

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
WENONAH, NEW JERSEY

December 2016

# The Banner

## Got A Question?

**Acolytes**  
**Emily Provine**

**Prayer Chain**  
**Rhoda Miller**

**Altar Guild**  
**Joanne Hutchison**  
**423-5826**

**Lectors**  
**Melissa Semmes-Thorne**  
**223-1992**

**Christian Education**  
**Susan Cassidy**  
**468-4473**

**ECW**  
**Phyllis Joslin**  
**468-3712**

**Music**  
**Margie MacWilliams**  
**468-6664**

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**  
**Jane Whittinghill**  
**256-8403**

**Men's Breakfast**  
**Gary Henderson**  
**832-0278**  
**Paul Eldridge**  
**468-7632**

**The Banner**  
**Gar Miller**  
**468-6658**  
**Jackie Gould**  
**464-0837**

**IHN**  
**Sean Garvin**  
**609-405-5513**

## Fr. Ben Maddison Called as New Rector

As most of our congregation knows by now, we have called our new Rector - Father Ben Maddison, who will be joining us in mid-January.

The long and thorough search process involved a major commitment by the Discernment Committee and support from the Vestry in coming to the conclusion they did. The Vestry voted to honor the Discernment Committee's ranking of the three major candidates and the Wardens followed up to explore their level of interest. Father Ben was at the top of our list and we were at the top of his.

A native of South Jersey, Father Ben earned his Master of Divinity from the Virginia Theological Seminary in June of 2015, and began his career as a Curate of St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Waco, Texas.

The Discernment Committee was impressed with Father Ben's passion for proclaiming the Gospel, his contagious enthusiasm for youth, mission and ministry, and a practical grasp of church realities in today's world. He is knowledgeable about the National and Diocesan Episcopal Church direction and even gave us insight into local mission opportunities.

Moreover, he is outgoing, dynamic and fun to be with. His

sermons are most importantly Christ-centered. They are also enjoyable, substantive, and relevant to daily life. While extroverted, he is skillful in drawing individuals out and listening well to their concerns.

Among his accomplishments at St. Alban's were starting three ministries (college, young families and small groups) coordinating fellowship events, and revising church branding materials to attract newcomers.

He will be moving from Waco and arrive at his new Rectory on the weekend of January 14 (his wife, Ashley, who is attending law school at Rutgers-Camden, will join him at that time.) He will begin work on January 16, 2017, with his first services on Sunday, January 22.

In the meantime, we still have a few weeks to go, and there are several things I would like to clear up. First of all: **We Are Not in Desperate Straits!** Evidently there has been some concerns about Holy Trinity's ability to become "healthy" again. This is not the case. Yes, attendance has been down, but it has actually been coming back up again. Yes, the rectory cost us a considerable amount of money to restore, but it actually cost us only about half of what we budgeted. Our Stewardship Campaign – New Consecration Sunday – was a positive and

effective experience. We had a difficult and stressful interim, but because we had a firm foundation we have come through it – through the desert – into a very positive place. We are moving from strength to more strength, from positive to more positive. We Are Holy Trinity and We Are AMAZING!!!

Ok, now that we have that out of the way, let me tell you about how the next month's Sundays will go. Pastor Ken Regan, of Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, continues to do all of the Saturday services, both at his church and at ours (for which we are eternally grateful!). On Sunday, December 4, Steve LoCastro will lead morning prayer at both services, and on December 11, Charles Thorne will do the same. On December 18, the Rev. Clare Fischer-Davies will return to help us celebrate the end of Advent. Christmas Eve will bring us the Rev. Jayne Oasin for both the 5:00 and 11:00 services, which will be absolutely delightful on so many levels! If you would like to go to church on Christmas Day, which is Sunday, December 25, Holy Nativity Lutheran Church has invited our people to join them for their 10:30 a.m. service. On New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1, 2017, we will have one spoken service at 10:00. January 8 and 15 the Rev. Clare Fischer-Davies will return to us for a final couple of weeks. (cont. on pg. 3)

## News from the Pews

**Thank you to the following members who provided refreshments during the coffee hours: Joan Borkowski, Rhoda Miller, and Susan Cassidy after the 10 am service; Alice Nowak after the 8 am service.**

**Mellany and Brian Lewis became the proud parents of a new baby girl, Teagan Rose, born on October 17, 2016. She is the granddaughter of Gail and Ed Broomall, and the great granddaughter of Barbara and Eddie Myers.**

**If you have any news to share, please let us know.**



## Christmas Services

**Dec. 24 at 5 p.m.**  
Holy Eucharist and Pageant

**Dec. 24 at 11 p.m.**  
Holy Eucharist

**Dec. 25 at 10:30 a.m.**  
Holy Eucharist at Holy Nativity Lutheran Church

## A Message From Fr. Ben



Dear Friends,

It is my personal opinion that Advent is the "best" liturgical season. The colors, the music, the readings, the decorations—it's church at its best. But my favorite part of the Advent season is its main theme—expectation! We remember and celebrate that first, surprising birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph in that stable in Bethlehem, and look with sure and certain hope that a day is coming when Christ will return—when every tear will be wiped away and death and pain will be no more. The expectation of Advent is this beautiful interplay between the "both/and," the "already here/not yet."

One of the things we forget, I think, is that expectation and anticipation are not all hearts and flowers. We look with hope to the promised future of Christ's return, but we still live in the real world. And the real world, especially during the holidays—and Advent—can be really tough. The family strain is felt acutely around Thanksgiving and Christmas tables. We feel pressure to compete with our neighbors over decorating, parties, gift-giving. We worry if our loved ones are alone; we feel anxious about uncertainties with jobs, and work, and relationships. And we face all this while trying to put on the best face possible for our friends and family—both in person and online.

Advent might be a season of expectation and anticipation, but

it's also a season of anxiety and pressure. How fitting, then, that Advent should be the season that precedes my arrival at Holy Trinity. I am bristling with hope and excitement and expectation. I cannot wait to be with all of you, to get to know you and to hear your stories and to participate in God's work with all of you in Wenonah. I spend a lot of my time thinking and dreaming about being with all of you in person! I hope that you are similarly excited about my arrival.

But, if I'm honest, I'm also nervous about the transition. Will all the pieces come together to make my move from Waco to Wenonah easy? Am I doing everything I should right now to prepare for this new and exciting call? How can I best care for Holy Trinity while being 1600 miles away? Will I hit the ground running—like the consummate professional I am—wowing everyone with my energy and excitement? Will I meet my own expectations and hopes?

Now, as then, my hope remains the same: "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

My hopes and expectations, my worries and anxiety, they are all

grounded and met in the person of Jesus Christ, incarnate from the Virgin Mary more than 2000 years ago. In that singular and unexpected act, God set in motion a plan that would be completed in Jerusalem some 30 years later—a plan to bring all people and all things back to Godself.

As we live into the Advent season—a time of expectation and uncertainty, hope and fear—may you know that everything has already been completed in Jesus Christ. May you look with expectation to that promised future reality often seems to belie. And may you know that I am praying for all of you and am so excited to arrive and be with you, face-to-face.

Happy Advent.

The Rev. Ben Maddison+



*Weichert*

**Mark Honabach**

Sales Representative, REALTOR®

Weichert President's Club

cell 609.221.6629 • fax 856.464.2257

direct 856.227.3428 Ext. 146 office 856.227.1950 Ext. 146

REALTORMARKH@comcast.net

WWW.MARKHONABACH.COM



5070 Rt. 42  
Turnersville, NJ 08012



## Fr. Ben (cont.)



And then: our new rector, the Rev. Ben Maddison, will begin his tenure with us on January 22! We will have lovely coffee hours after both services on that day, and a few months later we will have a huge celebration as he is officially installed by the Bishop as our rector.

We are still in "extreme communication mode", so if you have thoughts, problems, ideas, or just want to talk, Laurie Cimino and I, as your wardens, and the entire Vestry, are available and want to hear what you have to say. Please do not hesitate to call us, email us, or stop us when you see us, to let us know what you are thinking. And remember: things are good and getting better here at Holy Trinity! Really!

Much Love to All of You,  
**Melissa Semmes-Thorne,**  
**Warden**

## Christmas Pageant

Rehearsals have already begun for this year's Christmas Pageant! It is based on a story called "What the Shepherd Saw", and will be a little different than some of our others have been. (Of course, they're all a little bit different....)

The author of the story is Selma Lagerlöf, (1858-1940), who was born in Sweden, and was an outstanding author who wrote for adults and children. She was the first woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. The story is a beautiful and unique approach to the traditional Christmas story.

As a part of this year's pageant, the Holy Trinity Dance Ensemble will be interpreting the traditional Christmas scripture lessons. Since the pageant, itself tells the story from a slightly different perspective, the Dance Ensemble will give us the rest of the Christmas story, using the texts we all know and love.

The pageant will be a part of the 5:00 Christmas Eve service, taking the place of the homily. There is still time for your young person to be involved, if he or she is not already. Just touch base with Melissa Semmes-Thorne (856/223-1992 or [semmesh@comcast.net](mailto:semmesh@comcast.net)) and we will arrange for your young person to be a part of it all!

And please plan on attending the 5:00 service on Christmas Eve. It will be a wonderful pageant, a delightful (and succinct) service, and a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of our Savior with your whole family!



## Thanks From the Wardens and Vestry

### Christmas Memorial Flowers



It is time again to think about remembering your loved ones with Christmas Memorial Flowers. Your donation of \$20 or more will help defray the cost of the flower arrangements that beautify the altar at Christmas. Please put a check in an envelope, include the names of those you want remembered, and place it in the collection plate or the treasurer's mail box.

### Missing Chairs

We seem to be eight folding white chairs short of the 96 count that we had until recently. If anyone has borrowed some and still has them at home - or who might know what became of them - please contact Fran or Carl.



Have you seen us?



We at the vestry would like to say a big **thank you** for all of the efforts made to support this year's successful stewardship campaign culminating in New Consecration Sunday which was Sunday, November 27.

Steve, Cindy, Jackie and Roger gave moving testimonies of the importance of Holy Trinity in their lives while Melissa and I tried to make sense of the numbers.

Canon Phyllis Jones both guided our stewardship committee and provided heartfelt words on the spiritual aspect of stewardship. All of the hard work culminated in the combined New Consecration Sunday worship service and all-church brunch.

If you have yet to turn in your pledge card, please do so at your earliest convenience. To all who have already done so, thank you! The stewardship committee and vestry appreciate all those who worked so hard to put together the campaign, brunch and New Consecration Sunday worship service.

**Laurie Cimino, Warden**





## This and That

### Kitchen of Hope

**THANK YOU** to all of the volunteers who helped to make the November food giveaway a success! 150+ food insufficient families received bags of groceries and fresh produce.

Your generosity is a blessing.

The next food distribution will be Saturday, December 10. Holy Trinity food will be delivered on Friday, December 9. If you are available on Friday at 8:45 a.m. or Saturday at 8 a.m., please lend a hand. The more hands, the faster the work goes and you will be blessed for your donation of time to help our brothers and sisters in need.

For the December giveaway, KOH is collecting new children's caps, hats, mittens, gloves and scarves. The Secret Santa project is collecting gifts suitable for the children to give to their parents, e. g. costume jewelry, cologne, after shave, shaving cream, etc. The children delight in being able to select something for their parents.

By the way, if your children need community service hours for school, this is an excellent opportunity to give of their time.

*Jackie Gould, KOH Liaison*

### ECW News

What a difference a month can make! With the addition of several new attendees at November's meeting, we are invigorated and very thankful, and have made some great plans for our Holy Trinity family and the wider world.

Fundraising was a major focus, as the Soup Sale did not happen, and we have several options to offer. **Wawa coupons** continue to be available on

Sundays after each service. **Rada Cutlery** is back just in time for holiday gift giving, right on your computer. Go to [www.helpourfundraiser.com](http://www.helpourfundraiser.com), ordering #505729, password: ecwservice. **Mini soup sales** were so popular last year that we are adding December to the schedule. With two ECW members already scheduled to bring soups to sell after services on the third Sunday (December 18), we would love to have one or two more parishioners willing to cook a batch as well (about 8 quarts, and we will give you containers).

Our December meeting will provide important outreach and be a whole lot of fun. The Center for Family Services in Glassboro houses teens rescued from dangerous environments until safer places are found. One of their big needs is for pajamas for these kids, so on December 12 we will bring a set (or more) of pajamas for these teens, conduct a short business meeting from 7:00 – 7:30 in our best PJ's, after which we'll have refreshments, sing carols, play games, etc. We invite everyone to join us with a set of PJ's to gift the teens and in your own best PJ's for the first ever **Holy Trinity Pajama Party!** (Our IHN guests will be invited as well.)

Finally, we ask for your continued prayerful consideration of our need for a new president following this 2016-2017 year. Remember that it is one of the easiest jobs around, with very willing helpers.

*Joan Munyon, Secretary*



**Adult sizes for males and females—s,m,l, xl, xxl**

### Anniversaries

**3) Howard & Michelle Gwin**

**24) Rich & Rose Beers**



### The Next All Church Breakfast Set for January 8

Please sign up on the Narthex table to attend the next all church brunch, scheduled between the two services on the second Sunday of January (the 8th). All church members are invited for the low cost of \$5 -- maximum per family is \$20. The Men's Breakfast Group will be hosting the event. Signing up will help us determine how much food to buy and prepare. For additional information, contact Gary Henderson.



### Birthdays

- 1) Kathy Murphy**  
**Adonis Robinson**
- 2) Marc Broughton**  
**John Muldowney**
- 3) Sheronne Robinson**  
**Jonathan White**
- 4) Mike & Dan McAlister**
- 6) Samantha Kampmeier**
- 7) Amanda Burkett**  
**Geni Mettinger**
- 8) David Hartsough**
- 10) Joetta Eldridge**
- 12) Beth Kampmeier**  
**Tina Sheehan**
- 14) Mary Cimino**
- 15) David Kershaw**
- 18) Brittany Broomall**
- 20) Forrest Wood, Jr.**
- 21) Troy Dreger**  
**Chris Layfield**
- 24) Bill Good**  
**John Murphy**
- 26) Carl Carlamere**  
**Deanna Robinson**
- 31) Mayo Angelina McNally**

**SMITH**  
FUNERAL HOME

47 Main St. Mantua, NJ 08051

Robert C. Smith III  
CFSP, CPC  
NJ Lic. No. 3161

Daniel N. Smith, Sr.  
Manager  
NJ Lic. No. 3263

**(856) 468-0670**

[www.smithfhmantua.com](http://www.smithfhmantua.com)

*Let us answer your questions about funerals, cremations & pre-planning.*

## Treasurer's Report

### What goes into making up the Rector's compensation package?

When you look at the compensation package we offer our Rector, there are a number of items listed. How did we choose on what and how much to offer? Well each item and the minimum amount to be offered are mandated by the diocese. So how did the diocese come up with these figures? The diocese relies on the Standing Commission on Clerical Compensation; a committee made up of elected clergy and lay members, to review clergy compensation and make recommendations to the diocese as to what to offer and at what level. These recommendations are then voted on at the annual diocesan convention.

The current package consists of 7 primary elements; Base Stipend, Pension Assessment, Insurance Premiums, Housing Subsidy /Housing Equity allowance, SECA offset, Professional Expenses and Continuing Education. There are also vacation and time off requirements, but that's for another article. So how does this all break down?

First of all, we have the stipend, or the Rector's actual annual salary. The minimum base salary for all clergy mandated by the diocese is \$36,300. This amount is increased by 2.5 % for each year of credited service (time a priest has served as a full-time priest) for up to 10 years. The increase then drops to 2% per year for credited service between 10 to 20 years. On top of that is an annual suggested cost of living adjustment (COLA). So, for example, clergy with 2 years of credited service would get a stipend of \$38,137 a year.

Contributing towards the Rector's pension is the next element. The amount we pay is determined by a calculation based on elements of the Rector's package multiplied by 18%. In 2017 we will contribute \$11,344.53 towards our Rector's pension. We also must provide the Rector, at no cost to him, a life insurance policy and health and dental coverage for him and his family. The diocese provides us with access to group coverage policies to help control costs. In 2017, we will contribute \$20,986.80 for this benefit.

The next item is the housing subsidy/housing equity allowance. If you don't provide a rectory, you must provide a minimum of \$16,000 to help pay for the Rector's rent or mortgage. Since Holy Trinity provides a rectory rent free to the Rector, we are required to pay an annual minimum of \$2300 towards their housing equity allowance. This is money paid into a 403b account for the rector to compensate them for not gaining equity by owning and selling a private residence. Additionally, there are the rectory utility costs (electric, gas, water, sewer, etc...) that we are required to cover. We need to list these because the utilities and the fair rental value of the rectory (\$15,000) are used in determining the Rectors Social Security taxes and our SECA offset payment. We have budgeted \$4,000 toward rectory utilities in 2017.

We come now to the Self-Employed Contributions Act Tax or SECA offset. Clergy are considered employees for federal taxes (state and federal taxes are withheld from their pay), but are self-employed where Social Security is concerned. This means they

must pay the entire 15.3% of the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) tax due. This amount is usually split down the middle by the employee and employer. Even though the government considers the clergy as self-employed, the diocese considers clergy as employees, so we are required to compensate the Rector for the employer's half of the FICA tax due. In 2017 we will pay \$4,511.14 towards this tax.

Then there are the professional and continuing education allowances. These are accountable expense accounts that the Rector can draw against to reimburse his professional expenses (travel and business, clerical supplies, etc...) and education expenses (seminars, conferences, etc...). In 2017 we will earmark \$4,500 and \$1,008 respectively towards these accounts. Unused funds in the continuing education account can accrue from year to year for up to 7 years.

While on surface it looks quite complicated to figure this all out; in reality it is rather simple. The diocese provides a matrix that we plug in years of service and the insurance plan we will offer and press enter. The matrix then lists the minimum requirements for all of the required elements. Of course, these are the required minimums, but if we want to (and if we can afford it) we can always exceed these numbers. We hope that our new Rector can help us to grow Holy Trinity to the point where we can one day go beyond just offering the minimum requirements!

**Mark Sienkiewicz, Treasurer**

### Musical Notes

I am eagerly awaiting the arrival of our new priest, as I'm sure all of you are as well.


I confess that I have been totally responsible for choosing hymns over the last couple of months (with some input from the choir). I have tried to do a few that aren't as familiar. Please feel free to let me know of your concerns and preferences. Bear in mind I have to more or less follow the Musician's Handbook that provides a list of recommended hymns for each week. But if you have something you really wish we would do, exceptions can be made.

The Joyful Noise Choir will be singing every month indefinitely. Services have been too long to try and rehearse with the Bell Choir. As I said before, we are considering rehearsing on Thursdays at 7 next year, if there is enough interest.

We are preparing for Christmas! We could use all the voices we can get, so please consider joining our choir just for the late service if you can!

**Margie MacWilliams,  
Minister of Music**



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>December 2016</b>				<b>1</b> 7:30 pm Adult Choir	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 5pm Holy Eucharist At Holy Nativity
<b>4</b> 8 am & 10 am Morning Prayer 9:10 am Joyful Noise choir 11:15 am Christian Education 12 pm Pageant Rehearsal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 8 am Morning Prayer 5:15 pm Evening Prayer	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:30 pm Adult Choir	<b>9</b> 9 am Deliver food to KOH	<b>10</b> 8:00 am KOH Pantry  5 pm Holy Eucharist at Holy Trinity
<b>11</b> 8 am & 10 am Holy Eucharist 9:10 am Joyful Noise choir 11:15 am Christian Education 12 pm Pageant Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 7 pm ECW Mtg.	<b>13</b> 8 am Morning Prayer 5:15 pm Evening Prayer	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:30 pm Adult Choir	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 5pm Holy Eucharist At Holy Nativity
<b>IHN</b> 						
<b>18</b> 8 am & 10 am Holy Eucharist 8:45 am Refreshments 9:10 am Joyful Noise choir 11:15 am Christian Education Greening of the Church 12 pm Pageant Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 7 pm Vestry mtg.	<b>20</b> 8 am Morning Prayer 5:15 pm Evening Prayer	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:30 pm Adult Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5 pm Holy Eucharist with Pag- eant 11 pm Holy Eucharist
<b>25</b> <i>Merry Christmas</i> 10:30 am Holy Eucharist at Holy Nativity 	<b>26</b> 6:30 pm Lector Team mtg.	<b>27</b> 8 am Morning Prayer 5:15 pm Evening Prayer	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7:30 pm Adult Choir	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 5pm Holy Eucharist At Holy Nativity

**HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**

**We're on the Web!**

[www.holytrinitywenonah.org](http://www.holytrinitywenonah.org)  
[www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityWenonah](https://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityWenonah)

*The mission of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, inspired by Jesus' mandate to love and serve one another, is to create a supportive community where people are able to develop and nourish their relationship with God through worship, education and fellowship.*



**Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
11 N. Monroe Ave.  
Wenonah, NJ 08090**

**TO:**