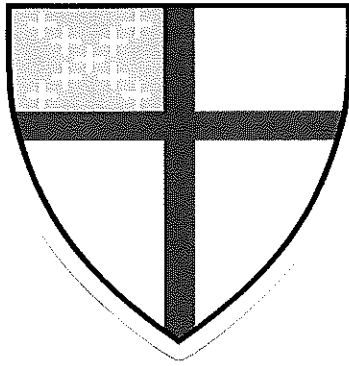
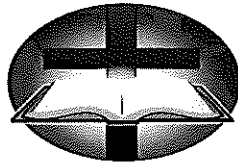


Trinity Tidings

The Episcopal Church



November, 2015



✧ Monthly Newsletter for Trinity "Old Swedes" Episcopal Church ✧

GIVE ME THAT "OLD TIME" RELIGION?



Why don't people go to church like they used to? Until the 1960's, American church membership rose with the population. At that point, however, the reverse trend began to occur and continues.

Why did so many Baby Boomers drop out of church? We've heard it blamed on social unrest, increasing affluence, and other theories which attribute it to the churches themselves.

The first of these claims the exodus was a protest against the churches' supposed indifference to the struggles of minorities, the poor, and other groups. Churches did not become "relevant" and, so, lost the youth. Another theory makes the opposite argument, that the churches lost the youth as leaders gave support to "secular" (read "left-wing") causes.

A serious study, though, finds virtually no support for either of these theories. Most Boomer drop-outs, it seems, had no interest in denominational politics or social policies.

Indeed, a lot say they pray; they respect Jesus; they're interested in the meaning of life in this world and the next; many are even social conservatives; but, they consider religion a purely personal matter.

And, the vast majority do not accept that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Ninety-five percent of drop-outs who call themselves "Christian" do not believe Jesus is the Source of Truth. They "prefer" Christianity to other faiths, but, that's as far as it goes. And, among Boomers who do go to church, two-thirds share this non-belief in Jesus. Wow!

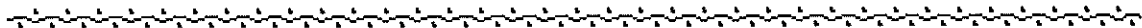
The most revealing part of the study, though, isn't about the Boomers. It seems that a significant portion of their parents did not pass on a deep personal commitment. **Many Boomers say they grew up never knowing what their parents believed or why they went to church** other than for social activities for which they feel no need and have no time today. Spirituality was absent in their homes. "Church" was just another thing to do; not a faith.

Without parental support, the churches lost the ability to teach the Christian faith to Boomer youth in such a way as to inspire their allegiance.

This study pessimistically concludes that nothing will bring the Boomers back, but, looking to the un-churched generations raised since (Gen-X, Y, Z), it suggests that church leaders and members today have an opportunity if they can provide compelling answers to the basic question, "What's so special about Christianity?"

Any ideas?

Fr. Frank



ADULT BIBLE STUDY will be held at St. Stephen's on Mondays in the parish hall running through Nov. 23rd. There will be 2 class times offered at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm. The theme is again from the Kerygma series and entitled, Hallelujah: The Bible and Handel's Messiah. This course is a study for both the music lover and the biblical seeker, it explores the scriptural texts of Handel's Messiah. This study offers careful examination of the text and opens doors to your community in a new way. Please email or call the Church Office to reserve your spot, so that we can order the correct amount of materials.

SERVICE OF HEALING AND EUCHARIST

Fr, Frank will again offer a service of Healing and Eucharist on November 11th and 28th, December 9th and 23rd at 10:00 am at Trinity. The service will be the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month.

All Saints Day, All Souls' Day 2015 - What's the difference?

Once the Halloween candy has been counted and the costumes stored away, many religious people around the world enter into a time of remembrance for the dead. In the Christian calendar, this tradition is upheld on All Souls' Day, which falls yearly on Nov. 2. It follows All Saints' Day, which is observed on Nov. 1.

NOVEMBER 1

All Saints

All Souls

NOVEMBER 2

While All Saints' Day is a day that **Catholics** remember those who have already entered heaven, All Souls' Day is a day to pray for all loved ones who have died. In particular, **Catholics** remember the souls of those who are caught in **purgatory**, undergoing a process of purification before entering heaven.

The **Catholic** Church teaches that "all who die in God's grace, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven."

The purification that happens in purgatory is entirely different from the punishment that takes place in hell. According to the church's catechism -- a document containing essential church teachings -- purgatory is like a "cleansing" or "purifying" fire for people who are already assured of God's grace. **Catholics** believe that souls in purgatory can be helped along the path towards heaven by the prayers of those who are still living.

Although All Souls' Day is primarily a **Catholic** holy day, it is also observed by the Eastern Orthodox Church, the Anglican church and a few other Protestant denominations.

In Latin American countries and communities, All Souls' Day celebrations are often tied to Día

de Muertos (also Día de los Muertos), or "the Day of the Dead," which falls on Nov. 1 and 2. *Celebrations are elaborate and joyful*, with observers participating in costume parades and visits to cemeteries. Some families create altars inside their homes to remember their departed relatives.

All Souls' falls during a time of year when **many religions** are thinking about death. It is a period when ancient agricultural societies were preparing for the change of the seasons from summer to winter. Pagans believe this is a time when there's a thinning of the veil between the land of the living and the dead. Witches, Wiccans and other pagans observe Samhain during this time to celebrate the autumn harvest and the coming of winter. All Souls' also falls during the Islamic holy month of Muharram, when Shia Muslims prayerfully mourn the death of Hussain ibn Ali, the Prophet Muhammad's grandson.

EPISCOPALIANS--

In our Baptismal Covenant we, along with traditional Christians around the globe, profess in the ancient Baptismal Creed the words: "I believe in... the communion of saints, ... the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting." (Book of Common Prayer, page 304)

In our annual observance of All Saints' Day, and the Commemoration of All Faithful Departed on the following day, we make those words a tangible reality in the here and now by recognizing and celebrating our relationship, not only with those around us today, but also with all those who have gone before us in all times and places.

One of the important functions of religion is building and maintaining "Holy Community," which is a concept that is severely threatened in our modern world. This has been done in the *Judeo-Christian* tradition by "remembering," not nostalgic "looking back," but by "making present" the greatness of God's goodness and love in our lives today. This is done by means of story and ritual, as our Jewish friends do principally at Passover and we Christians do at Easter and, indeed, every Sunday in our celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

These celebrations are also tied to the natural cycle of the year as we experience them in the Northern Hemisphere. Just as Passover and Easter reflect the phenomenon of rebirth in spring, autumn naturally turns our thoughts to death and eternity. As the days shorten and the growing darkness overcomes us, our common ancestors marked this season with various rituals centered around fire, food gathered at the harvest, and being conscious of those who had gone before us. So this season of year is a natural time for the Church to remember her, and our, loved ones who made us who we are today.

All Saints' Day, or the following Sunday as is often the case in our busy schedule, is when the Church honors all Holy Ones, known and unknown. Our English word "saint" literally means "holy."

In the broad sense, all we who are baptized are included in this category, but from the beginning of the Christian tradition, certain of the faithful whose lives were exemplary have been held before us as our models and guides.

While we have information about many Saints, and we honor them on specific days, there are

many unknown or unsung Saints, who may have been forgotten. On All Saints' Day, we celebrate these Holy Ones of the Lord, and ask for their prayers for us.

Thus, All Saints' Day is tied in with the belief in the Communion of Saints, that all of God's people, in this earthly life and in the various states of the larger life, are connected in one communion. In other words, traditional Christians believe that the Saints of God are just as alive as you and I, and are constantly praying on our behalf.

The Saints are not divine, nor omnipresent or omniscient. However, because of our common communion with and through Jesus Christ, our prayers are joined with the heavenly community of Christians.

Christians have been praying for their departed brothers and sisters since the earliest days of Christianity. Ancient liturgies and inscriptions on walls of catacombs attest to the antiquity of prayers for the dead. In the early days, departed Christians' names were inscribed on diptychs, which were bi-fold waxen tablets, and brought to the Altar.

Praying for the dead is actually borrowed from Judaism, as recorded in 2 Maccabees 12:41-45 of the Apocrypha. Early Christian teachers of the Faith, such as Tertullian, St. Cyprian, and others, testify to the regular practice of praying for the souls of the departed.



Dinner group!!

Dinner group went to dinner on Wednesday, October 21st at 6:00 pm at The Green Tea in Swedesboro. The future time, day and restaurant are agreed upon during our dinner.

Because of vacations and the holidays in Nov and Dec the

Dining Group has decided to wait until January 2016 to go to dinner again. If you plan to join please let Edith or Barry Loigman know (856) 478-4724 or justfolkshere-edieloigman@yahoo.com.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH – DINNER
MINISTRY TO ST. PAUL'S, CAMDEN:**

DATES FOR 2015:

December 6

Please contact Joanna Becker-Lippincott (cell: 609-420-2705) with questions about carpooling or to make donations.

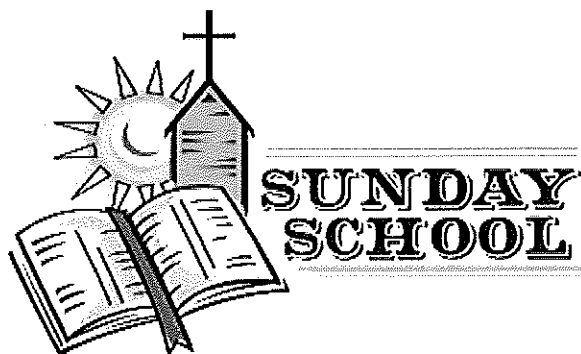
Remember that we take hotel toiletries, towels, sheets and other bedding, clothing, shoes, backpacks/suitcases, and take-out containers.



**FEED THE
HUNGRY**

Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.

Ryunosuke Satoro Japanese poet.



SundaySchoolNewsletter

The Sunday School held a Halloween Party at the Parish House the weekend of October 23/24, 2015. Everyone had fun at marshmallow roasting, pumpkin carving, and spooky music.

Sankta Lucia music practice begins before the start of Sunday School (8:45-8:55). **St. Lucia festival of lights will be on Sunday, December 13 at 6:00 pm.** Please practice the music/words with your kids at home. Also, invite friends to participate, we can get them the music and schedule practices outside of Sunday School. Contact Ann Blackman at mapleleaf_woman@yahoo.com or call 856-278-8122.

Sunday School will be hosting a **Stewardship Potluck and Movie Night on Sunday, November 22nd at 5:00 pm**. This will be a true potluck, so bring enough of a main course and side to feed your family. If you have a suggestion for a movie, contact Ann. Sunday School is trying to do at least one activity per month. See the "schedule" on our website: <http://www.trinityswedesboro.org/sunday-school/schedule/> or check our Trinity's Facebook page.



Do you like to sing? Are you looking for a more personal and rewarding involvement in the worship service?

We have begun preparing for the Community Christmas Concert on December 6 at 7:00 pm at Trinity. This year's theme is **Christmas in the Movies**. It should be a fun event to participate in or attend. Please consider joining us for this special event, all ages and abilities are welcome.

Come join our choir! *Be a Leader - lead us in singing.* Call our music director, Ted Kiefer, for more information. 856-371-1188.

OLDE KING'S JAZZFEST RE-INVENTED

It is now a Series to be held at one venue TRINITY 'OLD SWEDES' CHURCH. Held on the third Saturday of the month: Oct 17, Nov 21, Dec 19, Jan 16, Feb 20, and Apr 16.

All shows are FREE but require a ticket to enter, as space will be limited. Tickets may be printed from: <http://www.historicswedesboro.com/> or at Boro Hall. Donations received will go to the Church. You can also find bios of each act on this website.

November 21st Show – Bocco Socks – 7:30 pm –10 pm

LITURGICAL MINISTERS – We need YOU! Would like to volunteer as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, Reader, Greeter, Acolyte or Altar Guild member? Please speak to Fr. Frank about these opportunities to serve!



KINGS THINGS



Kings Things Furniture Store – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Kings Things furniture store is affiliated with Kings Things, a not for profit that feeds, clothes, and assists with sheltering our brothers and sisters. You may not be aware but our focus area of assistance is to residents of Swedesboro, Woolwich, and Logan. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR JUST A 3 HOUR SHIFT PER WEEK.** Would like to help but can't commit to a specific 3 hours? We are also in grave need of volunteers to do furniture pick up/delivery, move furniture around our store, or assist with very minimal furniture repair. Teenagers are more than welcome especially on Saturday, this is a great service project for young people.

If you would be interested in volunteering or obtain additional information please call 856-975-6557. **KINGS THINGS FOOD PANTRY**

The Kings Things Food Pantry is in need throughout the year of the items listed below. Please place your donation in the bin by the doors of the church. Thank you!

Spaghetti Sauce	Pasta (any type)	Mashed Potatoes	Tuna
Pancake Mix & Syrup	Cereal	Mac & Cheese	Peanut Butter & Jelly
Canned Tomatoes	Canned Fruit	Canned Vegetables	Stuffing Mix
Gravy			



About funerals: When a loved one is near death or dies you are encouraged to phone our priest right away, day or night. He will meet with you and your family privately for vigil prayers. And he will go with you to the funeral home to make arrangements if you wish. He will also meet with you to make arrangement for a funeral service. You can reach him through the church office at 856-467-1227.

About Illness and Hospital visits: Our priest will arrange to make hospital or home visits to say specific prayers for healing and to bring Holy Communion. In urgent situations he usually can meet you in a hospital emergency room. You can reach him through the church office at 856-467-1227.

BREAD, WINE & CANDLE AND ALTAR FLOWERS: There are available dates for the Bread, Wine And Candle Offerings and Altar Flowers. Reservation slips are on the bulletin board or you may call the church office at 467-1227.

PRAYER REQUEST FORMS are on the display case by the doors of the church. Please drop completed forms in the offering plate.

About weddings and baptisms: The very best way to arrange for a wedding or a baptism is to speak to our priest. Arrangements for baptisms are made in person with the priest by a parent or the person to be baptized if he or she is over the age of 16. In some cases a legal guardian



can make the arrangements. The Baptism may take place after a formal preparation meeting with the priest, which usually takes place the week before the Baptism with the parents, God-parents and person to be baptized. Weddings can be scheduled with the priest. Officiating at a wedding or a baptism is one of the most blessed experiences of being a member of the clergy.



The Episcopal Church welcomes you!

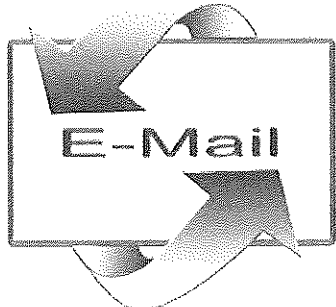
Sunday Worship Service Schedule
9:00 A.M.– HOLY EUCHARIST with Music. Sunday School - 8:45 A.M.

Please phone the church office to arrange to have Communion brought to the homebound or for hospital visits, 467-1227

- Fr. Frank St. Amour III, Priest in Charge
- Mr. Ted Kiefer, Music Director
- Mrs. Edie Rohrman, Parish Historian
- Ms. Joanna Becker-Lippincott, Parish Administrator (856-467-1227)

E-mail notifications:

If you are not receiving the Newsletter or other (infrequent!) church notifications by e-mail and would like to, please send your e-mail address to the church office to be included on the mailing list at: trinityoldswedes@comcast.net.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Take a look at our new Website: www.trinityswedesboro.org. The Vestry has been working to up-grade our website with new content, documents, and photos, and a Foundation page that will take donations and sell tickets for events like the BBQ fundraiser and Golf Tournament. Let them know what you think!!!

We are also working on creating a Facebook page for the Church that will be linked to the Website. Keep your eyes open for the page and like us on Facebook!



**Do you know someone looking for a space to hold a baby shower, birthday party, holiday party, etc. Have they considered renting
Trinity's Parish House?**

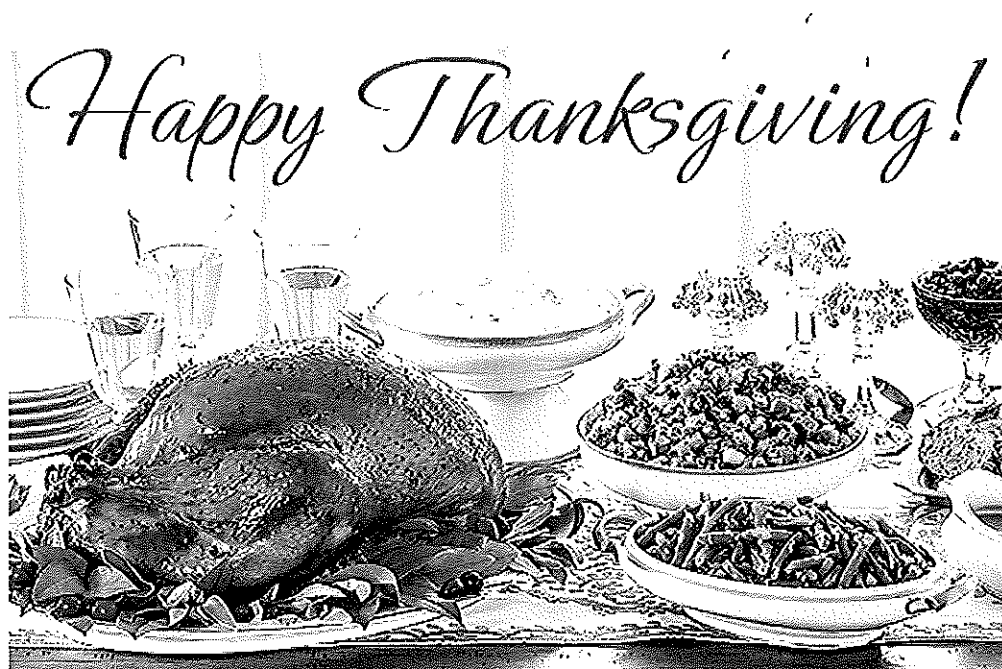
The Parish House holds 70-90 people and can be rented for a four (4) hour block of time for only \$150.00

For more information or to check availability, please contact the Office by calling 856-467-1227 or email: Trinityoldswedes@comcast.net

The **TRINITY TIDINGS** are published monthly. Articles are appreciated. I would appreciate receiving material by the 20th of each month. **Please, NO PDF'S, plain text – no formatting!** You can drop articles off at the Church office or e-mail at (justfolkshere-edieloigman@yahoo.com). If you have suggestions for items to be included please let me know.

Thank you – the editors

Edith and Barry Loigman



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(founded 1703)

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