

THE MESSAGE

The Newsletter of **Trinity Episcopal Cathedral**
A House of Prayer for All People • December 2016



*Trinity Cathedral's Annual Christmas Pageant
December 11, 2016*

2016 Advent and Christmas at the Cathedral

Sunday, November 28	Alternative Market from 10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.*
Thursday, November 24	Thanksgiving Day Eucharist at 10 a.m.* With the Cathedral Choir and Pinnacle Brass
Sunday, November 27	Advent I The Rev. Canon Dr. J. Russell Snapp preaching* Evening at 4:00 p.m. Advent Event at 5:00 p.m.*
Sunday, December 4	Advent II The Rev. Amber Carswell preaching* Children's Choirs at 9:00 a.m. Evening at 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 10	Advent Quiet Day from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 11	Advent III The Rev. Steve Bonney preaching* Christmas Pageant at 4:00 p.m.*
Sunday, December 18	Advent IV The Very Rev. Dr. Christoph Keller, III preaching* Christmas Lessons and Carols at 4:00 p.m.*
Saturday, December 24	Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist at 4:00 p.m.* The Cherub Choir and Seraphim Singers The Very Rev. Dr. Christoph Keller, III preaching The Rt. Rev. Larry Benfield presiding Musical Prelude at 10:00 p.m. Little Rock String Quartet, <i>Cavalli Christmas Concerto</i> Choral Eucharist 10:30 p.m. Cathedral Choir, <i>Schubert's Mass in G</i> The Very Rev. Dr. Christoph Keller, III preaching The Rt. Rev. Larry Benfield presiding
Sunday, December 25	Christmas Day Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. The Very Rev. Dr. Christoph Keller, III preaching
Wednesday, December 28	Madrigal Feast at 6:00 p.m. in Morrison Hall
Sunday, January 1	First Sunday After Christmas Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. The Rev. Amber Carswell preaching Choral Evening at 4:00 p.m.
Friday, January 6	Epiphany service at St. Mark's at 6:30 p.m.

* Children will be provided for these events

Please remember Trinity Cathedral in your will.

Sundays at Trinity

Dean's Sunday Breakfast Class Fall 2016



Sundays 10:15 a.m. to 11:05 a.m. in Morrison Hall

Nov. 27: The Rev. Dr. Christoph Keller, III: "Coming This Spring: A Program Preview"

Dec. 4: The Rev. Amber Carswell "In Jesus' Footsteps: Travels in the Holy Land."

Dec. 11: The Rev. Steve Bonsey will teach about contemplative prayer.

Dec. 18: Victoria Harden: "Lessons and Carols: A Preview"

Dec. 25: Merry Christmas! (No class today)

Jan. 1: Happy New Year! (No class today)

Living the Questions

Living the Questions meets 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. in the Library/Lounge of Cathedral House (except when joining the Dean's Class). Led by Dr. Robert Johnston, the class is a quick-moving discussion in which each person is invited, but not required, to participate. Bring your brunch.

Nov. 27: Join the Dean's Class

Dec. 4: Abraham, Sara, Hagar & Ishmael & Isaac

Dec. 11: Join the Dean's Class

Dec. 18: The Missing Two Chapters of Genesis?

Dec. 25: Merry Christmas! (No class today)

Jan. 1: Happy New Year! (No class today)

The Bible Challenge

The Bible Challenge meets Sunday mornings at 10:15 in the conference room. Take a great journey through the Bible, a year-long reading adventure, with The Bible Challenge. Each day you will be accompanied by a meditation written by a church leader or biblical scholar. More than one hundred archbishops, bishops, deans, priests and scholars have contributed essays. The Rev. Marek P. Zabriskie, founder of The Bible Challenge, believes that our lives of faith will be enlivened and expanded by a sustained encounter with God's Word. If you never thought you could read the whole Bible, The Bible Challenge is a wonderful way to embark on a holy pilgrimage joined by others from around the world! Led by Greg Albert & Annie Burton.

Full Breakfast Every Sunday Morning and Supper Every Wednesday Night

We will serve breakfast from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings in Morrison Hall and supper on Wednesday evenings from 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. The price per person is \$7.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children under 12. The maximum charge for a family is \$20.

Evensong Service

Evensong on Sundays at 4:00 p.m. will continue through December 4. This sung service of evening prayer offers music and readings in praise of God by the Cathedral Schola choir. It begins with an organ prelude (there is no sermon) and ends with an elegant high tea in Baker Parlor. Evensong will begin again on January 1.

Wednesdays at Trinity

Refresh, Renew, Restore

The Cathedral has started a new formation evening for all ages. This is a time to stop; to come together as a parish and as a community; to worship, socialize, learn, and go forth in peace.

The schedule is as follows:

- 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. Cherub Choir (Choir Room, Ages 4-7)
- 5:05 p.m. Service with Healing Unction in the Cathedral
- 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. Dinner in Morrison Hall (for those attending the service, there is still plenty of time to eat!)
- 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Classes for all ages
- 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Seraphim Choir (Choir Room, Grades 3-7)

Sign up for a class by going to www.trinitylittlerock.org/wednesdays. Classes you may choose from are:

- Advent in the Home (Baker Parlor)
- Embracing the Prophets (Conference Room)
- Crafty for Christmas (Staff Lounge)
- Education for Ministry (EfM) (Iona Room - See next page for details)

Advent in the Home (Baker Parlor)

December 7 - 21

Christmas has increasingly become a holiday cut off from its purpose of celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. It is, therefore, important for us to recapture the season of Advent as a time for preparing for Christmas. Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming.” Advent begins the church year, starting four Sundays before Christmas. The season of Advent has been set aside as a time of preparation for Christmas since at least the last half of the 6th century. Advent is a time for self-examination and asking for forgiveness as the church is preparing for Christ’s Second Coming even as it prepares for Christmas. Join Susan Allen as she presents some different and meaningful ways to bring Advent into your home this year.

Embracing the Prophets (Conference Room)

November 9 – December 21

Who were the Prophets? Were they ancient meddlers who enjoyed prognosticating about future events? Were they social activists crying out for reform? Or were they messengers from God, standing in judgment over the political and religious leaders of the times? To find the answers, join a study by Dr. Walter Brueggemann facilitated by George Harper.

Crafty for Christmas (Staff Lounge)

December 7 - 21

Love this time of year but feel like you never have time to do all those fun and creative Christmas ideas you found on Pinterest? Just show up and we will create some holiday crafts to make all your friends think you are the next Martha Stewart. Led by Annie Burton. For ages 12 - 122.

Proposed Change to the Cathedral By-Laws

For the Annual Meeting January 29, this change has been proposed to the Cathedral By-Laws. In Article One, revise it to read: "The name of the church is Trinity Cathedral Parish." It currently reads: "The name of the corporation is Trinity Cathedral Parish, not for profit 501c(3) corporation." We actually are not that, so this is just a correction of the language to fit the fact.

Vestry Elections

Vestry Elections will be held on Sunday, January 22 following all 3 services. If you are interested in standing for Vestry or would like to nominate someone, please contact a member of the nominating committee **by Monday, December 11**: Elizabeth Clark, Jack Harvey, Becky Tucker, Michael McNeely and Scott Whitfield. The annual Meeting will be January 29.

Are you interested in Education for Ministry (EfM)?



Are you interested in learning more about EfM? The Trinity Cathedral group will be taking new members starting next August. If you'd like to learn more, please contact Mercedes Clements for more information or if you have any questions - mercedes.clements@gmail.com. Meetings will be on Wednesday evenings from 6-8:30 p.m. at Trinity.

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a unique four-year distance learning certificate program in theological education based upon small-group study and practice. Since its founding in 1975, this international program has assisted more than 80,000 participants in discovering and nurturing their call to Christian service. EfM helps the faithful encounter the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition and bring it into conversation with their experiences of the world as they study, worship, and engage in theological reflection together. For more information, please visit the EfM website.

This is a four year program administered by the School of Theology at Sewanee. In each year you take a deep dive into a particular area - Old Testament, New Testament, Christian History, and Personal Theology. We meet weekly on Wednesday evenings from August to May, and there is a significant bit of reading each week. There is also an annual cost of \$350 that covers your reading materials.

Our meeting time is spent with some fellowship time, a brief discussion of the readings, and then a facilitated discussion called a theological reflection. Our focus as a group is going to be on theological reflection. The reading is important to build your knowledge of Christian tradition to feed these discussions, but it is not as overwhelming as a lot of people think. If you're too busy to read on some weeks, you'll still want to attend for the discussions.

Email Addresses Needed: Can't wait for The Message to arrive? Want to know what is happening at Trinity? Make sure we have your email address so you receive the weekly Trinity Update. It contains a brief look at the many events on the block. Send your email address to dhowe@trinitylittlerock.org and we'll make sure you are added to the update list.

Outreach Opportunities

Matthew 25 Committee

At the recent meeting of the committee it was determined that, given our resources as a parish, we will focus our assistance upon four groups – Children, Homeless, Hungry and Abused/Lonely. To this end, we will bring the care and compassion of Trinity to bear in helping the following organizations.

- Little Rock Preparatory Academy
- Saint Francis House
- The Stewpot
- Dorcas House / Our House

Current Service Opportunities where you are needed:

- The Stewpot is experiencing an urgent need for men's underwear (size medium), and personal hygiene items (male and female). Their supplies are rapidly running out. Please bring donations to the office or the baskets in the rear of the Cathedral.
- Winter is approaching and the needs of the people on the street are shifting. We need to add winter supplies to the Manna Bags. Please bring items such as handwarmers, chap stick, gloves, socks, and hats to either the rear of the Cathedral or the Cathedral office and they will be added to the bags as we prepare the winter offering.
- Trinity will be providing a Thanksgiving dinner for fifty (50) mothers and children in residence at Dorcas House. If you would like to make a donation to help defray this expense please put your gift in an envelope during a service or send a check to the Cathedral and indicate it is for the Dorcas Thanksgiving.
- We will be giving Christmas gifts to the 45 children from the Preparatory Academy that participate in the Arts and Enrichment program. If you would like to volunteer to wrap the presents, please contact Linda Brown or Brooks Wolfe.
- Saint Nicholas Day will feature an in-gathering of supplies for the food and comfort baskets that Saint Francis House distributes. This will be an opportunity for the children to participate in giving without thought of receiving. This is the message Saint Nicholas gives them each year and this year they will be asked to carry the gifts up to the altar to be blessed. A list of needed items will be published soon.

Your care and compassion is bringing the gospel to life in the lives of those we serve.

“Warm-Fuzzy” Tree

The “Warm-Fuzzy” Tree will be up beginning Sunday, November 20. Donations of socks, mittens, hats, scarves, jackets, baby clothes, etc. will be collected and distributed by the Matthew 25 Committee. Please take a paper ornament to remind you to purchase something for those in need and leave the donated items on the tree.

Socks and Gloves for the Homeless

Robert Johnston is collecting socks and gloves to be delivered on December 25 as “Feed the Hungry” provides Christmas Breakfast at the Salvation Army (you are welcome to join at 7 a.m.).

Here are three ways to help:

1. Buy a dozen cheap large men's white socks from Walmart/Target/Dollar Store.
2. Buy a dozen cheap cotton gloves, largest size from Walmart/Target/Dollar Store.
3. Give check made out to “Feed the Hungry” to Robert Johnston at 9 a.m. service or “Living the Questions” Sunday School Class.

Give socks and/or gloves to Robert Johnston as above or leave in the basket by the reception desk in Cathedral House. Deadline is December 24, but the sooner the better.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Salvation Army Bell Ringing at the Kroger in the Heights on Monday, December 19. Trinity EYC invites and challenges our entire congregation to sign up for 2-hour time slots to ring the bells! Times available: 10-12, 12-2, 2-4, 4-6 (FULL) and 6-8. Sign up on our website or by emailing Annie Burton at annie@trinitylittlerock.org.

Attention Knitters

To those of you that knit, we like to present a baby blanket to our expecting Moms from the parish. If you have time and could knit us a blanket to give it would be greatly appreciated. We have yarn if you need it. Please contact Dawn (dhowe@trinitylittlerock.org or 372-0294) for more information. We currently have 5 expecting families.

Arts Outreach Gearing Up for Spring

Trinity's outreach to our neighbors at Little Rock Preparatory Academy is drawing to a close on Dec. 14 after a wonderful first semester. Volunteers from our church and the community have come together to offer five different classes in art, music appreciation, sewing, yoga and aerobics, and cooking.

With current volunteers, we were able to have 40 students participate in the program. Starting January 18, we're hoping to do much more!

The students at LRPA do not have arts programming as a part of their regular curriculum. Could you help our neighbors by giving your time from 1:30-3:00 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons for 8 weeks? Even if you don't feel able to lead a class, your presence is needed for support in the classroom.

If you can volunteer for an 8-week period of time, let Amber Carswell or Jean Harper know.
acarswell@trinitylittlerock.org

Opportunity to Host a Rotary Foreign Exchange Student

LRCH student Cole Maxey, son of Trinity member Catherine Burton, is interested in participating in the Rotary Club's Youth Exchange Program. To participate in this program, Cole needs to find 3 families willing to host a foreign exchange student for 3 - 4 months. If you or anyone you know is interested in hosting a Rotary foreign exchange student, please contact Cole Maxey by December 1, 2016, at colemaxey@me.com or 501-920-8091.

Your Pledge Could Mean Significant Tax Savings

Did you know you can donate or pay your pledge and realize significant tax savings?

Eligible IRA Owners who are required to make an annual Required Minimum Distribution can make a qualified charitable distribution directly to Trinity without having to pay federal income taxes on the distribution.

You can also donate appreciated securities with unrealized gains (meaning they were purchased over a year ago, and have a current value greater than their original cost) or have them applied to your pledge and a tax deduction can be taken for the full fair market value of the securities – up to 30% of the donor's adjusted gross income.

Since the securities are donated rather than sold, capital gains taxes from selling the securities no longer apply. The more appreciation the securities have, the greater the tax savings will be.

Music at Trinity



Choir Rehearsal Times

Wednesdays:

Cherub Choir: 4:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.
Seraphim Choir: 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.
Ringing Society: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Thursdays:

Hand Bell Choir: 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
Cathedral Choir: 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Note: No Children's Choir Rehearsal on Dec. 28 or Jan. 4

Children's Choirs Rehearsal/Service Schedule

Sunday, November 27: Seraphims robe and sit in choir stalls.

Wednesday, November 30: Regular rehearsal schedule both Children's Choirs.
(Important rehearsal as both Children's Choirs will be singing anthems Dec. 4)

Sunday, December 4: Cherub and Seraphim Choirs sing at 9:00 a.m. service.
Be robed and in cathedral by 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 7: Regular rehearsal schedule

Sunday, December 11: No children choirs involved in worship this Sunday morning as they prepare for the pageant in the afternoon.

Wednesday, December 14: Regular rehearsal schedule

Sunday, December 18, 9:00 a.m.: Seraphims robe and sit in choir stalls.

December 18, 4:00 p.m.: Seventh Grade Singers participate in Lessons and Carols (Call 3:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, December 21: Regular rehearsal schedule
(Important rehearsal as both Children's Choirs prepare for Christmas Eve)

Saturday, December 24: BOTH CHOIRS sing at 4:00 p.m. service. Be robed and in choir stalls at 3:15 p.m.

CHOIR BREAK. REGULAR REHEARSALS RESUME JANUARY 11

Christmas Lessons and Carols

Christmas Lessons and Carols on December 18 at 4:00 p.m. will feature some familiar, some favorite, and some new, beautiful anthems this year. John Rutter's "What Sweeter Music Can We Bring" will be just one of the new offerings for this traditional King's College service. Our soprano soloist Anna Squire will be featured in Kenneth Leighton's "Lully Lulla my little tiny child" carol, a new setting of this familiar text. Cellist Alexander Seaman will also be accompanying. The congregation will be singing many favorite carols to joyfully proclaim Christ's birth.

Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. service will feature both Children's Choirs and the Cathedral Choir. Alisa Coffey, harpist, will join the Cathedral Musicians in this beautiful choral Eucharist.

The Christmas Eve 10:00 p.m. service will feature a string quartet from the Arkansas Symphony in Corelli's *Christmas Concerto*. Holy Eucharist will begin at 10:30 p.m. with the Cathedral Choir offering Schubert's *Mass in G* and John Rutter's *Nativity Carol*.

Madrigal Feaste

On Wednesday, December 28 at 6:00 p.m. in Morrison Hall, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral will present a traditional celebration of the Yule Tide Season. This fundraiser for the Music Department will entertain and delight with acting, music, and a delicious dinner. Fully costumed and presented in the Medieval Castle of Morrison Hall, you will be wined and dined as guests of the King and Queen.

The traditional dinner will feature roasted pig (pork loin), root vegetables, wassail, and figgy pudding. Limited seating available. Tickets are \$50 per person and must be purchased in advance, available at the Cathedral Office or on our website.

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral will hold its annual Thanksgiving Day Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 24. The Episcopal Churches of the Central Convocation and all our friends from greater Little Rock are warmly invited to the celebration. The service will feature traditional Thanksgiving hymns and music by the Trinity Cathedral Choir and the Pinnacle Brass. The Very Rev. Dr. Christoph Keller, III will be preaching. Join us as we give thanks to God for a multitude of blessings.

Advent Quiet Day Saturday, December 10



**Saturday, December 10, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Little Rock**

Leader: The Rev. Steven Bonsey of Cambridge, Massachusetts

Step out of the frantic holiday bustle for a quiet morning of guided prayer and reflection at the Cathedral. This is an opportunity to learn spiritual practices that can fuel our spirits throughout the year.

Our leader, the Rev. Steven Bonsey, is the Co-founder and Director of Contemplative Training for the Leadership Development Institute of Boston, supporting especially the spiritual practices of Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina and Sacred Chant. He has trained in the Advanced Wisdom School with Rev. Cynthia Bourgeault, as well as with Ward Bauman at the House of Prayer. He served previously as the Canon Pastor at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston.

Steve is husband to Elisabeth ("Sam") Keller, who grew up at Trinity and who is sister to the Dean. He will also preach and lead the Dean's Class on December 11.

A Meditation for Advent

The Armor of Light - A Meditation by Frederick Buechner

“Give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility: that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty, to judge the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal.”

All the paradoxical themes of Advent are compressed into that handful of words: Christ coming at Christmas time in great humility and again at the end of time in glorious majesty—Christ coming as a child to save us and as a king to judge us—mortal life, immortal life. They clatter against each other like shutters in the wind with all their points and counterpoints. They all but deafen us with their message at one and the same time of sin and grace, justice and mercy, comfort and challenge. “Cast away the works of darkness,” they say, and put on “the armor of light.” Maybe those are the words that best sum up the paradox of who we are and where we are. Somewhere between the darkness and the light. That is where we are as Christians. And not just at Advent time, but at all times. Somewhere between the fact of darkness and the hope of light. That is who we are.

“Advent” means “coming” of course, and the promise of Advent is that what is coming is an unimaginable invasion. The mythology of our age has to do with flying saucers and invasions from outer space, and that is unimaginable enough. But what is upon us now is even more so—a close encounter not of the third kind but of a different kind altogether. An invasion of *holiness*. That is what Advent is about.

What is coming upon the world is the Light of the World. It is Christ. That is the comfort of it. The challenge of it is that it has not come yet. Only the hope for it has come, only the longing for it. In the meantime we are in the dark, and the dark, God knows, is also in us. We watch and wait for a holiness to heal us and hallow us, to liberate us from the dark. Advent is like the hush in a theater just before the curtain rises. It is like the hazy ring around the winter moon that means the coming of snow which will turn the night silver. Soon. But for the time being, our time, darkness is where we are.

EYC in December

EYC is for youth in grades 6-12. We meet every Sunday at Botsford House from 5-7 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Join us & bring a friend!

November 27: Advent Event in Morrison Hall!

December 4: 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. at Botsford House

December 11: YOUTH SUNDAY at Bethel AME. Meet in Parking Lot after the 9:00 am service to go to Bethel AME to participate in their Youth Service. We need singers to sing in the choir! Taco Bar with Bethel AME youth immediately following. At 3:45 p.m., we will meet in the Cathedral to watch the Cathedral Christmas Pageant (for those not participating).

December 18: You are encouraged to come to Lessons & Carols at 4 p.m. We will have EYC from 5-7 — this is our annual EYC Christmas Party & White Elephant Gift Exchange!

December 19: Bell Ringing for Salvation Army at Kroger in the Heights. Please sign up for a time!

EYC is selling Poinsettias for our holiday fundraiser.

They are \$10 each and grown in Arkansas. Pick up is Wednesday, December 7 from 5-6 p.m. Please email Annie Burton with your order. annie@trinitylittlerock.org

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

On Monday, December 19, the EYC invites the entire congregation to ring the bell to help raise money for the Salvation Army at the Heights Kroger. Times available are 10 a.m.-12 p.m., 12-2 p.m., 2-4 p.m. or 6-8 p.m. Please sign up on our website or by emailing Annie, annie@trinitylittlerock.org.



*You are invited to the
Cathedral Christmas Pageant*

*Sunday, December 11, 2016
4 p.m.*

*Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
310 W. 17th Street Little Rock, Arkansas*

Nursery care provided.

The doors to the Cathedral will open at 3 p.m.



310 W. 17th Street
Little Rock, AR 72206-1492
Office: 501-372-0294
Fax: 501-372-0416
www.trinitylittlerock.org

Weekly Worship Schedule:
Sunday - 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,
11:15 a.m., Evensong 4:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday
Morning Prayer at 8:30 a.m.
(9:00 a.m. Friday)
Wednesday
Healing Eucharist at 5:05 p.m.

The Cathedral is open for visitation, prayer, and meditation weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Trinity Advent Event



Pasta Dinner
Seasonal Crafts
Liturgy

November 27
5 p.m.
Morrison Hall

All are invited to join us in walking the Advent spiral or simply enjoying its warmth and beauty as, together, we begin our wait for the coming of the Christ child.

Bring any Advent wreath that you'd like to decorate with fresh evergreens. Also, we'll be collecting winter gloves, hats, socks, etc. for Trinity's "Warm-Fuzzy" Tree.