabel Candela

Tommy Campbell



Lee Woods

Jim Hill

Lance Vischer



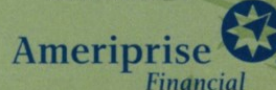
KITE HILL
BREWING CO



Wendy's



Mark Miesbauer



CCC is looking for a Finance Director



Do you know of someone who is looking for part time work, and who wants to use their talents to help others? This is a perfect match for them. The team at CCC is a really great one to work with. The primary responsibilities of the Finance Director are record keeping, data entry and processing, monthly reporting, client and organizational bill payment and working with other staff members to ensure quality services are provided to all clients of CCC. Applicants must be proficient in Quickbooks, Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Word, have the ability to lift 30 lbs, and pass a background check.

Applications will be accepted through December 30. Email a cover letter and resume to ccc@clemsoncommunitycare.org. Any questions may also be directed to this email address.

Report from your CCC Board representative Rachel Rowe:

Each month we keep setting records, many of which we'd rather not set! Record for most clients seen, most food distributed, and worse yet, lowest food inventory to date. Consequently, we are having to purchase more food items each week just to fill the bags with basic items to feed our clients and their families. These days, we rarely have any 'extras' to give them, for example, coffee, tea, condiments, personal hygiene products, and paper products. These extras are relatively expensive things that we take for granted in our own lives. Please keep CCC in mind when you do your weekly grocery shopping or if any of your clubs are looking for an outreach project.



If you want to volunteer, donate or know of someone who needs assistance, check out our *newly updated website!* It's really very easy to maneuver and provides tons of useful information. Click [here](#) or access the QR code to visit.



Family Promise of Pickens County was established to serve the immediate needs of homeless families in our county who are in crisis. They work together with local congregations to provide shelter, meals and support for families to achieve self-sufficiency. Your contributions help families get back on their feet. You can



visit their website by clicking [here](#) or accessing the QR code.

Family Promise has acquired a storage unit now, so they are able to take gently used items such as bedroom and living room furniture, tables and chairs, dishes, glassware, utensils, rugs, lamps, bookshelves, curtains, towels, baby furniture, laptops, iPads, appliances, TVs (please make sure electrical equipment is in working order).

Gift Cards are always at the top of the list of things they can use. Gift cards can be used to purchase items for each guest's specific needs, some examples are WalMart, Ingles, Restaurant cards, and Visa cards.

Stay tuned for more opportunities to volunteer with the families themselves as Family Promise gears up to house families in local churches again. Please see the following page for the Family Promise donor letter.



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CASE MANAGER

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Murray Hughes

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Jan Petersen

November 15, 2023

Dear friends, neighbors, and community members,

Welcome to the giving season. Family Promise of Pickens County is most thankful for the generous support we receive from this wonderful community. We know that many of you will be contemplating support for your favorite charities at this time of year. We pray that you will consider the work of Family Promise to be worthy of your continued support.

Family Promise of Pickens County
104 Stewart Drive
Easley, SC 29640
EIN: 45-5195142

You can also donate through our website at the following link or
<https://www.familypromisepickens.org/>

Your gifts and donations have allowed us to continue to shelter families grappling with homelessness. Ideally, we can prevent eviction, keeping families in their homes as they work toward financial self-sufficiency. Our small but dedicated staff of three continues this important work for our struggling families in Pickens County.

Thank you so much for your consideration and most importantly your ongoing support of Family Promise.

God Bless,

Christy Wistar

Christy Wistar, President

[Family Promise of Pickens County](https://www.familypromisepickens.org/)

104 Stewart Drive, Easley South Carolina 29640

Christmas Day with Meals on Wheels

For many years, Holy Trinity has provided Christmas Dinner for Clemson Meals on Wheels. The dishes for the meal are mostly prepared in advance and dropped off at the church on Christmas Eve or brought in on Christmas morning. A team warms up those dishes that need to be served hot and prep for packaging the meals for delivery. The actual packaging takes place in the Parish Hall as the “sermon” for the Christmas Day Holy Eucharist. The congregation for the service works with the cooking team to package and box up the meal for the route drivers to deliver to their clients. This is a special and very moving way to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

We also deliver Christmas Dinner for any parishioner who would like to receive a delicious hot meal on that day. If you would like to receive one, or if you know someone who does, please contact the church office to make arrangements to have Christmas Dinner delivered.

The link for the sign up to cook a dish or to be part of the prep team will be sent in HT Notes. Or you can use the QR code provided here to access the sign up.





Rise Against Hunger

A note from your Outreach Committee

We were recently contacted by a member of The Church of the Ascension in Seneca, requesting support for their joint efforts with Walhalla Presbyterian Church to address global hunger through the Rise Against Hunger organization. This year, Ascension and Walhalla Pres joined together to sponsor an assembly line-like process meal packing event at which they packed 10,000 meals in 2 hours. The way Rise Against Hunger works is to provide everything needed for these local events down to the music, stylish hairnets and stories of true impact to give your team a fun and team-building experience. What you provide is funding and labor. Not only are you making a huge impact worldwide, but you are sharing in the lives of those in your group. The events can be multi-generational from the oldest to the youngest finding a place in the assembly process.

The assembled vacuum-sealed meals provided by Rise Against Hunger, contain 20 vitamins and minerals, and include local regionally-procured food items to meet a specific community's needs. Rise Against Hunger safety net programs not only provide nourishment, but also support for education, skills training, and health services that aid the difficult journey out of poverty.

If you are interested in supporting Ascension's efforts or knowing more about their meal packing event, you can contact the Church of the Ascension (864-882-2006) and find out about their next meal packing event being planned for 2024. Any organization can sponsor a meal packing event. If you feel called to this mission and ministry, dive in and help with Ascension's event or see if you can make it happen here at Holy Trinity or in the greater Clemson Community.



Here is some more information on Rise Against Hunger.

Rise Against Hunger is an international humanitarian organization driven by the vision of a world without hunger. Rise Against Hunger is a growing global movement to end hunger by empowering communities, nourishing lives and responding to emergencies.

From their website: "We target remote, last-mile communities within hunger pockets designated "serious" or higher on the Global Hunger Index, which are the hardest places to reach and are often difficult to access, lack communication and have poor infrastructure. With the support of our global impact partners, we practice locally-led development by providing expertise vital to empower local communities and providing meals through local schools to incentive attendance and enable kids to obtain an education. Our work starts with a meal. We strive to make an impact on hunger by building resilience, self-sufficiency and empowerment in communities worldwide. Through our Pathways to End Hunger (Empowering Communities, Nourishing Lives, Responding to Emergencies and Growing the Movement), we provide immediate nourishment for those in need today and implement sustainable solutions that will empower entire communities for years to come."

If you have an interest in finding out more about Rise Against Hunger and ways you can support their global mission, you may click [here](#) or access the QR code to visit their website.



SAME Garden Supports Those in Need

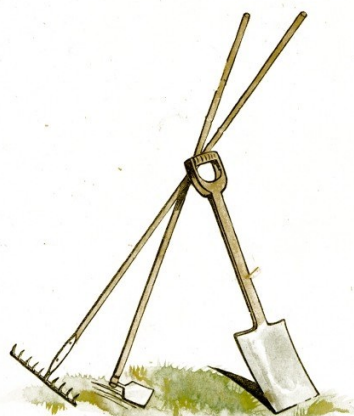
Over the course of this year, Holy Trinity has donated nearly 700 pounds of fresh produce from the SAME garden to Clemson Community Care. Fresh tomatoes, bell peppers, carrots, okra, turnips, beans, collards, and more are planted, cared for, and harvested on a weekly basis and donated to support those in need in our community.

When SAME (So All May Eat) garden founder Beth Kunkel passed away in November 2022, Michael Diemer stepped up to take over and continue her legacy. He is assisted by a small group of dedicated volunteers, including Mtr. Suz, Anne Bryan, his wife Rebecca Eidson, and Andrew Baker. Byron Harder also lends a hand while caring for the beautiful flower beds on the church grounds.

The SAME garden, located directly behind Trinity Place, is in production year-round. Current winter crops include broccoli, collards, romaine, and various root vegetables. Volunteers meet most Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. For more information or to lend a hand, contact Michael Diemer at 864.590.4248 or beenexploring@outlook.com.



Michael Diemer and Rebecca Eidson (second and third from left) weigh SAME garden produce with Karen Carter, director of Clemson Community Care and volunteer Pete Stockunas.



Michael Deimer and Anne Bryan display freshly picked produce from the SAME garden before taking the harvest to Clemson Community Care to be distributed to those in need.



Volunteers Michael Diemer, Anne Bryan, Andrew Baker, and Mtr. Suz Cate take a brief break for a photo while working in the SAME garden.



Growing in Christ



Growing in Christ FAMILY MINISTRY



Mims Catherine enjoying the festivities!



LEAF
(Large Episcopal Area Fellowship)
at St. Peter's Episcopal



Eric, Callan, Samuel and Graydon,
some of our awesome youth.

Holy Trinity Families,

At the end of **September**, our youth group traveled to Greenville for LEAF, which is where we joined several area Episcopal youth groups for a wonderful evening of fellowship and fun. We ended the evening with compline, it was a great way to meet new friends and also remind us of our faith. I am working really hard to encourage our kids to participate in more of our Diocese events. Please find upcoming events at edusc.org under children and youth formation. Be sure to mark your calendars!

Our Youth held another fellowship in September. Thanks to The Amerson Family for providing lunch and The Henry Family for opening their home and hosting youth group for us! It is such a joy to see these kids together.



Sylia and Molly making
friendship bracelets



Each church's youth group was asked to make a leaf on the banner to represent that we are each a leaf on our tree of faith. Props to Mr. Bill for making our HT group leaf.



Let the competition (games) begin!

Growing in Christ

FAMILY MINISTRY

We kicked off **October** by celebrating EDS Sunday with a children's service followed by a wonderful fellowship lunch. It was lovely to see our EDS families along with our Holy Trinity families. Thank you to Bill Purkerson, Kara Hollandsworth, Kathy Crouse, Dorothy Meeks, Mel Harriss, Lura Forcum, Judy Stech and Cindy Thackham for providing the delicious lunch for everyone.



We had a wonderful lasagna lunch!



It was great to meet all of our EDS families and children.



We loved seeing everyone!



Children's service Sundays are always heartwarming.



And all of God's children said "Amen"!

Growing in Christ

FAMILY MINISTRY

October continued to be busy. For our October youth group, the youth used monies from their youth fund to make treats for the annual Bazaar. The items were sold to contribute to the continuing efforts of the ECW. Also in October, several of our youth, along with other parishioners went to support our own Holy Trinity Youth, Lou Kay and Amelia Linvill in Clemson Little Theater's production of *Beauty and the Beast*. Our Altar Guild (Dorothy Meeks) provided flower bouquets and Kathy Crouse made a keepsake ornament that was given to each girl after their performance. Great job! If your child has an upcoming event or accomplishment, please let me know, we love supporting and celebrating our kids in their endeavors. We rounded out October by participating in the downtown Clemson Trick or Treat event. We handed out goodies and church information to over 5,000 attendees. It was fulfilling to bring smiles and share what Holy Trinity has to offer. I would not have been able to do this without the help from our parishioners who donated items and the help of Mel Harris, Tori Jayroe, Carter Senf and Scotty Timms. Our last Sunday we held a blessing of the costumes during our Children's Service, it was so fun to see the children in their costumes! Ending the month, our youth participated in a Halloween Party hosted by St. Andrew, joined by our other downtown church youth groups.

For **November**, we are gearing up to remember our blessings and thankfulness for our friends and families. Thank you to those of you who ordered pies or donated to our Youth pie fundraiser. We sold over 34 pies along with cheesecakes donated by Dee Tindal. We have several EDUSC events coming up for our Youth to participate in. These funds will help get them there!

December 3rd, we will have our Advent Fellowship Event. Following our 10:30 Children's Service, we will have a church wide fellowship lunch along with Advent activities for everyone. If you wish to make an Advent Wreath, please bring your own form. Our **Christmas Eve Children's Service** will be on **Sunday, December 24 at 4pm**. Be on the lookout in communications for more information!



[HTTPS://WWW.HOLYTRINITYCLEMSON.ORG/MINISTRIES/FAMILYMINISTRY/](https://www.holytrinityclemson.org/ministries/familyministry/)

Growing in Christ

FAMILY MINISTRY

Children and Youth Ministry Program Update

Sunday, January 7, there will be no Sunday School, we will have a Children's Service for the 10:30 service. Beginning on **Sunday, January 14** we will move our Children and Youth Sunday School programming to take place during the 10:30 service. We will no longer begin at 9:30 am starting in January.

Children and Youth will meet in the Parish Hall prior to the service, we will then proceed to break into our age groups. Children will be offered a bible story, songs and activities. Our Youth will continue with the lessons that follow the common lectionary readings from "Lesson Plans that Work" and also use this time for fellowship and planning. We will continue to have our regular Youth Group once a month, every third Sunday following the service.

Our nursery will continue to operate accordingly for infants through PreK, times will be determined as we finalize programming schedules. Information will be sent out in communications.

All children will be brought to their families at the start of the Peace. Our hope is that this will best accommodate schedules.

Peace,
Jerae



Youth Pie Fundraiser 2023!



Canterbury
of CLEMSON

Holy Trinity Celebrates Our December 2023 Graduates:



Congratulations



Aubree Bartlett (BS, Nursing)

Ingrid Nyakabwa (PhD, Parks, Recreation & Tourism Management)

William Burkerson (BA, World Cinema)

Abby Sinclair (BS, Nursing)



Adult Formation

Growing in Christ—what does it mean?

Growing in Christ is a phrase that we use to describe both the process and the impact of spending time getting to know our Lord through worship, prayer, reading the Bible, and serving our neighbors. It is also the title we use in our communications with the parish to indicate that we are talking about opportunities to learn and grow in our faith. Our Family Ministry, Adult Formation, and Worship Leadership programs offer opportunities to strengthen your connection to the source of life that is unlike any other. Some of those occur regularly, like our Sunday School classes for Adults, Children's Church, Bible studies, and Education for Ministry. Others occur seasonally, like Advent Reflections (see below), Discovery Class, and Lenten Soup Suppers. Others are occasional, such as Food for Thought, or retreats. I encourage you to find one or more of these opportunities to get connected on a deeper level with God and with other Christians. If you are looking for islands of peace, oases of joy, havens of love in your life, this is the place to be!



Advent

Advent is the perfect time to find some peace and calm in your life. The practices for marking this special season are simple and classic: Light a candle (or two, or three, or four), read a short Bible passage, say a prayer. Gaze silently at the gentle glow of the candle. Repeat daily. We have resources to help you in this practice. On December 3, we will gather in the parish hall to create Advent wreaths and distribute supplies to support your practice. See also the review of *Prepare the Way*, from Forward Day by Day.

Advent Reflections

I will invite those who are interested to join me weekly for a brief time of reflection on the readings in *Prepare the Way*. We will meet by Zoom on Wednesdays at noon; the link will be shared in HT Notes. This will be an informal discussion, an opportunity to check in with others who are trying to create space in their lives for the Advent Miracle: slowing down and getting quiet, if only for a moment. If your schedule allows, please join us.

Epiphany

Epiphany is the season of getting to know Jesus Christ as he is revealed in the Bible. We read stories of his special appearances, miracles, and teachings. We ponder the meaning of his life for us and our response to that meaning. We celebrate God-with-us, Emmanuel, who invites us to live a life like no other—in him. The season extends from January 6 to Shrove Tuesday, which in on February 13 this year.

Discovery Class

Each year, I offer a 6-8 week class designed to introduce newcomers to Holy Trinity and The Episcopal Church, as well as reviewing the basics of the Christian faith as we practice it in the Anglican Tradition. I also love to have people join us who have been practicing their faith here for some time, because you all have such wisdom and insight to share about this wonderful parish. Please see the flier that is included on the next page for specific details.

Join the Good Book Club!

The Good Book Club is an offering from our good friends at Forward Movement. It is an invitation to all Episcopalians to join in reading the Bible as a community. Episcopalians will read a section every day through the Epiphany season. In surveys taken before and after the first Good Book Club project in 2018 (reading the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts), participants reported growth in their understanding of scripture and a deepening of their prayer life. Perhaps most significantly, the percentage of people who reported reading the Bible on a daily basis increased to 73% at the end of the first Good Book Club reading, from 45% percent when it began.



Already, individuals, congregations, and organizations have committed to being a part of the Good Book Club, and we hope you'll join the journey too! For our journey through scripture during Epiphany 2024, the Good Book Club will explore ***The Book of Genesis***. Mark your calendars to join the Good Book Club with daily scripture readings, reflections, and teachings, during Epiphanytide. The Good Book Club's website may be found [here](#) or via the QR code.

HOLY TRINITY

Episcopal Church



Discovery Class 2024

Thursday Nights 1/11-2/22 at 6:00 pm

In this seven-session class we use our hearts, minds, and imaginations to explore the various aspects of life as Anglican Christians at Holy Trinity and in The Episcopal Church. This year, we will follow the structure and teaching of an excellent book by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe, *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices*. This class is open to all who are interested in learning more about The Episcopal Church, whether you are a cradle Episcopalian or are just checking us out.

1/11 Session One: The Anglican Way of Christianity—an exploration of the Anglican or Episcopal understanding of prayer. *Chapter 1*

1/18 Session Two: Sacraments and Sacramental Life—we will spend most of our time on Baptism and Holy Eucharist, because they are the primary sacraments, but we will make sure to introduce the other Rites: Confirmation or Reception, Marriage, Reconciliation of a Penitent, Unction, and Ordination. *Chapters 2-5 (Chapters 6-8 recommended)*

1/25 Session Three: Marking Time—a look at the daily, seasonal, and yearly marking of time in our liturgical traditions, concluding with the end of our earthly pilgrimage: funerals and burial. *Chapters 9-12*

2/1 Session Four: Basic Beliefs—a discussion of Creeds, sin and grace, and how all of those big ideas are founded in our Holy Scriptures. *Chapters 14-16*

2/8 Session Five: The Church—beginning broadly, we will get to know the people who have followed Jesus since the first disciples were called in Galilee, then we'll spend some time with the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, and then we'll talk about how we are called to follow Jesus. *Chapters 17-20*

2/15 Session Six: A Trinitarian Life—our life together as followers of Jesus calls us out of ourselves to participate in God's work of care of creation and each other. Our tradition points to the various tools and resources we have for that work. *Chapters 21-23*

2/22 Session Seven: What's Next?—by this time, we'll be ready to talk about ethics, praxis, and evangelism (oh my!). These things aren't as scary as they sound, but they are frightfully important to engaging fully in the life of Holy Trinity. *Chapters 24-26*

Books will be provided for this class—just drop me a line to let me know you'll be participating.

scate@holytrinityclemons.org or call 864-364-1952.

Spiritual Resources



African Bible Study Method: *Lectio divina* for Individuals and Groups

What is *lectio divina*?

Lectio divina means, quite simply “holy reading.” *Lectio divina* encompasses a variety of methods for reading our Holy Scriptures prayerfully, with the intention of listening for the Word (the mind, the will, the person of God in Jesus Christ) in our hearts, minds, and imaginations. In listening, it is always important to pay attention to physical sensations, “random” thoughts, and emotional responses to what we are hearing.

The reading of our Holy Scriptures is a foundational practice of our faith. God is reliably present in the text (although it may take some diligent searching to find that presence sometimes). The best, most effective *study of Scripture* is undertaken in community. Hearing other voices read and contemplate the texts expands our understanding beyond our own, limited reading. However, the individual reading of Scripture contemplatively and prayerfully allows the text to speak to us with that soft whisper of the Holy Spirit within. The African Bible Study Method works for either of these purposes.

How does the African Bible Study Method work?

This Bible study method was introduced at the Lambeth Conference, a gathering of bishops of the Anglican Communion that takes place every ten years. It is known by both names: “Lambeth” and “African.” When used in a group setting, there is no discussion of the insights that are shared—the intent is to listen closely to what each person says and to accept it without comment.



Opening Prayer: O Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scripture to be written for our learning. Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

The passage is read aloud slowly three times. (An individual using this method may choose to read silently.) Each time the passage is read, listen with the following prompts in mind, each in order. Journal and/or share briefly (in a group setting share no more than a sentence or two) in response to each reading and prompt.

First time: listen for a single word or phrase that catches your attention or “lights up” for you.

Second time: listen for how God is speaking to your life *in this moment through the text.*

Third time: listen for what God is calling you to do or change *in the future or from this moment through the text and your responses to this point.*

Close with the Lord's Prayer.

How are Bible passages chosen?

There are many ways to choose a passage for *lectio divina*. The key is to find a passage of sufficient length and cohesiveness to provide for fruitful contemplation, yet not so long and complex that it is hard to find a focal point. Generally speaking, Gospel readings for the Daily Offices are a good place to start. These can be found easily in the Forward Day by Day pamphlets available in the tract rack in the narthex or the church office. The Forward Movement website (found [here](#) or via the QR code) is very helpful, as well. Of course, you can always find those readings in the Book of Common Prayer!



Another tactic would be to choose a book of the Bible and read your way through it. The Good Book Club mentioned on page x is reading the Book of Genesis during the Season of Epiphany. Reading day by day through the Gospels or one of Paul's letters is another good way to practice *lectio divina*. Remember: this is not a scholarly study of Scripture—it is a prayerful, holy reading. I encourage you to give daily time with the Bible a try. If I can be helpful to you in this practice, please don't hesitate to ask.

Happy holy reading! Suz+

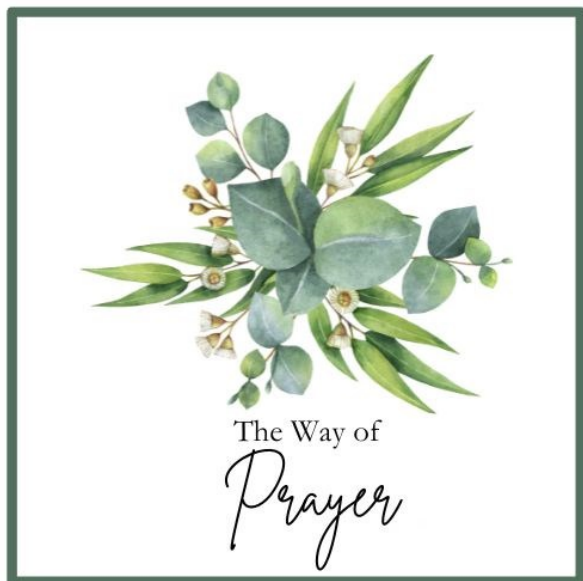
Red Door Dinners

One of the beloved traditions of many Episcopal parishes is gathering for food and fellowship together. In many parishes, Red Door Dinners is a greatly appreciated way of getting people together in homes or restaurants for that purpose. The thing that makes this approach truly special is that groups are formed that will meet 3 or 4 times, which allows participants to get to know each other quite well. Many lasting friendships have begun in these groups.

In mid-December, we will send out a signup link inviting those who are interested to sign up for 3-4 monthly Red Door Dinners beginning in January. Participants will be divided into groups of 8-10 people, depending on the preferences you indicate. All who sign up by January 13 will be invited to a potluck dinner in the Parish Hall on January 20. At that time, dinner groups will be announced, and the groups will sit together to share the meal, plan their first supper as a group, and take part in a practice of brief Bible reading and prayer that is suggested for each gathering. Watch for that sign up in the second week of Advent.



Attention All Women of Holy Trinity!



Please mark your calendar for our annual ECW Retreat - March 1-3, 2024

Join us for our rescheduled ECW Annual Womens' Retreat, The Way of Prayer, March 1-3, 2024 at Camp Fellowship on the shores of Lake Greenwood. Amy Sander Montanez, our retreat leader, will guide us as we learn about the different forms of prayer.



Gather with the women of Holy Trinity for a fun, relaxed weekend of prayer, fellowship and spring flowers!

Reservations are now being accepted and forms may be obtained [here](#) or by scanning the QR code. If you have already completed a form and paid your fee for the retreat, you just need to let us know if you will attend in March. Space is limited and registrations will be accepted until the retreat fills up or by February 15, 2024. For more information, please contact Lynn Smith at lynnsmith114@earthlink.net or Nanine Hartzzenbusch Fox at naninephoto@gmail.com

Flower Ministry

Did you know that the altar flowers are taken down each Sunday, arranged in smaller bouquets, and delivered to parishioners and others? This is a ministry that has been adopted by Holy Trinity's chapter of the Daughters of the King. The DoK is an avowed order of women—meaning that they have made life vows to follow a rule of prayer, service, and evangelism in support of their local parish. The Martha Laib Moxley Chapter delivers flowers each Sunday in which we have them on the altar (the exceptions are primarily during Advent and Lent).



The flowers are most often delivered to someone who could use a pick-me-up or to someone who has been especially faithful in service to the parish. Recently, however, one of our Daughters delivered flowers to women on her Meals on Wheels route. She told the Chapter during a recent prayer meeting that the women were moved to joyful tears when they received their bouquets. The same flowers that adorned our altar space adorned even more graciously the homes of those three women who spend much of their time alone.

All of this to say thank you to those who dedicate flowers for our altar and to let you know just how far your gift of beauty goes. And to say thank you to our Daughters of the King for taking on this lovely ministry. If you are interested in dedicating flowers in the New Year, please contact the church office. If you are interested in learning more about the Daughters of the King, you can find us online [here](#) or via the QR code. You may also speak to one of the ladies wearing the distinctive cross of the Order (including Mtr. Suz).





Holy Trinity Bazaar & Artisan Market

Dear Holy Trinity family,

It is with great pleasure that I can announce that we raised \$8,260.29 from the bazaar this year!

During the ECW Food for Thought meeting, the group decided to give the proceeds to 3 needy charities representing Oconee, Pickens and Anderson counties. It was clear from the presentation by Lauren Russell of Clemson Community Care that the effects of inflation on basic needs like food, housing and utilities has impacted our communities far greater than we ever could imagine. So, in that light, we voted to distribute the funds as follows:

Clemson Community Care \$4800

Golden Corner Food Pantry, \$2400

Holy Trinity Day school scholarships \$1060.29

We thank Carolyn Wheeler for her hard work and dedication over the past several years as Bazaar chair. She has chosen to step down from that role and hopes that with the support of the revitalized ECW we can implement new ideas and have even more success in 2024.

We are grateful for Nanine Hartzenbusch Fox who has graciously volunteered to become the new Bazaar Co-chair along with Lura Forcum. Together I am confident that they will lead us to an even brighter future.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to the bazaar both as shoppers and workers! It is amazing what we can accomplish when we all work together!

Cindy Thackham

ECW Treasurer

864-280-0539

Cdjpt@att.net

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December Birthdays:

2 – Renna Redd
3 – Mary Ann Foy
6 – Joanna Schuman
6 – Rebecca Eidson
7 – Tommye Hurst
8 – Graydon Wallace
9 – Mary Bowman
11 – Paul Thackham
12 – Callan Henry
13 – Carolyn Wheeler
14 – Myra Gildersleeve
14 – Kathy Naeseth
15 – Kathy Hunter
15 – Chris Johnson
16 – Ethan Carroll
17 – Trey Williams
20 – Charlie Arms
22 – Curtis Henry
24 – Jack McKenna
26 – Isabel Quattlebaum
26 – James Jayroe
27 – Earl Burch
27 – Billy Bridges
29 – Lew Fitch
30 – Don Campbell
31 – Carol Todd
31 – Cathy Garrett
31 – Gwen Hammond

December Anniversaries:

1 – Barbara & Tom Witmer
19 – Mary Beth & David Johnstone
19 – Kathy & Kevin Crouse
***29 – Mellie & John Warner**
30 – Scooty & Earl Burch

January Birthdays:

1 – Trey Cox
1 – Andrew Baker
1 – Louise Rozendale
3 – Linda Krogman
3 – Marjorie Campbell

6 – Sally Mathiasen
7 – Mary Bridges
7 – Mary Ann Taylor
11 – Pat Bryan
11 – Teague De los Santos
17 – Roger Brown, Jr.
17 – Kathryn Cauley
18 – Lura Forcum
19 – Shelby Wallace
20 – Mother Suz Cate
21 – Marvin-Joe Merck
21 – Lynn Smith
22 – Greg Meeks
24 – Danny Edie
28 – Cary Johnstone
29 – Charles Shuler
31 – Anita Arms

January Anniversaries:

3 – Rachel & Chesley Rowe

****We celebrate the Golden Anniversary of Mellie & John Warner, who were married at Holy Trinity on Dec. 29, 1973. Congratulations on 50 years!***

