Issue NOV 2018

Proclaiming Good News to Everyone

*REJOICE* AT THE HARVEST

Proclaiming Good News

Thanksgiving | Upcoming Events



# THE BANNER

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# **CORE VALUES**

Worship Formation Fellowship Outreach Youth/Families
6 7 8 9 10



The Advent Offering starts Nov. 28. For more information, see the "Upcoming Events" on page 5.

o you know that we have a mission statement? That might seem very 1993, but I think its an important thing for a church to have. When I arrived at Holy Trinity, we had a mission statement that dated back to the late-90s and early-2000s. Do you remember it? (It's okay if you don't). It was:

Holy Trinity's mission, inspired by Jesus' mandate to love and serve one another, is to create a supportive community where people can develop and nourish their relationship with God through worship, education, and fellowship.

Now, that's a strong mission statement—better than most that came out of the turn-of-the-millennium mission statement boom. But is it memorable? Is it easy? And does it direct what we do?

The main reason I wanted to change our mission statement has nothing to do with erasing the past or making a bad thing good: none of that is true.

My main goal was to find a mission statement that meant something to us. And I admit, I have not done a great job of teaching it, or focusing our work on it, of encouraging and moving the congregation to do it. There's a lot of reasons why, but there's always excuses.

So, what I want to do, for the next year, is to start writing, teaching, preaching, working, out-reaching, in-reaching, and grounding everything we do in this statement. Because I think this is the work of the Church, and the way we participate in the already occurring work of Christ.

Let's break down the mission statement and see if we can get on the same page:

### Proclaim

We shout it from the roof tops. We know, we live it, we love it. We participate in it through our words and deeds, through our thoughts and actions, through our giving and receiving. Everything thing we do—like the air we breathe and the water we swim in—shouts as loud as it can the Good News of God's Grace to Everyone

### The Good News

You hear me use this term all the time. In Greek the word is *evangelion*. It means "good news" or "news of victory." The Good News was what the king would receive when a battle had gone in his favor. When Jesus started his ministry, he adapted it for His Kingdom. No longer was the "good news" news of military victory; but good news of Christ's victory over death. The Good News is that God sent his son into the world to save the world. The Good News is objective truth—it doesn't matter what you think about it, it remains true. Through his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus transformed the world 2000 years ago on Calvary's hill. As the hymn says: "The battle is o'er, the vict'ry won!"

# Of God's Grace

But the Good News is not just about Jesus' saving work. It's not only about sin and death. It's all about grace. Grace, *charis* in Greek, means "loving kindness," "good-

# FROM THE RECTOR

will," "well-regarded," or "favored." Grace is the beautiful, amazing, offensive, unconditional truth that Jesus came to seek and save the lost. That the Good News isn't for people who have it all together. It isn't for the better-becoming-best. The Good News is for people who are used to bad news. It's Good News to folks who need good news. And Grace is not just about us-but about the whole world. The whole world has been changed and is changing: and we have been given



The Rev. Ben Maddison Rector

the grace of God in Christ—through participation in his death and resurrection—by finding our place and hope in the Cross—to reach out and proclaim the Good News of the Grace we have received. Grace is a contagious disease: no one wants it (we prefer justice and righteousness), but we get it anyway. And as soon as we do, we can't but help to give it to others. Grace is something begrudgingly received but gloriously given away. It's the favor God shows us to bring us into his master-plan, to allow us to participate in the reconciling work that brings the whole world and all of creation back to God. It's our invitation to participate in that work. And it is good!

### To Everyone

This one might seem obvious, but the Good News of God's Grace is not for some, it's for everyone. We need to hear it and be reminded of it every, single day. We need to participate in it (through the sacraments) so that we can go out into the world and participate in it through our words and deeds, inspired by the Holy Spirit. Of course, everyone includes everyone else who isn't us. The families in need, our neighbors, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances. The Good News of God's Grace changes everything—and no one will want to miss out in participating in that amazing work.

# We proclaim the Good News of God's Grace to Everyone.

As this year ends, keep your eyes, and your ears, and your hearts open to God's Grace. Because next year you are going to be sick of this. And you'll never want to hear me mention it again. And you'll beg me to talk about anything else. But God willing, and the Spirit working, by the end it will transform us. The Good News of God's Grace will transform us. So that we can participate in transforming of the world.

I can't wait.

In Christ,

In the 1995 movie A Walk in the Clouds, starring Keanu Reeves, Paul Sutton—a returning WWII army sergeant—stumbles into the life of one Mexican-American family and their vineyard in the Napa Valley. Posing as the husband of the smart, free-spirited Victoria, Paul learns more about himself and this family as their relationship develops.

Arguably, one of the best scenes in the movie is when the family gathers for the traditional grape stomp. With music playing, and all the grapes poured into a large tank, the whole family dances and cheers and stomps the grapes to make the wine. The joy is contagious, the connection palpable. It's this scene of joyful celebration and that type of effortless work that comes from a place of freedom and play. That joy draws Paul and Victoria together and it's beautiful.

Joy like that—joy at an abundant harvest, at our many blessings, at the ways in which God provides—joy like that comes with a powerful freedom. One where it's impossible to look foolish; where the only appropriate reaction is song, and dance, and celebration. That is the Freedom of the Harvest.

The grape stomp scene from *A Walk in the Clouds*, is probably one of my favorite harvest scenes in a movie.<sup>1</sup> It's my favorite—but not for the reasons you might think.

The Harvest has always been a time of celebration and in-gathering. Sometimes, it's a celebration mixed with fear and anxiety in times of famine; other times it's unbridled celebration, a time to share, and give, and party in times of surplus.

As fall turns to winter, and the trees turn from their beautiful browns and reds to the barren and gnarled greys—we are invited into a time of celebration and freedom. A time that may be hard to embrace, but that is waiting there for us.

In Galatians, Paul writes, "For *freedom* Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and let us not return to a yoke of slavery" (Gal 5:1).

The holiday season is one that comes its own anxieties and stresses. Will there be enough? Will we get/give the right things? What will my family say or do when they are all together? With the world like it is, how do we give thanks?

The Good News of our shared life in Christ is that we no longer need to worry about "enough." We live

1 I recognize this is a weird sub-category of favorite scenes for someone to have, but c'est la vie—also check out the farming scenes in the Tim Allen/Kirstie Alley vehicle For Richer or Poorer: classic!



in the Kingdom of God, where the harvest is always plentiful, and the workers always few. We live into a freedom—the freedom and joy and fun of the grape stomp, of good family dinners, of food to feed everyone.

As Christians, our hope is not to *have* "enough," but, regardless of where we find ourselves, to know that Christ *is* "enough" for everyone.

As we gather once again to rejoice at the harvest—the hearty crops and the withered crops, the abundant crops and the lean crops—may we rejoice in the knowledge that in Christ, there is always good and abundant freedom and joy to be found.

And if you do find yourself getting a little more anxious and a little less free, come find me—reach out—because God's blessing and our harvest is for everyone. And together, we can rejoice at the harvest.

Ben Maddison

# COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

NOVEMBER 21 AT 7 PM

MT. ZION WESLEY UMC (1470 Glassboro Rd, Wenonah)

THE REV. BEN MADDISON
Preaching



It's hard to believe, but we are already working on this year's Christmas Pageant! It is titled And The Lobsters Shall Lead Them. If you are familiar with the movie Love Actually, you may have wondered how lobsters got to the stable for the birth of Jesus. Our pageant will explain this! It is charming, delightful, and very funny. It also includes some very specific Holy Trinity-oriented pop culture references, which most people actually will get!

The pageant will be a part of the 5 PM service on Christmas Eve. There will be speaking roles, non-speaking roles, and we will also need a few readers. While the speaking roles will not have too many lines, they will need to be memorized.

Rehearsals will begin on Sunday, December 2, after the 10 AM service. All of the rehearsals will be on Sundays from that day through December 23, at 11:30 AM, and we will once again feed lunch to the kids who will be participating. After the 10 AM service on Sunday, December 23, we will do the greening of the church, and the costuming of the pageant participants. Then we will do one last run through, before the Christmas Eve service the next day.

A sign-up sheet will appear in the narthex in the next week or two. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Semmes-Thorne (856-223-1992, semmesth@comcast.net). We always need some adult assistance as well, so if you are interested in helping out with costumes, props, or angel wrangling, please let Melissa know! And please plan on attending the 5 PM service on Christmas Eve: it will be a wonderful pageant and service!

Melissa Semmes-Thorne



ne of the best parts of Christmas is all of the Christmas movies. From comedies, to dramas, to love stories—Christmas is the perfect backdrop for seasonal dramas and messages of grace and hope.

Join us for this fantastic dinner and discussion. Fun for the whole family! Everyone is invited to *Christmas at the Movies: Advent Family Offering*.

### Wednesday at 6 PM

in the Parish Hall

Nov 28 Finding Grace in Home Alone

Dec 5 Second Chances & A Christmas Carol

Dec 12 Misfit Toys & Hope in Rudolph

Dec 19 Family Fun & Christmas Vacation

### **MUSIC**

THUR AT 7:30 P & SUN AT 11:30 A

he holidays are right around the corner, so we will be looking for extra singers for Thanksgiving weekend and Christmas Eve. Please consider joining us for either (or both) of these occasions. There is nothing as wonderful as singing those classic hymns with a choir full of people. We're all looking forward to the coming Holidays in song.

We could also use some more male voices. It has been fun lately realizing that I am able to sing Tenor in my old age! Sometimes it is a bit too low, but most of it I can get! However, I can only manage it if the accompaniment is easy or nonexistent.

The kids still have a lot of interest in Bell Choir. The Joyful Noise singers have dwindled, so I may be doing more bell anthems this year. But the singers I have are great and willing to do solos, so you can expect more of that in the near future.

Adult Choir: Thurs at 7:30 P; Bell Choir: Sun at 11:30 A

Margie MacWilliams

# **LECTORS**

4TH TUES AT 6:30 P

ave you ever wondered how you could read during a service? Or what those folks in white robes are up to on Sunday morning? Well now is your chance!

Sign up to be a Lector (reading) or Lay Eucharistic Minister or LEM (communion server). Anyone can do it! You'll receive training in reading and serving and we can get you on the schedule right away.

To find out more or to get involved, contact Melissa Semmes-Thorne at (856) 308-7062 or email her at semmesth@comcast.net.

# WEEKDAY SERVICES

DAILY OFFICE (MORNING/EVENING PRAYER) TUES AT 8 A & 5:15 P

SPOKEN EUCHARIST WED AT 11:30 A IN CHAPEL

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

# ALL SAINTS (TRANSFERRED) NOV 4

Preacher: The Rev. Carmen Viola Gospel: John 11:32-44 Special: Dance Ensemble

# PROPER 27 NOV 11

Preacher: The Rev. Ben Maddison Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

# PROPER 28 NOV 18

Preacher: The Rev. Ben Maddison Gospel: Mark 13:1-8

# COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE WED, NOV 21 7 PM

Preacher: The Rev. Ben Maddison Location: Mt. Zion Wesleyan UMC

# CHRIST THE KING PROPER 29 NOV 25

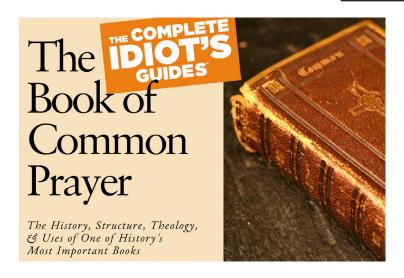
Preacher: The Rev. Ben Maddison Gospel: John 18:33-37 Special: Last Sunday of Year B Sunday Mornings at 9 AM. Our childnred (ages pre-K to 12th grade) meet in the education wing attached to the parish hall. Adult sunday school meets in the parish hall. On the thrid Sunday, adult sunday school starts late at 9:30 A (to allow space for the 8 o'clock coffee hour). Open to everyone! We hope you'll join us.

# **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

FOR ALL AGES AT 9 A ON SUN

No Adult Sunday School:

### November 4



t the heart of the Anglican tradition is a book. Not a religious text or mystical revelation, this book gave structure to a church in its infancy, it grounded the tradition in scripture and tradition, and became one of the most influential books in history.

That book is the *Book of Common Prayer*.

Only three weeks left:

Nov 11 - Using the Prayer Book

Nov 18 - Theology of the Prayer Book

Nov 25 - Future of the Prayer Book

Join us for the end of this study!

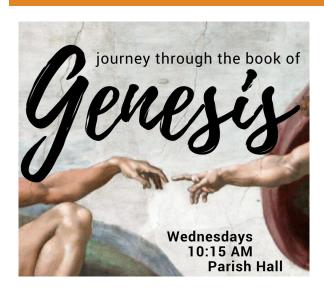
# A Light in the Darkness

Themes of Light during the Season of Advent: A Four Week Study

New Adult Study begin December 2 at 9 AM in the Parish Hall. You won't want to miss it!

### **GENESIS**

RECTOR'S BIBLE STUDY



Interested in the Bible but don't know where to start? Our rector, Ben Maddison, will be teaching through the book of Genesis. We will dive deeply into the words, history, and meaning of the text, and we might also have a little fun! Everyone is welcome.

If you want to find out more or if you have any questions contact the Rev. Ben Maddison at (856) 366-4171 or rector@holytrinitywenonah.org

Ben Maddison

### Wednesday at 10:15 AM

in the Parish Hall

There will be no Bible Study on

November 14 & November 21

for Clergy Conference and Thanksgiving respectively.

itchen of Hope (KOH) will be collecting food for a Thanksgiving dinners. All of the Thanksgiving classics; turkeys, vegetables, stuffing, gravy, instant potatoes, cranberry sauce, aand dessert.

In this Thanksgiving season, KOH is a great opportunity to give-back and to support people who find themseleves in need this holiday season. Whatever you can give will be appreciated and will help another family give thanks this season.

Winter is also right around the corner; KOH is collecting gently used or new coats for adults and children. Give the gift of warmth and security this season.

The weather has chnaged, which means Christmas is just around the corner. KOH is collecting items for the Secret Santa. The gifts are arrnaged in such a way as to allow the children and families to choose their own gifts for Christmas. It helps make it feel like Christimas and is an exicitng

### KOH

KITCHEN OF HOPE

### November 10 & December 8

at 7:30 AM at St. Thomas in Glassboro

Kitchen of Hope (KOH) is a ministry of St. Thomas Episocpal Church in Glassboro, NJ that serves families in need in Glassboro and all of Gloucester County. Holy Trinity is a ministry partner and support of KOH.

opportunity for the families to give gifts to each other. Any gifts you can provide will go a long way to make the holiday bright!

If you want to find out how to get involved or if you have any questions contact Jackie Gould at (856) 464-0837 or jegould771@comcast.net.

Jackie Gould

### **FPGC**

FAMILY PROMISE OF GLOU. CO.

First and foremost, THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered during the week of October 21 to 27. It was an unexpected week, but also an unexpected blessing. We were able to house three families, fellowship with them, and we even celebrated a birthday! Thank you to everyone who volunteered and offered their time, gifts, and talents in service to others. It was amazing, and a true testament to the faithfulness and support of our parish for this vital ministry

Our final week of Family Promise will be in December, and we will be pulling out all of the holiday stops! From December 5 to 15 we will host several families and encourage them to treat Holy Trinity like their home away from home.

That week will we decorate a tree, throw a Christmas party, and celebrate the season with families in need.

If you have never volunteered with Family Prom-

ise before, now is a great time to start! Drivers, dinner makers, over-nighters, and fellowship-ers needed! In any way you want, you can help. If you can't offer your time or service, we are always looking for Shoprite and Acme gift cards so the families can buy the supplies they need for the week.

If you want to find out how to get involved or if you have any questions contact Sean & Nancy Garvin at (609) 405-55137 or ilvmaine@comcast.net

Ben Maddison

### December 9 to 15

at Holy Trinity in the Parish Hall

Family Promise is a national organization, created to help low-income families, esepcially those experiencing homlessness, achieve sustainable independence through community-based response. Holy Trinity partners with many local churches to support this amazing organization

This made for lively discussions and promises to energize future meetings. 73 welcome letters have been sent out, with a good response thus far. If you did not receive one, please contact Nancy Garvin at (609) 405-5512. Thank you to all who have given the dues-donation requested in our welcome letter. Know that this is accepted at any time of the year, not just September & October. The dues helps with the mission and ministry of Holy Trinity's ECW!

It took an electronic vote after the meeting's considerations about our a change of schedule, but in the end, it was decided to move our time to the first Monday of the month. It seems that the new meeting night on the first Monday of the month is doable, as 12 members attended on Oct. 1, so a new routine has begun! Plans are afoot for old traditions as well—at this time of year it means gearing up for the winter soup sales. Details to follow.

We will host the District ECW meeting on Nov. 18 at 2 PM. It promises to be a rewarding afternoon, as Deacon Johnine Byrer will speak on Prison Ministry. A short business meeting and service of Compline will round out the afternoon. Come and meet Episcopal Churchwomen from around the district, and learn of our impact in the wider world.



### **ECW**

#### EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

ECW's impact spreads much wider: this year, the Diocesan ECW's Mission Outreach will give its support to Saving Grace Ministries in Camden (aids children who have lost a family member to violence), the Federal Detention Center for Women, and Midwives on Missions of Service (MOMS) in Africa. These complete the aim to work locally, nationally, and internationally. So, you can see that we are a small but important cog in a very impressive machine!

Keep your eyes open for a bright orange stole that Fr. Ben has the freedom to wear on any random occasion. These were worn by Bishops at the Triennial in July to raise awareness of gun violence, which happens very randomly. The stole is a reminder to pray and act in any way that can help to bring gun violence to an end.

Our next meeting will be on **Monday, Nov. 5 at** 7 **PM** in the Parish Hall, where we continue to keep these meetings to an hour or less.

Joan Munyon

tarting on Wednesday, November 28 at 6 PM, we will again offer our Advent family fellowship opportunity. This year's theme is "Christmas at the Movies." We'll take a look at how our favorite holiday movies match up with the good news of Advent & Christmas.

You won't want to miss this amazing opportunity to eat, fellowship, and play with the whole church!

Be sure to sign up in the Narthex with your favorite dish. We'll change what we bring each week, so be sure to double check!

Nov 28 | Dec 5 | Dec 12 | Dec 19

To sign up, use the form in the Narthex, or send an email to

rector@holytrinitywenonah.org

**Upcoming Dates:** 

### November 14 & 28 December 8

# CONFIRMATION

2ND & 4TH WED AT 4:30 F

onfirmation is a sacramental rite of the church where young adults make a public profession of faith. In this several month class, confirmands will learn the basics of the Christian religion, the history and traditions of the church, and learn what it takes to take responsibility for one's own faith.

Confirmation Class is open to all youth in 7th Grade or above. If you have a child younger than that, please speak to Ben Maddison to discuss your child's inclusion in Confirmation Class.

For more info contact the Rev. Ben Maddison at (856) 366-4171 or rector@holytrinitywenonah.org.



# HTSM: MID-WEEK

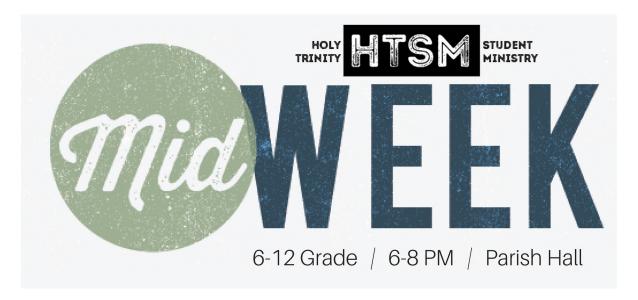
2ND & 4TH WED AT 4:30 P

### November 14

at 6 PM in the Parish Hall

Midweek will break for December for the Advent Family Offering: "Christmas at the Movies"

Midweek returns: January 9.



Join the HTSM youth group for MIDWEEK! Food. Fellowship. Formation. Fun. It's a time to hang out, build friendships, and talk about faith. It's a casual meeting with dinner generously provided by volunteers. It meets in the Parish Hall. For more info contact the Rev. Ben Maddison at (856) 366-4171 or rector@holytrinitywenonah.org.

#### NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				6pm - Spotliters	8:30pm - AA	
				6:30pm - Alpha at		
				7:30pm - Adult		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All Saints	Office Closed	8am - Morning	10:15am - Rector's	6:30pm - Alpha at	8:45am - KOH Pick-	7am - Kitchen of
Daylight Saving	■7pm - ECW	5:15pm - Evening	11:30am - Eucharist	7:30pm - Adult	6pm - Spotliters	
8am - Rite I		6pm - Spotliters			8:30pm - AA	
10am - Rite II		7pm - Tai Chi				
10am - Rite II:						
11:30am - Coffee						
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Veterans Day	Office Closed	Office Closed	4:30pm - Confirmati	6:30pm - Alpha at	8:30pm - AA	
8am - Rite I		8am - Morning	6pm - HTSM Mid-	7:30pm - Adult		
9 a m - Sunday		5:15pm - Evening				
■10am - Rite II		7 pm - Tai Chi				
11:30am - Coffee						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8am - Rite I	Office Closed	8am - Morning		Thanksgiving Day	Black Friday	
9am - 8 AM Service		5:15pm - Evening		7:30pm - Adult	8:30pm - AA	
9am - Sunday		6:30pm - Vestry				
10am - Rite II		7pm - Tai Chi				
11:30am - Coffee						
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
Christ the King	Office Closed	8am - Morning	10:15am - Rector's	7:30pm - Adult	8:30pm - AA	
8am - Rite I		5:15pm - Evening	11:30am - Eucharist			
9am - Sunday		6:30pm - Lectors'	4:30pm - Confirmati			
■10am - Rite II		7pm - Tai Chi	6pm - Family			
11:30am - Coffee						

Upcom	ing	<b>Events</b>
-   · · ·		

November at Holy Trinity

11/6	7:00 PM	ECW Meeting
11/10	7:30 AM	Kitchen of Hope (Glassboro)
11/14	4:30 PM	Confirmation Class
11/14	6:00 PM	HTSM Midweek
11/20	6:30 PM	Vestry Meeting
11/21	7:00 PM	Community Thanksgiving Mt. Zion Wesley UMC
11/27	6:30 PM	Lectors Meeting
11/28	4:00 PM	Confirmation Class
11/28	6:00 PM	Advent Family Offering

#### **NEW:** Tai Chi on Tuesdays at 7 PM

Join members of Holy Trinity as they practice the ancient art of Tai Chi, led by a trained, Christian instructor. Meets in the Undercroft or Parish Hall (as available).

# **Looking Ahead**

December at Holy Trinity

		<i>y</i>
12/3	7:00 PM	ECW Meeting
12/5	6:00 PM	Advent Family Offering
12/8	7:30 AM	Kitchen of Hope (Glassboro)
12/9 to	12/15	Family Promise Week
12/12	4:30 PM	Confirmation Class
12/12	6:00 PM	Advent Family Offering
12/18	6:30 PM	Vestry Meeting
12/19	6:00 PM	Advent Family Offering
12/24	5:00 PM	Christmas Eve Pageant
12/24	11:00 PM	Traditional Christmas Eve
12/25	10:00 AM	Christmas Day Service

#### **NOTE:** HTSM Midweek Advent Break

We will be hosting another inter-generational Advent Family Offering that will take the place of youth group during December. *HTSM Midweek will return Jan 9*.



11 N. Monroe Ave, Wenonah, NJ 08090 www.holytrinitywenonah.org (856) 468-0295

Holy Trinity is a diverse community, proclaiming the Good News of God's grace to everyone.

### A PARISH OF THE **DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY**

### **HOLY TRINITY'S STAFF**

Lisa Carlamere

XII Bishop of New Jersey



### **HOLY TRINITY'S VESTRY**

Steve LoCastro, Jr.

Junior Warden

#### **HOLY TRINITY'S SUNDAY WORSHIP**