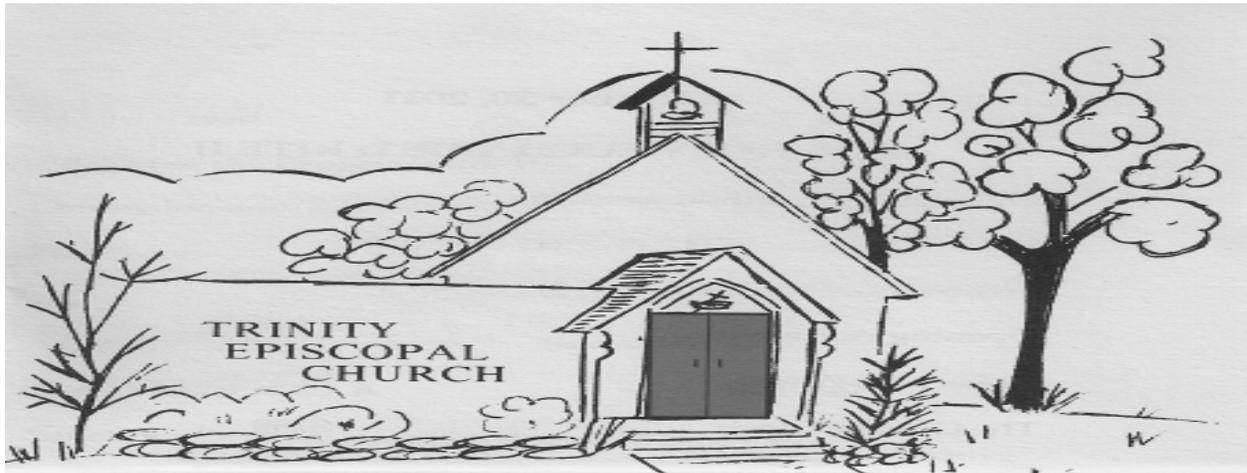


# TRINITY TIDINGS

100 Harwood, Lebanon, MO

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## **From Behind the Altar**

Each year Betty and I try to figure out what we can give to our adult children and grandchildren for Christmas. We normally think along the lines of what do they need and what would they appreciate. Over the past several years, Betty and I have done a good job of determining what they needed and wanted. The satisfaction for us is to see how happy they are when they receive something that matters to them. Their appreciation of our gifts affirms our own sense of having made the right choice.

The same is true of God. God does not send us gifts that we don't need. In fact, God, who knows us better than we know ourselves, understands our needs perfectly. At Christmas time the Church remembers with gratitude that God came to us in the person

Christ so he could share his Divine life with us fully. God came in person because he knew that we needed him.

The exchange between God and us at Christmas time is sealed when we show our appreciation. The most important way we can show our appreciation to God is by worshiping him at the Christ Mass (Christmas) and receiving the gift of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

This Christmas Season, I invite all of you to show your gratitude to God by being present at one of the Christmas Liturgies and by making a good preparation for the reception of your Christmas Communion.

The first Eucharist of Christmas is on Christmas Eve at 8:00 p.m. On Christmas Day, which is a Sunday, the liturgy will be at its usual time of 10:00 a.m. The service

on Christmas Day will be low Mass (no music).

May this Holy Season bring you many blessings!

Father Miller

## **Community Thanksgiving Service**

This year the First Christian Church will host the annual Ministerial Alliance Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 22, at 7:00 p.m. The Reverend Marsha Vincent, the Pastor of Sleeper United Methodist Church, will give the Thanksgiving sermon. Father Miller, this year's secretary of the Ministerial Alliance, will also participate. The service is open to everyone in the Lebanon area. A special offering will be taken to support the outreach efforts of the Ministerial Alliance. Plan now on attending this important ecumenical liturgy.

## **Thanksgiving Service from the Book of Common Prayer**

On Thanksgiving Eve, November 23, Father Miller will celebrate the Thanksgiving Day liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer at 5:30 p.m. It will consist of the readings for Thanksgiving Day, a special Litany of Thanksgiving from the Book of Common Prayer, and, of course, the celebration of Holy Communion. Mark your calendars now.

## **Bishop's Warden Report**

It is customary in the Episcopal Church and thus Trinity to decorate the church for Christmas after the last Sunday in Advent. That Sunday in 2016 is December 18. So we will plan to decorate after that

service on Sunday. It makes the decorating much easier if we have several members to help hang the greens. We have used artificial greens for several years now because they are less expensive after the initial cost and less messy. Andrew Stake has installed an attractive hanger/hook in various places which has made the hanging easier. The greens are left up until after Epiphany.

Not only do we hang greens, but we display several poinsettias on and around the altar area. This is an opportunity for Trinity members to donate to the Flower Fund to purchase poinsettias in memory of a loved one at Christmas.

If you missed the announcement about how we are "routing" communicants to the altar rail during communion here is a short repeat of that process. Remember that the music people go first and to wait for the usher to come to your row before you go to the communion rail. We think this will lessen the bottlenecks at the front. Also, we will now be using two Eucharistic Ministers administering the chalice during communion.

Karen Miller

## **Children's Sunday School**

What an exciting time for the Children's Sunday School Program! We now have class every Sunday, directly following the Holy Eucharist. We have also started with our new curriculum, which is designed to give children a closer look at the weekly gospel reading, and help them relate and reflect at *their* level to the meaning of the scripture. We will always do a fun activity or craft related to our lesson as well! As we begin to turn the corner toward Advent, you can expect to see our lessons and crafts start to connect with the celebration of the Nativity!

Reminder: There will be no Sunday School on Christmas Day or New Year's Day. Regular class schedule will resume on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> 2017.

Sara Gottfried-Caulk

## Youth Happenings

After a successful Fallnighter and Diocesan Youth Gathering, WEMO youth is ready to be looking for the next things! The Advent Dinner and Lock-in is December 3<sup>rd</sup>. It's \$10, and open to everyone in grades 6-12. More details to come! Looking ahead to next spring and summer, Happening #75 is scheduled for February 24-26. Camp WEMO is June 11-26 and Missionpalooza is July 25-30. 2017 will also be the year for Episcopal Youth Event which occurs every three years. EYE is July 10-14 in Edmond Oklahoma and costs \$450. It's for youth heading into 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades next year. The registration form is already online at [wemoyouth.com](http://wemoyouth.com). As always, please ask Amanda any questions!

Amanda Perschall

## Youth Sunday School

We have had a nice turnout for our teen Sunday School class. Each Sunday our lessons follow focus on the Bible readings found in the Lectionary. We are also learning how to study the Bible.

Julie Stroup and Bill Danek

## Articles for the Newsletter

Articles for the Trinity Tidings Newsletter may be emailed to Bonnie Daniels, editor at [bonnieraydaniels@centurylink.net](mailto:bonnieraydaniels@centurylink.net). If you do not have email access, we will also accept paper submissions.



## Atagahi: The Enchanted Lake

According to the Cherokee tradition, hidden deep within the Smoky Mountains, there is an enchanted lake that humans cannot see. Known as Atagahi, this magical lake is an oasis for animals of every kind, with thousands of water birds, fish, reptiles, and bears enjoying its water.

In one story, the enchanted lake reveals itself to a young Cherokee man after days of fasting and continuous prayer. Having proven that he has no intention to hunt at Atagahi, the pure hearted man is permitted to see the lake's stunning violet water and teeming wildlife. When his vision ends, the man marks the location of the secret lake with a pile of rocks.

A short time after this discovery, a terrible winter brings the Cherokee to the brink of starvation. Faced with no other choice, the young hunter returns to Atagahi to bring food back to his family. When he shoots a bear with his bow, however, the animal falls into the purple water and emerges unscathed. The bear tells the trespasser that he has betrayed them and the young man is attacked by a furry horde.

After the snowstorm passes, the Cherokee find the body of the young man, but there are no tracks from the bears who mauled him. Although Atagahi was forever sealed off

from human intervention after the young hunter's treachery, legend has it that you can still see morning mist rise from the magic lake when you stand at the top of Clingmans Dome.

David Daniels

### **In the Spotlight**

How well do you know your fellow Trinity Church members? Featured in this newsletter, is the first of a new series of articles to help you get to know the people with whom you worship. Each issue will feature a different member of our congregation in each future issue. This week, Maryann Campbell is in the spotlight



**Maryann Campbell** has been our organist for more than ten years. She grew up in Union, Missouri where her parents still live. After earning a degree in music from the University of Central Missouri and a master's degree in library science from the University of Missouri. She spent 33 years in public education as a music teacher and librarian. She continues to substitute teach on a fairly regular basis.

She is proud to have run several marathons and to have qualified and run the Boston Marathon twice.

She enjoys bicycling, reading, traveling, movies and spending time with friends. If you ever visit her home, you will most probably be welcomed at the door by a charming and handsome four-legged feline family member named Opie.

### **Crosslines Ministry Report from October 2016**

The biggest portion of the money pledged for the Crosslines parking lot has been turned in and the paving is set to be done anytime. At present the back parking lot is blocked because the concrete part has been done leaving a rather large level difference as they wait for the asphalt to be laid up to the concrete.

Deer from the Share Your Harvest has already started coming in from the 2016 hunting season. The venison is a great plus to the diets of many people in Laclede County.

The donations of food from Trinity totaled 44 items for October. For November, Trinity has already delivered 15 food items and 4 pillows. The major needs for November are pillows, blankets, and good used (or new) coats in all sizes. The blankets could also be used if still in good condition. Thanks for your generous donations. During the month of October, 665 families received assistance which included 1589 individuals. That was a slight increase in families from September.

Peggy Graydon

##Articles for the newsletter may be sent to  
bonnieraydaniels@ centurylink.net.##