

The Banner



Got A Question?

Acolytes
Emily Provine

Prayer Chain
Rhoda Miller
468-6658

Altar Guild
Joanne Hutchison
423-5826

Lectors
Melissa Semmes-
Thorne
223-1992

Christian Education
Susan Cassidy
468-4473

ECW
Phyllis Joslin
468-3712

Music
Margie MacWilliams
468-6664

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Jane Whittinghill
256-8403

Men's Breakfast
Gary Henderson
832-0278
Paul Eldridge
468-7632

The Banner
Gar Miller
468-6658
Jackie Gould
464-0837

IHN
Sean Garvin
609-405-5513

From the Rector



I'm a survivor / I'm not gon' give up / I'm not gon' stop / I'm gon' work harder
"Survivor," Destiny's Child

For me, one of the worst things to happen in the music world in the early 2000s was the break-up of Destiny's Child. Yes, it launched the iconic career of Queen B (Beyoncé, if you don't know); but it also ended one of the best girl groups of late-modernism. Destiny's Child was wholly new—and they will be missed forever.

But Destiny's Child reminds us, in their 2001 hit song "Survivor," that the appropriate response to a difficult situation is to (1) not give up, (2) not stop, and (3) work harder.

"Survivor's" call to action might be the most succinct summary of the year 2016 in the life of Holy Trinity. It wasn't easy; transitions are hard and things only got more difficult. But in the face of the unknown, of the

uncertain, of the uncharted—the leader and members of Holy Trinity didn't give up, didn't stop, and worked even harder.

The vestry persevered to make sure the varied work of Holy Trinity continued, even without a priest. The discernment committee searched diligently and tirelessly to find a new rector. The rectory committee refurbished the rectory, coming in SIGNIFICANTLY under projected cost. The congregation continued to volunteer—in worship, with Interfaith Hospitality Network, with Kitchen of Hope—and to support the church generously and faithfully during the transition.

Thank you, to everyone at Holy Trinity, for your love and commitment to this parish.

And all that hard work paid off: Holy Trinity remains standing, the rectory has been beautifully refurbished, and you now have a new priest! You are survivors!

But the work is not done. At this Sunday's Annual Meeting you will hear that the vestry is presenting a deficit budget. You will also see the numbers for average Sunday attendance, which—as you know—have dropped in the past year. Like whiplash, we won't know how to respond. So many good things. So many opportunities. So many situations to monitor. We will want

to ignore Destiny's Child—we will want to give up, to stop, to quit working.

You are survivors. You made it through a difficult transition after 20 years of stability. You have done something amazing, and awe inspiring! You have *been the church* and it is evident in your camaraderie, in your commitment, and in your generosity and faithfulness.

And now we get to start 2017 off fresh—a new start to a new year. We get to rediscover who Holy Trinity is, what work we are being called to do in the community, and to once again proclaim the Gospel in Gloucester County!

Let us not forget the lessons of 2016, or try to forget the bad experiences or difficult decisions. But as new people, let us look boldly forward into 2017 and proclaim—I did not give up, I did not stop, I will continue to work harder.

I am so excited to begin this new work with you.

In Christ,
The Rev. Ben Maddison



News from the Pews

Thank you to everyone who has helped to keep things running smoothly while we searched for Fr. Ben!

Thank you to the following members who provided refreshments during the coffee hours: Joan Borkowski, Colleen Green and Mary Cimino after the 10 am service; Rita Curry, Phyllis Joslin, Joanne Hutchison and Jackie Gould after the 8 am service.

Please keep the following shut-ins in your prayers - Mary Moody and Margaret Roth.

Our condolences to Barbara Myers on the loss of her husband, Eddie Myers. May his soul rest in peace.

If you have any news to share, please let us know.

SAVE THE DATE!

February 5 - Annual Parish Meeting during both services.

February 12, 2-4 pm - Open House at the Maddisons (Rectory).



From the Warden

The Voyage of Holy Trinity



On August 1, 2015, we at Holy Trinity embarked on a voyage – a voyage of discernment – a voyage of

discovery. After 20 years, we needed to discover who we were, what we wanted, and what we needed.

It was not an easy voyage. But thanks to an amazing Vestry, a brilliant Discernment Committee, and the support and love of you, our members, we have gotten there. After one week shy of 18 months, we have reached the end of our voyage, and this week, we started our new adventure.

Our new rector, The Rev. Ben Maddison, started his work and his call at Holy Trinity on January 16, 2017. (Yes, that was Martin Luther King Day, which is a holiday legally and in our employment policies, but Father Ben came in anyway to set up his office!) He, his lovely wife Ashley, and their two dogs have moved into our marvelously renovated rectory, and they are quickly becoming comfortable with the house, with Wenonah and with us.

To continue my voyaging analogy a bit further, however: when you arrive at a new destination, it takes a little while to get comfortable. You have to learn the ins and outs of the place to which you have traveled, and the place needs to figure out who you are and how you will fit in. Admittedly, the Maddisons already know the language – they are originally from South Jersey, after all – but they are still figuring out where things are

and how to get from place to place. Father Ben is also figuring out how to get to all of Holy Trinity’s places: how our services work, how our organizations function, who we all are, what we want and need. We, also, are having to figure out who Father Ben is: how he does things, what he wants and needs, and how his wants and needs mesh with our wants and needs. Trying new things can be fun and a little scary, all at the same time.

I know we’ve all spent the last 18 months being patient. That patience has paid off in our great new rector. This is a different kind of patience. We need to remember that we’re all learning about each other, and give ourselves time to explore the new streets and foods and ways of doing things that come with voyaging to a new rector. Father Ben will be patient with us, too.

And we will look for, and find, the fun in our discoveries!

Thank you. And Welcome to the New World!

*Melissa Semmes-Thorne,
Warden*

Anniversaries

- 6) **Brian & Mellany Lewis**
- 7) **Bill & Jo Good**
- 8) **28) Mike and Beth Kampmeier**

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects, always trusts, always perseveres.

Love never fails.

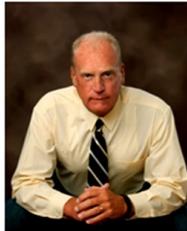
I Corinthians 13:4-8



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The Treasurer's Retrospective of 2016

So, 2016 has come to a close and contrary to the belief of some, Holy Trinity is alive and well. As you may remember, for the second year in a row we began 2016 with a deficit budget and were preparing for an unavoidable rectory renovation with an estimated cost in excess of \$130,000. Well I'm happy to report that we brought the renovation in for just under \$60,000 and like 2015, finished 2016 with a budget surplus. So how did we pull off this miracle?

In the early spring, the renovation was ultimately awarded to a contractor who was sent our way by parishioner Bill Bain. Under the watchful stewardship of Mark Cimino, the project was completed over the spring and summer which afforded us a much-reduced price. We paid off the entire project from our savings.

The budget surplus was generated primarily by a single factor. When we lost our Interim Rector in August, we no longer needed to finance her salary and benefit package. Although we did have to pay for four months of supply clergy, the savings were significant. The other "big savings" on the expense side came from the reduced utility costs of an uninhabited rectory for an entire year.

Unfortunately, we fell short of our income estimates by \$8,400, primarily due to the loss of four pledging units. Combine this shortfall with the original deficit; we would have been in dire straits if it hadn't been for the loss of our Interim. Even though this loss was a low point in our year and caused a lot of anguish

and scrambling around to keep the parish up and running, it ended up having a financial silver lining.

Regardless of all that, we were able to pay all our bills and obligations in 2016 in a timely manner. So, what's in store for 2017?

We are still on a sound financial foundation with a healthy balance in our checking account and a bit over \$119,000 in savings. However, clouding that picture is a 40+ year old heating plant in the church that requires more funds each year to maintain and may ultimately need to be replaced. In addition, the rectory is in need of a new roof in the next year or so.

Our only other current financial obligation is the church mortgage with an outstanding balance of around \$43,000. The diocese is requesting that we try to pay this off in the next few years rather than continue to pay a \$1,000 or so a year as we have been doing. This past fall, the vestry presented to the diocese an offer made by an anonymous donor to pay off the entire note at fifty cents (\$22,000) on the dollar. The diocese decided to decline our offer and wants the entire amount paid in full. So, we will continue to pay as much as we can per year.

So, with all that said, I will be presenting for the third year in a row another deficit budget with hope and faith that we can end 2017 just like we have the past two years in the black. Our expenses for 2017 are almost the same as 2016. Our projected income is not that far from being balanced. If during the year, we can bring in \$10,000 in new pledges and few thousand more

with the barbeque, gift cards and rentals, we will be there.

And speaking of pledges, I want to personally thank everyone who made a pledge to financially support Holy Trinity in 2017 and a special thanks to the 24 parishioners who were able to increase their pledge from 2016!

Mark C. Sienkiewicz,
*HTEC Treasurer/
Accounting Warden*



Yard Sale Scheduled

The ECW will once again hold its annual yard/bake sale which coincides with the Wenonah town-wide sale on Saturday, April 29. Collection of items will start after Easter. As always, we ask that your items have all their parts, are clean, and are in good working order. We are sorry that we cannot accept clothing, old electronics, reference/textbooks, books, CD's, or stuffed animals. (ONLY children's books will be accepted.)



Look for a sign-up sheet in March to volunteer to help set

or to provide a baked item or drinks that we will sell.

Questions can be directed to Colleen Green.
danceinpuddles@verizon.net

Colleen Green



Fr. Ben's office hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 am until 4 pm. If you cannot reach him during these times, he may be out making hospital calls, visiting our shut-ins, visiting new members, meeting with the local clergy, etc. Please feel free to call him on his cell phone, if it is an emergency—(856) 366-4171.



Recent Changes to the Altar

Have you noticed some changes during the service? The liturgy and overall structure are the same, but I did make a few small tweaks to the symbolism of the service. If you have been asking yourself “Why did he do that?” or making up answers to that question in your head, guess no more. Here is my thinking!

Since the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer*, the Eucharist has been the principal service of Sunday worship. Linking our tradition with older Christian traditions, it was thought that the Eucharist is the clearest image of the Gospel of Jesus Christ—the work accomplished in his life, death, and resurrection. So Morning Prayer was replaced by Communion, and the bread and wine again became one of the central images in our worship.

It is important to me that the symbolism of the Eucharist is clear, and that its meaning remains central to Sunday worship. In an effort to keep the work of Jesus front and center, I have made a few changes in an effort to make that meaning clearer.

Before, there used to be a small candle with soil from the Middle East that stayed on the altar during Communion. I think it's a beautiful symbol and reminder of how war has touched so many and yet remains hidden from our national consciousness. However, the Eucharistic Table—the altar—is a clear and present sign of the work that Jesus Christ accomplished in his death and resurrection. And, as a table, it is meant for the preparation and serving of that meal. So I have asked the Altar Guild to remove the candle from the Altar. Instead, we will move the candle to the windowsill facing the street—and keep it lit at all times—a reminder of the sacrifice of which we ask our servicemen and women, and their families. It will stay lit until violence in the Middle East ends. (I realize that is likely indefinitely.)

The second change has been a return to an earlier change—the use of one chalice. For many years, this was the way that Holy Trinity celebrated Communion—bread from one plate, wine from one cup. It was not until recently (the last decade) that this tradition changed. There are two reasons for this change: one practical, one theological.

Practically, the initial change to two chalices came from a concern over contamination and/or germs. This is a very reasonable concern: we know to cover our mouth when we cough, to sneeze into our elbows, so why not use two chalices? One of the amazing things about the Church is that it has been addressing this issue the whole time. One of the reasons we use silver or gold chalices is because they have antimicrobial properties that allow them to be more sterile than say wood or clay. Likewise, wine—especially port with its higher alcohol content—also acts in an antimicrobial way. Using a silver chalice and port reduces the risk of sharing germs.

But this is the second and most important reason: Communion is about two things, (1) being connected to Christ and (2) being connected to one another. The Apostle Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians says, “The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread,” (1 Cor 17:16-17). In the same way, it is essential that we act and live as One Body. By sharing bread from the same plate, by sharing wine from the same cup, we say to all who watch and participate, “We are One—with each other and with Christ Jesus.” In the same way that God shows no partiality, we must show no partiality. And think about how beautiful it is, when Communion is taken to our shut-ins on Sunday and during the week, that the Communion they receive is the same that we share. Because—whether you are here or somewhere else—you are still part of the Body of Christ.

I hope this article helped explain some of the changes. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I would love to talk with you about it and clear up any concerns you might have. Feel free to call the church, my cell phone (856.366.4171), or email me at rector@holytrinitywenonah.org.

Fr. Ben†

This and That

Shrove Tuesday Dinner Set for February 28

The Men's Breakfast will be having their annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake and Sausage Dinner on February 28 from 5 to 7 pm in the undercroft.

Have you ever wondered where "Shrove Tuesday" comes from? Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday. The name shrove comes from the old middle English word "shriven" meaning to go to confession to say you are sorry for the wrong things you've done. Lent always begins on a Wednesday (Ash Wednesday), so people went to confession on the day before. This became known as Shriven Tuesday and then Shrove Tuesday.

The other name for this day, Pancake Day, comes from the old English custom of using up all the fattening ingredients in the house before Lent, so that people were ready to fast during Lent. The fattening ingredients most commonly found in people's homes in those days were eggs and milk. A very simple recipe to use up these items was to combine them with some flour and make pancakes.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



The custom of making pancakes still continues today. Shrove Tuesday is also known as 'Mardi Gras'. This means 'Fat Tuesday' in French and also comes from the idea of using up food before Lent.

So now that you have the history of Shrove Tuesday,

please join us for our pancake supper on February 28 from 5 to 7 pm. The cost is a modest \$5 for adults; \$3 for children; and a maximum of \$20 for families.

See you there!

Gary Henderson, Vestry

Family Promise Update

Thank you once again to all the wonderful parishioners at Holy Trinity who take so much time out of their lives to volunteer with Family Promise and to help those among us who are temporarily struggling.

From February 26th to March 5th, we will be hosting families who are temporarily without a home. As usual we will need morning and evening drivers, volunteers to make dinners, and "overnighters."

Family Promise is an excellent opportunity to put our Christian values into practice. You will find the sign-up board in the Narthex, so if you want to help out, please choose your area of interest. Within Family Promise we have the opportunity to show others how Christ's love shines through His people, especially those who are hurting the most.

What could be more difficult than being without a home for you and your children? Please take a moment and think about getting involved with this wonderful ministry.

If you have any questions about Family Promise, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you.

Sean Garvin
(609) 405-5513,
ilvmaine@comcast.net

Musical Notes

Greetings!

I will keep this brief, since there is nothing really new. But I am going to list our choir rehearsal schedule for any newcomers that may be reading this.

The Joyful Noise Choir rehearses at 9:10 am on Sunday mornings. All are welcome from 1st grade on up. We do singing and ringing. So, if you don't want to sing, please consider ringing tone chimes with us! Percussionists are also welcome!

The adult choir rehearses Thursday nights at 7:30 pm. *We really need* voices, so I hope you might consider serving your church in this manner!

I teach the preschool age Sunday School class after church at 11:30 am. I use this opportunity to do some singing with the guitar. This age group has sung in church on occasion in the past.

We are forming an all-age bell choir (if there is enough interest). Right now, we are discussing a possible rehearsal time of 7:00 pm on Thursday — right before adult choir.

Margie MacWilliams,
Director of Music



Download from www.dreamstime.com

ECW News

We join our Holy Trinity family in warmly welcoming all the Maddisons, two-legged and four-legged alike and look forward to many years of walking together, joyfully doing God's work as well as we are able.

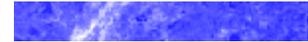
February brings the **Blankets and Tools** program, our outreach for the month of Valentine's Day, so that your love can reach all around the world. Church World Service runs this important program which comes to the immediate aid of folks caught in disasters and then provides the means for them to rebuild their lives. Look for posters around the building and envelopes in the pews. Please be as generous with your love as you can.

Thank you to all the cooks who have been providing for the **winter soup sales** and the buyers who help our treasury. The cooking is open to all Holy Trinity members, so if you'd like to share a favorite soup, please see any ECW member to sign up for the last sale in March. Containers are provided.

As winter moves along, spring cleaning looms on the horizon. This brings you the opportunity to pass on those items which have outlived their usefulness in your home, but which might be useful or fun in someone else's home. That means **Yard Sale!** Details to follow . . .

Our next meeting will be on the usual second Monday, February 13, beginning at 7 pm in the Parish Hall. After the meeting at 7:30 pm all women of Holy Trinity are invited to the Telford Inn for a complimentary dessert. Please join us!

Joan Munyon, Secretary



This and That (cont.)

Kitchen of Hope 2016 Summary

Kitchen of Hope, Inc. is an outreach ministry of love and compassion established in June 2011 by some members of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Glassboro. KOH provides free food to residents of South Jersey, mostly the elderly, women and their children at risk of poverty and food insecurity. Operating out of the Parish Hall at St. Thomas, KOH also provides information on good nutrition, healthy eating habits and food budgeting.

In 2016, the pantry distributed free bags of food to **1,577** families for a total of 4,389 individuals, primarily women and their children. In addition, approximately 1,704 meal packages (KidzPacks) were given to students at the Rodgers Elementary School in Glassboro who receive free lunches at school but otherwise have little or nothing to eat at home on Saturdays and Sundays. In August and September, free back to school supplies and 276 book bags were given to children who frequent the pantry. In October, November and December, about 240 winter coats for children and adults were given out.

All of the above was made possible with donations from members of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Wenonah; St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Cherry Hill; Mother's Cupboard of Washington Township; and People for People of Gloucester County. Below is a report of the monthly distribution in 2016.



Birthdays

- 2) **Gina Eckert**
Bruce MacWilliams
Kate McAlister
Dex Whittinghill
- 3) **Henry Mix**
Owen Mix
- 5) **Wesley DeVoy**
Michell Mix
- 8) **Elizabeth Haley**
- 9) **Chris Sheehan**
- 10) **Steven Broughton**
- 11) **Kevin Therkildsen**
- 14) **Paul Belcher**
Heidi LoCastro
Brian Miller
- 15) **Kim Blackburn**
Mark Sienkiewicz
- 19) **Nathan DeVault-Sayles**
- 21) **Rose Beers**
Lisa Carlamere
Barbara Shearstone
- 23) **Brenda Prus**
Joan Simon
- 25) **Dylan Hartsough**
- 27) **Brian Conway, Jr.**
Mike Miller
- 28) **Layla & Cole Tice**

MONTH	CHILDREN	ADULTS	INDIVIDUALS (children & adults)	FAMILIES
January	156	358	514	189
February	143	383	526	139
March	95	338	433	125
April	74	285	359	112
May	78	228	306	117
June	76	315	391	108
July	124	292	416	141
August	93	250	343	128
September	95	230	325	112
October	73	234	307	115
November	163	322	485	155
December	135	299	434	136
GRAND TOTAL	1,305	3534	4839	1,577

Jackie Gould, KOH Liaison



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Let us answer your questions about funerals, cremations & pre-planning.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
February 2017						
			1	2 7:30 pm Adult Choir	3 Fr. Ben's Day off	4 5pm Holy Eucharist At Holy Nativity
5 8 am & 10 am Holy Eucharist and Annual Parish Mtg. 9:10 am Joyful Noise choir 11:15 am Christian Education	6 7 pm ECW Mtg.	7 8 am Morning Prayer 5:15 pm Evening Prayer	8	9 7:30 pm Adult Choir	10 8:45 am Deliver food to KOH Fr. Ben's Day off	11 8:00 am KOH Pantry 5 pm Holy Eucharist at Holy Trinity
12 8 am & 10 am Holy Eucharist 9:10 am Joyful Noise choir 11:15 am Christian Education 2-4 pm Open House at the Maddisons (Rectory)	13 7 pm ECW Mtg.	14 8 am Morning Prayer 5:15 pm Evening Prayer 	15	16 7:30 pm Adult Choir	17 Fr. Ben's Day off	18 5pm Holy Eucharist At Holy Nativity
19 8 am & 10 am Holy Eucharist 8:45 am Refreshments 9:10 am Joyful Noise choir 11:15 am Christian Education	20 7 pm Vestry Mtg. 	21 8 am Morning Prayer 5:15 pm Evening Prayer	22	23 7:30 pm Adult Choir	24 Fr. Ben's Day off	25 5 pm Holy Eucharist at Holy Trinity
26 8 am & 10 am Holy Eucharist 9:10 am Joyful Noise choir 11:15 am Christian Education	27 6:30 pm Lector Team Mtg.	28 Shrove Tuesday 8 am Morning Prayer 5:15 pm Evening Prayer 5-7 pm Pancake Supper	1 Ash Wednesday 7 am, Noon, & 7 pm Ashes 	2 7:30 pm Adult Choir	3 Fr. Ben's Day off Diocesan Convention	4 5pm Holy Eucharist At Holy Nativity Diocesan Convention
IHN						

**HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

We're on the Web!

www.holytrinitywenonah.org
www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityWenonah

The mission of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, inspired by Jesus' mandate to love and serve one another, is to create a supportive community where people are able to develop and nourish their relationship with God through worship, education and fellowship.



**Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
11 N. Monroe Ave.
Wenonah, NJ 08090**

TO: