

The Message

The Newsletter of

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral - Little Rock, Arkansas

A House of Prayer for All People

Advent 2021

A Way to Prepare

by The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux, Dean and Rector

I have always had a strong affection for the “purple” seasons of the Church year (Advent and Lent); although now, we use blue for Advent. My joy comes from the intention of the seasons to prepare. During Lent, we prepare for the mystery of the resurrection, renewed life in our midst. Advent invites us to prepare for the mystery of the incarnation: Christ’s presence among us. I wonder how these seasons enhance our discipleship and ministry.

Last year, during Advent we worshipped outside on Spring Street, and Lessons and Carols was virtual. This year I’m overjoyed to be able to gather with you all in the Cathedral and return to in-person Advent occasions. I’m especially excited to share an evening with our children while we make Advent crafts and learn about our Advent traditions. I cannot wait to join together to share Advent Hymns and Christmas carols. Each of these moments reveal to me the presence of Christ in our community.

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Capture. Recognize. Anticipate.

by The Rev. Canon Dr. Lisa Corry, Sub-Dean

“The season of Advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before. It is not possible to keep it from coming, because it will. That’s just how Advent works. What is possible is to not see it, to miss it, to turn just as it brushes by you. And you begin to grasp what it was you missed, like Moses in the cleft of the rock, watching God’s hindquarters fade in the distance. So, stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder. There will be time enough for running. For rushing. For worrying. For pushing. For now, stay. Wait. Something is on the horizon.”

-- Jan Richardson

The word Advent means ‘coming.’ As Jan Richardson said, something – or Someone – is on the horizon. Let us not miss it.

Our journey through Advent is active. Our readings offer us opportunities to capture the mighty acts God has done in the past, while our reflection allows us to recognize what God is doing among us in the present. Our stirred hope fosters anticipation in us for God’s continuing activity in our lives and world in the future.

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Prepare

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Every hymn, every candle lighting, is offered as a way to Christ's birth. We all celebrate Christmas in various ways: some of us will exchange presents in intimate gatherings, while others will celebrate with family and friends. Some of us will brave the roads and airports to travel to loved ones, while others will stay home, enjoying family traditions. However we celebrate Christmas, Advent is a time to prepare, to make our hearts ready for the Christ child. How will you make yourself ready to receive God's radical, vulnerable gift of immeasurable love this Christmas?

On another topic, I've had a few conversations with people who left the Cathedral many years ago. Some left when the school closed; others left for

other personal reasons. I've also heard from our parishioners that they've been thrilled to welcome some people back to the Cathedral. The Cathedral is a house of prayer for all people; everyone is welcome. If you're considering a return to the Cathedral, let me know how I can support you and, most of all, know that I would love to see you!

May you draw close to Christ's joy and peace this Advent and Christmas season.

Peace be with you,
Dean Meaux

Scarves of Celebration and Memory

Lenora Steinkamp, who was known in part for her sense of style which always included a scarf, generously indicated her wish for friends to have one of her beautiful scarves.

This picture is of many parishioners and friends wearing Lenora's gift while attending her funeral.



Capture. Recognize. Anticipate.

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Advent is a process, somewhat like Lent, but shorter and less about the problem (sin) and more about the promised solution – Immanuel, God with us. Our readings the first two weeks involve the concept of vigilant waiting. The need for a Savior, mixed with our own anticipation, fosters personal preparation. It is here the close relationship with Lent may be felt. Our preparation may lead us to repentance, and change.

The third week of Advent introduces the theme of Joy. This joy is big and wide: salvation, redemption, the renewal of creation, the restoration of all things to God, and, ultimately, the destruction of evil.

Our fourth week will focus us quickly on the events of Jesus' birth and our opportunity to be wowed and surprised by the plan of God: a baby. God with us.

A word picture of this journey comes through the Gospel of Matthew's account of the wise men's journey:

"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

*'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
Are by no means least among the
leaders of Judah;*

*For out of you shall come forth a ruler
Who will shepherd my people Israel."*

Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him." After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. After coming into the house

they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

They journey through darkness. It demands courage, commitment, watching, moving in a direction. They see light as they get closer – the star. They come to the place where Jesus is, and they experience joy unspeakable. Their response: fall to the ground and worship, and make an offering of their treasures.

May we journey with the wise men this Advent. Take risk, be committed to the journey while it is dark, and perhaps know a joy unspeakable, and a worship borne of encountering God marked by offering what we treasure to our King.

There is something on the horizon.

Lisa+

Central Arkansas Pride Group



The Central Arkansas Pride group will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 5 from 12-1 p.m. at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, Little Rock, in the Parish Hall. We will pray, share our stories, and consider together the challenges of the holidays. We hope this group is a source of strength and comfort for you. Please feel free to invite others in the LGBTQ+ community who may be interested in coming. Allies will be invited at a later date.

The Message

A newsletter about life at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. Send correspondence & address corrections to:

The Message, 310 W17th Street, Little Rock, AR 72206

Tel. 501-372-0294 Fax: 501-372-0416 email info@trinitylittlerock.org www.trinitylittlerock.org

Exploring Mary's Choice

by Lisa Thorpe

As we enter this Advent season and anticipate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve, let us pause to ponder Mary. Mary pregnant, full of life and possibility, full of faith and resolve. Nine months before the birth of Jesus, Luke gives us the Annunciation story in which Mary is visited by the Angel Gabriel.

The angel said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High" ... "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" the angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God." There is a pause and Mary answers, "May your word to me be fulfilled."

In much of the classical art of the Annunciation, Mary is depicted as leaning away from the angel in fear or looking down, passive. But these depictions deny Mary's agency and choice. She is actively engaged with the angel, pausing to ponder and wonder, asking questions. When we listen to the Annunciation story, it is evident that inner contemplation is integral to Mary's

decision-making process; this young peasant girl discerns the voice of God in her life. She is commissioned to a momentous task. Exercising independent thought and action, she asks questions, takes counsel with her own soul. In a self-determining act of personal autonomy, she decides to go for it - YES is her answer to the angel. This is her choice, and it changes her life of course, but it also changes the world. This moment is when God partners with humanity. Mary's YES is the linchpin of Christianity. It is the promise of God made human in Jesus birthed from a woman. Mary is not passive, afraid perhaps, but not passive; she gives a courageous yes to God's call and mission for her.

May we follow Mary's audacious lead. Let us listen, ponder, question, discern and with resolve and courage take heart and say yes to the call and mission that God has for us. May we, with quiet listening hearts, go forward and lean into God with love and faith. We are all pregnant with possibility.

Please join me, Lisa Thorpe, December 11th at Trinity Cathedral from 10:30 am to 3 pm, for a day of Exploring Mary's Call. We will look at and discuss classical and modern art and text depicting the Annunciation and reflect on the how Mary is portrayed. The day will culminate in creating our own art. No art experience needed - no fears - all will find success!

Exploring Mary's Call: her call, her courage, and her choice.

Discover Mary through biblical texts, meditation and art

December 11, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.

Participants will reflect on various depictions of Mary throughout history, exploring the different lenses, meaning, and motivations behind these portrayals. The retreat culminates in the creation of a glass bowl collage with Mary at the center and the words from the Magnificat woven through.

This event is hosted by Trinity Episcopal Cathedral and led by artist, Lisa Thorpe. Lisa is an artist and educator who focuses on art and spirit. She has been making art and teaching at retreat centers, churches, and schools to groups of all ages for 20 years.

Register by December 9 at <https://bit.ly/Mary-sCall>



From the Choir Loft

by Dr. Colin MacKnight

I'm very excited that beginning the first week of Advent (the week of 11/29), the Trinity Children's Choir will resume! This ministry is a fantastic opportunity for children in grades 2-8 (and their parents) for many reasons, including:

Free musical education: learning to read music and sing with good technique and confidence

Religious education: learning about Christianity and Christian values

Building teamwork and listening skills

Making new friends

Singing alongside our adult singers

Free babysitting every week!

We Episcopalians are fortunate to have a beautiful and unique musical tradition, and to be good stewards of that tradition, we must share it with future generations. Rehearsals will be 90 minutes and will take place on Tuesday or Wednesday late afternoons/early evenings, depending on people's availability. As we first get started, the Children's Choir will only sing once a month or so, but as their skills develop, it is my hope that they will sing every other week. I'm relying on you, our parishioners, to help spread the word about this great opportunity. It is not necessary for participants or their families to be Episcopalian. If you, your child, and/or a child you know are interested in this opportunity, please reach out to me at colin@trinitylittlerock.org.



A Renewed Heirloom Frontal

The frontal used for Thanksgiving, dating from the 1860s, is the first frontal made for Trinity. It has 12 panels that were seriously deteriorated. Most of the fabric in these panels had lost much of its integrity due to wear and age. After careful consideration, One of Trinity's generous seamstresses decided this would be a great project to keep her busy during the COVID lockdown.

After trying several different embroidery stitches and experimenting with a different thread counts, it took fifty skeins of embroidery thread. The thread in each skein was separated into 3, 2-strand pieces. This covidtide-inspired project took 8 months to complete.



These two panels show their wear.



The red stitches on this panel are close to completion.

Youth News

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Convocation & Diocese Programming

Snow Ball

Convocation Youth Event

Sunday, December 19, 2021 4-6 p.m. @ Christ Church
 Contact Marvin McLennon, Director of Children & Youth Ministries, Christ Church:
mmclennon@christchurchlr.org

St. Francis Christmas Baskets

Convocation Youth Event

December 21, 2021. Time: T.B.A. Morrison Hall
 More info to come!

Happening 2022

Jan 14-16, 2022 @ St. Mark's Little Rock. Friday 7 pm - Sunday 2 pm.

9th graders are allowed this year (because of 2 year gap caused by COVID)

Vaccinations and masks required inside

Cost: \$75 per youth (food, cross, shirt)

<http://eycarkansas.org/events/happening/>

Interested? Contact Lisa Corry: lisa@trinitylittlerock.org

Spring Break in Washington D.C.
 with St. Mark's Youth

March 21-26, 2022

Cost: \$1300 (dependent on flight costs)

Interested? Contact Ashley Haggard, St. Mark's Youth and Young Adult Minister:

ahaggard@st-marks.com

AYE (Arkansas Youth Event) Spring 2022

April 1-3, 2022 @ Camp Mitchell – More info to come!

Santa Fe Pilgrimage and Camping Trip

July 17-23, 2022

Cost: \$500

3 days of service/mission in Santa Fe Day Shelter + 3 nights of camping at Ghost Ranch

Interested? Contact Randall Curtis, Ministry Developer Young Adults & Youth: rcurtis@episcopalarkansas.org



CAMP MITCHELL SUMMER CAMP 2022 SCHEDULE

Date

Camp

Sun. June 5 - Fri. June 10

Senior High
 (completed 9th-12th)

Sun. June 12 - Fri. June 17

Middler
 (completed 4th-5th)

Sun. June 19 - Fri. June 24

Primary
 (completed 1st-3rd)

Sun. June 26 - Thur. June 30

Robert R. Brown I

Sun. July 10 - Fri. July 15

Dick Johnston Children's Camp

Sun. July 17 - Fri. Jun 22

Junior High
 (completed 6th-8th)

Sun. July 24 - Thur. July 28

Robert R. Brown II

Registration information to come in the new year.
 Please check back at www.campmitchell.org/summercamp.

YOUTH ACTIVITY IN PICTURES



Central Convocation youth trip to the State Fair



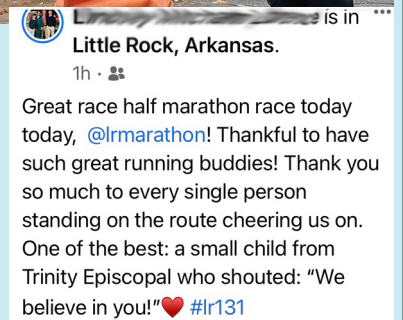
A new batch of acolytes ready for action



Trinity youth share an afternoon of soccer and other games with new Afghani friends.



On the corner of 16th and Center cheering on marathon runners. This Facebook post came later that day.



SUNDAY MORNING FORMATION

Upcoming Schedule :

- Nov. 28th: No meeting – Alternative Gift Market
- Dec. 5th: Meet in Mitchell House – Advent & Legos
- Dec. 12th: Dark to Light in Advent
- Dec. 19th: Love and Hope in Advent
- Dec. 26th: No meeting – Christmas Break!
- Jan. 2nd: No meeting – Christmas Break!
- Jan. 9th: Spring Semester Start Up!

Learning the Ropes From a Veteran

by Devon Baxter, new Flower Guild member

I woke this morning well rested and refreshed, reminiscing on the events of the previous day. I came home intoxicated, like a drunken bumblebee after my first service to the flower guild, at the Cathedral with Sandra Cook.

We were faced with the task of rejuvenating some arrangements for a special service. Jumping right in, she and I immediately and seamlessly combined old flowers with new flowers for what was to be one of her best friend's funerals.

I told her a little bit about my creative background, but that I had no formal experience with flowers. It was not until the total task was complete that she realized that it was my first time. And what a special time indeed.

"I hope you learned something," she said. So...I felt inspired this morning to share what all I did learn and how it moved me.



Basics

It is important to first secure the vessels and Oasis to take the weight of the flowers. Stability and balance are critical. Rocks are your friend and can be placed from behind to add a nice counter balance for heavy flowers.

When placing flowers it is good to consider height, depth, levels, angles, direction, symmetry and leading visual lines. Always consider your audience! Like the great masters, it is best to step away when painting to get the bigger picture. Accentuate the Cross, but don't overpower it.

Conditioning the flowers is critical. Snipping the ends at an angle makes them sharper to pierce the Oasis, as well as ensure water absorption. Conditioning also involves removing wilting and/or competing leaves. We want the flower to drink without competing with unnecessary leaves for sustained hydration.

Hydration strategy starts with the Oasis, which should be presoaked and added to water from the top for best absorption. Finishing spray is the final touch. Directly spraying a bloom at its center encourages it to open.

When we work in pairs we cut lengths together and place them at the same time to create symmetry. And what a lovely symphony of tandem floral painting it is indeed.

Flowers

Sandra taught me how to breathe into a Lily bloom to encourage it to open. Whisper, "open please." I learned that Free Spirit roses are super resilient apart from being incredibly beautiful. They can be finger opened and gently molded into submission. Common Ragweed, or Goldenrod, is also known as "Solidago when it's bought for \$10 a bunch." It's long lanky stems bring delicate clusters of beautiful yellow into play.

Bells of Ireland will move and have a mind of their own. They add an eclectic and whimsical look. Statice,

though lovely up close, appear as "holes" from afar because of their dark beautiful color. They retain their rich color long after life and are a symbol of remembrance.

Snapdragon adds height and diversity. Stock is perfect for adding pop. Delphinium has multiple delicate blooms and is great for adding height because of their long stems.

One can turn Leather Fern into a more attractive cluster by snipping a leaf just above its last stem joints and criss-crossing it with another done the same before adding it to an additional top piece. Not Sandra's favorite, but serves its purpose for filler.

At Trinity, we use Rosemary for remembrance; "just a couple of sprigs will do."

Order

Keep things tight. Turn out the light, and mind the drain. We don't want a nasty clog.

Work with a warm heart and delicate hands.

Just living is not enough...One must have Christ, sunshine and flowers!

Flowers harness the comforting beauty of the Son in any circumstance.

In just a handful of weeks my time with Trinity has blessed me immeasurably. Our daughter is praying differently and memorizing scripture. She is ready to prepare for baptism. My husband is walking closer to Christ and I am seeing more than ever before what it means to love like Christ in a Church environment. I am also abundantly blessed with you all...the ladies who guild! I am glad to be of service.

Pick-Up Pageant

An imported Christmas tradition



Dean Meaux celebrates a pick up pageant at Trinity Church in Danville, Kentucky

For decades, Trinity Cathedral has offered a magnificent, scripted pageant directed by dedicated lay ministers for months in advance. As with many things, the pandemic has caused us to rethink certain traditions. Meanwhile, our Dean and Rector brings a decade of experience with a “pick-up” pageant.

A pick-up pageant invites children to participate on Christmas Eve without rehearsal. The Gospel of Luke is broken into parts with specific characters entering at appropriate moments in the story (animals, Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds). This year, we will incorporate this practice into

our 4:00pm Christmas Eve Eucharist. When families arrive at the Cathedral, costumes will be available for their children. Children (and adults) may also wear costumes from home that represents a character from the nativity story.

Children will gather in the vestibule of the Cathedral for the opening sentences and prayers. Then, as the Gospel is read, adults will shepherd children down the center aisle to the chancel steps where Dean Meaux will be waiting for them. At the end of the Gospel reading, we will have our own version of the manger scene. Dean Meaux will lead the children singing Silent Night. Following the pick-up pageant, we will join together for Holy Eucharist. If you have questions or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Dawn Howe at dhowe@trinitylittlerock.org.

Invest in Trinity with a Smart Securities Donation

The 1884 Legacy Society wants you to know that eligible IRA owners who are required to take a minimum distribution from their IRA can make a qualified charitable distribution without having to pay taxes on the distribution! These distributions must be made payable directly to the qualified charity.

Another giving tool you should know is that giving appreciated equities is a great way to make a gift to Trinity Cathedral during your lifetime. By transferring stock directly to Trinity, you can receive a charitable tax deduction for the appreciated value in the current year without having to realize and pay tax on the gain or the cost incurred in converting to cash. For those facing a potential estate tax issue, it can remove the asset and the future growth of that asset from a taxable estate.

This is a great strategy to fulfill an annual or legacy gift to Trinity Cathedral and save on taxes. For more information, contact your financial advisor or Jeanie Toombs, Financial Administrator of Trinity Cathedral.

Thank you for your consideration!

*Trinity Episcopal
Cathedral*



*1884
Legacy Society*

Matthew 25 Outreach Committee

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me . . . Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:35-36, 40).

Warm & Fuzzy Weeks

With cool weather and the holidays upon us, the Matthew 25 Outreach Committee is asking for your gifts for our Warm & Fuzzy Weeks warm clothing drive for children.

Your Warm & Fuzzy gifts may be brought to the Cathedral, now through December 10. Boxes will be in three locations: Morrison Hall, the main Cathedral entrance, & the North Cathedral entrance (at the ramp).

We are looking for warm outerwear for children, of all sizes, including infants. Most of the children are 13 and under, but we do have several teenagers! Bring new or very gently used coats, jackets, and sweaters for both boys and girls. It would also be great to have new gloves, scarves, and hats

The warm clothing will be distributed to the children of Dorcas House and El Zócalo Immigrant Resource Center to help make their Christmas special and keep them “warm & fuzzy!” Join us, please, with your gifts.



Last year, we loaded up over 120 coats and hats for the children of Dorcas House & El Zocalo Immigrant Ministries



New Landscaping for St. Francis House

Recently, St. Francis House was blessed with new landscaping that dramatically improved the outside of the building. The Matthew 25 Outreach Committee provided \$5,000 to make this project possible.

Before



After



To get more information about the ministry of the Matthew 25 Outreach Committee, or to get involved, contact Jerry Shurgar at wgs3@sbcglobal.net.

Trinity's Mission

The mission of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral is to proclaim the Word of God by sharing our gifts, ourselves, and our properties through ministry to each other, our neighbors, and our community as we serve God and represent the Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2021

Nov. 28 Advent I

Holy Eucharist 8 a.m. (spoken)

Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.*

Preacher: The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux

Alternative Market 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.*

Advent Lessons & Carols 4 pm

Advent Family Event 5 p.m.

Dec. 5 Advent II

Holy Eucharist 8 a.m. (spoken)

Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.*

Preacher: The Rev. Canon Dr. Lisa Corry

Choral Evensong 4 pm

Dec. 12 Advent III

Holy Eucharist 8 a.m. (spoken)

Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.*

Preacher: The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux

Choral Evensong 4 pm

Dec. 19 Advent IV

Holy Eucharist 8 a.m. (spoken)

Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.*

Preacher: The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux

Christmas Lessons & Carols 4 pm

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

Offices Closed

Christmas Pageant with Holy Eucharist 4 p.m.*

Pick-up Pageant (more information inside)

Preacher: The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux

Musical Prelude 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Holy Eucharist 7:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

Preacher: The Rt. Rev. Larry Benfield

Dec. 25 Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.

Preacher: The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux

Dec. 26 First Sunday after Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.* (spoken)

Preacher: The Rev. Canon Dr. Lisa Corry

Dec. 27 Monday after Christmas

Offices Closed

Dec. 31 New Years Eve

Offices Closed

Jan 2. Second Sunday after Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m (spoken).*

Preacher: The Rev. Canon Dr. Lisa Corry

