

Trinity Talks



Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
121 W 12th Street
Davenport, Iowa 52803
www.qctrinity.org



Trinity Cathedral. November 30 will mark the 175th anniversary of the founding of Trinity Parish. We'll mark that date and kick off our anniversary year on **Christ the King Sunday, November 20, with one combined service at 9:30 am.** We'll sing hymns taking us through nearly two centuries of history. Our anniversary logo will be unveiled with events for the

coming year. Banners are being prepared to line Brady Street from February to June, celebrating our commitment to this community.

Over its 175 years, Trinity Parish has been a fertile seedbed for many ministries. Some of them are well-known: St. Luke's Hospital (now Genesis), St. Katharine's School (now Rivermont), the Visiting Nurse Association, and hospice services such as Clarissa Cook Hospice House. Rick's House of Hope for grieving children is named for the late Canon Pastor Rick Johnson. The Befrienders started with three people from Trinity. And at least two faith communities met first in cathedral space: Progressive Baptist Church and Muslim prayer services.

As we begin this church year celebrating our past, we need to ask ourselves: what *new* ministry is God calling us to at this time in our history? What new seed is God yearning to plant? As servants called by God, anticipating the birth of God-with-us, how can we incarnate Jesus' love for all people? How can we continue to work for the coming of God's kingdom in our community as we grow spiritually and do Christ's work?

Dean John+

Christmas

"Glory to God in highest heaven, and on earth peace to all in whom he delights." These are the words that accompanied the heavens opening to proclaim the birth of our Messiah. What a night that would have been: the sheep baa-ing; the cows moo-ing; the sounds of a young girl in labor; the rustling of the straw as the manger was filled; the joy that filled Mary's heart as she wrapped her child in swaddling clothes; the shepherds' speechlessness as they looked upon the newborn babe, and their chatter of wonder filling the skies as they left the stable that night. The WORD became flesh, dwelling among us, for us.

Christmas is not just the 25th day of December but the beginning of the Christmas season in our Church calendar year. It is perhaps the shortest season of our Church year, 12 days. As you read this, we are just entering the four weeks of Advent, where we will be anticipating, waiting, and preparing our hearts and hearths for the Savior's birth. We will have that wonder-filled night of the 24th when we gather in the dark and the light gradually fills the Church as our candles are lighted. Songs burst forth and our Savior's birth is proclaimed. What comes after the chorus ends?

The Light comes on Christmas – no darkness can overshadow Him. It is a time we are reminded of what it meant for Jesus to leave the throne room and pitch His tent among us. It is a time when we become aware that the wood of the manger will become the wood of

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From the Dean



Advent was coined by Pope Leo the Great in the fifth century. Curiously, he did not connect the season with Christmas. Instead he spoke of "the Advent of God's kingdom and the end of the world's times," calling for a period of fasting and repentance in December. For Pope Leo, the long nights at the end of the year were reminders of the end of the world. One needed to be ready for the second coming of Christ as judge.

Only centuries later did Advent also become an anticipation of Christ's birth. The themes of end times and repentance remained, however. As we begin anew the three-year lectionary cycle on the First Sunday of Advent, we will be told that the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour, so we must be ready. John the Baptist in all his wild glory will rail against sinners and call for repentance. On the fourth Sunday, Mary will fulfill Isaiah's prophecy by conceiving a son who will be God-with-us (Emmanuel). As always, Advent will be a time of reflection and expectation.

This will be a year of excitement at

(Christmas...continued from first page)

the Cross. It is a time when we are reminded that the swaddling clothes on that day become the clothes He is wrapped in at the Tomb. As Mary wraps her Babe to her breast, we see the image of her wrapping his wounded and scarred body into her arms as He is taken down from the Cross. The noise of that Holy night will become silent as the skies darken on that Friday. Our lips that will join the herald of angels in this Christmas season singing "Gloria in excelsis Deo" will again join the throng of angels proclaiming, "Alleluia! He is Risen!" on that glorious Easter morning. Incarnation. Crucifixion. Resurrection. Ascension. We can't have one without the other.

And the three feast days that are celebrated in the Christmas season reflect such Incarnational spirituality: St. Stephen, St. John, and the Holy Innocents. Stephen, the first martyr of the church, proclaimed Christ, the message that was burning in his heart (Acts 7) and was stoned to death. The Apostle and Evangelist John's sole purpose in life was to serve the mission of Christ. He turned people toward the Word who "became flesh and made his dwelling among us". The Holy Innocents, having little conscious choice in the matter, gave up their innocent lives for the sake of the gospel and became a prototype of the martyrs of the church. Christmas reminds us of who we are in Christ: He in us and we in Him.

In the letter to the church in Philippi, we have these words: *"Have this in mind (that is, the Incarnation) among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus: He was in the form of God; yet he laid no claim to equality with God, but made himself nothing, assuming the form of a slave. Bearing the human likeness, sharing the human lot, he humbled himself and was obedient, even to the point of death, death on a cross." The Word became flesh; he made his home among us, and we saw his glory, such glory, as befits the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.*" (John 1:14). Glory to God indeed!

Judith+

~Blue Christmas~ A Service of Hope for the Holiday Season

The Holidays may not be a happy time for everyone. Seasonal celebrations, even Christmas carols and decorations can be challenging for those suffering loss. The death of a family member or friend, losing a job, declining health, or divorce may take the joy out of the holidays. Yet Advent, the anticipation of the renewed presence of Christ in our lives, can be a comforting time of hope. On Sunday, December 11, at 4 p.m., there will be a Blue Christmas service in the Cathedral. Prayers of healing and solace will be offered and candles will be lit in remembrance and in hope. All are welcome, parishioners and friends, anyone who would like a peaceful and meaningful pause from busy December days.

Thank You

Stewardship is the opportunity and blessing each one of us has to share with others the gifts that God has given us. At Trinity Cathedral, we are stewards of our "house", now 150 years old, stewards of our faith tradition, stewards of our mission, and most importantly, stewards of each other.

To all the stewards of Trinity Cathedral...for sharing your financial gifts and pledges, for sharing your talent and time, for your presence in sustaining and growing the Body of Christ....THANK YOU!

Trinity Eats

Don't forget to sign up in the Great Hall and join us the last Tuesday of every month for Trinity Eats.

Great food and fellowship at Noon, following the 11:00 a.m. Eucharist!

Winter Gala

Make plans to attend Trinity's Winter Gala on Sunday December 4th at 6 pm! Bring your friends and family to our festive dinner, for wonderful food, fellowship and holiday fun!

- ◆ Traditional Wassail: 6pm
- ◆ Dinner and Musical Entertainment: 6:30 - 8:30pm, featuring the Quad City Singers
- ◆ \$20 Adults
- ◆ \$10 Children under 12
- ◆ Sign up in the Great Hall, or call Cindy May at 309-797-4648

Consider being an "Angel Sponsor" to help fund our annual Gala dinner!



Join us on Sunday, December 18, at 4 p.m., for Caroling at the residences of parishioners and friends who are no longer able to attend worship services.

All ages and all voices are needed to sing and bring joy to our friends. A Chili supper and hot cocoa will be waiting in the Great Hall after caroling.

All are welcome for this wonderful time of sharing music and fellowship!!

2017 Calendars

Pre-order your Trinity Cathedral 2017 photo calendar now!! In celebration of our anniversary year, all photos are historic, cost is for \$15, sign-up sheets are available in the Great Hall, and profits of this year's calendar will go to the Haitian Relief Fund.

Special thanks to Rand Tapscott and Pam Ohnemus for layout and design of this year's calendar.

Vestry

Highlights

As we approach Advent, I'm providing a brief summary of recent Vestry activities this fall, and I would like to acknowledge and thank Vestry members for their commitment, support, thoughtful input, attention to detail, and outstanding work.

We received updates from the Anniversary Committee regarding major events which will celebrate Trinity Cathedral's 175th year in our QC community.

We continue to deal with building maintenance and repair issues. Diane Litterst, as Building & Grounds Manager, solicits bids from qualifying contractors, details the scope of work to be performed, monitors the contracts, and ensures the work is performed satisfactorily. She and the Vestry have been excellent stewards of Trinity funds and buildings.

At our October meeting we received an update from the Deanery Task Force, which had met earlier in the month. After three years of work attempting to rent or lease the space, the task force recommended and the Vestry voted, to list the building for sale during the next year. The Dean gave an update to the parish on Sunday, October 30, listing potential uses that had been considered and the costs of repair and maintenance. The task force will reconvene in a year if the building has not been sold or a use found, in order to consider its final disposition.

Arlen Beck
Senior Warden

To Your Health

UTI is an inflammation or infection of the bladder or urinary tract.

Signs and symptoms:

- Burning and stinging with urination.
- Frequent urination and usually in small amounts.
- Pain in lower abdomen and lower back.
- Blood in urine and sometimes strong-smelling urine.
- Low fever and sometimes chills.
- Can cause confusion in older people.

Treatment:

- Promptly see your Doctor – do not wait.
- Medications- antibiotics to fight the infection.
- Antispasmodics to relieve the pain.
- Drink 6-8 glasses of water daily.
- Avoid caffeine and alcohol during treatment.
- Drink cranberry juice to acidify the urine.

Prevention: Drink 8 glasses of water daily unless your doctor restricts your fluid intake.

The Holidays are coming up so please take care of yourself!

Joanne Stice , Parish Nurse



You may have noticed the many new beautiful bushes and plantings on the West and South sides of the Cathedral. The lovely landscaping plan, all materials, and labor, were generously donated by Nancy and Chuck von Maur. a growing gift that will welcome parishioners and visitors for years to come.



Christmas flower memorial envelopes are included in this issue.
Please return them to the office by **December 11**.

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Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Davenport, Iowa
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Outreach



Trinity's Little Free Library is now complete—a welcoming bench has been added to the reading corner. Special thanks to the Gabrilson family for their generosity in donating the bench in memory of Burr & Lois Gabrilson, and to Jack Dudley for the installation!