



The Trumpet

Trinity Episcopal Church
www.trinityparish.org

Trinity Episcopal Church ♦ Longview, Texas ♦ December 2011 ♦ Volume 21, Issue 12

La Posada: A Gift of Hospitality

On December 8th the nave of our church will be packed with parents, grandparents and older siblings of Trinity School of Texas children. They will be watching the younger students of Trinity School of Texas dramatize with song and pageantry the story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and the birth of the Christ child.

In the Hispanic culture, particularly in Mexico, this remembrance of the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem is known as La Posada, translated "the accommodation." It is the story of Mary and Joseph being refused lodging until eventually finding a birthplace for our Lord in a stable.

La Posada is traditionally celebrated with a nine day period of devotion where congregants of a parish journey from one home to another during the nine day period. Each night is spent in a different home where the pilgrims pray and celebrate in expectation of Christmas. La Posada begins on

December 16th and concludes with worship at the church on Christmas Eve. The gift of hospitality is offered to the pilgrims (*peregrinos*).

The gift of hospitality was a thing of great importance in first century Palestine, especially for a young couple traveling from their



home in Nazareth. After all, there were no Bethlehem Marriott Hotel or Holiday Inn Express.

Over the last few months I've become more attentive to the importance of hospitality as a spiritual discipline. I can only speak for myself, but I find life so busy that all I want to do when I have a free moment is to be by myself and bury my nose in a good book or

lose myself in a television program. The last thing I consider doing is to invite someone over to share an evening together over a simple meal and conversation.

Recently I've had to reevaluate my priorities in regards to the gift of hospitality. A few weeks ago the Collins family invited Pamela and I over for a delightful evening with their family. They have made a conscious decision to be more intentional about their offer of hospitality to others. It was an incredible gift to Pamela and I to be invited into their home. As we gathered around the table we were blessed to hear each of their children express what they were

particularly thankful for that day.

I believe that through the Collins' decision to begin offering hospitality on a regular basis to others God has placed a desire in both Pamela's and my heart to do the same. As a result we are beginning to be more intentional about offering the same gift of

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Trinity Episcopal Church

Staff

The Rev. Kevin Wittmayer	Rector
The Rev. Shanna Neff	Assistant Rector
Ric Beard	TST Head of School
Bill Bane	Director of Music Ministries
Donna Armstrong	Administrative Assistant
Leno Mancilla	Sexton
Caroline DuPuy	Sunday School Director
George Pliler	Endowment
Billie Padgett	Office Volunteers

Vestry

<u>Class of 2011</u>	<u>Class of 2012</u>	<u>Class of 2013</u>
Kim Howard	John Barbe	Sam Clark
Gene McWhorter	Shirley Bratton	Nathan Collins
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Jack Welge	Nancy Sawyer	Gary Whitwell

Cherry Sikes, Senior Warden
Rolin McPhee, Junior Warden

Barney Jones, Treasurer
Elaine Campbell, Clerk of the Vestry

Parish Office

906 Padon Street, Longview, Texas 75601
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Website: www.trinityparish.org

Our Mission of the Month

LONGVIEW
Community Ministries
Serving With Love 

The Longview Community Ministries was formed in 1983 to serve Longview residents in need by providing temporary assistance to relieve suffering and/or prevent homelessness. Longview Community Ministries meets these needs in many ways: cooked meals delivered to the homebound, computer skills; free coats and jeans in the fall for youth; emergency medical assistance; and help for those in crisis with emergency rent or groceries. This ministry serves as an organization to enable Longview congregations and groups to work together more effectively in the community through cooperative acts of service to assist persons in need regardless of race, religion, or creed. What a wonderful ministry in the midst of the Longview community

The Longview Community Ministries Food Box continues to serve more families every week. This month we are in need of canned meats, peanut butter, cranberry sauce, macaroni & cheese, cereal, and hygiene products.



"God Can Do It: We Can Help"

	OCTOBER 2011	YTD 2011
Income	\$ 55,840.48	\$ 637,465.29
Expenses	\$ 55,261.39	\$ 602,094.26
Surplus	\$ 579.09	\$ 34,371.03
Pledge Actual	\$ 42,060.16	\$ 481,418.89
Pledge Budget	\$ 47,876.58	\$ 478,765.80
	(\$ 5,816.42)	\$ 2,653.09



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 Saturday December 24th. We are so blessed each year with the participation of infants through high school for our pageant. We will be practicing in Sunday School and Children's Church. Please contact Caroline

DuPuy at 903-353-6800 or carolinedupuy@gmail.com if you know that your child will be participating this year. Thank you so much for your participation.



Christmas Schedule

Sunday, December 18th

Hanging of the Greens—6:00 PM

Saturday, 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

Sunday, December 25th

Christmas Day "Said" Service—10:30 AM

La Posada
Cont'd from page 1

hospitality to others. It is our hope that after the Christmas season we will be able to increase even further our practice of offering this gift of hospitality to others.

Can you imagine what Trinity Church would be like if a gift of hospitality broke out and became contagious among us, if we began in a disciplined way to share our lives with one another. Imagine the possibilities. A hospitality that is shared with those in our midst would possibly become a gift of hospitality that was then shared with those outside our doors. It would become a contagion that continued to be spread on Sunday mornings as we welcomed guests to our worship.

Let me move from the theoretical to the practical. Over the next few weeks there will be a number of people who will walk through our doors who will be our

guests. We have the Trinity School of Texas La Posada on December 8th. We will be hosting the Pine Tree High School Christmas Concert on December 12th. Finally, we will be conducting our own Christmas services on Christmas Eve. All of these are wonderful opportunities for us to greet those who are guests at these events and welcome them in the Name of the one whose birth we celebrate this season.

I want to offer one other opportunity of hospitality for your consideration. What if we were to celebrate La Posada in a special way this year? Like the traditional La Posada we will be gathering here at the church for the Christmas Eve celebration. We will also have the opportunity to gather together on December 18th for the "Hanging of the Greens" here at the church as we ready the nave for our Christmas season. Pamela and I would like to offer an additional night of hospitality in our home during the time of La Posada. Please join us in

our home for an open house on the first night of La Posada, Friday, December 16th.

Pray for good weather so we can also gather around the chiminea on the back patio. If there are folks that would like to help us host the night we would gladly receive your help. We will have a simple fare of hot chocolate, hot cider and snacks. I invite you to take a moment from the hustle and bustle of this season and share a moment or two with other members of the congregation.

Maybe there are others in the congregation who would like to host an open house during this nine day period. The simpler the better, so that anyone can feel like it is possible for them to host a similar evening in their home.

What better way to celebrate the birth of the Christ child who searched and searched for accommodations? Through our gifts of hospitality we make room for the Christ we see in each other. Have a blessed Christmas.

LA POSADA OPEN HOUSE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16TH
7:00 PM–9:00 PM

FR. KEVIN AND PAMELA'S HOME
512 BERKSHIRE DRIVE
903-757-5775

DECEMBER MUSIC AT TRINITY

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 11
8:30 P.M.

THE PINE TREE HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

Under the direction of
Melody McMullen

Presents
A Christmas Concert

Tuesday, December 12th
6:00 p.m.

Admission is Free



The Stewpot at Newgate Mission

Volunteers are still needed from Trinity Church to serve lunch on the third Thursday of each month from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM. Anne Rast keeps a list of about ten volunteers who are rotated for service as they are available. Please let Anne know if you would be interested in serving this important ministry in our Longview community.



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

A big thank you to everyone who has returned your pledge card. Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of Trinity Episcopal Church. We couldn't do it without your support. It is you that makes Trinity a great church. If you haven't submitted a 2012 pledge card please do so as soon as possible. If you did not receive a pledge card one can be obtained by notifying the office at 903-753-3366. We apologize for the oversight.

Trinity Episcopal Church Gift Shoppe



Shoppe Hours

*November 1st — December 22nd
Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sundays 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.*

*Come see our selection of Susan Shaw Jewelry
Gourmet Snacks and Foods ♦ Bibles ♦ Crosses ♦ Elegant Baby Items ♦ Regal Angels
And many more great gift ideas!
After hours, call: (903) 753-6334 or (903) 237-8842*

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. The suggested donation is \$25 but no gift is too small or too large. The deadline for submission is **Tuesday, December 20th**. Your gift will glorify God and add to the beauty of our Christmas worship.

Dear Parish Family,

I hope that each one of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and that you were able to spend time with your families. My Thanksgiving holiday started off with a really great event. I was blessed to spend the Tuesday before Thanksgiving with some really wonderful people in our community.

The youth from Trinity Church and from Trinity School of Texas came together to lend a helping hand with the Longview Thanksgiving Food Baskets drive.

What an incredible experience to watch our youth in action!!



I was so proud of them as they pitched in to help Betty Horaney and all her volunteers to make a successful food drive for those in our community that were in need of these gifts. The youth greeted the members in our community with smiles on their faces and enthusiasm in their work.

What a gift this ministry was to all of us. We were all reminded of how grateful we are for our many blessings. Again, I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve our Longview community with such an incredible group of youth.

I am also excited about our Advent season at Trinity. What a beautiful

season in our liturgical year. It is a time when we can prepare our hearts and minds for the gift of our Savior. I always like to tell my children it is the cleaning out of the "winter closets" of our soul. It is a time when we can prepare a straight path to Bethlehem by letting go of any obstacles that get in our way of our arrival at the Holy site of Jesus' birth.

I hope that you will take this time with your family to prepare for the life-changing event of Christmas day. There may be times in this journey that are not easy but it will be a journey that we take together. Take this time to

participate in Advent devotions with your family or by yourself. This time in prayer and study will strengthen you during your Advent journey. I also hope that you will join us in worship during this season and participate with your parish family as we experience the Gospel message leading us to the site at Bethlehem. May you all have a blessed Advent and know that I continue to lift you up in my prayers.

In Christ,

Rev. Shanna+

“The Twelve Days of Christmas”



Carols come from many sources: ancient hymns, biblical verses, poems, adaptations of symphonies and more. Some are simple to understand, such as “Silent Night.” There is one “carol” that is baffling. What in the world do “leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans,” and especially “the partridge in the pear tree” have to do with Christmas? You may be surprised to learn!

For almost 300 years, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote the “carol” as a song of praise. It has two levels of meaning — one is the obvious, the other, hidden, known only to members of the church at that time. Here is the symbolism:

The “Partridge in a pear tree” was symbolic for Jesus Christ.

“Two turtle doves” were the Old and New Testaments.

“Three French hens” represents faith, hope, and love.

“Four calling birds” were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

“Five golden rings” recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.

“Six geese a-laying” stood for the six days of creation.

“Seven swans a-swimming” represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, Serving and Mercy.

“Eight maids a-milking” were the eight beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount.

“Nine ladies dancing” were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control.

“Ten lords a-leaping” were the Ten Commandments.

“Eleven pipers” stood for the eleven faithful disciples.

“Twelve drummers” drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles’ Creed.



La Posada Greeters Wanted December 8th

We need Trinity Church members to greet our Trinity School of Texas Family at their La Posada service on December 8th. Volunteers should arrive at the church by 5:15 p.m. to welcome our guests and help direct them to their staging rooms and the restrooms. Help us offer this gift of hospitality to the parents and children of TST.



Altar Flowers are needed. Please call Billie in the church office to sign up for a Sunday in the new year. What a wonderful way to give thanks for or remember the important people in our lives.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

12/1	Jean Hill	12/12	Ella Stevens	12/22	Lisa McPhee
12/1	Donna Irwin	12/14	Doradel Wylie	12/23	Dot Fricks
12/1	Dana Walters	12/15	Ava Welge	12/23	Delfina Whitwell
12/2	Wayne Waggoner	12/18	Dorothy Skeans	12/27	Nika Sloan
12/2	Robert Maly	12/18	Peggy Tracy	12/28	Clint Bruyere
12/4	Angela Schimmel	12/19	Ethel Branch	12/30	Cherry Sikes
12/6	Sam Clark	12/21	Read Holman	12/30	Donald Harrison
12/10	Tommy Kirkindoll	12/21	Kim Martin		
12/11	Sue Clark	12/21	Art Machin		

Happy Anniversary

12/16	John and Keely Barbe	12/23	Robert and Charlotte Heitkamp
12/17	Charles and Dot Fricks	12/23	Jack and Ava Welge
12/19	Tom and Kirsten Phillips	12/23	Vernon and Anne Moore
12/19	Keith and Sue Clark	12/24	Jerry and Risa Harris
12/20	Edwin and Aurora Buckner	12/26	Tommy and Loretta Lloyd
12/22	Dana and Judy Walters	12/29	Steve and Lisa Baker
12/22	Spencer and Claire Alford		

TRINITY SERVICE CALENDAR MONTH OF DECEMBER - LECTIONARY YEAR B

Date	12.4.11 Advent 2	12.11.11 Advent 3	12.18.11 Advent 4	12.25.11 Christmas	1.1.12 Christmas 2
Acolytes	8:00 - T. Gignilliat 10:30 - TBA	8:00 - T. Gignilliat 10:30 - TBA	8:00 - T. Gignilliat 10:30 - TBA	10:30 - None	8:00 - T. Gignilliat 10:30 - TBA
Lay Readers	8:00 1st - S. Baker 2nd - J. Welge	8:00 1st - G. Rushing 2nd - J. Hall	8:00 1st - L. Snider 2nd - G. McWhorter	8:00 No Service	8:00 1st - J. Welge 2nd - W. Charles
	10:30 1st - C. Collins 2nd - S. Thomas	10:30 1st - J. Sawyer 2nd - N. Collins	10:30 1st - C. Collins 2nd - K. Clark	10:30 1st - H. Barth 2nd - C. Meyer	10:30 1st - B. McClellan 2nd - R. McPhee
L.E.M.	R. Chalice J. Sloan J. Hall	R. Chalice J. Sawyer W. Charles	R. Chalice L. Germany Z. Brown	R. Chalice H. Barth C. Meyer	R. Chalice J. Sloan S. Baker
Altar Team	E. Campbell Team	B. Crittenden Team	A. Rast Team	L. Baker Team	E. Campbell Team
Flower Delivery	W. Sinclair D. & T. Skeans	P. Twining J. Walters	C. Wilks B. Wood	None	Delivery January 3 - Everyone
Vestry	8:00 - N. Collins J. Welge	8:00 - N. Collins J. Welge	8:00 - J. Welge TBA	8:00 - TBA	8:00 - TBA
	10:30 - N. Collins R. McPhee	10:30 - N. Collins R. McPhee	10:30 - S. Clark TBA	10:30 - TBA	10:30 - TBA
Usher Team	Team # 1	Team # 2	Team # 4	None	Team # 1
Greeters	Team # 5	Team # 1	Team # 2	None	Team # 4
Verger	J. Barbe	C. Balliett	G. Whitwell	None	J. Barbe
Children's Chapel	Wilcox	DuPuy	Avaltroni	TBA	TBA
Children's SS	Sparks/Wittmayer DuPuy/Suarez	Sparks/Wittmayer DuPuy/Suarez	Guttry/Stevens DuPuy/Suarez	None	Sparks/Wittmayer DuPuy/Suarez
Coffee Hour Host	C. Sikes & DOK	L. Lloyd	MOT Breakfast	None	None
Parish Hall Security	T. Kirkindoll	J. Crittenden	D. Tracy	B. Scott	T. Kirkindoll
L.E.V.	L. Leath W. Sinclair		D. Wilcox J. Mraz		C. Meyer W. Charles

DECEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8:30 AM Morning Prayer	2 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 7:00 PM TST Christmas Choir Concert	3 9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
4 Regular Sunday Schedule Youth Group TBA	5 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 5:30 PM Daughters of the King	6 8:30 AM Morning Prayer	7 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 6:00 PM TST La Posada	9 8:30 AM Morning Prayer	10
11 Regular Sunday Schedule 12:00 PM Youth Group Lunch 8:30 PM Compline	12 8:30 AM Morning Prayer	13 8:30 AM Morning Prayer	14 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 10:00 AM Daughters of the King 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	15 8:30 AM Morning Prayer	16 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 7:00 PM Wittmayer Open House	17
18 Regular Sunday Schedule 9:00 AM Men of Trinity Breakfast in Parish Hall 6:00 PM Hanging of the Greens	19 8:30 AM Morning Prayer	20 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 6:00 PM Vestry Meeting ALTAR FLOWER DEADLINE	21 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	22 8:30 AM Morning Prayer	23 8:30 AM Morning Prayer OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON	24 CHRISTMAS EVE SER- VICES 6:00 PM Family Service 11:00 PM Traditional Service
25 10:30 AM "Said" Service No Youth Group	26 8:30 AM Morning Prayer	27 8:30 AM Morning Prayer	28 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist	29 8:30 AM Morning Prayer	30 8:30 AM Morning Prayer OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON	31
<p><u>REGULAR SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE:</u></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>						

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Longview, TX 75601

THE TRUMPET
Permit Type: Periodicals
Permit # 99990
Is published monthly by
Trinity Episcopal Church
906 Padon, Longview, TX
75601 Periodicals PAID
At Longview, TX
POSTMASTER: Send
Address changes to
906 Padon, Longview, TX

December Special Events

- 8th La Posada, 6:00 PM, Nave
- 11th Compline, 8:30 PM, Nave
- 12th Pine Tree High School Choir Concert, 6:00 PM, Nave
- 18th Men of Trinity Breakfast, 9:00 AM, Parish Hall
- 18th Hanging of the Greens, 6:00 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

January Special Events

- 6th Epiphany Bonfire (If possible), 6:00 PM, Trinity Outreach Center
- 13th Compline, 8:30 PM, Nave
- 22nd Trinity Episcopal Church Annual Meeting, 9:00 AM, Parish Hall
- 29th Fifth Sunday Luncheon, 12:00 PM, Trinity Outreach Center