From the Rector

"Behold, I am making all things new..." (Rev. 21:5)

As we move into Advent and the season of the Incarnation, the shouts of "joy," and "celebrate" seem to be a bit forced when taken in light of Paris, Syria, and now San Bernardino. But what is Christmas, if not the light and love of God breaking the darkness? During this Advent season, I will read the last gospel at the end of each mass, which is the prologue to John. In it the evangelist writes, "And the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not." The darkness will never comprehend, or overcome, the light. We are the light. This Advent and Christmas and throughout the new year, I invite us, in spite of the darkness, to focus on being that light.

Here in this corner of God's vineyard, we have been busy lately with the work of renewal. We are, after all, people of the Resurrection, and are called by God to a process of constant conversion and regeneration in his name. This work is often seen as inward and spiritual, but sometimes it is outward and visible.

In order to equip ourselves for many more years of ministry in a changing world, we have been studying and now acting on the congregation's commission to re-imagine how we use our campus and its resources to best serve our mission. This has meant a lot of hard work by a lot of people, and we are not out of the woods yet! One exciting development is the beginning of construction on our new office space adjacent to the Buchanan Building. When complete, it will be a clean, functional, and welcoming space for all who enter. I am very much looking forward to being closer to the church, which I feel will have many benefits. Please keep the redevelopment committee in your prayers.

In addition to that, our new and improved website will soon go live! I would like to thank Maria Mejia, Kyle Tucker, and Pete Datos for all their work on the project. The new site is beautiful and user-friendly, as well as being
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The Rev. Don Graff, Priest Associate
Mary Sampson, M.A., Organist/Choirmaster
Chris Claypoole, Secretary
Michael Pacilio, Sexton

Our Vestry

Lorraine Henry ’18, Rector’s Warden
Jason McConomy ’17, Accounting Warden
Raymond Grossmuller ’16
John McClarin ’17
Charles McGee ’17
Patti McGee ’18
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Website Resources

Calendar
History
Mission

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Grant, Lord God, to all who have been baptized into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, that, as we have put away the old life of sin, so we may be renewed in the spirit of our minds, and live in righteousness and holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and

Advent at Trinity

At Trinity, there are many ways to "prepare ye the way of the Lord," and we are taking full advantage of the season to prepare for Christmas. One of the great Advent anthems is "People Look East." During Advent, the priest will join the people in facing east for the Eucharist, which is the traditional orientation for prayer. And Rite I language will be used - brush up on your thee's and thou's, remember it's "and with thy spirit!" Also, during coffee hour on December 6 and 13, Father Richard will offer theological reflections on his travels in Spain during sabbatical last summer.

Anniversary

Congratulations to David and Millicent Graf who just celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary! They were married at Trinity Church Oxford by the Reverend Albert Holloway on November 19, 1955. David's brother Paul still serves as lead usher and greeter on Sunday mornings.

Baptism

On Sunday, November 8, we welcomed James McKee Gammon into the body of Christ through the waters of baptism. James' fifth great grandfather, William Overington, served on the Vestry of Trinity for over six decades and rests in our graveyard with many family members. James' family graciously loaned us the 19th century family bible for the gospel reading. Please visit our Facebook page for pictures of the celebration.
Highlights of the Year

Kickoff Sunday
September 20

St. Francis Day
October 4

Harvest Thanksgiving
Sunday, October 18

All Saints Sunday
November 1

Diocesan Convention
November 6-7

Remembrance Sunday
November 8

Christ the King
November 22

First Sunday of Advent
November 29

Lessons & Carols
December 20

Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 24

Epiphany
Wednesday, January 6

Mardi Gras Luncheon
Sunday, February 7

Ash Wednesday
February 10

Palm Sunday
March 20

Maundy Thursday
March 24

Good Friday
March 25

Easter Sunday
March 27

Annual Meeting
April 3

Bishop Search

The Diocese of Pennsylvania is in the process of calling a new bishop. There will be a mutual discernment week February 17-20, during which there will be meetings throughout the diocese with the candidates. The special convention to call (elect) the new bishop will be held on March 12 at the Cathedral and the consecration of the new bishop will be held on July 16. A celebration of Bishop Dan's ministry will take place on April 30 at the Cathedral. Please visit the diocesan search website for more information.

Blessing of the Animals

On Sunday, October 4, we celebrated the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi with a traditional blessing of the animals in the churchyard after services. It was a wonderful chance to give thanks for all the joy pets bring to our lives, and to remember those cherished pets we've lost. Please visit our Facebook page for pictures of the occasion.

Brass Restored

Many thanks to those who subscribed to the cleaning and polishing of the altar cross, candlesticks, and processional torches: John & Lois Annand, Ray Grossmuller, Judy Williamson, the McConomy Family, the Gammon Family, Father Richard & Pete Datos, Kyle Tucker, and John & Rita Fardone. They were restored by a local craftsman in Frankford, and will make their grand return with a special rededication on Christmas Eve at the 7pm service. The finish should last another 100 years!

Christmas at Trinity

For more than 300 years, families have celebrated Christmas at Trinity. This year, be a part of that tradition and invite a friend or neighbor to join you. On Christmas Eve, we will have a family candlelight service at 7pm. The children will tell the story of Christmas, the bell choir will ring, and hymns will be sung by candlelight. At 10pm on Christmas Eve, the senior choir will offer a concert of Christmas favorites, followed by a traditional "Midnight
Choir Recognition
Sunday, May 1
Pentecost Sunday
May 15
Trinity Sunday
Annual Picnic
May 22

Mass* at 10:30pm. On Christmas Day, a mass will be said at 9am. If you know of anyone who needs a ride to Christmas services, please contact the church office at (215) 745-6114. Please visit our Facebook page to see pictures from last Christmas Eve.

Community Involvement
Trinity continues to be involved in the community and our diocese. Father Richard was recently appointed to the board of the Philadelphia Protestant Home, which has provided a caring senior living community in the area for 125 years. Father Richard has also been elected to serve on the executive committee of Diocesan Council. Pete Datos has been appointed as council's representative to the Finance Committee of the diocese.

Diocesan Convention
The 232nd Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania took place on November 5 and 6 at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral, which just completed a terrific addition of multipurpose space adjacent to the Cathedral, along with a renovation of their undercroft. Trinity was well represented. Please visit the diocesan website to read the bishop's address to convention.

Episcopal Community Services
This year, we are again gathering gifts for women in the Home Care Program at ECS. The value of the gift should be between $15 and $20. ECS is looking for sets of winter hats/scarves/gloves for adult women or gift cards. Include the receipt with your unwrapped gift, and return to Trinity by December 6.

Girls Friendly Society
The Girls Friendly Society is a historic Anglican organization with long ties to Trinity. Girls of all ages are welcome to participate and we hope to have a new chapter up and running in the coming year. Please contact Emily Geleibter or Kaitlyn Prete for more information.
**Greening of the Church**

Please join us after Lessons & Carols on Sunday, December 20, to help decorate the church - we will trim the tree and set up the flowers, aisle candles and greenery. When finished, we will share in a festive Mexican luncheon - yes, burritos are the new baked potato! Please visit our Facebook page for pictures of last year's fun.

**Halloween**

We opened the Buchanan Building to our friends and neighbors again this Halloween for a little "spirited" fun. There were tables of treats for young and old alike. Thanks to Patty McGee and Betty Graff for coordinating the event! Many children and parents from our neighborhood came through.

**Help for the Needy**

From our own Deacon Phil at St. Mark's Frankford on Nov 21... We give thanks to the good people of Trinity Church Oxford who donated a boatload of food to help resupply the Matthew 25 Food Cupboard in Frankford (Catholic Daughters of the Americas). It was a timely delivery as more than 300 bags of groceries were distributed today. Special thanks to the McGee family for the collection and delivery. May God bless you all.

**Holy Nativity Rockledge**

The Rev. Michael Rau has been called as Rector of Holy Nativity Church in Rockledge. He recently graduated from Father Richard's alma mater, the General Theological Seminary, and we welcome him, his wife Melissa, and their 3 children to our community. Congratulations to Father Rau and our neighbors at Holy Nativity!

**Mother Megan**

Mother Megan Sanders, a good friend of Trinity’s, was installed this October as rector of St. Paul's Church in Pleasant Valley, NY (near Poughkeepsie). We wish her well and pray for many happy years of ministry there!
Music Ministry

The celebration of the Feast of Christmas will begin with our Festival of Lessons and Carols on December 20 at 10am. It will feature choral music by our Senior Choir and instrumental music by the Bella Corda String Ensemble. This beautiful service has been a longstanding tradition at Trinity and will include the music of Bach, Monteverdi, Holst, and Willcocks.

On Christmas Eve, at the 7pm family service, our Bell Choir will perform Christmas music during the Voluntary before the Service and also at the Offertory. Many of your favorite carols will be sung and heard during the celebration.

At 10pm, the Senior Choir will perform a Candlelight Christmas Concert which will feature many beautiful anthems and solos by our Section Leaders. The Festival Choral Eucharist will begin at 10:30 pm and will include many of our traditional Christmas carols. Noel Williams and Sarai Cole will also perform "O Holy Night" by Adolf Adam during the Communion. We hope that you will plan to be with us during this holy season as we celebrate Christ's birth.

In order to continue the quality music program that we have at Trinity, we are looking for some additional singers and ringers. Only one hour of rehearsal time is necessary each week. The Bell Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm and the Senior Choir meets on Sunday mornings at 8:45am. We hope that you will prayerfully consider being a part of our Music Ministry. Soli Deo Gloria! Mary Sampson, Organist/Choirmaster

Philadelphia Protestant Home

The Adopt-A-Resident program at PPH aids residents and we ask for your donation of personal items or cash for the holiday season for those who do not have the means to provide for themselves. Instead of adopting specific residents we are asking for donations for the most needy. These items for men and women should be brought to Trinity no later than December 14 (please remember washable, cotton/polyester blends, please NO WOOL; sizes M, L & XL): v-neck undershirts, socks, shirts & tops (wide neck or button/snap front), cotton knit or fleece sweater, pull on pants (elastic waist, knit or sweat pants), bar soaps & shampoo (gentle, Ivory or Dove), and hand lotion (unscented). Monetary donations can be given for a variety of needs as Hairdresser, Barber and personal needs. Make check out to Trinity and write PPH on the memo line.
Presiding Bishop Installed
The Most Reverend Michael Curry was installed as the 27th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church on All Saints Sunday, November 1, 2015, at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. May God bless him and the Church! Please visit the diocesan website to read more about the bishop's installation or watch his sermon.

Rector's Open House
All friends of Trinity are welcome to celebrate the season at the Rectory on Friday, December 18, from 4pm to 8pm. The annual event will once again feature the musical stylings of Jonathan Bowen at the piano, who is back by popular demand. For more information, please see Father Richard or call the church office at (215) 745-6114.

Redevelopment Update
A potential tenant has been identified for the former Parish House at 6901 Rising Sun Avenue. City and community meetings, along with detailed planning work, are in progress. Work has begun on our new church office, which is moving into the former sexton's cottage at 601 Longshore Avenue. We hope to move in soon after the new year.

Remembrance Day
On Sunday, November 9, we honored those who died in the service of our country and gave thanks for all who serve. The choir sang a special anthem which prayed for peace in all lands.

Stewardship
At the end of October, we gathered the pledges for the year during our Harvest Thanksgiving celebration. If you haven't turned in your pledge card yet, please bring it to church or mail it into the church office. Thank you to all who give so generously so that we can continue our mission of preaching the Gospel of Christ and celebrating the Sacraments so beautifully in our national treasure church. If
you have any questions, please see Stew Mills, Stewardship Chair.

Vestry Highlights
At the last meeting, we previewed the new website and reviewed the proposed budget for 2016. Due to the loss of income from rent on 6901 Rising Sun, the Vestry have recommended that there be no staff raises this year. The next meeting will be after coffee hour on Sunday, December 27. Vestry service is a solemn commitment to Trinity, and it is very important that all Vestry members attend every meeting. Please let Lorie Henry or Father Richard know ASAP if there is a reason that prevents you from attending.

Veterans Day
Father Richard was honored to be asked by our councilwoman's office to deliver the opening prayers and closing remarks at the annual Lawncrest Veterans' Day commemoration. Thank you to all who have served your country!

Women of Trinity
Many thanks to the Women of Trinity who prepared a Thanksgiving Dinner basket for a needy local family. On Tuesday, December 8, the ladies will hold their annual Christmas luncheon in the Buchanan Building at noon. We wish you all a blessed and merry Christmas! For more information concerning the Women of Trinity, please contact Nellie Duddy at (215) 745-3579.

Schedule of Events

Every Sunday, Mass at 8am (spoken) and 10am (with music and Sunday School, followed by coffee hour in the Buchanan Building)

Every Sunday, Senior Choir Rehearsal at 8:45am in the Buchanan Building

Thursday, December 3, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church

Saturday, December 5, Parish Clean Up Day, 9am

Tuesday, December 8, Women of Trinity at noon in the Buchanan Building

Thursday, December 10, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church

Sunday, December 6, Advent II, Father Richard's pilgrimage reflections after coffee hour

Sunday, December 13, Advent III, Father Richard's pilgrimage reflections after coffee hour
Thursday, December 17, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church

Friday, December 18, Rector's Open House from 4pm to 8pm at the Rectory

Sunday, December 20, Lessons & Carols at 10am followed by greening of the Church

Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve Family Service at 7pm in the Church

Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve Concert at 10pm in the Church followed by traditional Midnight Mass at 10:30pm

Friday, December 25, Christmas Day mass at 9am

Sunday, December 27, Vestry Meeting after coffee hour in the Buchanan Building