



The Trinitarian



News, Notes and Inspiration from Trinity Church Oxford

Winter 2016-2017

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Our Staff

[The Rev. Richard Robyn,](#)
[Rector](#)

The Rev. Don Graff,
Priest Associate



From the Rector

We are just now coming off of a very long, heated, and in many ways ugly presidential campaign season. From all sides, insults and vitriol were flung. In the post-election fallout, we are witnessing the overt manifestation of the worst forms of behavior toward one another. Some people have taken the results of this election as tacit permission to display their hatred and bigotry through vandalism, intimidation and violence. This darkness is

clearly something that has been simmering on the back burner for a long while. Many of us thought that this kind of thing just didn't exist in our society anymore. We thought we had learned the lessons of the past, and yet we watch as history repeats itself.

What is our response as Christians? We know that in Jesus Christ all are one. We know that in him there is neither Jew nor Greek, male or female, slave or free; all have been adopted as his brothers and sisters. We also know that the bad behavior we are witnessing is antithetical to the Gospel and the teaching of the Church. Yet the evil we face seems insurmountable at times.

Come, Lord Jesus. In the season of Advent, we prepare to meet the light of the world, God's incarnate Word at Christmas. This Advent, it seems especially poignant that as we prepare to meet the infant King, we look to his example. Our Lord did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant. The Word became flesh--just like us. So let us remember that in the face of disagreement, hate, and fear, we are all one in our humanity. Let us not dehumanize the other, but rather seek Christ in him. We will not rest in fighting evil, but we also cannot give up on one another. Remember that Jesus Christ was pleased to die for all of us--and all really does mean all, as hard as that is for us to imagine sometimes.

No one of his own merit deserves the precious gift that Jesus gave of himself, so let us not squander it or hoard it or hold it back from others whom we deem "unworthy." Instead, let us reach out in love as our Lord would do, seeking, in the season of the Incarnation, His image in all whom He created.

Mary Sampson, M.A.,
Organist/Choirmaster

Blessings,
Father Richard

[Chris Claypoole, Secretary](#)

Michael Pacillio, Sexton

Our Vestry

Lorraine Henry '18, Rector's
Warden

Jason McConomy '17,
Accounting Warden

Raymond Grossmuller '19

John McClarin '17

Virginia McCracken '19

Charles McGee '17

Patti McGee '18

Maria Mejia '19

Victoria Sayers '17

Chuck Tucker '18

Kyle Tucker '19

Laurie Yuhnke '18

Website Resources

[Calendar](#)

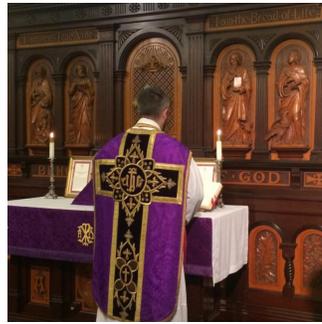
[History](#)

[Newsletter Archive](#)

[Photos](#)

[Sermons](#)

Highlights of the Year



Advent at Trinity

At Trinity, there are many ways to "prepare ye the way of the Lord," and we are taking full advantage of the season to prepare for Christmas. One of the great Advent anthems is "People Look East." During Advent, the priest will join the people in facing east for the Eucharist, which is the traditional orientation for prayer. And Rite I language will be used - brush up on your thee's and thou's, remember it's "and with thy spirit"!



Bishop Visits Trinity

What a joy it was to welcome Bishop Daniel Gutierrez to Trinity for the first time. Bishop Daniel was treated to a tour of our historic graveyard and church, where he took his place on the Frank Furness-designed bishop's throne for this photo. We ended our time together with lunch and conversation in the newly-renovated office. Thanks to everyone who turned out for this event, and we look forward to our bishop's next visit! Please visit the Bishop's [online blog](#) for his impressions of Trinity and more photos of the occasion.



Blessing of the Animals

On Sunday, October 2, we celebrated the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi with a traditional blessing of the animals in the churchyard after services. It was a wonderful chance to give thanks for all the joy pets bring to our lives, and to remember those cherished pets we've lost. We also celebrated Elliott's 2nd birthday and the impending restart of Trinity's GFS group! Please visit our Facebook page for [pictures of the event](#).



Children's Pageant

We are blessed at Trinity to have so many little ones in our midst. Please join us as the children tell the story of Advent and Christmas on Sunday, December 11, during the 10am service. Budding stars and stage moms should contact casting director Lorie Henry for more information.

Kickoff Sunday
September 18

St. Francis Day
October 2

Diocesan Convention
November 4-5

All Saints Sunday
November 6

Remembrance Sunday
November 13

Harvest Thanksgiving
Sunday, November 20

First Sunday of Advent
November 27

Children's Pageant
December 11

Lessons & Carols
Greening the Church
December 18

Christmas Eve
Saturday, December 24

Epiphany Sunday
January 8

Mardi Gras Luncheon
Sunday, February 26

Ash Wednesday
March 1

Palm Sunday
April 9

Maundy Thursday
April 13

Good Friday
April 14

Easter Sunday
April 16

Annual Meeting
April 23

Choir Recognition
Sunday, May 7

Pentecost Sunday
June 4



Christ the King

On Sunday, November 20, we celebrated the Feast of Christ the King. It marks the culmination of the long season of Pentecost which is about mission, ministry and life together. On this Sunday we look toward a time when all the people of the earth come together under Christ's grace-filled rule. Please listen to Father Richard's [sermon online](#) and visit our Facebook page for [pictures of the event](#).



Christmas at Trinity

For more than 300 years, families have celebrated Christmas at Trinity. This year, be a part of that tradition and invite a friend or neighbor to join you. On Christmas Eve, we will have a family candlelight service at 7pm. The bell choir will ring and hymns will be sung by candlelight. At 10pm on Christmas Eve, the senior choir will offer a concert of Christmas favorites, followed by a traditional "Midnight Mass" at 10:30pm. On Christmas Day, a mass will be said at 9am. If you know of anyone who needs a ride to Christmas services, please contact the church office at (215) 745-6114. Please visit our Facebook page to see [pictures](#) from last Christmas Eve.



Diocesan Convention

For the 233rd time, Trinity was well-represented at the annual diocesan convention by warden Lorie Henry, Pete Datos, and fathers Graff and Robyn. Our new bishop was enthroned, we did the business of the diocese, and also learned about a number of incredible ministries here. God is indeed working among us!



Engagement

Congratulations to Kyle Tucker and Maria Mejia, who recently got engaged while on a trip to Las Vegas. We offer the happy couple, along with their parents Flor Navarrete and Charles & Janice Tucker, our heartfelt prayers and support as they prepare for the big day.

Trinity Sunday
June 11

Episcopal Visitation
Sunday, June 18



Girls Friendly Society

Under the direction of Emily Geliebter and Kaitlyn Prete, we recently restarted our branch of the [Girls Friendly Society](#) (GFS). GFS is an international, non-profit organization, affiliated with the Episcopal Church and is designed to focus on the emotional, physical and spiritual growth of its members. Each branch is parish based with activities that include time for prayer, community service, arts & crafts, fun, and social activities. If you know a young girl or girls (ages 5 and up) who would like to see what GFS has to offer, please contact [Emily Geliebter](#).



Greening of the Church

Please join us after Lessons & Carols on Sunday, December 18, to help decorate the church - we will trim the tree and set up the flowers, aisle candles and greenery. When finished, we will share in a festive luncheon! Please visit our Facebook page for [pictures](#) of last year's fun and Youtube for a time-lapsed [video](#) of the occasion.



Halloween

We opened the Buchanan Building to our friends and neighbors again this Halloween for a little "spired" fun. There were tables of treats for young and old alike. Thanks to Patty McGee for coordinating the event! Many children and parents from our neighborhood came through.



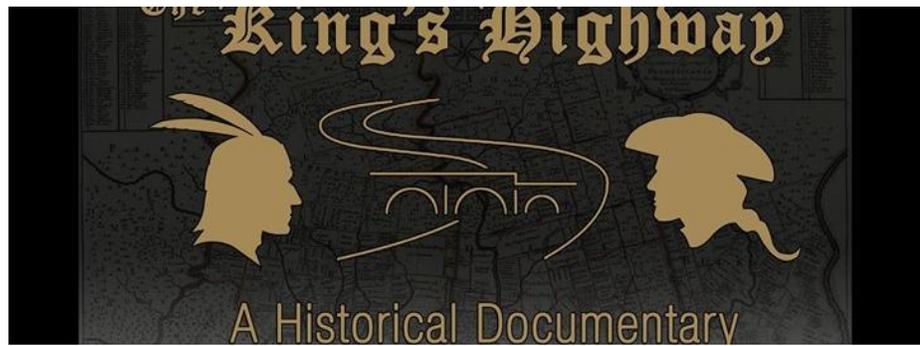
History

Thanks to Ginny McCracken for spearheading our archives project. All materials have been moved to the new office, and are being sorted and cataloged after the services on Sunday. As the process unfolds, interesting artefacts will be shown during coffee hour in the Buchanan Building. History buffs are invited to contact Ginny for more information on how to help.



Kickoff Sunday

On Sunday, September 18, we celebrated "Kickoff Sunday." At the 10am service, we were joined for worship by our full Senior Choir, we commissioned the Sunday School class and dedicated the newly renovated offices. We also enjoyed fellowship at our fall picnic. Please visit our Facebook page for [pictures](#) of the occasion.



The King's Highway

Trinity Church Oxford is featured in a new documentary film, The King's Highway, about the untold story of Northeast Philadelphia's impact on America and the historical significance of this region. In the film, Father Richard is interviewed at Trinity Church Oxford on the topic of historic preservation. The film will be shown during the Philadelphia Film Festival on Tuesday, December 6 at 7pm at the Kimmel Center. We at Trinity are proud of our church's place in American history and we hope to see you there! Tickets at \$10 and may be purchased from the [Kimmel Center](#).



Memorials

Each year, friends of Trinity remember loved ones with donations for the music and flowers which fill the church at Christmas. Please give generously so that we can continue this wonderful tradition. Donations may be placed in the offering on Sundays or dropped by the church office during the week. The deadline for recognition in the bulletin is December 18.



Music Ministry

The celebration of the Feast of Christmas will begin with our Festival of Lessons and Carols on December 18 at 10am. It will feature choral music by our Senior Choir and instrumental music by the Bella Corda String Ensemble. This beautiful service has been a longstanding tradition at Trinity.

On Christmas Eve, at the 7pm family service, our Bell Choir will perform Christmas music during the service. Many of your favorite carols will be sung and heard during the celebration.

At 10pm, the Senior Choir will perform a Candlelight Christmas Concert which will feature many beautiful anthems and solos by our Section Leaders. The Festival Choral Eucharist will begin at 10:30 pm and will include many of our traditional Christmas carols. We hope that you will plan to be with us during this holy season as we celebrate Christ's birth.



Philadelphia Protestant Home

The Adopt-A-Resident program at PPH aids residents and we ask for your donation of personal items or cash for the holiday season for those who do not have the means to provide for themselves. Instead of adopting specific residents we are asking for donations for the

most needy.

These items for men and women should be brought to Trinity no later than December 14 (please remember washable, cotton/polyester blends, please NO WOOL; sizes M, L & XL): v-neck undershirts, socks, shirts & tops (wide neck or button/snap front), cotton knit or fleece sweater, pull on pants (elastic waist, knit or sweat pants), bar soaps & shampoo (gentle, Ivory or Dove), and hand lotion (unscented). Monetary donations can be given for a variety of needs as Hairdresser, Barber and personal needs. Make check out to Trinity and write PPH on the memo line.



Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday, November 13, we honored those who died in the service of our country and gave thanks for all who serve. Please listen to Father Richard's [sermon online](#), which includes his thoughts on the recent election.



Stewardship

On November 20, we gathered the pledges for the year during our Harvest Thanksgiving celebration. If you haven't turned in your pledge card yet, please bring it to church or mail it into the church office. Thank you to all who give so generously so that we can continue our mission of preaching the Gospel of Christ and celebrating the Sacraments so beautifully in our national treasure church. If you have any questions, please see

Ray Grossmuller, Stewardship Chair.

Schedule of Events

Every Sunday, Mass at 8am (spoken) and 10am (with music and Sunday School, followed by coffee hour in the Buchanan Building)

Every Sunday, Senior Choir Rehearsal at 8:45am in the Buchanan Building

Sunday, November 27, First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 27, Vestry Meeting after coffee hour in the Buchanan Building

Monday, November 28, Girls Friendly Society at 7pm in the Conference Room

Thursday, December 1, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church

Thursday, December 8, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church

Sunday, December 11, Children's Pageant during the 10am service

Monday, December 12, Girls Friendly Society at 7pm in the Conference Room

Thursday, December 15, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church

Sunday, December 18, Lessons & Carols at the 10am service followed by greening of the Church and luncheon

Sunday, December 18, Vestry Meeting after coffee hour in the Buchanan Building

Thursday, December 22, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve Family Service at 7pm in the Church

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve Concert at 10pm in the Church followed by traditional Midnight Mass at 10:30pm

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day mass at 9am

Sunday, January 1, New Year's Day mass at 9am

Sunday, January 8, Epiphany Celebration

Monday, January 9, Girls Friendly Society at 7pm in the Conference Room

Monday, January 23, Girls Friendly Society at 7pm in the Conference Room

Sunday, January 29, Vestry Meeting after coffee hour in the Buchanan Building

Thursday, February 2, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church

Monday, February 6, Girls Friendly Society at 7pm in the Conference Room

Thursday, February 9, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church

Thursday, February 16, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church

Sunday, February 19, deadline for articles for Spring 2017 Trinitarian

Monday, February 20, Girls Friendly Society at 7pm in the Conference Room

Thursday, February 23, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church

Sunday, February 26, Mardi Gras Celebration follows the 10am service

Sunday, February 26, Vestry Meeting after coffee hour in the Buchanan Building

Wednesday, March 1, Ash Wednesday, Lent begins, liturgies at 10am (spoken) and 7pm (with music)

Trinity Church Oxford, 6901 Rising Sun Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111

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