

December 2025—January 2026



*"...on earth as it is in heaven" –Matthew 6:10b*

## **My Dear Family in Christ,**

We are setting off into a new liturgical year, one in which our Gospel readings on Sunday will be drawn primarily from the Gospel according to Matthew. This Gospel is preeminently a book about the Kingdom of Heaven and the One who comes to inaugurate it. When Jesus teaches his disciples to pray—in Matthew's version—he is giving us a glimpse into his consciousness. Jesus sees the Kingdom clearly in his mind, where righteousness and peace are the guiding principles of discipleship behavior.

It is clear to me as I study this Gospel that Jesus is in full communion with God and all creation, and he is inviting us to the same by teaching us to live Kingdom lives, here and now. We are called to look beyond our identity as creatures of dust. It is true that we are very much of the earth, scrambling for food, clothing, and shelter, seeking security and social position. It is also true, as Jesus reminds us, that we are children of Our Father in Heaven.

In the Lord's Prayer, we are reminded that the will of Jesus, which is the will of God, is that we are meant to live on earth in the same righteousness and peace with which Jesus lives. This does not happen spontaneously when we turn to Jesus. It is a process of studying and meditating on the teachings of Jesus. His teachings are, in addition to showing us God's will, about establishing within ourselves the rule of life that allows us to build for the Kingdom that operates according to God's will.

A Rule of Life is a particular set of principles and practices to support our growth in the knowledge and love of God. A Rule of this sort is not a set of regulations, but is rather a commitment to the development of virtues that become the foundation of a spiritual, moral, and theological approach to life that makes possible the reality of "on earth as it is in heaven." A Rule of Life includes commitment to reading the Holy Scriptures devotionally *and* in order to seek understanding. It includes regular, daily prayer that opens our hearts to the presence of God and to the needs of the world. A Rule of Life includes responding to those needs generously and selflessly as they become known to us.

A Rule of Life is a commitment to a Way of Life. This Rule and Way is not just for each individual disciple who follows Jesus. It is a framework for building a community that exists, not for the benefit of its members only, but for the benefit of the Kingdom that Jesus asks us to embody. As a worshipping community, Holy Trinity is also called to make a commitment to study the Bible together, pray together, and serve together. Perhaps in this year of "On Earth as it is in Heaven," we might establish individual Rules of Life and a corporate Rule of Life. What principles and practices do *you* think we could commit to undertaking for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven? I would love to hear your thoughts. **Much love, Suz+**

# Leadership Communication

## HOLY TRINITY

Episcopal Church



## TEMPO

December 2025—January 2026

Click [here](#) or scan for the parish website.



### Clergy

The Right Rev. Daniel Richards, *Bishop,*  
*Diocese of Upper South Carolina*  
The Rev. Suzanne L. Cate, *Rector*

### Staff

Rebecca Bowman, *Director of Music*  
Trey Williams, *Organist and Children's Choir Director*  
Jeff Johnson, *Sexton*  
Stephanie LaGuardia, *Day School Director*  
Wesley Ramey, *Parish Office Administrator*  
Evyone Washington, *Finance Administrator*  
Jerae Wallace, *Parish Life Coordinator*  
Carter Senf Canterbury *Peer Minister*

### Vestry Members & Assignments

Andrew Baker, *St. Paul's*  
Betty Baldwin *EDS*  
Will Brown, *Adult Formation*  
Charlie Curtis, *Canterbury*  
Lori Graham *Welcoming*  
Mel Harriss, *Senior Warden*  
Chris Heerwagen, *Junior Warden*  
Jody Hunter, *Stewardship*  
Bill Loeffler *Worship Support*  
Chesley Rowe, *EDS Chair/Personnel*  
Katherine Sosebee, *HT Cares*  
Sarah Trice, *Parish Life*  
Hap Wheeler, *Communications*  
Martha Williams, *Outreach*

## Join Us in Worship!

### Regular Sunday Schedule

8:00 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:30 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II

(Livestreamed via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#))

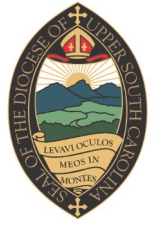
5:00 PM at St. Paul's, Pendleton (First Sunday of the Month): Holy Eucharist, Rite I

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# Report on the 103rd Diocesan Convention

Lay Delegates Kirby Colson, Lynn Smith, Anita Arms, and Jim Beddow, along with our Rector, Mtr. Suz Cate, attended the Convention of the Diocese of Upper South Carolina at the Episcopal Church of the Advent in Spartanburg on November 14 and 15. Our Peer Minister for Canterbury, Carter Senf, also attended. Peer Ministers from the various Canterbury Ministries around the diocese were granted seat and voice for the duration of the Convention.



The activities of the Friday evening session began with acquainting everyone with the electronic voting system and make sure that all could access that platform for voting. Our first vote was to pass resolutions naming two couples currently working in Ecuador as missionaries for the Diocese of Upper South Carolina. Both resolutions passed unanimously, naming Laura and Jorge Esteves and Cameron and Roberto Vivanco as our missionaries. Laura and Cameron both grew up and served as youth leaders in our diocese, and the great affection for them and their husbands was quite evident.

We gathered for Holy Eucharist on Saturday morning, and the preacher was newly appointed missionary Roberto Vivanco, whose message was biblical and inspiring. Roberto's sermon can be viewed at the Church of the Advent's YouTube page. Following the worship service, the Convention convened for the Bishop's Address, which we hope will be available for us to share soon.

The Saturday session focused on some revisions to the Constitution and Canons of the diocese, primarily updating language to reflect recent restructuring of regional ministry in the diocese. Formerly, the diocese was organized regionally into five Convocations, each with an appointed Dean from the clergy order and an elected Warden from the lay order. Due to shifting demographics and the bishop's desire to meet with the clergy in each region more regularly, these Convocations were redistributed to four Deaneries: Midlands East, Midlands West, Upstate East, and Upstate West. We are in the Upstate West Deanery. This reorganization means that the bishop can visit each Deanery once a month most months. A further revision states that each Deanery may nominate 2 persons each from the clergy order and from the lay order to run for election to the Standing Committee.

Other changes to the Constitution and Canons addressed supervision of missionaries and delegation of the same, as well as re-

moving the title "Archdeacon," although the Very Reverend Janie Wilson will remain as Canon staff at Diocesan House, with adjusted duties focused more in the areas of transition and congregational health and development.

The Convention then turned to the election of members of the Standing Committee from the clergy and lay orders, the Disciplinary Board from both orders, a Lay Trustee to the University of the South, and Deputies to the 82nd General Convention of The Episcopal Church from both orders. Congratulations to Kirby Colson, who was re-elected as our Lay Trustee to the University of the South and to Carter Senf, who was elected as a Deputy to General Convention! Deacon Mary Jeffers, who was raised up for ordained ministry from Holy Trinity, was elected to serve as a Deputy from the clergy order.

Resolutions were passed establishing a Task Force to Study Effective Practices and Policies for Congregations with Clergy in Place During Clergy Transitions (to clarify roles of Assistants, Associates, Curates, and Deacons during transitions between Rectors) and that a Land Acknowledgment be included as each congregation of the diocese gathers for worship on the Sunday before Indigenous People's Day, which is the second Monday of October. The Convention also passed the proposed Statement of Mission on the second ballot.

A Land Acknowledgement is a statement that recognizes the prior stewardship and occupation of the Indigenous peoples and language groups of the land upon which our churches stand. It can also acknowledge the history of enslavement that created the wealth which made our buildings and institutions possible.

A land acknowledgment for Holy Trinity could be stated as follows:

*Holy Trinity and Trinity Place are located on the traditional and ancestral territories of the **CWJQJL** Tsalaguweti (Cherokee, East) and **S'atsoyaha** (Yuchi). Clemson University and the City of Clemson are built on land seized from the Cherokee through US military and diplomatic incursions culminating in the Treaty of Dewitt's Corner in 1777. This is also land on which people enslaved by the Pickens, Clemson, and Calhoun families lived and worked until their Emancipation at the end of the Civil War*

The Worship Support Committee will work on a proposal for how a Land Acknowledgment could be offered on the Sunday before Indigenous People's Day and will present that proposal to the Vestry for approval.







## Senior Warden's Report

*December 2025-January 2026*

What a time of rejoicing we have before us at Holy Trinity. We have already met our goal for the Statement of Mission for 2026. Thanks be to God and all of you, our generous members for getting us to our goal and beyond. What a blessing to have this information as we plan for 2026 and work on the Statement of Mission.

The year has flown by. Advent is upon us with Christmas and the New Year close behind. Please take advantage of the many opportunities to help others during this season. Remember, keeping Mtr Suz, our staff and all of our many volunteers in your prayers is one way of helping.

For me this season is always a time of grief as well as joy as I remember the loss of family members and friends during this time. We never know all that others are going through so it is important to be caring and loving during this very busy time of the year when they may be bouncing back and forth between anticipation of joy and happiness and the sadness that every life can hold. Part of our Mission Statement is to Love with the Heart of Christ and that is especially true during this season.

It was fun to see our youth assisting with Bazaar preparations on 11/16/25 under the guidance of Eunice Waddington, Cindy Thackham, Judy Curtis, Lori Graham and Jerae Wallace. I may have missed some names because I was in the Vestry Meeting and not in the kitchen for this youth activity. But I did hear that the youth knew their way around the kitchen and could chop up some fruit!

I hope to see you all at the 82<sup>nd</sup> Holy Trinity Bazaar on Saturday, December 6th. What a wonderful time of fellowship, shopping and eating. We have wonderful vendors as well as all the products of the hardworking and gifted men and women of Holy Trinity. The proceeds go to local food banks and charities.



St. Paul's will be active in December with the Rite I Service on December 7, 2025 at 5 p.m, the Lessons and Carols service on December 14, 2025 at 6 pm and the Christmas Eve Service at 10:30 pm on December 24, 2025. What a blessing to have this gem of a building with repaired rafters and a new roof. By this time next year it should have a new coat of paint. And don't forget to do some of your Christmas shopping at St. Paul's Thrift Shop where bargains abound and once again proceeds support the community.

As I typed the date of the first Sunday in December I realized it is the anniversary of the Attack on Pearl Harbor 84 years ago. Holy Trinity and Clemson were definitely impacted by that attack. The ripples remain with us today. Please continue to pray for all the men and women in service to their country and their families. I continue to pray for peace in our country and the world.

Pray for the Vestry and Wardens as terms end and new terms of service on the Vestry and church leadership begin. We are so very grateful for your prayers and efforts as we continue to move Holy Trinity forward with your support.

Peace to you all, *Mel Harriss*



# St. Paul's has a New Roof!

## *Exterior Painting Expected to Start Early 2026*

Progress continues on renovations to St. Paul's in Pendleton, thanks to the hard work of our Junior Warden, other volunteers, and generous donors. Our latest accomplishment is the completion of a beautiful new roof with shingles the color of "weathered wood," which is intended to replicate how the roof would have looked when the church was first built in the early 1800's.

Thankfully, the cost of the new roof was covered by our insurance company due to a hail-damage claim. Prior to installing the roof, we discovered fairly extensive damage to the rafters and trusses, which had to be repaired using the funds raised for the renovation. Earlier this year, we had to remove some nearby trees and overhanging branches that could endanger the structure.



*Rafters in the historic St. Paul's structure were in need of repairs before the new roof could be completed.*



*Workers began replacing the shingles on the roof during the week of October 13.*

Next up – we plan to rebid the exterior painting project, which was delayed until the roof could be repaired. We hope to start painting by early 2026.

We appreciate the many donors who have contributed to the St. Paul's Painting and Restoration Fund, which exceeds \$187,000 to date. In addition to funds raised, the St. Paul's committee recently submitted a grant application to the State of South Carolina to help defray some of the costs of maintaining this historic property. Later this fall, we will find out if our grant application will be funded.

Please contact the church office if you wish to make a contribution to this critically important effort to preserve this special place of worship for generations to come.



***If you have questions about the work of the St. Paul's Committee, contact Andrew Baker (committee chair) at [abaker@clemson.edu](mailto:abaker@clemson.edu) . If you have questions about the renovations, please contact our Junior Warden Chris Heerwagen at [chris.heerwagen@gmail.com](mailto:chris.heerwagen@gmail.com).***



*The installation of the new roof at St. Paul's is now complete. We are very pleased with the results.*



# Church Financial Report

**November 2025 Tempo Financial Report**  
**Bob Taylor, Treasurer**

As the end of the financial year approaches, Holy Trinity continues to be close to budget in almost all accounts. Total income and total expenses for the first 10 months of 2025 are both slightly behind budget with total income exceeding total expenses by \$8,850.05 through October 31, 2025. Scheduled local outreach payments in November will bring this amount close to zero. The close adherence to budget by Holy Trinity can be credited to all committee chairs & Vestry liaisons, but especially to the Junior Warden for the maintenance of the physical facilities. The following table provides additional detailed summaries of the financial data through October 31, 2025:

October 31, 2025 Operating Finances	October Actual	October Budget	Actual Year-to Date	Budgeted Year-to-Date	Difference
Plate Offerings	\$7,331.19	\$6,000.00	\$50,761.95	\$60,000.00	(\$9,538.05)
Pledge Offerings	\$48,315.29	\$40,500.00	\$412,145.66	\$405,000.00	\$7,145.66
Total Income	\$57,646.48	\$48,500.00	\$483,046.36	\$485,000.00	(\$1,953.64)
Expenses	\$53,299.19	\$48,500.00	\$474,196.31	\$485,000.00	(\$10,803.69)

**Trinity Place Loan Balance, January 1, 2025**      **\$575,879.21**

**Trinity Place Loan Balance, October 31, 2025**      **\$391,914.50**

The revenue from 2025 football parking places and merchant employees' parking in Trinity Place during the week combined with continued contributions by parishioners ensure an end-of-the-year surplus in the Trinity Place budget. Part of this surplus will be used to complete the signage which had been planned in the 2020 renovations of Trinity Place but was delayed by funding. A big thanks is in order to the Parking Committee and the parishioners who continue to provide support for significantly reducing Holy Trinity's only indebtedness.

**Attention Ministry Leaders! It's  
time to look ahead to the Annual  
Meeting in January.**

**ANNUAL  
Report**

Please plan to submit a written report of the activities of your ministry in 2025 by Thurs, January 15th to be included in the Parish Annual Report.



**Save the Date!**  
**Our Next Joy & Comfort  
Bag Delivery will be  
Feb. 7th!**

We'll need snack items like small fruits, individual chip bags as well as our traditional homemade cookies. Stay tuned to communications for more details as we move closer to the date!



## Seasonal and Liturgical Notes: The Arc of Incarnation

*The church seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany together form an arc in the story we tell about Jesus, the Word Incarnate. Each season presents a facet of the story of how God became human, living, teaching, healing, and being amongst us as part of God's plan of salvation for us.*



**Advent** is the season of anticipation. We are awaiting the three advents of God-with-Us, Emmanuel. First, we tell the story of how God comes to be with us in the birth of Jesus, God's Word made flesh. Second, we tell the story of how God will come again in the finishing up of God's plan of salvation at the Second Coming. Third, we tell the story of how God comes to be with us in our daily visitations of prayer and encountering Christ in those around us.

Our worship takes on a tone of quiet expectation. *O come, O come, Emmanuel* is the apt theme song that opens our sung services at 10:30 each Sunday during this season. We observe a simple ceremony of lighting candles on the Advent wreath, adding a candle each week to symbolize the growing light as the birth of the Messiah approaches. Our prayers will be sung, a new addition to the seasonal tone of setting ourselves apart from the normal activity of busy lives to wait in expectation for the coming of our Lord. We are a parish that uses blue for Advent to emphasize the hopefulness of our anticipation of seeing Christ in those around us.

**Christmas**, of course, is a season of light and joy and celebration of the birth of Jesus. For the twelve days of Christmastide, our spaces are adorned with greenery symbolizing the life that Jesus brings, and the vestments and other adornments of the Nave are white, the liturgical color that celebrates the glory of Christ. Our music will be focused on the beloved Christmas hymns and carols. This year, we have the somewhat rare occurrence of two Sundays in the Christmas season. The Sunday after Christmas will be marked with Morning Prayer at 10:00, since Will and I will be in Tennessee celebrating the holiday with our family. The Second Sunday after Christmas will include an early celebration of the Epiphany following our 10:30 service with a visitation from the Three Kings in the parish hall.



**Epiphany** is a feast celebrating the manifestation of God-with-Us, as we sing in that great Epiphany hymn: Manifest by star, at Jordan's stream, as wedding guest turning water into wine, making whole palsied limbs and fainting soul, ever bringing good from ill. The seasonal color, once we've celebrated the Feasts of Epiphany and of the Baptism of Our Lord (both white), is green for the theme of growing in Christ through our formation as his disciples. Because the Season after Epiphany ends on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, the length of the season varies, depending on the date of Easter. This year, there will be six Sundays in the Season after Epiphany.

**A final note:** With the First Sunday of Advent, we begin a year of reading from Matthew's Gospel. The Gospel of Matthew has several distinctive characteristics, including an emphasis on three themes: Jesus is the fulfillment of the Hebrew Scriptures; his life, death, resurrection, and ascension usher in the Kingdom of Heaven; and Jesus is the Messiah who is sent by God for our salvation. The Sermon on the Mount is appointed for Sundays in the Seasons after Epiphany and Pentecost, when we will be focused on growing in Christ as his disciples. I recommend N. T. Wright's *Matthew for Everyone* (2 volumes) for study and devotional reading during Lectionary Year A.



## Christmas 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 arrange having Christmas Dinner delivered.

Click [here](#) for the sign up to cook a dish or to be part of the prep team . Or you can use the QR code provided to access the sign up.



## Schedule of Special Services: Advent–Christmas–Epiphany

**Sunday December 7: Canterbury Sunday**—recognition of Canterbury students, the Canterbury students to present the Children’s Sermon.

**Sunday December 14: Lessons & Carols**—traditional Anglican choral service in which we hear the story of God’s plan of salvation in readings from Scripture, interspersed with anthems and carols. 6:00 pm at St. Paul’s. Lura Forcum will host a festive holiday gathering at her home on E. Queen St. prior to the service.

### **Tuesday December 24: Christmas Eve Services**

4:00 pm Children’s Service at Holy Trinity

7:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service with Choir at Holy Trinity

10:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass with Chancel Ensemble at St. Paul’s

**Wednesday December 25: Christmas Day Eucharist with Meals on Wheels**—preparing and packaging Christmas Dinner for Meals on Wheels is the “sermon.” 10:00 am in the Parish Hall at Holy Trinity.

**Sunday December 28: ONE Service of Morning Prayer**—at 10:00.

**Sunday January 4: First Sunday Children’s Service**—at 10:30 service, with a visitation from the Three Kings following in the Parish Hall.

**Sunday, January 25: Parish Annual Meeting**—following ONE service at 10:00.

LET US  
ADORE HIM  
*Christ the Lord*



## SAME Garden Certified as Natural Wildlife Habitat

Our parish SAME Garden (SO ALL MAY EAT), located in Trinity Place directly adjacent to the parish hall, is now certified as a Natural Wildlife Habitat by The National Wildlife Federation (NFW). Certified National Wildlife Habitats provide “food, water, cover, and places to raise young wildlife and which incorporate sustainable gardening practices.”

The SAME Garden designation is part of the City of Clemson’s effort to become a Certified National Wildlife Habitat City. Holy Trinity, St. Andrew’s Catholic Church, and other community organizations, homes, and businesses are participating in this effort. If you are interested in pursuing this certification for your home or organization, the process is simple: Follow the steps at [NWF.org/Certify](https://www.nwf.org/Certify). Small changes in gardening practices, use of native plants, and sustainability practices may be needed.

Many thanks to Kara Hollandsworth for identifying this opportunity and submitting the application on behalf of the SAME garden. We hope to have a photo of our official NFW garden marker to include in the next issue of TEMPO.



**History of the SAME Garden** Founded several years ago by the late Dr. Beth Kunkel, the mission of the SAME Garden is to produce fresh vegetables for donation to Clemson Community Care (CCC), the local food bank that assists those in difficult financial circumstances. Thus its name: So All May Eat.

A devoted member of Holy Trinity, Beth had a long and distinguished career as a professor in the Food Science and Nutrition Department of Clemson University. Following her passing in 2022, parishioner Mike Diemer stepped up to take over and continue her legacy. He is assisted by a small group of dedicated volunteers who work to keep the garden flourishing. In 2024, a record 709 pounds of fresh produce from the garden was donated to CCC. Our gardeners are on track to donate 1,100 pounds in 2025.

Volunteers meet most Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. For more information or to lend a hand, contact Michael Diemer at 864.590.4248 or [beenexploring@outlook.com](mailto:beenexploring@outlook.com).



# Clemson Community Care (CCC) – Neighbors Helping Neighbors Help Themselves

*Donate a \$40 Christmas Gift Card from WalMart for our families with children.*

In an average month, CCC distributes 27,000 lbs of food to our neighbors living in the cities of Clemson, Central and Pendleton.

The average amount of food a family of 3-4 receives in a month is 75-80 lbs.

62% of CCC's clients are employed or retired, but often have to make hard choices between buying food or paying for housing, utilities, gas, daycare, etc.

**Clemson  
Community  
Care**



At the holidays, we want all of our families be able to feel the joy of the season like we do, so, in addition to the standard food distribution during November and December, families also can sign up to receive a special box of holiday foods, much of which is donated by you, our wonderful, supportive community, in the form of frozen turkeys left at various grocery stores (Ingles, Publix and Food Lion) that support us or brought into the food bank yourselves directly.

In addition to holiday food, in December we give our families with children a WalMart gift card in the amount of \$40 (no more, no less—we want to be equal for all!) which they can spend on gifts for under the tree or however they celebrate their holidays as a family. One very special way to donate to CCC this holiday season would be to bring in a WalMart Christmas gift card charged with exactly \$40 and leave it in the narthex in the basket marked for CCC in our Giving Corner.

Thank you one and all for the generosity and care you show for your greater community. You make a difference!

**SHARING  
BRINGS JOY  
TO US. TO OTHERS. TO GOD.**





## ***Family Promise continues to do good things!!***

Nath Briley, Executive Director, reports that they are thrilled about the ongoing partnership with Easley Presbyterian Church and Pickens County Habitat for Humanity. Together, they are planning to build a duplex behind the Easley Presbyterian House which Family Promise currently uses for shelter and transitional housing. After completion of the duplex, the area will become known as "Our Neighbor's Village." Soon, there will be plenty of opportunities to get involved and help with the build.

During December, Family Promise will ask for donations for Christmas gifts for some of the families in the program. In early December, Family Promise will send a Sign-Up Genius with information about the children. We'll provide that to the parish, once we have it. Hopefully, Holy Trinity can help give a wonderful Christmas to these children!!



## **Meal Packaging Event: Feb. 7**

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

Rise against Hunger works to address hunger by targeting remote, last-mile communities and within hunger pockets often overlooked. It strives to make an impact on hunger by building resilience, self-sufficiency and empowerment in communities world-wide. It provides immediate nourishment for those in need today and implements sustainable solutions that will empower entire communities for years to come."

Ascension Episcopal in Seneca and Walhalla Presbyterian are partnering for a Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event on Saturday, February 7, 2026. The time and location are still being determined. Each meal costs 40 cents and feeds six people. Last year we packed 30,000+ meals in two hours.

In addition to funding, the event needs manpower for packing meals. It's a fun and energetic atmosphere, and last year's group had a great time! More details to come closer to the event.



**SINGING Rooster**

## **Chocolate is Back!**

***In time for your holiday indulgence,  
generosity, and pleasure!  
Ideal Stocking Stuffers!!***

Organic, Fair Trade—Pure Dark, Milk, Café Noir, Toffee, Sea Salt, Sea Salt Crunch, and Peppermint.

A Bargain at \$5.00/bar. Help support our Haitian growers and university students.

***Visit our self-service cart and enjoy!***

# Growing in Christ

## Growing in Christ

FAMILIES, YOUTH AND CHILDREN

## What's Happening and Coming Up...

We kicked off our Advent Season on Sunday, November 30. I hope families participate with our Advent resources. Lighting the candle each Sunday at dinner and having a moment to reflect on the true meaning of the season is an important part of our faith and spiritual growing. We appreciate those families participating throughout the season of Advent with lighting the Advent Candles along with presenting the gifts during our Sunday services.

During the months of November through January, most of our nursery workers will be traveling back to their hometowns. We will have sporadic nursery availability, which, as always, will be communicated weekly. Also, a few of our regular nursery crew will be graduating in December and May, so we will be introducing new faces in the coming months. I am excited that one of our own *Canterbears* will be joining our nursery team!

This fall in Children's Church, children have been working on their crosses. Each week they add something to their cross that follows along with the lesson. You can see them displayed in the Parish Hall. **Children's Church for ages K-4<sup>th</sup> will be offered on Sundays, December 14 and 21 and will resume regularly beginning on January 11.**

**We will have our traditional Christmas Eve Children's Service on Wednesday, December 24 at 4pm. We invite any child who wishes to participate in the reading of the Christmas Story to come to the Parish Hall by 3:30 pm.** Children will participate in the service by bringing in the Nativity figures and placing them in the *Creche*. This is always such a fun and special service. Please reach out to Jerae if you have any questions.

- **Sunday, December 7:**
  - 10:30 am Children's Service
- **Sunday, December 14:**
  - Second Sunday Potluck Lunch
- **Sunday, December 21:**
  - Greening of the Nave
- **Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve**
  - 4pm: Children's Service

- **Sunday, January 4:**
  - 10:30 am Children's Service
  - Three Kings Celebration/Parish Hall
- **Sunday, January 11**
  - Second Sunday Potluck Lunch
- **Sunday, January 25: Annual Meeting**
  - ONE 10AM SERVICE

## Looking Ahead...

- **Sunday, February 1:**
  - First Sunday-Children's Service
- **Sunday, February :**
  - Second Sunday Potluck Lunch
- **Tuesday, February 17:**
  - Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Supper
- **Wednesday, February 18: Ash Wednesday**

- **Sunday, March 1;**
  - First Sunday-Children's Service
- **Sunday, March 8:**
  - Second Sunday Potluck Lunch
- **Sunday, March 29: Palm Sunday**
- **Sunday, April 5: Easter Sunday**
  - Children's Service 9am
  - Easter Egg Hunt

# *Growing in Christ*

## FAMILIES, YOUTH AND CHILDREN

# YOUTH NEWS!

Our youth continue to meet on the third Sunday each month. We have enjoyed seeing them sit together in service along with participating. Please support our youth by letting them know how much you enjoy seeing them in church!

The Youth Group have been involved in several ways throughout Holy Trinity, one of our more recent projects included pumpkin painting. These pumpkins were included in the HT Cares bags that were sent to our homebound parishioners. They were really creative! Our youth have also helped with the making of Eunice Waddington's marmalade that sells at our annual Bazaar and benefits our local community. What a neat experience and a great way to get the next generation participating in one of our Holy Trinity traditions.

Several youth opportunities are coming up, please be on the lookout for communications. **For our youth activities it is helpful to know who's attending so that we may plan accordingly. All calendar activities have been loaded in the GroupMe through December 21, you may simply respond through the calendar options.**

Mark your calendars now for our **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 17 from 5-7pm. Traditionally this has been a youth fundraiser and led by our youth, so it is important to have them participate.**

**We hope we continue to see growth in the involvement of our children and youth.**

**CHECK IT OUT!**





CANTERBURY HAS AN OFFICIAL  
"GAME ROOM", THANKS TO DONATIONS  
FROM PARISHIONERS.  
THIS WILL BE A FUN  
DOWN TIME / HANGOUT OPPORTUNITY  
FOR OUR CANTERBEARS AND YOUTH.





THE EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL HAS HAD A WONDERFUL FALL SO FAR! WE ENJOYED VISITS FROM THE CLEMSON FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE SC THERAPY DOGS GROUP, HOSTED A HIGHLY ATTENDED HALLOWEEN PROGRAM, AND OUR STUDENTS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN A VARIETY OF FUN ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING FALL-THEMED ART PROJECTS.



  
 Celebrating the Baptisms  
 of Lily Kate and John  
 Blake Kozlarek  
 October 26, 2025  






## Canterbury Update: Fall 2025



*Hi-Bachi!*

Canterbury has hit the ground running this semester! So far, we have seen a significant increase in consistent attendance at each gathering, with the highest number being 18 students! So far this semester, we have enjoyed good food (as always), learned about The Episcopal Church, completed a Bible Crash Course, hosted an overnight retreat with Canterbury of Furman, visited Denver Downs, hosted Lauren Wainwright, Diocesan Director for Youth and Young Adults, and much more. Canterbury has been so busy that we added a small leadership team to help brainstorm new ideas, such as Befriend-a-Canterbear.

Befriend-a-Canterbear enables college students and members of Holy Trinity to become more involved in each other's lives and to learn something new. If you'd like to learn more about this or sign up, click [here](#) or scan the QR code provided.



Not only have we grown in numbers, but we have also truly grown as a community. We pray for and with each other during compline, offer a place where questions can be asked, and we enjoy each other's company. Along with growing in community, we are planning a progressive dinner with other campus ministries in Clemson. This will be an excellent opportunity to share a meal and prayer with other followers of Christ. Hopefully, this will open the door to more ecumenical work in Clemson, for we all share the common goal of proclaiming God's love to the world. We have many more exciting plans for the rest of the year, and I look forward to seeing what else God has in store for Canterbury of Clemson.



*Firepit Compline and S'mores*



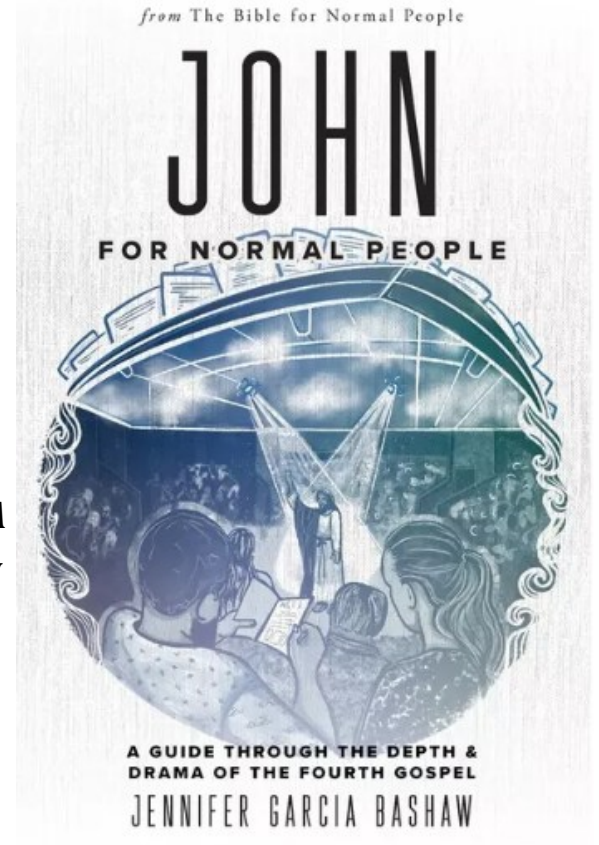
*From our overnight retreat*



# Growing in Christ Together

## The Bishop Reads

In 2025, Bishop Daniel challenged us all to read through the Bible together with him. In 2026, Bishop Daniel will present quarterly Bishop Reads challenges. In the first quarter, he is challenging congregations and individuals to read through the Gospel according to John with him. We will offer opportunities on Sunday mornings and on Wednesdays at noon to gather at Holy Trinity for discussion of the Fourth Gospel using *John for Normal People: A Guide through the Depth & Drama of the Fourth Gospel* by Jennifer Garcia Bashaw. Ellen Haase will continue her Adult Bible Fellowship group in the Tom Davis Library on Sunday mornings at 9:30, starting on 1/11. Mtr. Suz will lead a “brown bag” group in the Canterbury Center on Wednesdays at 11:30 am, starting on 1/14.



The other Bishop Reads for 2026 will be *The Rule of St. Benedict* in the second quarter, *Being God's Image* by Carmen Joy Imes for the third quarter, and wrapping up the year with Henry Nouwen's *The Way of the Heart*. Watch for more on each of those as we go through the year.



## Discovery Class 2026

Each year, Mtr. Suz offers 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. She would also love to have people join the class who have been practicing their faith here for some time, because you all have such wisdom and insight to share about this wonderful parish. We use the wonderful book by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe, *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices*. This class will begin in January at a time and date to be determined.



# Quiet Prayer

by Mel O'Day

Quiet prayer is prayer that leads ultimately to an opening awareness, a receptive openness to the presence of God. The ways of entering this quiet awareness, this contemplative way, can go by different names. Centering prayer is a name that seems to cover several ways that involve the use of words or phrases. The 'original' way, reintroduced in recent times by Thomas Merton and Basil Pennington, involves letting a word rise up from within you in a period of quietness, and then using that word as an anchor to draw you back from stray thoughts.

I have heard a number of people say "Oh, I can't do that. I have too many thoughts distracting me". There are several ways that can help with that in addition to perseverance, or practice.

There are also other ways of entering into quiet openness. The use of various types of images to focus on: icons, candle flames, items from nature, etc., and the use of chanting then silence. These ways can be practiced either alone or in a group. The experience in a group tends to be even more 'intense' somehow than when on your own. They are somehow just different.

Contemplative prayer ultimately leads to an open awareness of the presence of God in all around you, (even in some people you may not particularly like). And so it also leads you to becoming more aware of the needs around you. Contemplation and Action go together.

*If you would like to try out Quiet Prayer with a group that meets regularly to practice and support this type of praying, please consider joining us on Monday afternoons at 4:00 in the Mary Magdalene room on the second floor of the Parish House. Contact Mtr. Suz for instructions on how to enter the building through the Canterbury Center entrance.*



*Quiet Prayer Oratory in Mary Magdalene Room*

*Items to sell at this year's food booth are appreciated and may be dropped off at the church on Fri, Dec. 5th from 1-6 PM (Contact Michele Paoleschi mpaol3234@gmail.com). Plant cuttings to sell are also sought and may be dropped off during the same time period. (Contact Rachel Rowe 864-710-3438 or Margaret Nieman 207-350-2043 ).*



## 82nd Annual Holy Trinity Bazaar & *Artisan Market*

Local Artisans, Themed Gift Baskets, Baked Goods, Plants, Stained Glass Ornaments, Holy Trinity Crafts, St. Paul's Thrift Shop Items, Heirloom Christmas Stockings, Delicious Lunch, Soups, Frozen Meals, Silent Auction and much more

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 6, 10 AM - 2 PM**

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL PARISH  
193 OLD GREENVILLE HIGHWAY,  
CLEMSON, SC

**Proceeds Benefit  
Local Food Bank  
Charities**









# Christmas Drop-in

Please join us for food and fellowship before

# Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 14, 2025  
at 3:30 pm

183 E. Queen Street in Pendleton

(Lessons and Carols begins  
at 6pm at St. Paul's Church)

## Giving Tree

*Donations of gloves, hats, scarves and socks to share warmth for anyone who may need.*




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## 'Tis the Season for Giving

We are currently collecting gloves, hats, scarves, and socks to give to those in need. We will have a tree placed in the Narthex called the "Giving Tree." Please place these items directly on the tree or within the baskets below it. We are combining efforts with EDS to collect these items throughout the month of December. Handmade items are also welcomed.





# Parish Life Highlights





# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## December Birthdays:

2 – Renna Redd  
3 – Mary Ann Foy  
6 – Joanna Schuman  
6 – Rebecca Diemer  
6 – Joe Ryan  
7 – Tommye Hurst  
8 – Graydon Wallace  
11 – Paul Thackham  
12 – Callan Henry  
13 – Carolyn Wheeler  
14 – Myra Gildersleeve  
14 – Kathy Naeseth  
15 – Kathy Hunter  
15 – Chris Johnson  
17 – Austin Wyatt  
17 – Trey Williams  
20 – Charlie Arms  
22 – Curtis Henry  
23 – Brittany Allen  
24 – Jack McKenna  
26 – James Jayroe  
27 – Billy Bridges  
27 – Pam Beigh  
29 – Lew Fitch  
31 – Carol Todd  
31 – Cathy Garrett  
31 – Rob Baldwin  
31 – Gwen Hammond

## December Anniversaries:

1 – Barbara & Tom Witmer  
19 – Mary Beth & David Johnstone  
19 – Kathy & Kevin Crouse  
29 – Mellie & John Warner

## January Birthdays:

1 – Trey Cox  
1 – Andrew Baker  
1 – Louise Rozendale  
3 – Linda Krogman  
7 – Mary Bridges  
7 – Mary Ann Taylor  
11 – Pat Bryan  
11 – Teague De los Santos  
16 – Rob Beigh  
17 – Roger Brown, Jr.  
17 – Kathryn Cauley  
18 – Lura Forcum  
19 – Shelby Wallace  
19 – Michael Kozlarek  
20 – Mother Suz Cate  
21 – Marvin-Joe Merck  
21 – Barbara Weaver  
21 – Lynn Smith  
22 – Greg Meeks  
24 – Danny Edie  
27 – Joe Yanes  
28 – Cary Johnstone  
29 – Charles Shuler  
31 – Anita Arms

## January Anniversaries:

3 – Rachel & Chesley Rowe