



It's a joyful Christmas! — Trinity Church members find joy in gathering, especially when it's around the beautifully-decorated Christmas tree in the parish hall. Members JoAnn Pilarski and Maggie Lamb (seated front) and (from left) Ben Westrope, Claudia Rosbeck, Cheryl Bates, Jan LeMonds, Sue Jackowiak, Gerry Cawthra, Ted and Patti Rockwell, Barb Applegate, Hazel Farnum, and Jim and Michelle ? were in the hall after the 11 a.m. service admiring the hard work of these fellow parishioners who put up and adorned the 9-foot tree: *Fran Hamp, Jackie Kennedy, Lew and Kathryn Kunze, Pam Woida, Marge Lakin, Bronwyn Woolman, Shelly and Dr. Eric Cornish, Sue Krafft, and Gerry Cawthra.*

Christmas:

What's your take-away?

The question of the season is usually "What do you want for Christmas?"



As people of God, perhaps we should consider what is it we want **from** Christmas.

In the days after Dec. 25, once the carols have been sung, the gifts unwrapped, the tree down, the house put back in order, what will we have – know, feel – we didn't before?

If we believe Christ came to change the world, was that just in 1 A.D. or is it now?

(Continued on Page 2)

Christmas:

What's your take-away?

(Continued from Page 1)

Did He come to change the 'other guy,' or does He want to change us all? What, exactly, do we expect to flow **from** this annual event we call Christmas in the weeks and months ahead?

Maybe we stay the same but with new socks and shirts and sporting equipment. Or maybe we, like Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens' famous story, truly accept Christ's

offer to "keep Christmas in our hearts" and take from the holiday a better way of being, a "newness of life."

Maybe Christmas changes us in the important ways, the Christ-like ways, with the capacity to see more, appreciate more, understand more, give more, love more.

It requires effort and likely won't happen overnight as it did with Scrooge, but each Christmas gives us the courage and the example to be better beings in our own immediate worlds.

What a gift! If that's what we get **from** Christmas, it's wholly worth celebrating.

In memory...

Since the last Trinity Times in October, Trinity has lost a member and friend of the parish. We offer our loving support and condolences to the family of:



Shirley Carr, who passed away October 23, 2023. Shirley was a regular participant at the Sunday 8 a.m. service, usually in company with her sister, Norma Hanna. Predeceased by a son, Richard, Norma is survived by six children: Curtis, Anita, Karen, Howard, Charlie, and Mitchell.



A'Caroling in the city: The strong, sure voices of area church members added much to the annual caroling around the Christmas tree in Culligan Plaza the day after Thanksgiving. Bundled up against the cold are (from left) Bill Powell and Rebecca Stockdale of Trinity, Scott Beland of United Congregational, Trinity administrative assistant Peggy Tomaszewski, and Anna Lewis and music director Claire Schreiber of Grace Lutheran. Trinity music director Kat Tomaszewski also participated (and took the photo).

With food from LDS, Trinity helps feed the hungry

With the high cost of food and a 38 percent reduction in federal food benefits in Michigan, more people are going hungry.

That's why a semi-load of quality foodstuffs sent to Alpena from the international Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints couldn't have come at a better time.

The delivery in late October was coordinated locally by Mark Hermansen, Elder of Alpena Latter-Day Saints Church and his congregation, and it went directly into the community food pantry housed at Trinity Episcopal as well as to other area agencies.

That pantry supports Trinity's Sunday Supper program for the hungry, where volun-



God's people, working together: A semi-load of 33,000 pounds of food doesn't unload itself! Volunteers from Latter-Day Saints, Trinity Episcopal, the VFW, and other organizations came together to get the work done. Helpers are (from left) Mark Hermansen of LDS, coordinator of this LDS food delivery; Ellen Eagan, Trinity; a VFW volunteer; Jim Masters, Trinity; Tammy Kish, Veterans food and toy program coordinator; (unknown); Stefani Huffaker, LDS; Duane Himes, Trinity; Lew Kunze, Trinity; and Ken Przeslawski, Sunday Supper supporter. Bill Powell and Steve Westrope also ferried food into the church.

teers weekly make and serve free hot meals. Other churches, including LDS, take turns in the kitchen.

The pantry also helps fill Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for those in need of outreach and is open upon request to any family in the

community experiencing food insecurity. Community donations to the pantry are always generous, but the LDS contribution has filled the shelves to the brim, and we are so very grateful.

That semi-load was a God-send.

Stewardship campaign; so far, so good!

The 2023 Stewardship Campaign closes out at year-end, which gives those who haven't pledged little time to make a commitment in the current tax year.

The campaign, ably led by Rebecca Stockdale and a

committee of volunteers, has so far led to some \$27,000 more in pledges than the year before. Senior Warden Ellen Eagan says most parishioners, recognizing the need, have increased their giving.

The Vestry uses those

pledges to build an operating budget for 2024, the chief matter of business at its January meeting. As costs rise, pledges ensure Trinity will have sufficient funds to meet expenses, as well as save against the eventual hiring of a priest.



Auctioneer Mary Eagan was superb.

Auction reaps \$7,500!

One could only call it an unqualified success. A late-October Trinity auction brought in valuable donations of goods and experiences – from hand-crafted items to U-M tickets to a week at a cottage by the lake – that netted the parish’s outreach efforts more than \$7,500.



Auction helpers (from left) Dawn Cousins, Peggy Tomaszewski, Lori and Dan Maxwell and Sue Jackowiak kept us organized

Peggy’s brainchild

Many helped, including the TECW and other volunteers, but the bulk of the work, and therefore the bulk of the credit, is due admin. assistant Peggy Tomaszewski



Good crowd!

Parishioners, friends, and folks from all over came for the food, fun, and the great goods on offer



For some, auctions are serious business; for others, just fun!



Patti Simpson and Bob Young added to the coffers



By Rebecca Stockdale

Profiling parishioner

Joan Campbell

One of our newer members of the parish family, Joan Campbell came to Trinity in 2022 with her son and daughter-in-law, Don and Rebecca Stockdale.

Joan was born in Detroit but spent most of her life on the west side of the country, in California, Washington, Oregon and Colorado. She moved in with her son and his family in 2018, relocating with them to Florida in 2019 and then to Alpena in 2021. She was baptized as an Episcopalian in 2020.



Married and widowed twice, first to Bill Stockdale for 39 years and then to Don Campbell for a few short but happy years, Joan is fitting in nicely with a new town and a new church. At Trinity she likes getting to know her fellow parishioners and enjoys the service and uplifting music. Joan has also willingly shared her time and talents with us, volunteering to bake for the Victorian Tea and sewing beautiful teddy bears for the silent auction in October. She also donates teddy bears to other organizations advocating and caring for

children, such as the Sheriff's Department Advocacy team.

More broadly, Joan is an amazing tailor and has been doing alteration services since arriving in Alpena. She also makes beautiful quilts and has been known to re-upholster furniture.

Joan is the mother of four: Sky, of Topeka KS, Rich of Ramona CA, and Don of Alpena. Her daughter Judy was lost to cancer in 2005. She also has 8 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

If you see Joan at the 11 a.m. Sunday service or at most parish events, say hello, and get to know her. She's a good and giving – and very welcome – part of our church family!

HOW do we choose parishioners for our profile? Completely at random. Eventually we hope to get around to every member of the family!

A handy guy to have around

Whether you call him the substitute Junior Warden, a volunteer jack-of-all-trades, or the parish elf, Steve Westrope can be counted on to come when called for help at Trinity.

Because Junior Warden Ben Westrope is on the job weekdays, his dad Steve volunteers to take on the parish property chores that need immediate attention, and that's most of them. Whether he is fixing lights, watering plants, clearing leaves, fixing locks, filling candles, replacing toilet seats, rebuilding the shed floor, refurbishing the creche, repairing various items in the rectory, or doing this-that-or-the-other thing, he is at the church most days and on speed-dial for Senior Warden Ellen Eagan and Administrative Assistant Peggy Tomaszewski. Thanks, Steve! *(Elves prefer to work behind the scenes, but we thought you might like to know.)*





The Christmas wreath: beauty and a blessing — According to Christian tradition, the circular form and evergreen boughs of the Christmas wreath represent the blessings of eternal life. According to these women, who shared in a “wreath-making party” won at auction and donated by Sue and Walt Jackowiak, it’s also a good reason to make something beautiful and have fun. Showing what they learned in wreath-making class are (back row from left) Nancy Montie, Sue Wilson, Tina Wilson, Geri Samp, Pam Woida and Dawn Cousins, along with (kneeling in front from left) Barb Whiteman, Rebecca Stockdale, and Grace Cousins.

TECW discusses staff gifts, resets spiritual workshop

First on the agenda for Trinity Episcopal Church Women’s Jan. 13 meeting is a spiritual workshop to be led by Maggie Michaud.

That session was rescheduled after a longer-than-expected discussion at the December 9 meeting concerning staff gifts, the budget, and what was or was not approved

in a meeting in January 2023.

Kathryn Kunze recalled the full TECW approving a motion to limit the annual end-of-year gifts to staff to a total \$500, rather than the \$1,300 currently proposed. The membership went ahead with the current proposal and a check of the January 2023 minutes, not on hand at

December’s meeting, revealed at a special session Jan. 28, 2023 the group discussed staff recognition and a budget but took no vote on the matters.

TECW members brought cookies to the December 9 2023 meeting and following discussion adjourned to make up plates of goodies and deliver them to shirt-ins.

SEASON'S TRADITIONS: Carols and a Christmas pageant!

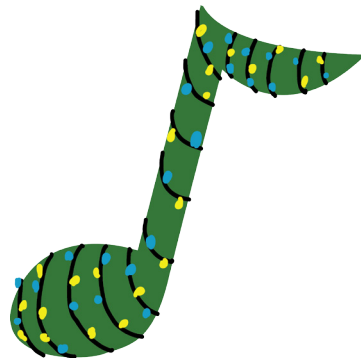
It's possible to celebrate Christmas without a children's Christmas pageant and beautiful, sacred carols – but that celebration would be the poorer for it.

This Dec. 24 at Trinity, parishioners are able to enjoy both – a children's pageant at the 11 a.m. service (no 8 a.m. service that day) and a traditional Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m., with carols and special music beginning at 4:30.

The Children's pageant is di-

rected by Tina Wilson assisted by Bronwyn Woolman and Cheryl and Ron Lemke, with performers Maddie and Max, Dominic and Jayce, Sophia and PJ, Hunter and Felix, Cailyn, Kaylee, and Cody. It's a product of much rehearsal and effort and always delights parishioners.

The Christmas eve service at 5 actually begins at 4:30 with a variety of special guests providing the season's most beautiful music. Christmas carols, Polish



carols, the Trinity Choir, and a trio of flutists will be among those on hand. The music program is directed and arranged by Trinity music director Kat Tomaszewski.



Living, learning in a First Century village



Just for Kids!



When the jeweler came to town

Trinity Episcopal Worship Center children, "living" in their First Century village every Sunday, recently got a visit from the travelling jeweler, Pam Woida (far left), who displayed her wares. Residents were able to make purchases and (right) adorn themselves.



Pastoral Search Committee to fill portfolio

Just when we thought we were done...

The Pastoral Search Committee is assembling a portfolio of community descriptions and photos of the important aspects of Alpena, perhaps the final step in the advertising piece for a new priest.

As we seek a priest, the Eastern Michigan Diocese is itself seeking a bishop and has reconfigured diocesan staff. Their extra tasks and the large number of jobs fallen to Trinity's own paid and volunteer staff have made communication on the search effort somewhat scattered.

ing Bishop for the diocese, attending to pastoral care and support to clergy. His service is part-time, about 12-15 hours per week and will be mostly remote. Canon Tracie Little continues to assist us.

As soon as the diocese has all our portfolio information and it is approved by the assisting bishop it will be circulated. We will let you know.

In the meantime, the Rev. Skip Gladstone Adams of New York has been named Assist-

Flowers for the altar

Wish to honor loved ones or mark a special event with flowers on the altar at Trinity? Please call Sonya Titus at (989) 354-6031 to reserve a spot on the calendar!



Bye for now!

This is the final newsletter for 2023 and the last until the editor returns from Florida in April. Unless you want to do it...



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