

THREE CHRISTMAS ACCOUNTS

There are three stories about the birth of Christ in the gospels. In the most familiar version of the story, St. Luke tells us about the shepherds in the hills keeping watch over their flocks by night. Luke tells us about Mary and Joseph in the stable. He accounts to us about the hard trip to Bethlehem. He speaks about the Imperial census that brought Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. It is the story most often read in churches on Christmas Eve.

The second story about the birth of Christ is not exactly the same. When Matthew tells the story, he likes to sprinkle in a lot of Old Testament prophecies that are fulfilled in Jesus' birth. There are no shepherds in Matthew's story; instead there are Wise Men from the East who see a star. Matthew tells the story as if it has great political meaning. The villain of the story is Herod, who wants to find Jesus and have him killed. Mary and Joseph seem to be residents of Bethlehem. They flee to Egypt when Joseph has a vision in which he is told to flee. The Matthew story is the story most often read in the Church on January 6th...Epiphany.

The third story about the birth of Jesus is in the gospel of John. Surprised? Most people don't believe that John has a story about the birth of Jesus. John's Christmas story is found in the first chapter of his gospel. There he talks about Jesus being God's Word...the Word was with God at the time of creation and worked as God in the creation of the cosmos. John gives the Christmas story in only one sentence. There is no mention of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men, or Bethlehem. Here is John's complete Christmas story:

The Word became Flesh and dwelt among us.

John's Christmas story is certainly the shortest and is stated in a simple sentence. Yet it is the most profound and most difficult of the Christmas stories to grasp. God's Word (God the Son)...became a human being...became one of us.

Why would God want to do that? Because God loves us. Because God was determined to save us when it became obvious we could not save ourselves. Because God understood that in order for us to enter heaven, He must come down from heaven to show us the way.

The other stories are perhaps more exciting, but the Christmas story from John is more profound. God became man, so that Man will return to God. Think about that during this time when we celebrate and give thanks for the birth of Christ.

May Your Christmas be Holy.

Fr. Fred †

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE *Children's Christmas Pageant* ★ 5:30 p.m. All children, grandchildren, guests are invited to participate. No rehearsal is required. See the parent volunteers at 5:00 in the parish hall to get into costume.



Rite I with Organ ★ 8:00 p.m.

Rite II with Organ and Choir ★ 11:00 p.m. Sing Christmas carols with the Choir beginning at 10:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY *Rite II* ★ 10:00 a.m.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

by Karen Rangel

It is amazing to me how much the Sunday School children have learned this first semester. As we studied the book of Genesis, St. Francis and the prophets Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Isaiah, we made bird houses, collected blankets and made cards for Fr. Bill's prison ministry. But what is most amazing is the children's understanding of prayer and desire to pray. When asked what grace meant, little Helen Gunn replied, "It's like when God rains down his love on you and gets you soaking wet." We have been praying weekly for children and others all over the world. In the parish hall, our own vision of the peaceable kingdom will be hanging throughout Advent. I look forward to next semester. Thank you for sharing your children with us.

Plus, thank you, thank you, thank you—a trinitarian thanks to Paul Warren who sings with the children every Sunday before we start Sunday school. He plans music that emphasizes their lessons and gets everyone singing and dancing. We are truly blessed with his music.

The monthly parenting forum will not be meeting in December, but we will continue on January 13 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

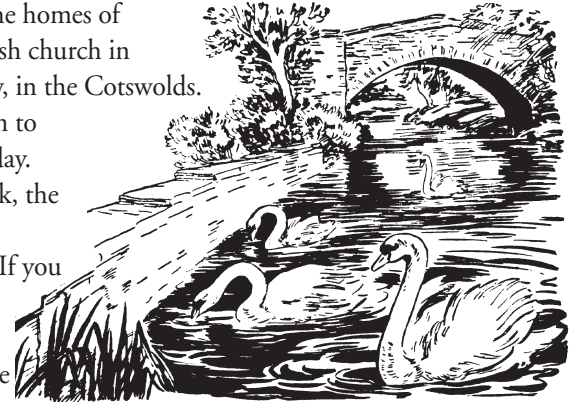


You are needed to be a host/hostess for a Saturday Supper on February 20 or March 20:

The host/hostess provides the space, table settings (plastic or paper are o.k.), tea, coffee, soft drinks and an appetizer. If you are able to share your home on one of these dates, please call Mary Sheldon at (817) 294-3763.

PARISH TRIP TO ENGLAND SCHEDULED FOR 2010

The Trinity Travelers will be making another Parish Vacations trip to England June 10 – June 24, 2010. The first week will be spent in the homes of parishioners in the parish church in the village of Duns Tew, in the Cotswolds. Short trips will be taken to places of interest each day. During the second week, the group will be visiting Devon and Cornwall. If you are interested, please contact Frances Cox or Tom Wilson for more information.



GIVE A *Gift For Life* This CHRISTMAS

Episcopal Relief & Development, an international relief agency of the Episcopal Church of the United States, announces availability of its *Gifts for Life* alternative giving catalog, an opportunity to benefit people living in poverty around the world by giving a Christmas gift in the name of a friend or family member.

Examples of the gifts which can be selected include providing hot meals for school children, helping families protect themselves through developing sources of clean water and learning about basic hygiene and nutrition, and supplying seeds, tools and training to establish community gardens as food sources.

Printed catalogs feature personal stories from past years of both givers and receivers of these special Christmas gifts and are available on the table outside the main office of the church. It's also possible to view the catalog online at <www.er-d.org/GiftsForLife/>. If you have questions, they may be directed to Deacon Janet Nocher who is the Fort Worth Episcopal Diocese ERD representative.





*God Willing
The Right Reverend Bavi Rivera
Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Olympia*

*will ordain
ClayOla Hillaker Gitane*

*to
The Sacred Order of Priests
In Christ's One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church*

*on the fifth day of December
two thousand and nine
at 10:00 o'clock in the morning*

*Trinity Episcopal Church
3401 Bellaire Drive South
Fort Worth, Texas*

*Your prayers and presence are requested
Clergy: White stoles*

Congregations Host Ordination Reception

Members of Christ the King Episcopal Church and the Parker County faith communities will host a reception in the Trinity parish hall following ClayOla Gitane's ordination to the priesthood. After ordination, she will be serving these congregations as their priest-in-charge.

MAKE YOUR GIFT GIVING MEMORABLE AND MEANINGFUL

by Dolly Bush

The Alternative Christmas Giving Market, an opportunity to honor a special person and help organizations within our parish and in the community, will take place on December 6 and 13 in the parish hall before and after all services. We have a variety of gift options that take the place of traditional Christmas gifts. Just make a donation in honor of a friend, family member, teacher, co-worker—anyone on your list—and receive a beautiful Christmas card with a message that a gift has been given in his or her name to the organization you choose.

Shopping lists will be available on the bell porch table and in several places in the parish hall. Checks should be written to Trinity Episcopal Church; your gift amount will be added to your 2009 Trinity contribution if you include the number on your pledge envelope.

NOTES FROM THE 11:30 SERVICE

by Jan Hughes

Did you know our 11:30 service is drawn from the *Domus Ecclesia* (house churches) tradition in early Christian history? Before there were church buildings, families and friends met in homes to celebrate Eucharist much as we gather each Sunday as one family around the altar table here at Trinity.

Our own classical guitarist Jerry Lobdill has invited concert flautist Aileen Hummel to join him on *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5* during the offertory on December 13.

Thank you, Jerry, for this very special treat!

Remember, we have our “second Sunday” potluck lunch set for December 13. Bring a dish to share! We invite everyone, no matter which service they usually attend, to join us. The more, the merrier!



YEAR END TIPS FROM THE FINANCE AREA

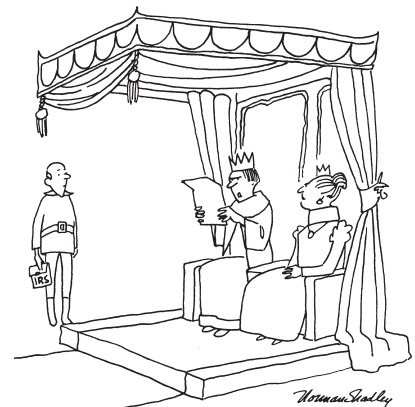
The 2009 financial fiscal year for Trinity ends December 31, 2009. As we approach this date please be aware of the following facts.

2009 Contributions: The IRS has strict rules relating to charitable contributions. To claim a charitable deduction for 2009, donors can either deliver checks to the church by December 31, 2009 or mail their checks to the church with a *postmark* of December 31, 2009 or before. Unfortunately, mail postmarked after December 31, 2009, and checks placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2009, will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2009 (even if the check is predated to 2009 or was actually written in 2009).

Pre-Payment of 2010 Pledge: If you are using a tax planning strategy where you want to pay your 2010 pledge in 2009, be sure to write *2010 pledge* on the memo line and mail or deliver it to the church before December 31, 2009.

Reimbursements and Budget Spending: *All 2009 budget expenditures end December 31, 2009.* If you have any receipts for purchases that need to be paid with 2009 budget money, please give them to Jackie by December 31, 2009. Receipts received after December 31, 2009 will be paid from the 2010 budget. *If you order something prior to the December 31, 2009 deadline that will be billed to the church at a later date, make sure you give a copy of the order to Jackie so that the expense can be accrued in 2009.*

“And we smote him until (nothing) was left to him.”
—Deuteronomy 3:3

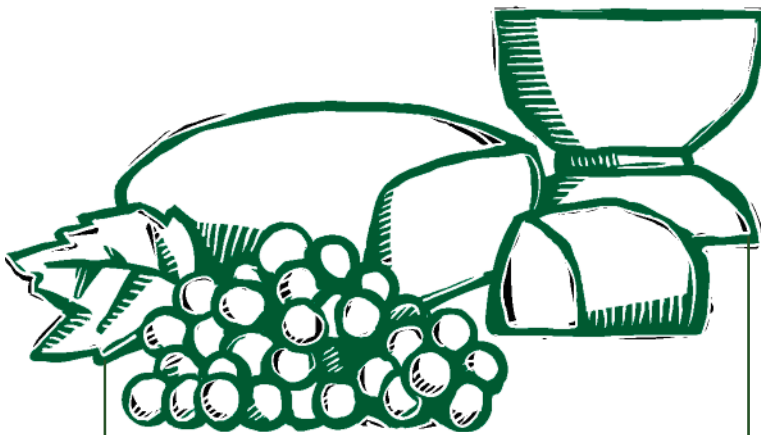


What does audited mean?

PLACES TO GO AND PEOPLE TO SEE

Trinity Seniors will gather for a festive Christmas luncheon at the Petroleum Club in downtown Fort Worth on Tuesday, December 15. Please send (or give) a check made out to Jack West no later than December 11th. The cost is \$20 per person. Call Margie and Jack West, (817) 927-0707, if you have questions.

Saturday Supper will be December 19 at the home of Mary Sheldon, 8009 Sunscape Lane from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Bring a dish for eight to share and your favorite beverage. Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be provided. This is a great way to enjoy your Trinity family in an informal setting.



Bishop Ohl To Celebrate at Trinity on December 6

Bishop Wallis Ohl, new Provisional Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth, will be the celebrant at Trinity on Sunday, December 6. This will be a wonderful opportunity to welcome our new Bishop and Mrs. Ohl to our parish. Bishop Ohl was the officiant at Fr. Michael's ordination in August.

Voluntering to be an Oblationer

We invite as many of our parishioners as would like, to serve as oblationers for our Sunday services. If you would like to be an oblationer, please let the church office know or, be sure to sign up on Rally Sunday in August.

Several times a year, the Oblationer's Schedule is sent out by e-mail so that you know when you are to serve. If you cannot serve on the date to which you are assigned, you are asked to trade with someone and let the church office know so that the change can be noted in the pew bulletin.

On your designated Sunday, arrive at least ten minutes before the start of the service and sit in the oblationer's pew, which is the first pew behind the crossing.

The pew is marked on the end. If someone is sitting there, and there is room for them to move down, ask them if they would mind doing so. If the pew is full, sit as near as possible to that pew and let one of the ushers know where you are sitting.

At the end of the choir's offertory hymn, go to the small chest in front of the oblationer's pew. One oblationer takes the basket of bread, and the other takes the two cruets. Carry the cruets by the handles. As soon as you have these in hand, step to the center aisle and the ushers will follow you with the offering plates. At the steps to the altar, you will be met by two acolytes. One will take the bread; the other will lift the lids on the cruets and then take them. The oblationers bow their heads slightly, as will the acolytes, and then return to their seats using the side aisle.

Submitting Announcements for the Sunday Pew Bulletin

The deadline for submitting announcements for the Sunday Pew Bulletin is 5:00 p.m. on Monday of each week. All announcements are to be submitted by e-mail to Linda Santiago at <ftworthtrinity@sbcglobal.net> and the subject of the e-mail should indicate that it is for the Sunday pew bulletin. Please include your name and phone number. Announcements need to be brief with information pertinent to the event or meeting.

Trinity Episcopalian Editorial Board

Publisher: The Rev. J. Frederick Barber
Editor: Karen Shepherd
Designer: Margie West
Copyreader: Betty Lynn Georges
A Vestry Representative
Distribution: Mary Cockran and mailing staff

The Trinity Episcopalian is published monthly by volunteer Trinity Church parishioners. Please submit articles for inclusion by the 12th of each month (**NB: The December deadline for the January edition must be Monday, December 7**). Submitted material may be edited to fit an 8 page format.

BIRTHDAYS AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



December 1

Iris McGinnis
Barbara Shields
John & Ann Mason
David & Barbara
McClellan

December 2

Robert Daniels
Morris Drumm
John Mason
Jesus Castro-Balbi &
Gloria Lin

December 3

Celeste Craver
Stinson Jones
William Motheral

December 4

Marjorie Creal
Hollis Fincher
Gina Powell
Heather Reardon
Katie Sherrod

December 5

Parker Allen
Kevin Brown
Stafani Pappas

December 6

Mary Katherine Tetirick

December 7

Jack & Mary Holstein
Bob & Sarah Leahy

December 8

Elias Rangel
Haily Summerford
Sue Wagoner

December 9

JoLyn Skinner

December 11

Kerry Landers

December 12

Stephanie Espinosa
Graham Powell, Jr.
George Krasowsky &
Catherine Wehlburg

December 13

James Cox
Emily Moran
Cory VanZant
Danny & Kenna Sue Grogan
Michael and Danna Tramel

December 14

Joshua Bacon
Patty Caddell
Marisol Rodriguez

December 15

Roland Drechsel
Shannon Shipp

December 16

Skipper & Kimberely Shook

December 17

Betsy Cross
Morris & Cindy Drumm

December 18

George Barlow
Chris Doan
Natalie Poulos

December 19

Isaac Baines
Mary Benson
Marion McAlister

December 20

Stacy Hamilton
Brook Whitworth
Cassius & Hillary Vessey

December 21

Reid Bice

December 22

Robby Drain
Jean Goggans
Karen Parrish
George Vessey
David & Mary Benson

December 23

Carlene Dailey

December 24

George & JoAnn Studdard

December 25

Pam Mann
Barclay Ryall

December 26

Tim Hardman

December 27

Cynthia McCook
Teri McGuill
Andrew Sargent
Vernon & Danna Strength

December 28

Jackson Bobo
Al Mathe
Margaret Richter
Tim Schinzer
George Truett
Stan & Jo Young

December 29

Bob Leahy
Brian & Allison Edmonds
Bill & Eileen Kuhlmann
Stan & Omah Wiley
Brad Klemesrud & Shannon
Baker

December 30

Thomas Cox
Tristan Grogan
Elizabeth Miller
Stuart & Melissa Murff

December 31

Kathleen Coughtry

PARISH PRAYER LIST

HEALING

George McGowan
David Fairchild
Helen Gunn
Beverly Frank
David Koepp
Harriet & Kali Woldt
Sherry & John Tanner
Frank Elliot
Sandee Judson Christie
Dian & Chris Stadler
Jewel Cook
Rich Wolf
Kathy Wetsell
Maryl Buttrey
Ashley Taylor
Jim McCord
Judy Bollman
Margaret Spencer
Margaret Blakely
Joe
Nancy & Rudd Ross
Connie Griffin
Baird Family
Sidney Baudouin
Grant Batterson
Minnie Kallas
Diana Tow
Jane Mossbarger
Betty Dieb
Karla Pollock
Shirley Wheelock
Will Brachman
Paul Smith

NURSING CARE

Bob Ledbetter
Sherry Hunt
Sarah Schweitzer
Lettie Belle Morgan
Carlene Heath
Marie Grickson
Beverly Haywood
Gwen Oberle
Allie Bearden
H. S. McGilvray

IN THE MILITARY

Chris Campbell
Christopher Savage
David Odom
Thoams Vanderberg
Juan Carlos
Katie Schori
William Tremaine
John Culp
Brendan Thacker
Ernesto Gallegis
Sergio Zuniga
Albert Williams
Sarah Orick Williams
Jason Dunn
Luke Reid
Jerry McLaughlin
Chris Naler
Robert Tutt
Brian Contreras

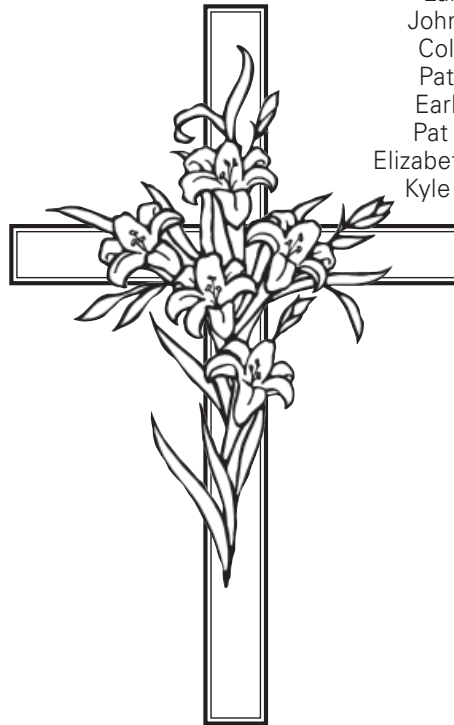
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*My sheep hear my voice,
and I know them, and they
follow me. And I give them
eternal life, and they shall
never perish, neither shall
anyone snatch them out
of my hand.”*

John 10:27-28

DEPARTED

Jeffery Storie
Alex Khoury
Larry Carr
John T. Haun
Colin Baird
Pat Riddell
Earl Bullard
Pat Souther
Elizabeth Bomgren
Kyle Williams





TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

3401 Bellaire Drive South
Fort Worth, Texas 76109

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SERVICE INFORMATION

SUNDAYS

Holy Eucharist

8:00 am Rite I

9:15 am Rite II *Family Service
with Choir and Children's Chapel*

10:40-11:20 *Sunday School,
ages 2-18*

11:30 am Rite II *Folk Mass*

6 pm Rite II

WEEKDAYS

Monday: 9:30 am *Morning Prayer*

Tuesday: 11 am *Holy Eucharist*

Wednesday: 7 am *Holy Eucharist
followed by breakfast*

Thursday: Noon *Holy Eucharist
followed by Bible study*

STAFF

Rector: *the Rev. J. Frederick Barber*

Curate: *the Rev. Michael Caldwell*

Deacon: *The Rev. Janet Nocher*

Director of Trinity School: *Lynn Allen*

Choirmaster: *Alan Buratto*

Organist: *Debora Clark*

Webmaster: *Elinor Normand*

Children's Ministry: *Karen Rangel*

Business Manager: *Jackie Robinson*

Parish Administrator: *Linda Santiago*

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Church Fax: 817 920.9043

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Web: fortworthtrinity.org

PreSchool Phone: 817 926.0750