



# The Trumpet

## TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

[www.trinityparish.org](http://www.trinityparish.org)

Trinity Episcopal Church ♦ Longview, Texas ♦ December 2014 ♦ Volume 24, Issue 12

THE ADVENT POLICE



## Christmas...not yet!

This cartoon has “lovingly” been posted in the sacristy for a number of years. It is a reminder to the Altar Guild that their rector, yours truly, is a bit of a stickler when it comes to the observance of Advent. I must admit the reputation is well deserved.

It's not that I don't love Christmas, I do. You see, I just love the season of Advent as much or maybe even more than I do Christmas. C. S. Lewis in his autobiography, *Surprised by Joy*, who writes that joy is found more in the

anticipation of something to be received than in the reception itself.

While the world skips speedily from Thanksgiving to Christmas, Advent says to us, “whoa, not so fast, slow down and think about what we are celebrating.” Advent gives us an opportunity to take a collective breath and not be overcome by the trappings and commercialization of Christmas. This year, I actually saw Christmas decorations displayed before Halloween. It seems the retail market drives our worldly seasons. I hope we won't allow it dictate our church seasons, as well.

Take time to enjoy the season of Advent and its anticipation of the coming of the Christ Child. Take a moment out of your busy schedules to join us at Contemplative Christmas on the Monday and Tuesday evenings before Christmas from 5 – 8 PM to quietly reflect on the miracle of Christmas, that God became flesh and dwelt among us. Take an opportunity to slow down in the midst of the mad rush and experience again the joy you felt as a child as you eagerly awaited the arrival of Christmas Day.

# TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LONGVIEW, TEXAS

## STAFF

The Rev. Kevin Wittmayer	Rector
Gary Whitwell	TST Head of School
Bill Bane	Director of Music Ministries
Tim Baker	Director of Student Ministries
Tisha Grotemat	Director of Children's Ministries
Leno Mancilla	Sexton
George Pliler	Endowment
Billie Padgett	Office Volunteers

## VESTRY

<u>Class of 2014</u>	<u>Class of 2015</u>	<u>Class of 2016</u>
Claire Alford	David Balliett	Lucy Germany
Bill Charles	Scott Jones	John Hall
Todd Holman	Elise McClure	Kim Howard
Dinah Rushing	Ted Skeans	Ava Welge
Bill Charles, Senior Warden		
Dinah Rushing, Junior Warden		
Barney Jones, Treasurer		
Kristen Hoover, Clerk of the Vestry		

## DECEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH



Newgate Mission exists to feed the people of God in mind, body and spirit. All of their ministries and services aim to meet the basic needs of our human condition, especially those affected by poverty. Newgate United Methodist Mission of Longview, Inc. began in 1990. While Newgate is a mission of the United Methodist denomination, it opens its doors to cross all denominational lines as we all participate together in God's mission. They also seek to collaborate with local community agencies who share their passion to love and serve our community. We are honored to support the work of this great ministry this month.

Bishop's Visit  
Baptism & Confirmation  
December 7th  
10:30 AM Service



## TRINITY SCHOOL OF TEXAS



La Posada  
Service  
December 11  
6:00 PM

## DECEMBER YOUTH EVENTS

Youth Sunday School Donuts  
Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 9:20-10:15 AM

Ka-ra-zee Christmas Party  
Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 4:00-7:00 PM

Guys & Girls Small Groups  
Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> 5:30-7:00 PM

New Year's Eve EVE Movie Night  
Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup> 6:00-9:00 PM

Popcorn. Snack Food. Movie. FUN!!

Location TBA at

[www.facebook.com/trinityepiscopalstudents](http://www.facebook.com/trinityepiscopalstudents)



Pine Tree High School  
Christmas Choral Concert  
Tuesday, December 9  
7:00 PM

## Service of Compline

Come and worship with us as we celebrate the ancient monastic service of Compline performed by the men's Compline Choir.

Join us for refreshments in Guild Hall immediately following.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14  
8:30 P.M.

## PERICHORESIS

peri-cho-re-sis (from Greek: περιχώρησις, "rotation")

[1] describes the relationship between each person of the triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

[2] a contemplative service of Holy Communion at Trinity Episcopal Church that engages all your senses as we worship God together.

The 4th Sunday evening of the month  
6:00 pm Pre-service music 5:45 pm

Trinity Episcopal Church • 906 Padon Street • Longview

## Children's Christmas Pageant



We would love to have your children participate in the annual Christmas Eve Children's pageant at the Family Christmas Eve worship service at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday December 24th. We are so blessed each year with the participation of infants through middle school in our pageant. We will be practicing in Sunday School and Children's Church. Please contact Tisha Grotemat at 903-617-7899 or [tgrotemat@trinityparish.org](mailto:tgrotemat@trinityparish.org) if you know that your child will be participating this year. Thank you so much for your participation.

## Contemplative Christmas

A time of prayer and meditation

Prayer stations will be available

Monday, December 22

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM



Tuesday, December 23

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM



## DOK CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 8th • 6:00 PM - Home of Cherry Sikes

Please RSVP to Linda Leath at (903) 663-7534 or

Cherry Sikes at (903) 757-3382

Cost is \$6.00 per person.

## GREETERS WANTED

We need additional Greeters at both the 8 and 10:30 am services to supplement our existing cadre of volunteers. You will serve once ever 5-6 weeks. Please consider joining our Greeter Ministry and specify which service time you want to serve. Contact Bill Charles at (903-297-4430) or [wmcharles@aol.com](mailto:wmcharles@aol.com).

# CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

Hanging of the Greens - 12:00 PM - Immediately following the 10:30 AM Service

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

Contemplative Christmas - 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

Contemplative Christmas - 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

Christmas Eve Family Service and Pageant - 6:00 PM

Pre-service Music - 5:30 PM

Traditional Christmas Eve Service - 11:00 PM

Pre-service Music - 10:30 PM

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

Christmas Day "Said" Service - 10:30 AM

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH

Rite I Holy Eucharist - 8:00 AM

Service of Lessons and Carols (No Eucharist) - 10:30 AM



## HELP DECORATE OUR CHURCH FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Please place flowers in the church at Christmas

In memory of

In honor of

In thanksgiving for

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Circle one or more)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name of person (s) flowers are given for*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Given by: (Your name)*

I will contribute the following amount to the flower fund: \_\_\_\_\_

You may request flowers by completing this form and mail it to the church office or place it in the offering plate. We can also take flower requests at the church office in person or by email at [trinity@trinityparish.org](mailto:trinity@trinityparish.org). The suggested donation is \$25 but no gift is too small or too large. The deadline for submission is **Thursday, December 18th**. Your gift will glorify God and add to the beauty of our Christmas worship.

## December Stewardship: Too Good to be True Giving

*"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn will break upon us."*

Luke 1:78

These words come from the amazing poem known as the Benedictus, the blessing of Zechariah on his surprising gift-son, John (the Baptist). Zechariah is one of those minor characters in the birth narratives of Jesus, often lost in the shuffle of shepherds and magi that populate our Christmas pageants. Yet Zechariah gives us a great gift for Advent: the gift of the sceptic.

When an angel told Zechariah that his middle-aged wife Elizabeth would have a baby, he didn't believe it. All his life this man had been faithfully serving God; clearly he was a sincere

believer. He held onto his faith through the years of their infertility and who knows how many other problems in their lives. But when an angel promises something "too good to be true," the sceptic in Zechariah comes out and he rejects the God he has relied on when things have been truly bad.

This Christmas let us be about giving to the world in ways that are **too good to be true**. Let the sceptics see that love is more powerful than anyone expects it to be. Let us, in the image of God, give of ourselves in life-transforming ways beyond presents under the tree, just like Zechariah and Elizabeth and John.

Generous giving is voluntary, not pressured. There's a basic principle: If you sow sparingly, you reap sparingly; if

you sow bountifully, you reap bountifully. Give generously and you will see God use you in a greater way. You will be enriched in everything and God's work will prosper because of your faithfulness. Nothing about God is ever too good to be true!

## Merry Christmas.

*(Resource: "God is still speaking" by Rochelle Stackhouse)*

### PRAYER

*Loving God, You are the giver of every good gift including the most precious and holy gift of your son, Jesus. Help us also to be generous givers of our gifts as we give back in gratitude to You who has given us everything.  
We pray to the Lord, AMEN*

## NOVEMBER VESTRY REPORT By Lucy Germany

Defining terms is a well-known important ritual for organizations of all types for its ability to offer a clearly understood picture of where an organization stands and where it hopes to be.

At its November meeting, Trinity's vestry tackled that challenge by spending the bulk of its time in identifying both "mission statement" and "vision statement" as each applies to the church, calling for input from the twelve participants and chronicling each of the statements according to its perceived importance to the church today and the church of the future.

Each member was presented with examples of both and challenged to add to the "possibles" ideas and emphases from their own experiences and expectations. There was discussion on setting a "priority scale" for each statement offered. A new

vision statement to emphasize the church's quality of worship, commitment to spiritual growth, ministry to those in need, the offering of hospitality and the celebration of the arts within the context of worship were on the challenging list offered to the group for comment. A tagline which, in a few carefully chosen words could adequately present Trinity's overall nature, stressed "grounded in tradition, growing in grace", both of which were seen as being strongly appealing to people seeking a church offering both qualities.

Julie Bernard, executive director of Trinity School of Texas, discussed the relationship between school and church and the importance of two major fundraisers—the Trinity Advantage Fund and the Spring Gala. The Advantage Fund is relied upon to fill the gap between the school's tuition costs and operational costs, she pointed out, which puts Trinity Church in a very important position to assist students in entering such areas

as technology, athletics and fine arts. Last year, she said, the school raised \$210,000, with Trinity Church as a major contributor.

Senior Warden Bill Charles reported that 78 pledge cards had been received during the Ingathering Sundays, support which during the past year have accounted for 50% of the budget.

A motion to fund the 2015 Concert Series with \$10,000 from the Endowment Board and to make that request of the Endowment Board passed unanimously.

A motion to accept an \$8,400 bid to replace the church's phone system—a capital request—was approved. The Endowment Board will be asked to help with half of the replacement cost.

Fr. Kevin reminded the group that Bishop Fisher is scheduled to come to Trinity on the first Sunday in December and has asked for a meeting with the vestry.



# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

12/01	Jean Hill	12/10	Tommy Kirkindoll	12/23	Dot Fricks
12/01	Donna Irwin	12/11	Sue Clark	12/23	Delfina Whitwell
12/01	Dana Walters	12/12	Ella Stevens	12/27	Nika Sloan
12/02	Robert Maly	12/14	Doradel Wylie	12/27	Bobbie Michaels
12/04	Jennifer Klingenberg	12/15	Ava Welge	12/28	Tovah Robertson
12/05	Joe Weatherford	12/18	Dorothy Skeans	12/28	Lori Weatherford
12/06	Sam Clark	12/19	Ethel Branch	12/30	Cherry Sikes
12/09	Holly Calk	12/21	Art Machin		
12/09	Debra McLemore	12/22	Lisa McPhee		

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

12/16	John & Keely Barbe	12/22	Spencer & Claire Alford
12/17	Charles & Dot Fricks	12/23	Jack & Ava Welge
12/19	Tom & Kirsten Phillips	12/23	Vernon & Anne Moore
12/19	Keith & Sue Clark	12/26	Tommy & Loretta Lloyd
12/20	Edwin & Aurora Buckner	12/29	Steve & Lisa Baker
12/22	Dana & Judy Walters		




# Trinity Service Calendar

## Month of December – Lectionary Year A

Date	December 7 The Second Sunday of Advent	December 14 The third Sunday of Advent	December 21 The fourth Sunday of Advent	December 28 The Holy Innocents
First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm:85:1-2,8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8	Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11 Psalm: 126 1 Thess. 5:16-24 John 1:6-8,19-28	2 Sam. 7:1-11,16 Psalm: Canticle 3 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38	Jer. 31:15-17 Ps. 124 Rev. 21:1-7 Matt. 2:13-18
Altar Team	Baker Team	Collins Team	Campbell Team	Crittenden Team
Verger	M. Wilks	J. Barbe	S. Alford	M. Wilks
Parish Security	J. Crittenden	T. Devon	G. Plier	T. Todd
Coffee Hour	T. Godsey	D. Skeans	TBA	L. Leath
Flower Delivery	J. Barth E. Cargill	M. Arnold B. Hancock	Z. Brown D. Fricks	B. Crittenden C. Wilks
Early Service				
Ushers	E. Campbell M. Plier	E. Campbell M. Plier	E. Campbell M. Plier	E. Campbell M. Plier
Greeters	Maly Team	Charles Team	McWhorter Team	Charles Team
Acolyte	T. Gignilliat	G. Rushing	T. Gignilliat	J. Gillit
Lay Readers 1 <sup>st</sup> Reader 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	G. Hoover G. McWhorter	J. Hall G. Rushing	L. Snider B. Charles	J. Welge J. Gillit
L. E. M.	G. Hoover G. McWhorter	J. Hall G. Rushing	L. Snider B. Charles	J. Welge J. Gillit
Late Service				
Ushers	Thorson Team	Crittenden Team	Scott Team	Kirkindoll Team
Greeters	Skeans Team	Barbe Team	Kirkindoll Team	Gray Team
Acolytes	Team 2	Team 3	Team 1	Team 2
Lay Readers 1 <sup>st</sup> Reader 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reader	J. Sloan G. Rushing	L. Sticher A. Sharp	C. Collins G. McWhorter	K. Sparks R. McPhee
L. E. M.	J. Sloan G. Rushing	J. Welge J. Gillit	C. Collins G. Hoover	N. Collins J. Sawyer
L. E. V.	B. Charles M. Arnold		L. Leath J. Mraz	

# December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	4	5	6
7 Regular Sunday Schedule <b>10:30 AM</b> <b>Bishop Fisher Visit</b> <b>Confirmation</b> 9:15 AM Youth Donuts 5:30 PM Young Adult Fellowship 6:00 PM Potluck Story Night	8 6:00 PM DOK Christmas Party - Cherry Sikes Home	9 6:00 PM Senior Men's Dinner 7:00 PM Pine Tree High School Christmas Program	10 10:00 AM TST Choral Concert 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	11 6:00 PM TST La Posada	12	13
14 Regular Sunday Schedule 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Ka-razee Christmas Party 8:30 PM Compline	15	16 6:00 PM Vestry	17 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	18	19	20
21 Regular Sunday Schedule 12:00 PM Hanging of the Greens (immediately following 10:30 AM Service) 5:30 PM Youth Guys/ Girls Small Groups	22 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Contemplative Christmas Prayer Service	23 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Contemplative Christmas Prayer Service	24 <b>Offices Closed at Noon</b> <b>No Noon Eucharist</b> 6:00 PM Family Service 11:00 PM Traditional Service	25 10:30 AM Christmas Day "Said" Service <b>Merry Christmas</b> 	26	27
28 8:00 AM Eucharist 10:30 AM Christmas Lessons and Carols No Eucharist 6:00 PM Perichoresis	29	30 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM New Years Eve EVE Movie Night for youth	31 <b>Offices Closed at Noon</b> <b>No Noon Eucharist</b>	January 1, 2015 <b>Offices Closed</b>		
<p><b><u>REGULAR SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE:</u></b></p> <p>8:00 AM Rite I Holy Eucharist 9:00 Coffee Hour 9:15 AM Christian Education 10:30 Rite II Holy Eucharist</p>						



## TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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*Merry Christmas  
And A  
Happy New Year*

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### December Special Events

7th	Bishop Fisher Visit and Confirmation, 10:30 AM Service
7th	Potluck Story Night, 6:00 PM, Parish Hall
8th	DOK Christmas Party, 6:00 PM, Cherry Sikes' Home
9th	Pine Tree High School Christmas Choral Concert, 7:00 PM, Nave
11th	TST La Posada Service, 6:00 PM, Nave
14th	Compline, 8:30 PM, Nave
21st	Hanging of the Greens, 12:00 PM, Nave
22nd & 23rd	Contemplative Christmas, 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM, Nave
24th	Christmas Eve Family Service, 6:00 PM, Nave
24th	Christmas Eve Traditional Service, 11:00 PM, Nave
25th	Christmas Day, "Said Service" 10:30 AM, Nave
28th	Service of Lessons and Carols, 10:30 AM, Nave (Rite I Holy Eucharist at 8:00 AM)
28th	Perichoresis, 6:00 PM, Nave

### January Special Events

6th	Epiphany Bonfire, 6:00 PM, Trinity Outreach Center
11th	Reverend Canon John Newton, Guest Preacher, 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM Services
11th	Compline, 8:30 PM, Nave
19th	<b>Offices Closed</b> in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
25th	Trinity Episcopal Church Annual Meeting, 9:00 AM, Parish Hall
25th	Perichoresis, 6:00 PM, Nave