

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WENONAH, NEW JERSEY

January 2017

The Banner

Got A Question?

Acolytes
Emily Provine

Prayer Chain
Rhoda Miller
468-6658

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

From the Rector



“New Year, New Me.” In just a few short weeks, Ashley and I will become Wenonah residents, move into the (beautifully renovated) rectory, and start our new lives as rector and member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. This is now a big event in my timeline—a big circle around “first call as rector.” How will I mark this change?

As people, we have this tendency to mark big changes in our lives with new commitments to be better, to be different, to start fresh. Getting a new job, moving to a new place, changes in relationship status—they are all “opportunities” to start over, to be the people we *really* want to be.

Collectively, New Years is a giant psychological reset for the world. We mark the change of date with parties, and new connections, by repairing broken relationships and making resolutions to be our best selves in 2017. It feels good to have a giant reset-button at the begin-

ning of each year—as if every year we have the ability to start fresh.

But that’s not always how it works out, is it? We make lists of resolutions—our hopes for a better “me” in the new year—and by the end of the first week, we are trying to find a good day to reset the reset. We promise ourselves that the new year will be a year without regrets: but we wake up January 1 with regrets for something we said or did the night before, just a few hours earlier.

In 2003, Death Cab for Cutie released *Transatlanticism*, arguably their best album to-date. The title track of the album is “The New Year,” and starts with these words:

This is the new year / and I
don’t feel any different.

We want to mark our time with commitments to be better, to act differently, to be more faithful or kinder or more generous. But how many of us, when the party is over and the change has come and gone—feel *different*? “New Year, New Me” really should be replaced with “New Year, Same Me.”

This *is* the new year—this is the *new me*—and I don’t feel any different.

We may not feel different—but something is different:

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:5) We will

soon be in the season of Epiphany, a time that we celebrate and remember the Light coming into the world—Jesus Christ, the Son of God, coming to us as a little child to change the world. When Jesus came into the world, I assume that after the shepherds had left, and after Mary and Joseph got settled in Nazareth and then Egypt, that they soon found their life falling into predictable patterns. What was once a supernatural birth announcement made by tens of thousands of angels, is now replaced with laundry, and work, and life.

This is the new year—and this is the Son of God—and I don’t feel any different.”

Our hope does not lie in the number and successful-completion of our new year’s resolutions. Our hope does not rest in our ability to mark and remember the important transitions of our lives so we can always know and feel “different.” Our hope is not found in our annual, psychological re-set.

Our hope is in God-made-man, Jesus Christ. And the thing is—whether we know it or not, whether we “respond” to it or not, whether we feel transformed by it or not—the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ has changed the world. We often think of Jesus as standing at a door and knocking—inviting us to let him in and to

(Cont. on pg. 3)

News from the Pews

Thank you to everyone who has helped to keep things running smoothly while we search for our next rector!

Thank you to the following members who provided refreshments during the coffee hours: Joan Borkowski and Cheryl DeVoy after the 10 am service; Rita Curry and Phyllis Joslin after the 8 am service.

A special thank you to Steve LoCastro and Charles Thorne for conducting Morning Prayer at both services on Sunday, December 4 and December 11. Well done!

Please keep the following shut-ins in your prayers - Mary Moody and Margaret Roth.

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

**SAVE THE DATE!
January 8 - Family
Breakfast at 8:45 am**



**January 22 - Welcome
Coffee hour after each
service**

**Come meet and greet Fr.
Ben and Ashley!**

From the Wardens

Thanks for the Old, Huzzah for the New!

2016 was quite the year. I say that acknowledging both the bad and the good. We at Holy Trinity have undergone some serious trials and tribulations, and it hasn't been the easiest year to come through. However, I would prefer to look at some of the good things that happened to us and our church:

Most recently, we had an absolutely amazing Christmas Pageant! Our kids did a fabulous job with a challenging story, our Dance Ensemble reminded us beautifully of the traditional scripture texts, and I could not be more proud of each and every one of our young people. I have to give special thanks to Cindy Rodwell-Simon, who, with the help of her kids, creating those wonderful sheep banners. (I wonder if there is anyplace we could hang those in the church? They are so delightful that I would love for everyone to see them!) Thanks, also, to Joan Munyon, for creating the great dog puppets.

Sanaa Rodwell-Simon designed the logo for the pageant and the t-shirts, Sean Rodwell-Simon figured out how to get a mirror image of the logo so we could transfer it onto the t-shirts, and Tina Sheehan and Lisa Carlamere spent hours ironing the logo onto enough t-shirts to clothe the entire Christmas Pageant! We had a number of families provide lunch for the kids before each Pageant rehearsal, which was a huge help (rehearsing with hungry kids is not a productive experience!), and the ECW paid for the lunches, and everything else necessary to make the Pageant happen. We could not be more grateful to all of them!

Joanne Hutchison, members of the ECW, and the Altar Guild did a spectacular job decorating the church for Advent and then for Christmas. It looked absolutely beautiful! Thanks also to the ECW and the Men's Breakfast for

chipping in and buying the Christmas tree for the narthex.

The grounds of the church ended up covered with lots of leaves this fall (as always), and we had a few people who stepped up and raked/blew them into piles in the street so the borough could collect them. Please help me in thanking, specifically, Colleen Green and her kids, and Sean Garvin, for getting so many of the leaves out of the yard!

Throughout this year, we have had so many people help out with our major mission projects: Kitchen of Hope and Family Promise. I am so proud of our congregation, for the caring way that they regularly stepped up and helped those less fortunate, and in the process helped our church family to become even stronger. There are other mission projects that also happen throughout our church, by individuals and other groups, and I am very proud of these, as well.

It is exciting to know that our new rector, the Rev. Ben Maddison, will be joining us in just a few weeks. For that we have to thank the Discernment Committee, who worked tirelessly for months. They figured out who we are as a church, and then found someone who matches our needs and desires.

The Committee was amazing, and I cannot be more grateful to each and every one of them!

Our rectory has been beautifully renovated and restored to a home in which the Maddison's are looking forward to living. Huge thanks for that work need to go to Mark Cimino, who oversaw all of the work, Bill Bain, for helping us so very much with finding good and reliable contractors, Roger Savage, for spearheading the effort, and all of the other people who stopped in and did jobs, both big and little. All of these people helped us to create a pleasant, comfortable, lovely space for our rector and his wife, and also helped the project to come in under budget!

There are people who have worked tirelessly to keep Holy Trinity functioning. Lisa Carlamere has made sure that we had current, accurate and informative bulletins for every Sunday service, plus a bunch more for special events. This has not been as easy as just updating the dates and the hymns, since every week something different has happened!

Fran Szczepanski, with the help of Carl Carlamere, has made sure that our church building has been clean, dry, heated or cooled as needed, and that any physical problem has been solved.
(cont. on pg. 3)

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Rector / From the Wardens (cont.)

become the type of Christians and people we think we should be. But we forget that what actually happens is that we barricade ourselves behind the door and Jesus breaks the door down, like a SWAT team or Jack Nicholson in *The Shining*, and drags us out—kicking and screaming—into a new world.

Did the world *feel* different after Jesus was born? Probably not.

But it is different—thanks be to God.

Happy New Year.

In Christ,

The Rev. Benjamin B. Maddison

Wardens (cont.)

Margie MacWilliams has provided us with wonderful music every Sunday, and has grown our Joyful Noise Choir into quite the ensemble!

Lee Rodriguez at 8:00, and Joan Borkowski and Carl Carlamere at 10:00, have ushered pretty much every single Sunday. Joan also compiles all of the bulletin pages which Lisa provides us with, and folds them into the helpful bulletins each week. She also puts together the coffee hour lists for 10:00, and quite frequently provides the coffee hour food as well!

Gar Miller and Jackie Gould have consistently gotten *The Banner* out to all of us all year. Invariably they have to nag those of us who write these articles, and then they work like crazy to make them fit to read, and laid out on the pages accurately and effectively. Please read *The Banner*: it's really great, because of them!

When we have been unable to find clergy for our Sunday services, Steve LoCastro and Charles Thorne stepped up to lead morning prayer at both 8:00 and 10:00. Steve has also

been doing morning and evening prayer each and every Tuesday.

Our church school teachers have consistently kept classes going for our kids, whether there were kids there or not. Recently we've had better attendance in church school, which makes us all happy!

Then there is the Vestry, which has kept the church on track, and dealt with many, many issues regarding the regular (and not-so-regular) operations of Holy Trinity. They have sat through hours of meetings, and worked through exhausting discussions regarding, among other things, employment policies, clergy contracts, stewardship, and our year-and-a-half transition. They are: Laurie Cimino, Warden; Vestry Members Carl Carlamere, Gary Henderson, Sean Rodwell-Simon, Roger Savage, Corrin Sellen, Tina Sheehan; Jackie Gould, Clerk of the Vestry; and Mark Sienkiewicz, Treasurer. Please join me in thanking these people, for without them, Holy Trinity would not be.

So yes, 2016 was a difficult year, in many respects. I am not ignoring the struggles we went through — they were substantial — and we did lose a few people because of them. But I am choosing to celebrate the wonderful, amazing family which is Holy Trinity. I am sure I have forgotten many people who have helped us to maintain Holy Trinity this year, and I apologize if I left you out. But I am so proud of all of you!

Thank You,
Melissa Semmes-Thorne
Warden



The Stewardship Campaign Nears Completion

Thanks to our wonderful speakers who gave us a personal glimpse into the importance of Holy Trinity in their lives, the Stewardship Campaign rolled out as scheduled and culminated in New Consecration Sunday which included a lovely all-church brunch.

While we haven't yet reached the dollar pledge amount we will need to comfortably operate in 2017, the good news is that there is still time to fill out an Estimate of Giving card and share in the support of Holy Trinity. To those who have already done so, many thanks.

Our treasurer is currently working on the budget (yes, I said the "b" word) for 2017 and the Estimate of Giving cards are critical in that effort. As we enter the final weeks of our transition, we must attend to both the spiritual and more mundane financial needs of our church. Thank you for your continued support!

Laurie Cimino, Warden



ECW News

What a good time we had at the pajama party last month, complete with cute PJ's, delicious snacks, and Christmas carols — both sung and deciphered in a fun game. But mostly, we were warmed by the thoughts of those at-risk teens snuggling into beds with the new PJ's we gifted them.

Our fundraising continues with mini-soup sales on third Sundays through the winter months, and Wawa coupons available every Sunday.

We will be planning a special welcome for Fr. Ben's first Sunday on Jan. 22, and that will be the focus of our next meeting on Jan. 9, but other ideas are also being considered. Please join us in the Parish Hall at 7 pm to share your thoughts.

Joan Munyon, Secretary

Cookbook Taking Shape

I would like to thank everyone who has submitted a recipe for our upcoming Holy Trinity Cookbook.

The book is nearing completion and will be submitted shortly for publication. The cost will be \$10 per book and a sign-up sheet will be in Narthex.

I am proud of the support I received from our members, and truly believe you will be happy with the results.

Gary Henderson, Vestry



This and That (cont.)

Kitchen of Hope

THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who helped to make the December food giveaway a success! Not only food was given away, but coats, hats, scarves, gloves, socks, bookbags full of supplies and Secret Santa gifts were distributed. In all 136 food insufficient families (119 seniors, 180 adults, 135 children) received bags **and** boxes of groceries and fresh produce. Your generosity is truly a blessing.

The next food distribution will be Saturday, January 14. Holy Trinity food will be delivered on Friday, January 13. If you are available on Friday at 8:45 am or Saturday at 8 am., 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 January giveaway, KOH needs canned fruit and vegetables, plus pasta products. We also need the individual packages of cereal, pasta, juices, crackers, etc. for the KidzPacks.

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



Men's Breakfast News

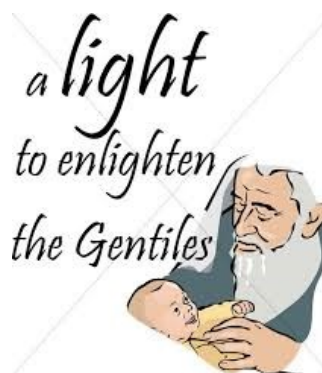
The Men's Breakfast group hopes everyone had a Merry Christmas and enjoyed their time with family and friends. The next Family Breakfast is scheduled for January 8 of the new year, starting at 8:45 am.

We will have a guest speaker at the event -- our own Kevin Therikildsen. He is a member of an organization called "Bike the US for MS". Kevin and his fellow riders are planning to ride from Yorktown, VA to San Francisco, CA, a 3,785 mile trip. Their mission is to fund home modification projects across the United States and to support research and treatment of MS at clinics and treatment centers.

He is planning to tell us a little about himself and why he is riding. In order for Kevin to participate in this ride he will need to raise a minimum of \$3,785, and will be looking for sponsors to help him reach this goal.

We hope to see everyone on January 8, 2017.

Gary Henderson, Vestry



Birthdays

- 1) **Gary Henderson, Jr.**
Shirley Layfield
- 3) **Tom Curry**
- 7) **Danielle Mettinger**
- 9) **Corrine Hartsough**
Jaron Robinson
- 13) **Eric DeVoy**
- 15) **Cheryl DeVoy**
Tim Sullivan
- 16) **Jo Good**
- 20) **Dorothy Mettinger**
- 21) **Heather Heitman**
- 24) **Bill Bain**
Paul Cimino
Jackie Gould
- 25) **Sarah Conners**
- 26) **Barbara Myers**
Evan Sienkiewicz
Deidre Tice
- 28) **Melissa Miller**
Jane Whittinghill

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Family Promise News

"...we are doing our Lord's work within our community."

Once again the volunteers at Holy Trinity stepped up in a very big way. From Sunday December 11 through Sunday December 18, Holy Trinity hosted three families for the Gloucester County Family Promise program: Carol, Gregg and their son Josh; Gabrielle, her sons Michael and Jayden, and Alexis and her son, Joel.

During the week our volunteers drove the families back and forth to Glassboro while others made wonderful meals. Some others stayed overnight at the church with our guests. This week, however, was different. We had many parishioners just stop by with their children to say hello, to sit and to talk with our guests. That is very much getting involved with this ministry. Many nights there were children playing and adults laughing while everyone joined together for delicious meals.

It all culminated with an impromptu Christmas party for our guests on Saturday night. It started with another nice meal and then we gathered together in the Narthex where cookies, cakes, eggnog, tree ornaments and lights awaited. At one point, I couldn't count how many kids were decorating the tree. Then, just as the tree was completed, there was a loud knock at the door. The door flew open and in came jolly Ole St Nick. He sat down in his chair and handed out presents for all of our guests. There were tears of joy on many faces. Then just when you thought it was slowing down everyone went into the back room to watch *The Polar Express*.

By no means are we perfect, but we are getting better at hosting each time. There are a few things that I need to get better at for sure. However, when you looked into the faces of kids and adults on Saturday night and saw that we brought a little light into what must be a dark time in their lives, one can only conclude that we are doing our Lord's work within our community.

I am so proud to come to Holy Trinity and to look around me and to see so many people truly living a life worthy of their calling. Love your neighbor isn't just a catch phrase at HT, it's a way of life.

Christ in all we do,
Sean Garvin

Editors' note: We thought you might appreciate this message to Sean from the Executive Director of Family Promise.

Hi Sean,

Thank you and your congregation so much for your dedication and support with Family Promise. I would like to share some thoughts that the families mentioned to me. I feel your congregation should be proud and honored for their kindness.

The families came to me and stated that they all felt so loved and happy this past week. They did not feel like a "homeless person" one woman said. That in itself brought tears to my eyes, that they felt so blessed and "normal" as they would say. The families said that the volunteers made them feel happy during the holidays which normally is such a hard time for them. One mother said that her son was simply amazed that he was going to talk to Santa. (You not only made her son's day but hers as well. She had no means to get him to visit Santa this year).

This is our Family Promise mission. This is what it is all about! Exactly what your congregation made these families feel. I am very honored to be in this position as Executive Director for Family Promise and work beside some amazing coordinators, congregations and volunteers to help all these families in need!



Thank you! Thank you! Thanks to you and your congregation for making these families smile and feel so loved in so many ways at such a difficult time.

Have a blessed holiday! As always, feel free to contact me for anything!

Vicki



"Love your neighbor isn't just a catch phrase at HT, it's a way of life."

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
January 2017						
1 10 am Morning Prayer	2	3 8 am Morning Prayer 5:15 pm Evening Prayer	4	5 7:30 pm Adult Choir	6 Epiphany 	7 5pm Holy Eucharist At Holy Nativity
8 8 am & 10 am Holy Eucharist 8:45 am Family Breakfast 9:10 am Joyful Noise choir 11:15 am Christian Education	9 7 pm ECW Mtg.	10 8 am Morning Prayer 5:15 pm Evening Prayer	11	12 7:30 pm Adult Choir	13 9 am Deliver food to KOH	14 8:00 am KOH Pantry 5 pm Holy Eucharist at Holy Trinity
15 8 am & 10 am Holy Eucharist 9:10 am Joyful Noise choir 11:15 am Christian Education	16 Martin Luther King Day  Fr. Ben's 1st day at HT	17 8 am Morning Prayer 5:15 pm Evening Prayer	18	19 7:30 pm Adult Choir	20	21 5pm Holy Eucharist At Holy Nativity
22 Welcome Fr. Ben & Ashley! 8 am & 10 am Holy Eucharist 8:45 am Refreshments 9:10 am Joyful Noise choir 11:15 am Christian Education	23 7 pm Vestry mtg.	24 8 am Morning Prayer 5:15 pm Evening Prayer	25	26 7:30 pm Adult Choir	27	28 5 pm Holy Eucharist at Holy Trinity
29 8 am & 10 am Holy Eucharist 9:10 am Joyful Noise choir 11:15 am Christian Education	30 6:30 pm Lector Team mtg.	31 8 am Morning Prayer 5:15 pm Evening Prayer	1	2 7:30 pm Adult Choir	3	4 5pm Holy Eucharist At Holy Nativity

**HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

We're on the Web!

www.holytrinitywenonah.org
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
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TO: