

Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity

2017

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT

January 14, 2018



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Office Systems	Jennifer Dorn
Website	Jennifer Dorn
Clerk of the Vestry	Paula Wahl



Our Mission...

To be a beacon drawing others to God and into the life-transforming fellowship of God's people.

A Vision for Holy Trinity

2 Corinthians 5:17-20a

Being Christ's hands and voice reconciling people to God in our corner of God's world

Acts 2:42

Honoring God by gathering in His name each Lord's Day

James 5:16

Being a healing place

Acts 2:44-46

Being a caring, supporting and praying fellowship

1 Corinthians 12:27-31

Being a place where people find God's purpose for their lives and glorify God by living into it

Ephesians 4:15-16

Being a place where we all grow in Christ-likeness

Reports

Rector's Report ~The Rev. Rob Hartley

Dear saints of God at Holy Trinity,

Concerning my ministry to you as your Rector, you should expect the following:

- transformative worship
- Gospel preaching
- formational teaching
- Godly pastoring
- effectively equipping of God's people for ministry and evangelism
- servant leadership



I bring these things to you very imperfectly, but with God's help, we can continue to grow in these aspects of being God's Church in this place. This is my vision.

Some parish goals and milestones that will contribute to that vision, albeit long term in some cases, are:

- Provide a cut-through from Merovan Dr to Walnut Ln to more closely tie us to the community around us. (This is about to happen!)
- Position ourselves financially to be able to call a young, high energy priest to become our Rector as I move toward stepping back and relinquishing the leadership of this church family.
- Provide a tithe (10%) to the diocese primarily for new church plant and new clergy formation. (we are presently at about 5%)
- Eliminate the mortgage on our existing facility.
- Sacrificially grow our outreach budget to 50% of the operating budget.
- Establish a reserve fund of half our annual operating budget for unforeseen events and needs.
- Become a community church and community center for the folks living around us.
- Continue to grow spiritually, financially and numerically such that our existing facilities become inadequate for our worship and ministries and we build new worship space on our four acres on the other side of Merovan Drive.
- Allow our existing facilities to eventually evolve into a place for youth and community outreach.

I invite each of you to partner with me in this vision for our future. Much of it may seem daunting and out of reach, but it reflects the real opportunity we have to become Christ's incarnational presence in the Sweetwater/Walnut Lane Community and beyond, and to grow the Kingdom of God in our little corner of God's world.

I want to thank all of you for the way you are already contributing to this.

To God be the glory!

Father Rob



The Vestry

The vestry has the canonical responsibility for directing the temporal affairs of the church and providing visionary lay leadership for this church family. According to the parish bylaws the vestry is composed of six members elected by the congregation, each for a three-year term. From their number, the vestry selects the parish's senior and junior wardens. The senior warden works closely with the rector in the administration and leadership of the parish. The junior warden oversees the building and grounds. The vestry also includes as non-voting members the parish treasurer and the clerk of the vestry.

Vestry membership is an important ministry. The forward momentum of this parish family depends heavily on the vision, discernment and leadership of this group. We thank those who have given of their time and talent on the vestry this year:

Mike Fekula, Senior Warden

Paula Wahl, Clerk of the Vestry, finance Committee

Jennifer Dorn, Vestry person, Finance Committee

Mark Watkins

Darren Newman, Junior Warden

Virginia Folk, Finance Committee

Larry Pettinato

Jerry Nault

The requirements for vestry membership per our bylaws are listed in the chart below.

From Our bylaws

3.3.3 Members of the Nominating Committee shall consider for service on the Vestry individuals who ...

- a) Are mature in their Faith...
- b) Worship God regularly within the Parish.
- c) Lead an active prayer life.
- d) Know and continue studying the Bible.
- e) Are cheerful givers not only of money but also of time.
- f) Have family relationships reflecting strong Christian commitment.
- g) Are leaders within the Church.
- h) Have enough time to serve effectively as a Vestry member.
- i) Make Vestry service high on their list of personal priorities.
- j) Subscribe without reservation to the beliefs and practices of the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and the ACNA.
- k) Recognize and respect the Rector as the ecclesiastical and spiritual authority of the Church.
- l) Make a firm commitment to adhere to all requisites and expectations of Vestry members as set forth in these Bylaws.
- m) Have been a communicant in good standing as defined in these Bylaws.

Senior Warden's Report- Mike Fekula

ACHTNA was very active in 2017 and many of the relevant results are presented in this report by those so faithfully responsible for these activities and ministries. Thus, in this section I will limit my comments to four significant events as seen from the perspective of the Senior Warden. In January 2017, the Vestry decided to begin advertising in the *Augusta Chronicle Worship Directory*, which appears in every Saturday edition. While newspaper advertising is traditionally expensive, this section of the paper is highly cost effective. So, every Saturday ACHTNA appears in the faith section and we are listed second in alphabetical order among all churches advertising. The ad includes information about ACHTNA, our location, our service times, and contact information.

Next, in 2017 the Vestry took the initiative to be more active in promoting the Vestry Shepherding List. The list assigns approximately one dozen church families to each Vestry member. Post cards were mailed to families

indicating their Vestry Shepherd and encouraging members to reach out to their respective Shepherds with concerns and needs. As we look to the future we encourage ACHTNA members to make more contact with their Vestry Shepherd as a means to better connect with the life and ministries of ACHTNA.

The ACHTNA Clergy, as well as invited speakers conducted a highly professional and exciting educational program during our Reformation Celebration Weekend, held November 3, 4, and 5. The Church and Kitchen Staff also worked tirelessly to make this weekend a first-class event, with meals and snacks rivaling the finest conference centers. A donor contributed a fabulous, hot catered breakfast on Saturday morning. The excitement surrounding this event initiated a vision to produce an annual conference that would attract speakers and attendees from throughout our region. Please watch for fall dates to be published soon, and “save the date” on your calendar. We would like to see all ACHTNA members support the work of our Clergy and staff by attending this event. Finally, the Vestry proposed and initiated the process of an Annual Stewardship Campaign. The campaign was emphasized at the conclusion of four consecutive Sunday services, and included a handout in the Bulletin which discussed stewardship principles. The Fall 2017 campaign was entitled *The Road to Truth* and targeted the building of a road to access ACHTNA as a means for our community to more easily reach us, as well as us better reaching our community. The Vestry intends to conduct a campaign each fall as a means to support capital projects and other ministry initiatives that are not feasible within the ACHTNA Annual Budget.

In His Service and Yours,

Mike Fekula, Senior Warden

Finance Committee

They are... Jennifer Dorn, Virginia Folk, and Paula Wahl. This is a committee of the vestry that manages the finances of the parish. Our appreciation goes out to this hard working and conscientious group.

Treasurer’s Report

Ending balances for our various accounts (as of December 17, 2017):

Operating Account	\$ 29,998
Reserves Account	\$ 27,221
Capital Building Fund	\$ 57,459
Memorial Fund	\$ 1,335
Future Rector Fund	\$ 12,555
Building Mortgage	\$452,745 (Principle owed)

2018 Outreach Budget

Below are the funds Holy Trinity is committing to outreach projects this year, including diocesan support

		2017	2018
Global	Anglican Relief and Dev Fund	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
	Christ Church Jerusalem	\$ 400	\$ 400
	Gambella School, Ethiopia	\$ 2,300	\$ 3,000
	Johann/Louise Vanderbijl (SAMS)	\$ 3,400	\$ 3,400
	Wycliffe (Schmidt's)	\$ 200	\$ 200
Local	Clergy Discretionary Fund	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600
	Community Ministry of NA	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000
	Family Promise of Augusta	\$ 700	\$ 700
	Lydia Project	\$ 0	\$ 1,000
	Local Outreach/Community Projects	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,000
Regional	Diocesan Pledge	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
	Kairos Prison Ministry	\$ 200	\$ 400
	Trinity Seminary	\$ 800	\$ 800
	Total Outreach	\$ 29,100	\$ 30,000

Outreach



The Lydia Project, Augusta



*Johann and Louise Vanderbijl,
SAMS- Southern Africa*



Christ Church, Jerusalem



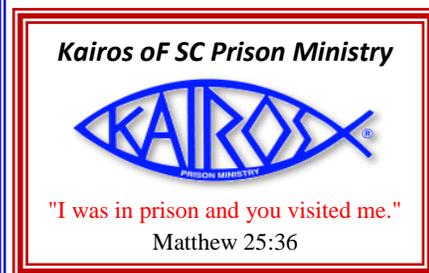
Anglican Mission and St. Frumentus Theological College- Gambella, Ethiopia



Trinity Seminary



*The Schmidts
Wicliff Bble Translator*



Inspired by God's radical grace, ARDF exists to empower Anglicans to show the love of Christ to those in need throughout the Global South (Asia, Africa, and South America), serving the poorest of the poor. **ARDF is...**

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. EFFECTIVE | because all our projects are researched and evaluated. |
| 2. SUSTAINABLE | because every project is locally initiated and implemented. |
| 3. EFFICIENT | because we work within existing church structures. |
| 4. EMPOWERING | because we are guided by non-western leaders. |
| 5. COMMITTED | to the GOSPEL . |
| 6. YOUR | church in action. Thank you for your support! |



Gambella, Ethiopia and St Frumentius' Anglican Theological College

Gambella is a particularly poor and underdeveloped region of Ethiopia. Being in the White Nile River valley, the weather is extraordinarily hot at certain times of the year. Most of the people are non-literate. Basic resources such as water, electricity, phone service and internet are not easily available. Refugees from war-torn South Sudan make up over 50% of the Gambella region's population. The Anglican Church is fast growing with approximately 120 churches and 15,000 Anglican Christians. These churches are part of the Diocese of Egypt, North Africa and the Horn of Africa.

Clergy are extremely few. St. Frumentius' College was thus started by the Rev. Dr. Johann Vanderbaijl under the authority of the area bishop, The Rt. Rev. Grant LeMarquand, to address this need and develop indigenous clergy and lay leaders. It presently has approximately 20 full time students, 15 part time students, a growing library with approximately 4,000 books, three classrooms, and a chapel. Holy Trinity's support to Gambella has largely gone to developing this seminary.



Year-End Missionary Report from Father Johann and Louise

Since our last letter, Louise and I have done the LEAD (Leadership for Evangelism And Disciple-Making) training in eleven additional Dioceses, namely Cape Town, False Bay and Saldana (August 4-6: 16 participants), Arniston/False Bay (August 11-13: 17 participants), Christ the King (August 25-27: 19 participants), Swaziland along with Thokozani (September 1-3: 16 participants), East London/Grahamstown (September 19-20: 23 participants), Polokwane/St Mark the Evangelist (October 2-3: 7 participants), Johannesburg (October 6-7: 21 participants), Lebombo (October 24-29: 50 participants), Kimberley and Kuruman (November 3-4: 18 participants), and in George (December 1-3: 20 participants).



Altogether, 13 Dioceses out of 28 Dioceses in the Province of Southern Africa.

We also attended J-Life Foundations (the second of four modules) Training along with our friend and protégée, Thokozani Hslatswayo, on August 9-10 in False Bay, Cape Town, the Global Leadership Summit on October 18-20, and the J-Life Summit on November 24-25.

We also promoted the LEAD project at a Mother's Union/Anglican Women's Fellowship Breakfast in Cape Town on July 15, at a gathering of COTT Students in Cape Town on July 21, at gatherings in Pretoria, Klerksdorp, Kuruman, Kimberley, Welkom respectively from September 4 through 13, at the Provincial Standing Committee Meeting on September 27-30, at the Rondebosch Archdeaconry Meeting on November 16, and the Gugulethu Archdeaconry Meeting on November 22.

Johann attended the GtC Coordinator's Meeting on November 26-29. Our Director, Trevor Pearce, as well as the Growing the Church Board, said that compared with the meeting last year, this was overwhelmingly positive.

We received reports from several coordinators about individuals and churches making disciples or teaching Strategy to a friend and/or a group. Swaziland and St Andrew's, Pimville have made attempts at broadening the

training. Many have gone through the 60 Chronological Study on the Life of Christ. Others have started small groups and Bible Studies. We know that our dear friend, protégée, and passionate co-worker, Thokozani Hlatshwayo has been training others in Highveld.

After each training, we send all participants with emails various resources such as a link to Dann Spader's Videos, a chronological Bible Study method, various disciple-making articles, and other helpful tools. We also try to do long-distance coaching, but, like long-distance relationships, this has its limitations. Louise has created a database of all participants listed under their Diocese to make further email correspondence easier...however, we were not always able to read the handwriting of some participants, so they are falling through the cracks because we don't have their emails.

In an ideal world, there ought to be at least one solid, sold-out, passionate LEAD Faculty member in each Diocese who will be able to encourage, coach, and hold other participants accountable.

On a personal note, Louise and I are planning to come to the US at the end of March and to stay through April. This visit will be to spend time with our children and grandchildren, to meet two of our grandchildren, Constance and Everett (yet to be born!) for the first time, and to visit as many of our supporters as possible. We are still in need of more support and hope to meet with new partners as well.

Louise's mum, Annie, affectionately known as the Queen, is becoming more frail and Louise spends as much time with her as possible. With our current schedule, we are hardly home, so visits are few and far between, which is a pity.

Thank you for your love, encouragement, and unfailing support! You are deeply appreciated. Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel...without you, we would not be able to do what we do.

We wish you a blessed Advent and a very Merry Christmas! May our sovereign Lord grant you your heart's desire.
Many blessings, *Johann and Louise*

Holiday Families Ministry ~ Virginia Folk and Lisa Johnson

As we do each Christmas, we obtained from the school system the name of any families in need. Lisa and I want to thank each and every one of you for your generosity in helping the families. It is in giving that we receive. Lisa and I received the joy in presenting these gifts to the families on behalf of you and our church.

Thank you and God Bless, *Virginia and Lisa*

Habitat for Humanity



Some of our ladies helped provide lunch for *Habitat for Humanity* crew in North Augusta.

The Lydia Project ~ Margaret Williams

The Lydia Project provides support and services to women undergoing cancer treatment. This support and services includes lodging, assistance with rent/mortgage while out of work for treatment, utilities to keep the lights on, and transportation to and from the Lydia House to treatment.

Members who volunteer at the Lydia Project are Margaret Williams who volunteers in lodging at the Daksha Chudgar / Lydia House. Women who live 30 minutes or more away from Augusta cancer treatment centers are provided lodging, meals, and support in the Lydia House.

Thank you to all who support The Lydia Project.

Hurricane Relief via The Anglican Relief and Development Fund

We had two separate fund-raisers this year at Holy Trinity for assistance through ARDF and local Anglican Churches toward hurricane relief. Below is ARDF's report back to us:

“This fall was a brutal hurricane season for the United States! Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico were hit hard by Hurricane Harvey, then Irma, and finally Maria. Many are still struggling to put their lives together. But thanks to you and other ARDF donors, we were able to empower the local church with nearly **\$500,000** to reach out to their local communities as the hands and feet of Jesus. The following stories are not the sum of the efforts, but are examples of how your generosity is transforming specific lives on the ground.

Hurricane Harvey: With your help, ARDF raised over **\$320,000** for relief efforts coordinated by the Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast. Working through local churches, nearly 100 families have been served to date. And the Diocese is still receiving - and funding - applications for assistance. For example, Father Dale Chrisman and his church, Trinity Anglican Church, have helped affected families in Port Arthur, Texas, a poorer area hit hardest by the hurricane. Thousands of Port Arthur homes were totally or partially destroyed. Many relief efforts have focused on the Texas Gulf Coast or the Houston area. With your funds, materials were purchased to rebuild the homes of sixteen families in Port Arthur.

Hurricane Irma: Over **\$85,000** was collected and distributed through the Diocese of the Atlantic Gulf Coast. After Irma came storming up the state of Florida, a group of churches and other service agencies formed Irmarelieff.faith. Since September, this coalition has reached an estimated 2,500 people. Some have received support care bags, some rebuilding assistance, and others food. All have received prayer!

Hurricane Maria

Over **\$68,000** was collected for Hurricane Maria relief. Working through three partners, ARDF brought needed relief to both Puerto Rico and the smaller island of Vieques. One partner, Water Mission, has now restored clean water to 37 communities! They have also had the opportunity to share the benefits of solar installations. Pray that God would open more doors to this approach, so that the next time the island loses power, communities will not lose clean water!

We at ARDF are so grateful for the generous hearts of our donors, who know that when disaster hits, local churches are best positioned to reach out to the hurting. Should you wish to volunteer in person, you can sign up to help in [Texas](#) or [Florida](#) through our partners. Thank you again for your faithfulness to God's call to serve those in need. We wish you the Merriest of Christmases!”

“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.” - Proverbs 19:17

Blood Drives at Holy Trinity

We sponsored a number of blood drives throughout the year for Shepherd Blood Bank. Thank you to all who contributed blood and to Mike Sanders who coordinated the efforts.

Spiritual Formation

Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study ~ JoEllen Barbare

2017 has been a great year in our Bible Study. Early in the year we completed our study of Romans, taught by Dr. Michael Krueger from RTS Seminary in Charlotte, NC. We then spent several months studying the book of Philippians using Kay Arthur's materials and lectures. When we completed our study of Philippians, the ladies expressed a desire to want to know how to study the Bible on their own. We worked our way through Kay Arthur's book on Lord, Teach me to Study the Bible in 28 Days. This study proved to be a great benefit to all as we learned how to study the books of Jonah and Jude using inductive Bible study skills.



Children's Nursery ~ Kimber Nault

The nursery, directed by Kimber Nault, is available for children ages 0 – 3 years on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and during other special church gatherings.

Children's Church ~ Doris O'Neill

The children ages 4-8 are gathered at the side door of the sanctuary shortly after the beginning of the service and process to our room. The Young Children and Worship and Godly Play curriculums are used for presenting Old and New Testament stories after which the children have an opportunity to choose various art media to respond to the story (such as a picture or clay figure that represents something meaningful to them from the story).

Following the Easter season, a series of lessons on the prophets were presented. Those who God called to deliver His word to His people then and now. The overall goal of each lesson is not only to "hear" God's stories but also to "know" Him and His love and caring for us. The children rejoin their family during the peace for the remainder of the service.

Attendance continues to be varied in number from 1 to 12. Tracy Perdue, Amy Hane, and Doris O'Neill are the story presenters for Children's Church. We continue to seek your prayers for God's guidance and presence to be with us as we minister to His and your children.

A special "Thank You" to Larry Pettinato for the new bookcases in the room which is shared by Children's Church, Sunday School, and Wednesday night children's activities.

Wednesday Nights at Holy Trinity ~ Twyla Tuten

On Wednesday nights, members of the Holy Trinity family gather for fellowship supper, praise and prayer, and an opportunity for spiritual growth.

In January and February we read and discussed **The Screwtape Letters** by C. S. Lewis. In a series of letters, Screwtape, an undersecretary in the Lowerarchy of Hell, guides a young demon through the finer points of temptation, the weaknesses and foibles of human beings, and the disaster of his "patient" becoming a Christian. From this very skewed perspective, Lewis digs into human nature, revealing some interesting, and sometimes embarrassing, tendencies.

During Lent we utilized a DVD-led discussion entitled **Lamb of God** by Ralph F. Wilson. Each week highlighted Old and New Testament scripture regarding Jesus as the sacrificial lamb who takes our place, redeems us, and is ultimately triumphant and worthy of worship.

After Easter and during the summer months, we focused our study on an intensive look into the gospel of Matthew, our lectionary gospel for this year. Our discussion leaders, Pastor Rob, Wayne, and Twyla, utilized Max Lucado's insightful **Life Lesson** of the gospel. Just as Matthew the tax collector's life was forever changed by a simple encounter with Jesus, so were we challenged to encounter Jesus daily in our lives and to spend our lives convincing others, as Matthew did, that Jesus is indeed the King, the Messiah of the world. In addition, each week we viewed a portion of a well-produced movie of the gospel, a word-for-word rendition of the NIV translation.

In September, October, and part of November, we studied a series entitled **Everyday Questions**, produced by Ravi Zacharias International Ministries and based on 1 Peter 3:15: "always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." In it we learned to articulate our beliefs and convictions regarding where we come from, our own significance, our moral compass, and our destiny.

Our Advent study was entitled **At That Time**, a study based on the lectionary readings of Mark and written by John Birch. We utilized it as we prepared to celebrate Christ's first coming and to anticipate His second coming.

Several other free-standing lessons included a look at the united monarchy of the Old Testament, led by Wayne; Pastor Rob's synod report to the parish; several lessons on the history, theology, and Biblical foundations of Eucharist, taught by Pastor Rob; and a hymn fest in which we sang favorite old hymns and learned some of the history surrounding their composition.

All are invited to come and grow with us!

Twyla

Men's Saturday Morning Fellowship and Bible Study

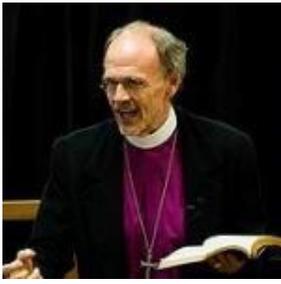
A men's fellowship gathers at the church on Saturday mornings from 9 am to 10:30 each Saturday to share and study. Most of this past year was from the Book of Romans. The men used an on-line video series by Dr. Michael J. Kruger, President and Professor of New Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte, NC. Quite excellent!



Sunday Morning Adult Forum



This very well-attended forum meets while the Teens gather for their program and our children are having Sunday School. We discuss the readings and sermon, and together discern what the Lord was doing among us and saying to us this morning. This is presently led on a rotating basis by Twyla Tuten, Wayne Lowe and Caleb Mortimer. Gary Bainton has joined this rotation for 2018.



Teaching Weekend January 27-28

The weekend was led by The Rt. Rev. Thaddeus Barnum and the topic was **“Real Courage.”** Fear and anxiety seem to be part of life in the broken and hurting world, particularly in the times in which we live. We face, among a myriad of other things, the onslaught of Islamic aggression, economic and political uncertainty, societal polarization, and rising racial/ethnic tensions. In our personal lives we face economic insecurities, unstable relationships, anxieties over personal safety, and uncertainty about what the future holds for our children and grandchildren.

The antidote is courage that brings peace and victory over life’s challenges, but where do we find it? The world tells us courage comes from only one place- from within ourselves, but as people of faith, we know real courage comes from beyond ourselves- from God. It is the Holy Spirit who empowers us for real living. The question we face, then, is our Fear and our Faith compatible?

This teaching weekend explored this topic using the biblical story of Jacob and Bishop Thad’s book, *Real Courage*. The Rev. Dr. John W. Yates II, Rector of our sister church in Falls Church, Va. Wrote this about Bp. Thad’s book”

“Thaddeus Barnum has written one of the most honest, vulnerable books about grappling with fear I have ever read. He acknowledges the power fear wields to distort the truth, especially for leaders in the church. Through illuminating meditations on Scripture, alongside gripping anecdotes from his life, *Real Courage* invites us into a robust, but never simplistic, faith to handle the day’s most pressing crises.”



Children’s Sunday School

The Children’s Sunday School meets following the main service and is comprised of two classes, ages 4-7 and 8-12. Over the past year both classes have studied Psalm 23 and had a lesson prior to the Thanksgiving holiday reminding us not to worry. Just as God, the Good Shepherd, takes care of the sheep in His flock including the Pilgrims, He takes care of us and blesses us as well. He provides everything we need and we are so very thankful. Before Christmas, we looked at some of the characters in the Nativity Story.

Each class begins with prayer which is followed by one or more of the children taking turns reading the scripture that pertains to the lesson of the day. This is followed by a discussion time and fun activities. Each lesson ends with prayer. Occasionally, both classes are combined to watch a video that pertains to lessons that the children have studied.



Because we believe it is important for our children to know the stories of the Bible, both classes have been studying the Book of Genesis (Genesis means *beginning*). God is the main character in this book. We have enjoyed reading about His creation of all things, His relationship with specific people and His activity in particular issues and events in their lives. This book also about the beginning of a nation through whom the Savior of the world would come.

Parents, thank you for the privilege of teaching your children. They are delightful.

It has been a good year and we all, students and teachers alike, have learned so much. God is a wonderful teacher. His story is amazing to read and study.

Your teachers, *Dianne Havird, Margaret Williams, Nancy Hartley*



Children and Youth Programs at Holy Trinity

Sunday Mornings

9:45	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00
Holy Eucharist				S o c i a l	Adult Forum
Children 9 years old and above are with parents at Holy Eucharist					Children's Sunday School 4-10 year olds
4-8 year olds with parents	Children's Church 4-8 year olds	4-8 year olds with parents for Comm.	Trinity Teens 10- 22 year olds		
Nursery 0-3 year olds Nursery Worker: Christi Sumerau					

Trinity Teens Beach Retreat 2017



Parish Activities and Ministries

June 4 Prayer Rally, Downtown North Augusta

These are different times we live in- we know it as the post-modern and post-Christian age. It is, however, coming to be more than that. It is becoming anti-Christian. This prayer rally in downtown North Augusta was to publically and very specifically pray into that.



In terms of our Judeo-Christian foundation as a nation, we have lost our footing. We no longer, at least publically, acknowledge God's grace as the underpinning of this great nation. We have jettisoned values that have allowed this nation to prosper and to stand out among the nations of the world. We have forsaken our Christian birthright. This prayer rally was to specifically pray into this.

Eph. 6:12 tells us, "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, authorities and powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." All that is good and right about our nation is therefore being laid defenseless before Satan. We, as a nation, have made ourselves as vulnerable to Satan's wiles as all other nations on this planet. American exceptionalism, clearly a gift from God, is being devoured, and we now are playing this game of society-building on Satan's home court rather than in the courts of the Lord. At this rally, we specifically and intentionally prayed into this.



It was good to join with other churches in our community to pray for our local, state and national leaders. To God be the Glory!

Father Rob

Blessing of the Backpacks

At the beginning of school this year, all students from pre-K to college were invited to bring their school backpacks and place them at the altar. The young people, along with their backpacks received a blessing and prayers for the school year ahead. Our thanks go out to Margaret Williams for organizing this.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Fundraiser for Community Ministries of North Augusta

This was a fun way to usher in Lent and raise funds for Community Ministries of North Augusta (CMONA). Our thanks to Jerry for heading it up, for the men who did the cooking, and the teens who waited tables.



The celebration of Shrove Tuesday (the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday) is a centuries- old tradition. The name **Shrove** has its roots in an old English word meaning “**to confess.**” Shrove Tuesday has been a time to confess sins and to prepare for the penitential season of Lent. It also has been a traditional time to use up food items such as fats, eggs and milk that would be given up as part of a Lenten fast. The tradition of eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday came about as a way to use up these items. In the French culture, the consumption of all fats on this day became known as “Fat Tuesday” or *Mardis Gras*.

Home Visitations and Home Communions



A joyful and blessed time carrying Communion to Dee Duckett. (Fr. Rob, Myrle, Bobby, Virginia)

Funeral & Crisis Response Ministry ~ Annette Morris

As everyone knows I was sick part of this year. Therefore Phyllis Kirkland helped with this job. Thanks to her and all the women of the church for all their hard work. Hopefully next year will be better for me and I will be able to resume my duty. God Willing!



Kitchen Angels

Our thanks go to all those who work and provide for the Wednesday fellowship supper and coordinate the kitchen at other parish gatherings.



Parish Prayer Chain ~ Myrle Wilson

Praying for one another and for others in need is one of the most significant callings of our church family. We have a prayer chain for which a call with a prayer request to the first person on the chain (Myrle Wilson) will result in that request being successively passed to others in the parish. Let Father Rob know if you would like to be a part of this vital ministry.

The Prayer Chain is...JoEllen Barbare
Jennifer Dorn
Ginger Hackett
Annette Morris
Paula Wahl

Brenda Bargeloh
Jackie Fekula
Nancy Hartley
Mary Patterson
Myrle Wilson (803) 279-3362

Carolyn Carter
Virginia Folk
Sue James
Sandra Sanders



Myrle

Sunday Prayer Teams

Each Sunday prayer intercessors are available to pray with those at Communion who have a need for personal prayer request. They are stationed at the back of the church during the administration of Communion.

Our intercessors are...	Nancy Hartley	Ginger Hackett	Rosemarie Martin
	Wayne Lowe	Monique Taylor	Margaret Williams



The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross **Talitha Koum Chapter President ~ Paula Wahl**

The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross is composed of women who have committed our lives to the work and service of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray daily for our church, its clergy, the Order and others in need. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we reach out to those who do not know Jesus and share His message of salvation through word and deed. We equip ourselves with the powerful sword of truth as contained in the Holy Bible. We wear our cross as a symbol of Jesus' sacrifice and our need for Him to be in our daily lives, and we become encouraged and strengthened in community with our sisters.



The Order provides a community in which members can fulfill a lifetime vow to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The Order's four-fold vow consists of Prayer, Service, Study and Evangelism. We expect and assist each member to earnestly develop and practice each of these areas.

We invite the Holy Spirit to guide us and welcome you to be guided by that same Spirit as you determine if you are called to be part of the Order.

News from the Daughters of the Holy Cross for 2017

This year our chapter grew by seven new members! We welcomed Jackie Fekula, Deborah Kurilla, Donna Larissey, Bonnie Newman, Susan Penberthy, Jami Warning, and Margaret Williams into the Talitha Koum Chapter. These women made lovely welcome baskets and delivered them to the growing community behind our church. We also mourned the loss of our dear friend Bobbie Roddy who went on to be with The Lord.

We mentored six women from Church of the Holy Cross in Sumter, South Carolina. Several of our members were able to attend the institution into the Chapter of St. Martha and St. Mary in October.

In December, we sponsored the Stations of the Nativity and covered dish luncheon. The Daughters supported local missions and families, The, In Christ Alone Fund, and Johann and Louise Van der Bijl in Africa.

We look forward to a retreat in March 2018.

Paula Wahl, Chapter President

~~Talitha Koum Chapter~~

Brenda Bargeloh	JoEllen Barbare	Carolyn Carter	Jennifer Dorn	Virginia Folk
Ginger Hackett	Nancy Hartley	Barbara Howle	Patience Iwuji	Sue James
Donna LeCount	Annette Morris	Terry Nault	Marguerite Prescott	Carol Reddic
Monique Taylor	Paula Wahl	Myrle Wilson		



Acolyte Guild ~ Mike Sanders

Jackie Fekula Oke Iwuji Sandra Sanders
Avery Shapiro Jada Tullis

Altar Guild ~ Annette Morris

Most gracious Father Who has called me to serve in the preparation of Your Altar, so that it may be a suitable place for the offering of Your Body and Blood; Sanctify my life and consecrate my hands so that I may worthily handle those Sacred Gifts which are being offered to You. Amen.

The Altar Guild ran smoothly thanks to all the hard work on everyone's part. It made my job very easy. Thanks to all of you!
Annette

Current members of Altar Guild are

Annette Morris Rosemarie Martin Virginia Folk Ginger Hackett Terry Nault
Donna Lariscey JoEllen Barbare Marguerite Prescott Monique Taylor

Ushers and Greeters Guild ~ Bob James

This year has been a busy year for all the ushers. We have all, cheerfully, taken over the duties of those ushers who, for one reason or another, were unable to usher on their appointed Sundays. It is still very important to assist anyone needing help, especially those with physical handicaps and to intervene if any problems arise.

This is the current list of ushers / greeters:

Joseph Anson Bill Bargeloh Judy Chemin Deborah Kurilla
Donna Lariscey Wayne Lowe Richard Mayson Jason Nault
Mike Sanders Monte Steedley Margaret Williams



Please be sure to read your ushers instruction sheets, as it is important to follow the instructions listed. If a copy is needed see Father Rob or myself. If you are interested in serving as an usher, see myself or Father Rob.

Bob James

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Lay Eucharistic Ministers assist the priests in the Eucharist by reading, leading the Prayers of the People and administering a chalice at Communion. Presently our Eucharistic ministers are:

Mike Sanders Paula Wahl Sandra Sanders Jerry Nault Rosemarie Martin



Lectors

Lectors read the lessons at worship... they are...currently:

JoEllen Barbare
Ginger Hackett
Annette Morris
Jami Warning

Brenda Bargeloh
Billy Hane
Caleb Mortimer
Margaret Williams

Judy Chemin
Sue James
Jason Nault
Avery Shapiro

Tom Dorn
Wayne Lowe
Mike Sanders

Jackie Fekula
Richard Mayson
Sandra Sanders



Holy Trinity Music Ministry

We strive to be leaders in worship and praise through music, all to the glory of God. In addition to the keyboard, we utilize guitars, tambourines, a double bass, and various drums – and are open to other instruments as well. Call Pastor Rob or Twyla if you have voice or instrument to offer. All are welcome to come and “make a joyful noise” with us! We practice on Tuesdays from 6-7:15 PM and on Sunday mornings at 9 AM for Sunday worship service. Practice is held at 5 PM on Wednesdays to prepare for praise and worship on that evening after supper. During the Advent season, we sponsor a church-wide “Caroling and Cookies” afternoon when we visit our homebound members and residents at a nearby assisted living home.

Twyla Taten

Stations of the Cross / Stations of the Nativity



Community Easter Egg Hunt

Holy Saturday, April 15, 2017



St. Francis Day- Blessing of the Animals

We blessed 20 dogs and one out-numbered, wide-eyed, and somewhat nervous squirrel.

We all had a wonderful time... even the squirrel.

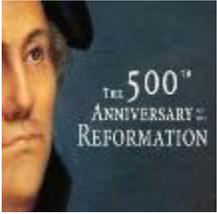


Christmas Caroling



On Sunday, December 10 the choir sponsored a Christmas caroling in our neighborhoods and particularly to some of our home-bound folk. We also went to Hammond Place Assisted Living on Walnut Lane.

Celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation



All Saints Eve this past year (October 31) marked the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation when Martin Luther purportedly nailed his 95 Theses to the door of All Saints Church, Wittenberg. This occasion gave us a great opportunity to connect with our Reformation heritage and revisit for ourselves these great truths that lay at the heart of the Reformation. In October and early November, we celebrated the event as follows:

Sunday preaching series on the “Five Solas:” The **Five Solas** are **five** Latin phrases that emerged from the Protestant **Reformation** intended to summarize the Reformers' biblical principles.

Oct 1	<i>Sola Scriptura</i>	Scripture Alone
Oct 8	<i>Solus Christus</i>	Christ Alone
Oct 15	<i>Sola Fide</i>	Faith Alone
Oct 22	<i>Sola Gratia</i>	Grace Alone
Oct 29	<i>Soli Deo Gloria</i>	To the Glory of God Alone



Friday evening, Oct 20, the movie “Luther:” The movie was introduced with background teachings on the life, witness and work of Martin Luther by Father Dan.

Friday evening, Saturday morning, All Saints Sunday, Nov 3, 4 and 5- “A Reformation Celebration:” With a covered-dish fellowship supper Friday evening and a continental breakfast Saturday morning, we celebrated our Reformation Heritage by discussing the life, works, witness and theology of the Continental and British Reformers, looking at how that set the stage for us today and for worldwide Protestantism.



Our Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols was glorious and beautiful

Our Festival of Lessons and Carols followed the pattern of Scripture readings and carol singing that was first used at King’s College, Cambridge. The scriptures and carols were a recitation of God’s redeeming acts in history, which finds its apex with God coming among us- Emmanuel, the Incarnation of God in Jesus.

We began our lessons with the Genesis account of Creation and The Fall. Then, through a series of Old Testament readings, we plumbed the depths of our need for God to rescue us from our enslavement to sin. The New Testament readings that followed described God literally stepping into history, “The Great Rescue,” the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. The singing of hymns, praise songs, and Christmas carols throughout the liturgy punctuated the telling of this *Old, Old Story*. We thank the choir for their hard work and beautiful music.



Children's Christmas Pageant

It is always a joy when we can do a Christmas Pageant with our children in all the nativity roles. One of the great things about a pageant, other than being great fun, is that it offers for many of our children their very first opportunity to present the Gospel to others. We used actual scripture verses and wonderful nativity images and scenes, music, a children's sermon, and Holy Communion. All the children were eager and well mannered and did a wonderful job with their roles. The church youth also helped with music, scripture readings and general "child herding"!

Dianne



Children's Christmas Pageant 2017

