



# The Messenger

Trinity Episcopal Church, Columbus, Georgia

The Rev. Dr. Timothy H. Graham, Rector

The Rev. Andrew C. Blakemore, Associate Rector

Joseph Golden, Organist & Choirmaster

Dr. Aesook Moon, Associate Organist & Choirmaster

Advent 2023

## From the Rector

*The Rev. Dr. Timothy H. Graham*

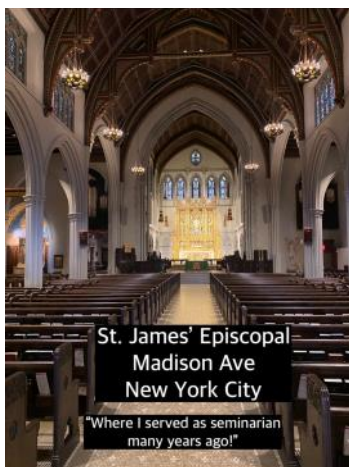
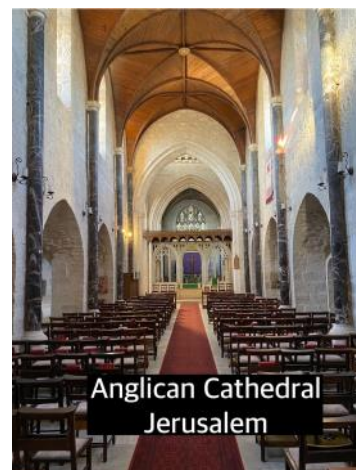
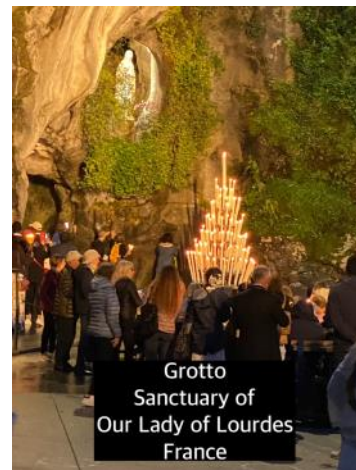
Dear Friends,

During my sabbatical I worshipped in many beautiful churches in various places around the world.

In this Messenger I'm sharing photos of just a few of the most meaningful ones. In each church that I entered I prayed for you all, giving thanks for the gift that we have in each other. As beautiful as church buildings can be, we need to be reminded that churches are people, not buildings. I'm grateful to be back with the wonderful people who are Trinity Church, and I look forward to a busy and meaningful Advent and Christmas season. I'm privileged to walk along side you in this journey of faith.

May God bless us all and keep us.

Father Tim



*Building a Spirit-empowered community that serves and celebrates Christ.*

## Adult Sunday School During Advent



Looking for ways to draw closer to Jesus during this Advent season? Beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, December 3rd, Trinity parishioner Bill Stahl will return to lead adult Sunday School on the figures that surrounded and shaped Jesus' life. This three-part class will look at Jesus' Early Years, the background of the twelve Apostles, and how Jesus centers the Bible's sweeping story of salvation.

A structural engineer by training, Bill is also the author of numerous books that explore the message and composition of the Bible. He has been teaching and speaking on this subject for over 30 years. Trinity is grateful to have him leading Adult Sunday School once again in December!

Adult Sunday School meets over coffee at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. Hope to see you there!

## Parking Lot Improvements *Sign Restoration*

Have you noticed anything different on your way into the doors of Trinity lately? Over the last several months, the Brotherhood of Saint Andrew has led an effort to repaint, repair, and restore Trinity's several signs along First Avenue. The Brotherhood also added two additional handicapped parking spots and a new visitor parking spot in the Trinity lot.

Special thanks go to parishioner Jeff Ollman, who coordinated these improvements!



The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew leads the men's ministry and fellowship at Trinity. For more information and to get involved, contact Rick Sneddon ([flw.sneddon@gmail.com](mailto:flw.sneddon@gmail.com)).

## Advent and Christmas Evensong *Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.*



Throughout the season of Advent and Christmas, Trinity will hold special Evensong services on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. Evensong, or sung evening prayer, is a longstanding Anglican tradition. We will lift up our prayers together, meditate on Scripture, and reach for the spirit of Christmas using time-honored, simple-to-learn songs and chants.

All are welcome!



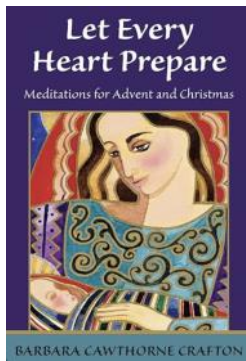
## Trinity's Community Impact *The St. Francis Fund*



The St. Francis Fund began in 1993, with money raised during Trinity's capital campaign that year. The Fund exists "to nurture, sustain and affirm programs and projects... that speak to the despair, suffering, anger and need in the lives of so many." The St. Francis Fund Committee is made up of Trinity parishioners, and through their work Trinity reaches out to support local organizations working in the areas of health, human welfare, human rights, and evangelism. This year, the Committee awarded a total of \$67,000 from the Fund to eight different applicant organizations. We give thanks to God for the tireless efforts of each of these organizations to alleviate suffering and improve our community! Donations to the St Francis Fund have helped make their work possible. For more information about the Saint Francis Fund, visit [www.saintfrancisfund.org](http://www.saintfrancisfund.org).



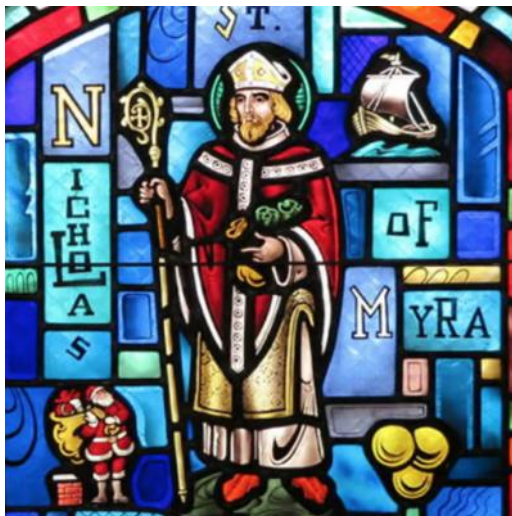
**"Let Every Heart Prepare"**  
*Adult Bible Study During Advent*



Throughout Advent and Christmas, Trinity's Adult Bible Study will dive into the devotional book *Let Every Heart Prepare* by the Rev. Barbara Cawthorne Crofton. Crofton's daily meditations focus on a line or stanza taken from one of the hymns and carols that fill Episcopal worship during the Advent and Christmas seasons. During Adult Bible Study, we will look closer at one or two of these hymns each week, expanding on Crofton's devotions to explore the theological and Scriptural significance of some of the church's most beloved songs.

The weekly Bible study meets over coffee **every Wednesday at 10 a.m.**, in the Parlor. Come and see what it's all about!

**Wednesday Night Supper**  
*Feast of Saint Nicholas*



Attention families and kids from one to one hundred: On **Wednesday, December 6th at 6 p.m.**, Trinity will host a very special Advent Parish Supper. We'll share a warm meal and hear the legend of Saint Nicholas of Myra, the real Santa Claus, whose feast day happens to be the 6th of December. There will also be time for some Christmas Karaoke, and with any luck, Jolly Old Saint Nick himself will pay Trinity a visit...

**Outreach to South Columbus Elementary**  
*It Takes a Gingerbread Village...*



Continuing a Christmastime tradition, Trinity will be building and sending miniature gingerbread houses to South Columbus Elementary to be decorated by the school's 3rd Graders. Trinity volunteers will assemble the houses in the Parish Hall at **6 p.m. on the second Wednesday of Advent, December 13th**. Come have a bowl of chili and join the holiday construction crew! Volunteers are also needed to work with the 3rd graders as they decorate at school on Friday December 15th.

Contact Ginger Ollman ([gingergolf@gmail.com](mailto:gingergolf@gmail.com)) for more information about these Gingerbread Houses.



**Bishop Visit to Trinity**  
*January 7th at 3 p.m.*

Trinity will begin the new year with a visit from the Very Rev. Robert Wright, Bishop of Atlanta on **Sunday, January 7th at 3:00 p.m.** Trinity will host Bishop Wright that afternoon for a service of confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation of faith. If you have a desire to be formally received into the Episcopal Church, or if you are already a member of Trinity but would like to publicly reaffirm your faith during the Bishop's visit, please reach out to Father Andy ([blakemore.trinity@gmail.com](mailto:blakemore.trinity@gmail.com)) ASAP.

The Trinity choir will offer special music, and all Episcopal churches in the Chattahoochee Valley convocation are invited to be present at this special service- hope you can make it too!



# ADVENT 2023 AT TRINITY

## DECEMBER

1 - PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY - 6 PM

3 - BILL STAHL'S 3-WEEK SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS BEGINS -  
9:30 AM

3 - FIRST SUNDAY FUNDAY - AFTER 10:30 WORSHIP

6 - WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER- 6 PM

13 - GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONSTRUCTION FOR SCES & CHILI  
DINNER - 6 PM

20 - CAROLING OUTSIDE OF IRON BANK COFFEE - 6 PM

## CHRISTMAS EVE

8:30 AM - ADVENT 4 IN THE CHAPEL

10:30 AM - CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SERVICE IN THE NAVE

*THERE WILL NOT BE AN AFTERNOON SERVICE THIS YEAR*

10:30 PM - MUSICAL PRELUDE

11:00 PM - MIDNIGHT MASS IN THE NAVE

## CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30 AM - EUCHARIST WITH CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN THE  
CHAPEL