TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH 430 JULIANA STREET PARKERSBURG, WV 26101

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A special thank you goes to **Michael McKibben** for sharing his artistic ministry in the creation of this year's Harvest altar. It was so beautiful it would make a good bulletin cover for the Thanksgiving season.

Thanks Michael!







Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what He wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best our of you, develops well-formed maturity in you."

Romans 12:2—from The Message Bible

The above scripture passage is from what is called a "paraphrase Bible". It is provided for those who find other translations hard to understand the point being made. I used it for this PONDERINGS as the passage from Romans 12:2 became a part of the Sabbatical meditation time for me.

When one's occupation is a calling by God to provide spiritual support to many, it becomes easy to begin to wonder why folks are not always on the same page as I am. So, during my Sabbatical, I spent much time asking God the questions: "Why does it seem that many people just have put the church and church life on the back burners of their actions? Why, for some, Sunday worship is vital while, for others, it doesn't seem to matter? Why does it seem that the mission and ministry of the Church is not the same for everyone? What does it take to have a desire for mission and ministry growth in one's spiritual life?

I am sure God scratched His head and thought-"there he goes again, pondering!"

St. Paul's words, to the Roman church as recorded above, became the answer: OUR CULTURE.

The Church has let the culture and the world about us dictate how we respond to the Lord. Where the Church at one time was the focal point of one's life, that has now changed. Society has so well-adjusted to the culture that we have let prayer in public places be threatened. We have permitted a few to tell us that Nativity scenes at Christmas are unacceptable in public places. Sports events, athletic practices, leisure trips, shopping, and much more have caused us to remove our attention from God to those things that make us FEEL GOOD. And for those of us that still find the Church as the center and importance of life, we have let the culture have its way without batting an eyelash. Oops, I will climb down from my soap box.

As we prepare to enter into the sacred seasons of Advent and Christmas, Paul's words remind me that I can get caught up in the frenzy where the true reasons for the season—preparation, love and acceptance—get lost in the hustle of activities.

Thus, the call of this Ponderings to you is to adequately prepare for the coming of the celebration of the birth of Our Lord Jesus and His coming again to claim His Kingdom. May the seasons be not time of focusing on what we will bake and eat or which gift will be the right one. Rather make it a time of focusing on God and being changed inside and out. Make it a time of worship and drawing closer to the One who created us, redeemed us and constantly dwells with us. We can live in the culture but we must work to not let it control us. Only God should be permitted that action!

Worship, Pray, Love, Read and Study, Prepare, Enjoy. Recognize what God wants from you and quickly respond to it. Caution! Be sure it is God and not the Culture that is speaking.

Have a holy Advent and a Blessed and Holy Christmas.

Until I ponder this way again.....In Christ's Spirit, Fr. Larry+



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Please turn in your donations for Christmas flowers to the office by Monday, Dec. 17, along with the form listing names or dedications so that we can be prepared for our Christmas services.



ADVENT EVENING

On December 5th we'll have a special Advent Evening, beginning with a service of Evening Prayer at 6:00pm, followed by an Advent Dinner in Trinity Hall, after which we'll return to the sanctuary for a program of Christmas music provided by Melissa and Dr. Bob Herceg, flute and cello. Please sign up on the sheet in Trinity Hall or by calling the office, so we'll know how many to expect.



DECEMBER EVENTS

<u>SUPPER CLUB</u>—December's social event for all adults in the congregation will be held Friday, Dec. 14 at 6:30 at the home of LaVerne Marshall. These events are great way to get to know others in the congregation: no program, just conversation. Call LaVerne or the church office for more information.

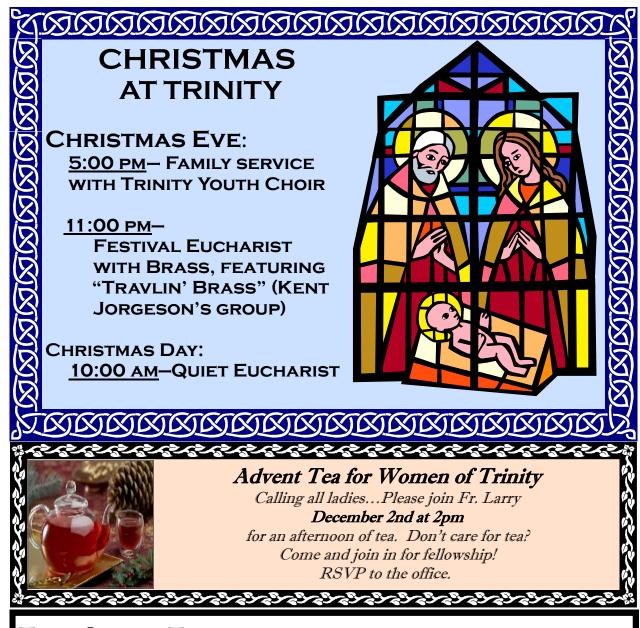
<u>GREENING OF THE CHURCH</u>—Sunday, December 23. We'll begin with a covered dish dinner at 5:30 before we start the task of decorating the church for Christmas festivities. Plan to be there for this important and fun activity!

<u>CONCERT</u> – The Smoot Theatre Children's Chorus will present its Christmas Concert at Trinity December 1 at 4:00 pm. This group of singers is directed by Trinity's Barbara Full and two of its members are also in the Trinity Youth Choir-McKenzie Cameron and Nikolas Cameron.

ST. ANNE'S BRUNCH will be Sunday, December 9 at 12:30 at the home of Paula Sellers.

<u>CONCERT</u> – The Marietta College Concert Choir, under the direction of Trinity Choirmaster Dr. Daniel Monek, will present its Christmas Concert Sunday, December 16 at St. Marys Catholic Church in Marietta. The concert, which begins at 8:00 pm, will include the familiar faces of our Scholar Singers, all members of the Choir. Get in touch with Father Josh if you'd like to be included in the group of Trinitarians attending.

LESSONS AND CAROLS-this traditional service will be held Sunday, December 30 at 10:30am.



The Jesse Tree is up and in the Memorial Library waiting for generous folks to hang mittens, gloves, scarves, hats and undergarments for area needy children on the branches. Blankets or other gift items may be placed under the tree to be given to the Adopted Family Project.



Our children's program which took place during the Thanksgiving Break was another great success this year. Those in attendance learned about special gifts and talents they have that can be used to help those around them. Through our conversation we found out that even though we are all different we each have special gifts that can help build up the Kingdom of God, and that we need to continually nurture those gifts in our lives so they can grow to be most effective.

After learning this lesson the kids acted on that knowledge with Trinity's Monday meal program, helping serve close to 140 people.



On Tuesday we had an excellent turnout for our second service project at the Parkersburg Humane Society. The kids helped decorate for their upcoming visit from Santa and helped walk and exercise many of the shelters animals. St. Francis would have been proud!



Now that our youth and children know what some of their gifts and talents are, perhaps it's time for us older folks to do a little thinking and exploring. What are *your* special gifts and talents that build up the Kingdom of God?

Fr. Josh



JDOK: **Trouble Makers or Evangelists?**

On November 14th, JDOK had their final training. They had a total of 6 to complete with the last lesson being evangelism. In speaking with the girls it was decided that graffiti was the answer. We all met at City Park armed with our weapons: sidewalk chalk. The girls were to write Thank God or Think God every 10 feet on the outer loop (which is a mile). They were familiar with the pilgrimage that the Jewish people would take when they learned of the history of the labyrinth. So this mile walk be-

came a pilgrimage for us. Every couple of feet for the first quarter mile, the girls got down ON THEIR KNEES and thanked God with their sidewalk chalk. They wrote various messages while they chit chatted along the way. The second guarter they wrote what they were thankful for and then thanked God. One on them wrote "thank you for my salvation!". The 3rd guarter we walked in guiet while the girls continued to remind the walkers (with their chalk) to look to God. The final quarter they used the Christmas lights in the park as inspiration. For instance, there is Cinderella's carriage and one girl wrote "Your Prince came and He was a King!". The entire pilgrimage took an hour. There were runners and walkers at the park that evening cheering on the girls. I have come to the conclusion that our future JDOK members are trouble making evangelists and I couldn't be prouder! Keep up the great work or spreading Jesus' message! Thank you! Liz Ramsav



Trinity's Youth Choir after their first appearance of the school year.







Vestry Highlights for November

- draft copy of the 2013 budget presented
- Bishop's confirmations scheduled for January 24
- wish list for soup kitchen offered
- designated music room proposed
- policy on staff vacation and medical leaves passed

Submitted by Sue Ellen Johnson, Registrar

NEW WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Too often when one thinks of worship, they think only of Sunday mornings. The Episcopal Church has a wide variety of worship opportunities that are available for its members who desire to partake of them.

Here at Trinity it is tradition to have a mid-week service of Holy Communion. For a while the times were 7:30 am and 12:10 pm with the latter including the Laying-on-of-Hands for Healing. The early service was discontinued when the attendance dropped to generally one person besides the priest.

During the Season of Advent, the early Wednesday morning 7:30am service will begin again. During this special season of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, this worship opportunity will be available to all who desire to attend. It is hoped that some will come to experience this short (non-sermon) service to be refreshed mid-week with the Holy Sacrament of Bread and Wine in Adams Chapel in the Office Building.

In the season of Epiphany, a service on Tuesday morning for Morning Praver at 9:30 am in Adams Chapel and a service of Evening Prayer on Thursday evenings in the Nave of the Church at 6:00 pm will alternate weeks. More information will be forth coming on these plans right after Christmas.

It is hoped that the Parishioners of Trinity Church will embrace these new worship offerings as a part of their spiritual growth.

NEWS FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING We put together 30 Advent Bags for shut-ins

and our college students., which included an Advent Calendar, some readings, and some treats.

We are beginning a walking group and will walk at the Mall on Mondays and Thursdays at 6:00 p.m., and Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. (no one wanted to fight the Saturday traffic at 6 p.m.! We will meet at the information desk. The doors that are open that early on Saturday are the ones beside Penney's and Sears, at the front of the Mall.

We will begin our book study on Bad Girls of the Bible on January 8th (Tuesday) at 7:00 p.m.

On Wednesday, January 16th, our chapter will host a covered dish dinner for the Parish.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, January 20th, after the 10:30 a.m. service.

Susie Fitcher



Yes, I am still around and watching you all as you are about the mission and ministry of Trinity Church

There is a need to express thanks to so many people who have worked so hard in the last few months:

~ to all who worked so hard to make this year's Book Sale a "smashing" success

~ to all the ladies of St. Anne's Guild that provided the Luncheon, manned the "Food for Thought" and "Christmas Presence" tables as well as sold raffle tickets

~ those that helped make the Elewana FUNd night a great success

 \sim to the youth and all the service projects they have done at the Monday meals and the clean-up in the Columbarium

 \sim to those faithful workers on Mondays who see that the hungry and homeless are fed a warm, nourishing meal

 \sim to the Lay Leaders of our worship services that assist the Clergy provide spiritual and holy worship

 \sim to all those that offer the praise of music in both the adult and children's choirs and who play the instruments of praise

~ to those individuals that make our visitors feel at home here at Trinity

 \sim to those women and men who work to have the altars ready for worship

 \sim to those men and women who greet and usher each Sunday

 \sim AND ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO DO THE ACTS OF MINISTRY THAT SOME MAY NEVER SEE OR KNOW

To you I give a big salute of thanks and a twitch of the whiskers of gratitude. You know who you are. It is okay to pat yourselves on the back. Keep up the good work!

IN SYMPATHY

GS

✓ to Kim & Blair Couch in the sudden loss of Kim's nephew who resided in Florida.

The Parish Family of Trinity Church extends it deepest sympathy to

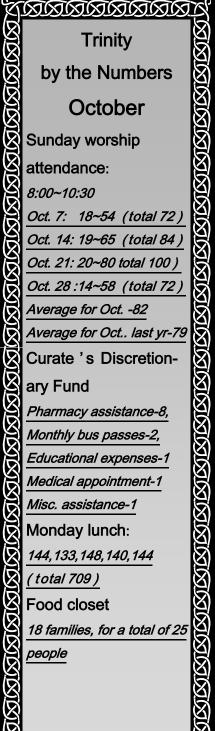
~ to Lexi Ann Grant-Snider and Jim Snider due to the death of Lexi's mother, Marcella Grant, whose service was Saturday, November 10th here at Trinity Church.

~ to former parishioners **Steve & Beverly Reger** due to the death of his mother who was buried on Monday, November 19th

~ Rest eternal grant to these loved ones, O Lord; And let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Thank You!

"A special thanks for the white bouquet of altar flowers from Sunday, November 4th. They are absolutely beautiful and are enjoyed each day with more blooms bursting open!" **Evelyn Frost**





Cute faces - both human and pumpkin!!

Upcoming news for folks to start thinking about ...

~~~~Bishop Klusmeyer will be coming in January to do Confirmations on the 24th at 7pm. Fr. Josh will be holding a series of classes (both at the church and online) for anyone who may be interested in being confirmed. The classes aren't just for those wishing for Confirmation, either. If you wanted to know a little more about the Episcopal Church or why we do things the way we do during worship, this is a great opportunity and we hope you'll participate. For more information please contact Fr. Josh by email or in the office.

~~~~Calling all youth! Mark your calendars and plan to join a ski retreat for middle and high school students! The trip runs February 8-10, and is being hosted by the Diocese of WV and St. Stephen's, Beckley. More information will be available soon!

~~~~Looking way ahead, Trinity will be hosting a diocesan middle school retreat in April of 2013, which will run Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> to Saturday the 13th. This is a new opportunity for middle school students to come together and share stories and meet new friends, so we hope all our middle school students will take advantage of the opportunity. More info in coming months, so stay tuned!





Several areas of ministry are in need in the months ahead so if any of these fit your fancy, please call the office to volunteer your time and energy. Thank you in advance.

# DECEMBER OUTREACH ASSISTANCE

Needed are individuals to carry out any and all Outreach activities for December, including Food Baskets, Jesse Tree and Personal Care Kits.

# SMALL ALTAR LINEN DUTY

Looking for a couple women or men who are willing to take the small altar linens like corporals and purificators home to wash and iron and return to the church for use. This is a simple task but an important one. Training available for those who desire to have it.

# COLUMBARIUM COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Committee members will address the needs in the Columbarium and meetings are quarterly

# TRINITYS 170TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

If we are going to celebrate the 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Trinity Parish in 2013, a Committee is needed to get started. No plans have been formulated so the slate is clean and open for ideas.



# Youth Bowling Trip

Youth and families will be getting together on December 8th to go bowling! We'll be at Emerson Lanes from 2:00 to 4:30. this is open to all families, so please RSVP to Father Josh so the correct number of lanes can be reserved.

 Congratulations!!!
to Blair Couch in his re-election as Wood County Commissioner and to his family, Kim, Will & Jamie.

#### KNITTERS

A group of women at Trinity engage in a working ministry called The Knitters. They gather monthly to share their knowledge of the craft and discuss who they might reach out to. During the month they individually crochet or knit and pray quietly for someone in need. They produce soft beautiful prayer shawls that are,

at their completion, blessed by one of Trinity's priests and given to softly wrap a parishioner or family member. They also have made preemie infant caps, soldiers caps and warm mariner caps for those who work on river boat barges.

Recently, I attended the funeral of Marcella Grant, which was held at Trinity. Marcella was Lexi Grant-Snider's mother. Lexi was a Trinitarian when she and Jim lived in the area. Lexi once again gave thanks to the knitters. Her mother wore the prayer shawl around her thin shoulders whenever she was able to get out of bed. God bless the knitters.

If you have an interest in learning to knit or use the skills you already have to make these knitting items, please contact Edith Newman or just join us at one of the monthly meetings held on the first Sunday of each month right after the 10:30 service. The Knitters welcome both men and women interested in this craft. *Marion Culbertson* 

#### QUIET MINISTRY-MUSTARD SEEDS

You receive an unexpected greeting card, a container of home-made pea soup, a visit in the hospital or nursing home, a phone call, a fresh flower and sometimes just a listening ear when you need to talk. You have been touched by a **mustard seed**. For many years the MUSTARD SEEDS MINISTRY of Trinity has attempted to quietly

reach out and support Trinitarians who are not able to be physically present in church. Its goal is to make certain they are remembered at significant times of the year. The group strives to relieve the burden of isolation. They carry out their acts of compassionate care without recognition or fan-fare.

During the first week of December several Trinitarians will once again receive beautiful white poinsettias wrapped in gold foil with green ribbon. A Mustard Seed card will be enclosed containing the parable of the Mustard Seed with a signature *"from your Trinity Family"*.

I ask that you remember the mustard seeds in your prayers and those who are the reapers of their harvest. If you feel led to participate in this quiet ministry ,please contact Marion Culbertson at 304-615-2119(cell).

Then He said," What is the kingdom of God like? To what can I compare it? It is a mustard seed that a person took and planted in the garden. When it was fully grown, it became a large bush and the birds of the sky dwelt in its branches" Luke 13:18-19

#### HEALTH

The Thanksgiving holiday has passed and Christmas is fast approaching. In the hustle and bustle of holidays we sometimes forget to take care of our spiritual and physical health. Before the hustle and bustle of your day begins **STOP** as you put your feet on the floor and say a **prayer**. It could be a moment of prayer or minutes of meditation. Then, as they say, "You are good to go". You may not find the time during the rest of your busy day, so do it **FIRST.** 

For your Physical health I suggest you cut out this information provided by the American Heart Association and place it on the front of your refrigerator to remind you of these daily guidelines:

Eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables.

Eat six or more servings of cereals, breads, pasta, and other whole -grain products.

Eat fish, poultry without skin and leaner cuts of meat instead of fatty ones.

Eat nonfat or 1% milk dairy products rather than whole milk dairy products.

Substitute olive, corn, canola, or safflower oil for some of the saturated fat in your diet.

**Enjoy** at least 30-60 minutes of vigorous activities on most( or all) days of the week. Maintain a healthy weight.

THESE ARE A CHECKLIST FOR MAINTAINING OR LOWERING YOUR CHOLESTEROL. START THESE HEALTHY HABITS WHEN YOUR CHILDREN ARE YOUNG, REMIND YOUR TEENAGERS AND KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR ELDERLY PARENTS OR GRANDPARENTS.



# We did it! We all did it!

Without a helping hand from almost every member of the congregation, we could not have sold thousand of books and exceeded previous totals, bringing in about **\$21,240**.

Thanks go to treasurers Kerry Bowen and Diane Hensley, to Betty Earl for the excellent publicity, to Helen Wilson who marks the gems and to Becky

Roberts for scheduling workers. It never would have happened without Sue Ellen Johnson and the loyal, hard working team of markers. You know who you are.....

To all who picked up books, lugged, lifted, toted, who kept order in the aisles, helped the bewildered and checked out happy book buyers. Thank you!

And special thanks to our beautiful youngsters who moved the many category signs downstairs and up again. Profits have already provided a replacement for the deceased food closet freezer.

The biggest profit was in the visiting that went on among the workers. We all finished the week knowing fellow parishioners so much better and making new friends.

St. Anne's members were pleased when the handsome, handmade table went to one of their own. Carma Guertin held the lucky raffle ticket. Carma plans to pass it on to Relay for Life for their next fundraiser. Luncheon committee members report a profit of nearly \$900. The aromas from the kitchen were almost profit enough! The Bake Sale and Christmas Presence tables earned over \$1,000 for needs within the church. *Lynette Neilson* 



**Book Sale Luncheon 2012**.....Another successful luncheon was provided by St Anne's Guild for the Annual Book Sale. What a challenge it is to set up and run a little restaurant for four days! Many thanks go to Pam Parsons, Connie Warren, Cara Bowen, Betty Rathbone and Ann Bailey who handled and served all the soups, sandwiches, hot dogs, desserts and drinks. Father Larry and Charlotte Bee were cashiers and dispensers of good cheer. Roger Sellers did all the clean up and dishes. And then we had over 20 pies and cakes donated by many of you and of

course, Lynette made her wonderful pea soup. It is so nice to see some of the same faces year after year asking for their favorite soup or Pam's Mexican Fruitcake. One man had us hide a piece of Roger's mother's pie each day just for him. (My mother-in-law is 96 and always makes four pies every year for the kitchen.) All those fun little things make it easier to toil away over the hot soup pots. I like to think the luncheon is an integral part of some of the shoppers' overall Book Sale experience. And, despite the rising costs of food, we were able to make \$890 profit for St Anne's upcoming projects. So, all in all, another good year. We hope for your continued patronage and support for the next year. Thank you.

# DECEMBER 2012

# TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sun Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Mon 1 4:00pm-Smoot Theatre Children's Chorus Concert 8:00pm-AA ADVENT 1 5 7:30am-Eucharist 7 2 3 6 8 10:30-Eucharist 8:00 am-Eucharist 11:00am-Food Closet 2:00-4:30-Youth Bowling 11:00am-Food Closet 9:00-Choir Rehearsal 11:45-Youth Choir 6:00pm-Evening Prayer/ 10:00am-Bible Study 11:00am - Feeding Program 6:00pm-Blenn.Stamp Soc. 8:00pm-AA 11:00am-Food Closet 9:15-Adult Ed. Knitters Advent Night Dinner 10:15-Sunday School 2:00pm-Advent Tea 9 12 13 ADVENT 2 10 14 15 11 8:00 am—Fucharist 11:45-Yourh Choir 7:30am-Eucharist 10:00am-Calendar mtg. 9:00-Choir Rehearsal 12:30-St. Anne's Brunch 6:30pm-Supper Club 10:00am-Bible Study 8:00pm-AA 11:00am - Feeding Program 11:00am-Food Closet 11:00-Food Closet 9:15-Adult Ed. 5:00pm-Youth mtg. @ LaVerne Marshall's 11:00am-Food Closet 5:00pm-Priest Supp. Group 10:15-Sunday School 6:00pm-Ornament 10:30-Eucharist Exhchange Party 17 19 22 16 18 20 10:00am-Bible Study 21 **ADVENT 3** 11:00am-Food Closet 8:00 am—Eucharist 10:15-Sunday School 7:30am-Eucharist 11:00am - Feeding Program 6:00pm-Blenn, Stamp Soc. 8:00pm-AA 11:00am-Food Closet 9:00-Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Eucharist 11:00am-Food Closet 6:00pm-Finance 11:45-Youth Choir 9:15-Adult Ed. 7:00pm-Vestry "Times" deadline **Discretionary Sunday** 23 24 29 **ADVENT 4** 25 26 27 28 8:00 am—Eucharist 11:45-Youth Choir 11:00am - Feeding Program 10:00am-Quiet Eucharist 11:00am-Food Closet 9:15-Adult Ed. 5:30pm- Covered Dish 5:00pm-Family Service 8:00pm-AA 10:15-Sunday School Dinner. Greening of 11:00pm-Festival Eucharist w/ —Office Closed— 10:30-Eucharist the Church Brass 30 **CHRISTMAS 1** 31 8:00 am—Eucharist 10:30-Lessons & Carols w/ 11:00am - Feeding Program 9:15-Adult Ed. Holv Communion 10:15-Sunday School Birthday Sunday DECEMBER 8. McKenzie Cameron 16. Dick Bonnet 21. Clint Curry 29. Jeff Bozeman 26. Lynn Fury-Prather & Denny Prather 2. Michael Hensley Quentin Oliphant Loretta McGregor 22. Cardy Ramsay 30. Sean Rice 27. Stefanie & David Westfall 3. Jamie Couch 10. Maya Grace Parrish 23. Larry Nutter **ANNIVERSARIES** 17. Vint Rathbone 29. Betsy & Craig Curry Linda Tucker 12. Bernard Bookman Susan Shock Kalee Schmidt 9. Rae & Kevin Oliphant 4. Susie Fitcher Paul Marteney 18. Nick Curry 26. Bob Brantner 23. Betty & Vint Rathbone MLe Wallpapers.com