

trinity topics

From the Rector's Desk . . .

By the Reverend Sherry Deets

This December, I share a story from Sally Lloyd-Jones' book *"the story of God's love for you"*. It is a retelling of the biblical story of Jesus' birth from the point of view of the shepherds (from Luke 2).

That same night, in amongst the other stars, suddenly a bright new star appeared. Of all the stars in the dark vaulted heavens, this one shone clearer. It blazed in the night and made the other stars look pale beside it.

God put it there when his baby Son was born—to be like a spotlight. Shining on him. Lighting up the darkness. Showing people the way to him.

You see, God was like a new daddy—he couldn't keep the good news to himself. He'd been waiting all these long years for this moment, and now he wanted to tell everyone. So he pulled out all the stops. He'd sent an angel to tell Mary the good news. He'd put a special star in the sky to show where his boy was. And now he was going to send a big choir of angels to sing his happy song to the world: *He's here! He's come! Go and see him. My little Boy.*

Now where would you send your splendid choir? To a big concert hall maybe? Or a palace perhaps? God sent his to a little hillside, outside a little town, in the middle of the night. He sent all those angels to sing for a raggedy old bunch of shepherds watching their sheep outside Bethlehem.

In those days, remember, people used to laugh at shepherds and say they were smelly and call them other rude names (which I can't possibly mention here). You see, people thought shepherds were nobodies, just scruffy old riff-raff. But God

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must have thought shepherds were very important indeed, because they're the ones he chose to tell the good news to first.

That night some shepherds were out in the open fields, warming themselves by a campfire, when suddenly the sheep darted. They were frightened by something. The olive trees rustled. What was that...A wing beat?

They turned around. Standing in front of them was a huge warrior of light, blazing in the darkness. "Don't be afraid of me!" the bright shining man said. "I haven't come to hurt you. I've come to bring you happy news for everyone everywhere. Today, in David's town, in Bethlehem, God's Son has been born! You can go and see him. He is sleeping in a manger." Behind the angel they saw a strange glowing cloud—except it wasn't a cloud, it was angels...troops and troops of angels, armed with light! And they were singing a beautiful song: "Glory to God! To God be Fame and Honor and all our Hoorays!"

Then as quickly as they appeared, the angels left.

The shepherds stamped out their fire, left their sheep, raced down the grassy hill, through the gates of Bethlehem, down the narrow cobble streets, through a courtyard, down some steep, steep steps, past an inn, round a corner, through a hedge, until, at last, they reached...a tumbledown stable.

They caught their breath. Then quietly, they tiptoed inside.

They knelt on the dirt floor. They had heard about this Promised Child and now he was here. Heaven's Son. The Maker of the Stars. A baby sleeping in his mother's arms. This baby would be like that bright star shining in the sky that night. A Light to light up the whole world. Chasing away darkness. Helping people to see.

And the darker the night got, the brighter the star would shine.

Giftng Tree

Trinity will once again have a giftng tree for underprivileged children in the Coatesville community. The first names, ages, sizes, etc. will be listed on a gift tag hanging on the tree. You are invited to take a tag and purchase a gift(s) for this child. All gifts will be delivered to the children's homes by Christmas Eve. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, West Vincent, will be a partner with us again this year in this special ministry. Have the wrapped gifts, with tags securely attached, to the church by Thursday, December 20th.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 1st, ***Coatesville Christmas Parade***. The parade begins at 10 a.m. and Trinity has sold hotdogs, coffee and hot chocolate for years and years. Join us to watch the parade from our front lawn and/or to help sell hotdogs and hot drinks! Several members of Trinity will be carrying our 150th Anniversary banner in the parade, too.

Saturday, December 8th ***Breakfast with Santa.*** Join us for one of the best Breakfast with Santa's in the area. Begins on the 8th at 8 a.m. through 11 a.m. Pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, grits, hash browns and Santa Claus! Adults \$7; Seniors \$6.00 Children (4-10) \$4; under three are free. Join us for a wonderful time.

Sunday, December 9th ***Advent Chamber Music.*** Featuring music of the season by the woodwind quintet, Quintessence, and piano duets by Gail x2 beginning at 5 p.m. This musical experience has received rave reviews. A reception immediately follows in the social hall. There is a community caroling event just prior to this that you may be interested in taking part in. This presentation of relaxing, beautiful music is a great way to end an afternoon of caroling! (info on caroling also in this newsletter). Free will offering.

Monday, December 24th ***Christmas Eve Services.*** Our family service begins at 5 p.m. and our Candlelight service begins at 10:30 p.m. There will be NO service on Christmas Day.

Sunday, December 30th ***Lessons and Carols with Communion.*** Our tradition of Lessons and Carols on the Sunday after Christmas continues. This is a different type of service in which we enjoy singing our favorite Christmas carols. Join us at our usual service time of 9:30 a.m.

Community Holiday Caroling Event in Coatesville, December 9, 2018

Your church congregation is invited to participate in the Holiday Caroling event in downtown Coatesville. We will start at the Coatesville senior Center (CSC) and follow a walking route. We will be assisted by an officer from Coatesville Police Force. Please arrive at the CSC at 1:45PM. We will start caroling around 2PM and go until 4PM. We will return to the CSC for hot chocolate and cookies. A packet of holiday songs and carols will be provided. Please feel free to bring additional carols, songs, music, jingle bells, small instruments and the like.

Our goal is affirmative. We wish to bring local churches together, foster positive outreach, promote the good of the community and celebrate the joy of the season.

If any congregants are interested in taking part in this event, please contact Peter Dimaio (610-384-4943 or petermpmd@yahoo.com) by December 3, 2018. Please come dressed in attire necessary for the time of year. Please wear appropriate shoes for walking. Thank you. Happy Holidays. Peter M. DiMaio

The Trinity Columbarium

Bill Terry and I are pleased to announce that, after a meeting with their representative, we are contracting with Eickhof Columbaria to proceed with the construction of the Trinity columbarium. Design, specs, reputation and qualifications were discussed and reviewed and the Committee, as well as Rev Sherry and Treasurer, Minnie Kirwin, are in agreement with our choice.

Bill and I will be meeting again with contractors who have expressed interest in providing the foundation, and we will be ensuring that the one chosen will follow the exact specifications set forth by Eickhof. On this point there can be no compromise or deviation. Weather permitting, we hope to break ground by mid-January. Following that, delivery and construction is anticipated in April-May of 2019.

I want to thank our members who have taken advantage of the pre-construction cost of a niche. This price will remain available until ground is broken. We will also be reaching out to the various funeral homes in our neighboring areas to let them know that our columbarium will be accessible to their clients. That said, making a decision at this point becomes more time sensitive for you, our congregants.

When inurnment is your chosen alternative, the selection of the urn, which comes in no small number of shapes and sizes, becomes paramount, as you certainly want to guarantee that the urn you choose is compatible with the niche. Please note the **exact** measurements of the niche that our columbarium will provide..... **13" L x 11 7/8" H x 11 7/8" W**

Two urns can be installed in one niche. When considering this, Eickhof recommends a **vase** style urn measuring **10" H x 6" W** or a smaller urn for the niche that will act as a companion niche. Also be aware that urns are available through Eickhof or a provider of your choice.

We're confident that the finished product will be a most attractive and inviting source of final rest for those who have past and whose remains are placed within. Additionally, this part of Trinity will be maintained with due decorum and respect and will remain a place of comfort and peace to those who wish to visit their loved ones at rest.

Please don't hesitate to contact Bill Terry or myself with any questions you may have. If we can't provide the answer, we will immediately defer to the highly qualified and knowledgeable folks at Eickhof.

Thank you for your interest in yet another part of the Trinity experience.

Respectfully, Vic Shanley, Chmn., Ad Hoc Committee



CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS-2018

This year again, we will be ordering poinsettias to decorate the church at Christmas. If you are interested in placing memorial flowers in the church, please fill in your name, phone number and how many plants you are ordering along with the name of the person(s) placed in memory of. Make checks payable to Church of the Trinity and return this order form with your check to the parish office **no later than December 13th**. The suggested donation is a minimum of \$8.00 for each plant ordered.

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

NUMBER OF PLANTS ORDERED: _____

NAME OF PERSON(S) PLACED IN MEMORY OF: _____



Christmas Parade – December 1, 2018

The Coatesville Christmas Parade will be from 10:00 AM to Noon on Saturday, Dec. 1st. Trinity Women's Group will once again be grilling hotdogs on our front lawn. We will be selling these, plus soft pretzels, hot coffee, hot chocolate, cold drinks, snacks and homemade baked goods, all during the parade. Come out and support our efforts, all while enjoying the many bands, firetrucks, and clubs and organizations that march in the parade, heralding the arrival of Santa Claus. Trinity's front lawn is the perfect place to be for this festive and lively celebration. See you there!



Breakfast with Santa – Saturday, Dec. 8th, 2018

Trinity's Women's Group will be sponsoring our annual Breakfast with Santa, on Saturday, Dec, 8th, from 8:00 to 11:00 AM. Tickets will be sold at the door, starting at 7:45 AM; the prices will be: \$7.00 Adult; \$6.00 Seniors (65+), \$4.00 for Children ages 4-10, and Free for children age 3 and under. We will be serving pancakes, scrambled eggs, hash browns, bacon, sausage, toast, grits, and creamed chip beef. Please plan on attending, and bringing your children, grandchildren, neighbors, friends, and all the family! This is our 2nd largest annual fundraiser. Come see Santa and enjoy the smiles and laughter of the little children.



Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 8th, 2018 (8:00 to 11:00 a.m.)

Pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, grits, hash browns
and

Santa Claus!



**Adults \$7.00
Seniors (65+) \$6.00**

**Children (4-10) \$4.00
(3 & under= Free)**

Episcopal Church of the Trinity

323 E. Lincoln Highway
Coatesville, PA 19320
610-384-4771



Secret Sister Exchange on St. Nicholas Day

We always seem to have trouble finding a date for our annual Secret Sisters reveal and exchange. Someone had suggested that December, and in particular, Advent season, was a good time to have our annual gathering, so at our last meeting of the Women's Group, we thought 12/9, after church service, would be a good time...but...that is the Advent Festival; and a very busy day for many. So, I have taken upon myself to pick St. Nicholas Day as our annual Secret Sister event. The date is December 6th; and is very close to the beginning of Advent, which is the start of a new church year....so a new annual start for Secret Sisters, and if we make it St. Nicholas Day every year, then people can plan for it well in advance of its occurrence.

So, at 6:00pm on 12/6, we will have a potluck snack time in Stone Hall, and then at 7:00 we can pull names for our new Secret Sister. Please try to attend, but if you can't, and still want to be part of the Secret Sister sharing, please submit your form to Pat Kirkner BEFORE 12/6. Forms are available in the back of the church.

Regards, Pat Kirkner, Women's Group



(Can't participate in the community caroling? How about this way to welcome the Christmas spirit!) I have tickets for the 3:00 PM show on Sunday, Dec. 9th. They are \$5.00 each. This is the same day as our Advent Festival; this show will be from 3:00 to 4:30, then we can attend the Festival at 5:00 at our church. What a great way to invite the Christmas spirit in? Anyone interested in going, see Pat Kirkner.

Christmas at the Movies is a musical revue featuring songs from your favorite classic Christmas films, performed LIVE. Bring the entire family and sing along to classics like Bing Crosby's *White Christmas*, *What's This?* from Tim Burton's *Nightmare Before Christmas*, and modern classics like *Believe* from *Polar Express* PLUS an exciting medley of songs from classic Rankin/Bass Claymation Christmas specials we all grew up with.

Christmas at the Movies promises to be an amazing night of holiday cheer for the entire family!

Founded in October of 2017, Revival Productions is a brand new performing arts company located in Coatesville, PA. With a team of professionals and enthusiasts whose collective experience equates to over 100 years, we are fervently dedicated to serving the Coatesville area. Our goal is to provide exceptional and affordable live entertainment of ALL genres for ALL ages! As the city undergoes tremendous revitalization projects, we hope to contribute to the "revival" of our beautiful community.



150th Anniversary- 1868-2018

It's been an interesting, educational and rewarding year, learning who and where we came from. From the beginning 150 years ago, we as Christians, decided our calling was to build a community of worship, regardless of our background, race, or ethnicity. We have been taught to love thy neighbor and share the love of God, and hopefully, those who have entered through our beloved red doors, have felt this love, found a source of shared beliefs, and discovered consolation and acceptance.

As we approach the end of our celebratory year here at Trinity, I once again ask for our members to participate in two final events before we bring our celebration to a close.

On January 6, 2019, as we celebrate Epiphany, we will be asking all in attendance that day to come forward and offer a remembrance to be placed inside our great altar, which is designated as our time capsule. Vestry has agreed to a reopening date of January 6, 2069. Please mark your calendars for this historic date.

After the closing of the capsule, any and all members interested in helping select and compile all that will go into the anniversary book are asked to contact Joe Kirkner. A publishing target time will be February or March 2019. Please consider offering your help, thoughts, and photos.

150 years of Faith in Coatesville.

-Joe Kirkner, Chair, Anniversary Committee



Veteran Brunch – November 25, 2018

As we close-out our last brunch for 2018, everyone participated with the same usual enthusiasm that they've shown from the very beginning. Our brunch will not be held in December due to Advent schedules.

This month's attendance was 40 veterans; and we had 20 volunteers serving-up another delicious meal of scrambled eggs, bacon, pumpkin pancakes, roasted potatoes, roast pork loin, cheesy chicken casserole, sweet potatoes, green beans, homemade coleslaw, potato salad, various breads, desserts, fresh fruit, juice, water and coffee.

One of our Veteran guest this month provided grace to start the meal. Special thanks to Sam and Seth Haak, and Sarah Schneider for helping prepare and serve the meal. Another thank you goes out to Minnie Kirwin who contributes monthly with homemade side dishes, and finally a heartfelt thanks to Stuart Deets and Beaver Creek Tavern for their generous contribution of eggs and bacon each month.

God Bless everyone for their ongoing commitment each month to our outreach; God Bless our Veterans and God Bless America. We will return on January 27, 2019 for the next brunch.

Coatesville Community Garden

The last of the produce (lettuce and hot peppers) from our two raised beds was harvested ahead of the freeze and donated to the Salvation Army this past week. The garden is now put to bed for the winter. It was a crazy season, with way too much rain from June on! I never had to water in the heat of the summer. Select crops did pretty well: lettuce, cabbage, cherry tomatoes and peppers. Once again, we harvested about 100 pounds of produce.

The Food Bank provided gardeners with flower seeds this year, and the garden was a riot of beautiful color all season, providing much cheer to passerby. Pam Smyth

Stewardship

Hopefully, by the time you read this, regular parishioners will have received this year's Stewardship letter and pledge card. Many of you shared your reasons for supporting Trinity:

"It is a pleasure to support Trinity. It is such a welcoming place to worship." - The Harvey's

"I love the love that radiates from everyone here. The love of the Trinity." - Meg Devereux

"Trinity is like a close knit family that cares a lot about everyone and looks out for each other. That is what I love about it." -Barb Combs

"The diversity, family and community feeling. Have always been Episcopalian-love the service, hymns, readings and sermons."-Pat Hendricks

"We support Trinity because it is like an extended family to our family. We feel that everyone in our church has helped raise our children to be the wonderful boys they are. We have felt supported through illness and injury and difficulty by Trinity's love!"-The Haak Family

And anonymously:

"Spirit of its people and place; sense of welcome and love."

"Community service to Veterans and the wider community."

"Trinity must remain a force in our community and a foundation for our worshiping family, because in this world of shifting sands and fear- we are the home of love and the rock of God's love for us."

I can't emphasize enough how important pledge income is to the running of our church. Being able to count on regular, reliable income is the key to paying salaries, utility bills and buying needed supplies. Your pledge is a promise, but not an obligation, to pay an amount set by you at whatever interval suits you. If you find your circumstances change and you can't fulfill your pledge, we ask that you tell Minnie or me (in confidence), so we can adjust the budget. (Of course, if you win the lottery, you can always increase your pledge!)

We are grateful for ALL contributions, whether they come in the form of a pledge, in the plate, as a special gift, or earmarked for a particular project. I am always astonished by the generosity of our congregation. If you plan to pledge this year, please return your pledge cards by Dec. 9th so the Vestry can pass the budget. If you didn't receive one and would like one, there are extras available in the office.

With gratitude- Pam Smyth, Stewardship Chair



Jennifer Chance	2-Dec
Jason Saylor	4-Dec
Samuel Haak	4-Dec
Bella Baynard	9-Dec
Anne Lutz	13-Dec
William McWilliams	16-Dec
Shane McWilliams	17-Dec
Wayne Hanley	17-Dec
Miranda Croft	21-Dec
Pamela Smyth	22-Dec
Chase Crompton	24-Dec
David Rutledge	25-Dec
William Terry	25-Dec
Linda Hammond	30-Dec
Velda Baynard	31-Dec
Elizabeth Sullivan	31-Dec

DECEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						Christmas Parade
						SH Rented
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
SH Rented		Choir 730PM		HE Chapel- 12noon Yoga 1240-140p Women's Group 6-8pm		Breakfast with Santa 8-11am
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Advent Festival 5pm		Choir 730PM		HE Chapel- 12noon Yoga 1240-140p		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		Choir 730PM		HE Chapel- 12noon Yoga 1240-140p	SH Rented	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Christmas Eve Services: Family 5pm Candlelight 1030pm	Christmas Day Office Closed	Office Closed	HE Chapel- 12noon		
30	31					
Lessons & Carols						



Readers, Servers and Greeters for December 2018



Date	Readers	Psalter/P-O-P	Chalists	Servers	Torches	Greeters
12/2	Craig McGovern	N/A	Pat Kirkner	Zoey McGovern	N/A	TBD
	Violet Armstead	Seth Haak	Pam Smyth	Pat Kirkner	N/A	
12/9	Vic Shanley	N/A	Bill Terry	Seth Haak	N/A	TBD
	Betty Sullivan	Greg Bentley	Jim Anderson	Bill Terry	N/A	
12/16	Caroline Bentley	N/A	Al Carey	Al Carey	N/A	TBD
	Bill Terry	Chris Haak	Pat Kirkner	Al Carey	N/A	
12/23	Pam Smyth	N/A	Pam Smyth	Jim Anderson	N/A	TBD
	Jim Anderson	Kent Nation	Al Carey	Jim Anderson	N/A	
12/24	TBD	N/A	Bill Terry	Al Carey	Laura Puma	TBD
	TBD	TBD	Pat Kirkner	Jim Anderson	Caroline Puma	TBD
12/30	Violet Armstead	N/A	Pam Smyth	Pat Kirkner	N/A	TBD
	Craig McGovern	Bill Terry	Jim Anderson	Pat Kirkner	N/A	TBD

CHURCH OF THE TRINITY
323 East Lincoln Highway
Coatesville, PA 19320-3409

For more information

contact:

The Reverend Sherry Deets, Rector
610-384-4771

trinitycoates@aol.com

Website:

www.trinitycoatesville.org

Jamoca Harkins, Parish
Administrator

Parish Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday:

9-1030am & 1-215pm

Tuesday & Thursday: 515-630pm

Friday: 8am-3pm

Mission Statement

**Church of the Trinity is a
congregation rooted in the
faith and love of Christ, unified
in diversity, seeking to grow
and nourish the Trinity family
and our Coatesville
community.**

Service Schedule

Holy Eucharist

Sundays 9:30 AM

Thursdays 12:00 PM

Church School

Sundays 9:15 AM

**THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF THE TRINITY
323 East Lincoln Highway
Coatesville, Pennsylvania
19320-3409**