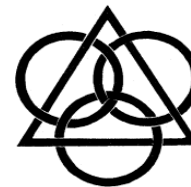




Trinity Topics

ADVENT / CHRISTMAS 2016

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***For everything created by God is good,
and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving.
(I Timothy 4:4)***

Advent and Christmas are once again upon us, which I suppose means it is time for me to write about “the reason for the season.” However, I am going to assume that we all know that well enough already. God’s love for humankind, his incarnation, his birth of the Virgin Mary at Bethlehem, are all familiar enough—do visit me in my office if you need to review. Of course, Christians must proclaim all this on Christmas and every day, but the Advent and Christmas seasons are first and foremost days to be happy about these great doctrines we believe.

So, to be honest, I’ve never had much time for talk about the reason for the season. This talk is not new—people who yearn for the piety of the “good old days” fail to realize that most Americans didn’t even celebrate Christmas for most of our history. The Puritan and Presbyterian Protestants that founded our nation considered it an unbiblical, Roman Catholic celebration of drunkenness, gluttony, and greed—that’s right, sanctimonious churchmen have been sermonizing about the crass materialism of Christmas for going on 500 years!

Yet the Christmas-celebrating minority, mainly lower class Anglicans, Roman Catholics, and Lutherans, carried on with the old traditions and ultimately (with the help of one Charles Dickens) won the battle to make Christmas a day for celebration, generosity and gladness. They carried on because the Gospel was nothing if it wasn’t something to be happy about—drinking, eating, and giving gifts were how they showed it. They carried on because they refused to believe faith precluded fun.

So, as your pastor, I solemnly urge you to, as best as you are able, spoil your children rotten with presents and candy, stuff yourself silly with Christmas ham, and have an extra martini to celebrate our Lord’s birth. Because to be Christian doesn’t mean only to believe that Jesus was born in Bethlehem so many years ago, but also to be *glad* in it.

Deacon Zach Brooks

Christmas Bazaar and Luncheon

December 2 and 3 will be busy days at Trinity! **Help is needed** in many ways in preparation for the weekend. Do you bake? Can you sort through donations? Can you work in the kitchen? Several days of work precede the bazaar and luncheon. Cashiers, clerks and servers are also needed. Your donation of goods, money and time will be appreciated. See the sign-up book on the table in the foyer or contact the Parish Office.

Luncheon: Kitchen workers are always needed. From 10 to 1 on Friday, workers will cut and prepare produce. Help is needed all day Saturday. If you can help serve at the luncheon, contact K-Lou Ashmore or the Parish Office. It really helps to have a clean-up crew to come in at the end of the luncheon.

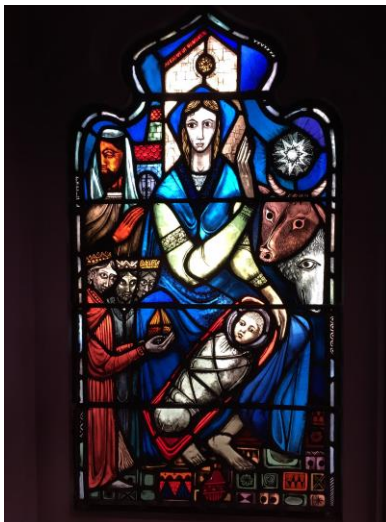
Holiday Shoppe & Book Sale: Workers will be setting up the week ahead. If you have an extra hour to work, contact the Parish Office for times. Extra hands are always needed boxing up items after church on Sunday, December 4.

Gourmet Table: Your home-prepared baked and pantry items should be brought to church Thursday or Friday. See Janet Mitchell if you need suggestions.

Donations for Christmas Flowers

We appreciate your donations which pay for the Christmas flowers. Envelopes are on the table in the foyer. You may write the names of those in whose memory flowers are given and place your donation inside the envelope. Of course, you may also call the Parish Office, but we thought the special envelopes might make the process easier, and they make the recordkeeping much easier.

There are also a few regular Sundays throughout the year on which we do not have regular donors. Contact the Parish Office if you would like to donate Altar Flowers. We will keep a list.



News & Announcements

Outreach

ECW was pleased to donate twenty-two shoeboxes plus \$126 cash to **Operation Christmas Child**, a ministry of the Samaritan's Purse. Thanks to all who contributed boxes and money toward the shipping of the boxes.

Please remember that the Vestry has designated that all of the **Special Offerings** (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and Easter) is directed to Parish Outreach programs. Regular monetary contributions are made to the Salvation Army, the Jacksonville Food Bank, School District 117 Special Needs Students, Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen, New Directions Ministry, and H.E.L.P.S. Ministry.

The Church School will be sponsoring its **Advent Food Collection** on Sunday, December 11. You may bring items and leave them in the basket in the upper hallway.

The students will be making **Christmas cards** for shut-ins on Sunday, December 4. If you would like someone in particular to receive a card, please give the information to the Parish Office.

Thank you

The Vestry would like to thank this groups of workers who reported to duty on Saturday, November 5, for clean up: K-Lou Ashmore, Owen Blackorby, Janet Cisne, Chuck Crim, John Hayter, Forrest Keaton, Adah Mitchell, Gayle Pollock, Dianna Sutphen, Alice Tracey, Donald Tracey, Sarah Van Aken, Mary Watts, Mary Wilson, Ginda Woodruff, Paula Woods, and Deacon Zach Brooks.

We offer special thanks to Adah Mitchell for taking the lead on having all the pictures hung back up in the lounge. She arranged to have a professional look at them and place them. Then Skip Nelson spent several hours hanging them up. Thank you, Adah and Skip!

Congratulations

Addyson Marie, daughter of Jason and Carolyn Spraker and granddaughter of Richard and Deanna Tavender, was born on October 13. Welcome to the world, Addyson!

****If you have news you wish to share, please contact the Parish Office.***

Christmas Bazaar

Friday, December 2

4:00 – 6:00 pm

Saturday, December 3

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, December 3

11:00 am & 12:30 pm

ORDINATION & INSTALLATION

of The Rev. Zachary D. Brooks

Saturday, December 10

2:00 pm

Hopefully you have received your formal invitation. Don't forget to RSVP.

Church School

Advent Food Collection

Sunday, December 11

Please bring non-perishable food items.

Pledge / Contribution Statements

We always mail final annual statements after **December 31**; however, if you would like to know the status of your account as of now, please contact the Parish Office. Our updated software allows us to easily email a statement, and we can, of course, also send one by regular mail.

Bishop's Visit will be
on **Sunday, January 8.**

Annual Parish Meeting will be
on **Sunday, January 22.**

LITURGY FOR DECEMBER 2016

Sunday, December 4:

THE 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00 am = Liturgy of the Word
& Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 7:

10:00 am = Morning Prayer

Saturday, December 10:

2:00 pm = Ordination & Installation

Sunday, December 11:

THE 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, December 14:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 18:

THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, December 21:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Saturday, December 24:

The Eve of the Nativity

11:00 pm = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 25:

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Monday, December 26:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, December 27:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, December 28:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Beginning on December 13:

Morning Prayer will be said at 10:00 am
every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.