

# Trinity NOTES

December 25, 2011

## Dear Sisters and Brothers,

There are many Christmas traditions which repeat from year after year: hymns, carols, food, and family rituals are but a few. One tradition involving the liturgy is the reading of the first eighteen chapters of the gospel according to John.

In this beautiful piece of scripture, commonly called the prologue, one verse stands out to me, "*We have received grace upon grace.*"

At a time of year when giving is so much on the minds of everyone, it is a wonderful statement which focuses our attention on the reason for the season. This verse tells us a lot not only about what we receive as Christians, but about the nature of the giver as well.

You and I, like those first shepherds, have not received something material but we have received grace, God's favor and love toward us. Of course, this came at a tremendous cost. Receiving grace upon grace tells us something about the giver of this gift. It tells us that when God gives, he gives abundantly. We don't just receive grace, we receive grace on top of grace.

I trust you will think on this as you experience the grace of Christmas this year and may it repeat throughout the coming months as well.

*Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Cass*

## Christmas Families Update

We raised a total of \$695 and was able to help a total of six families. Four were helped through the Charlottesville High School and two through the Mitchell House.

## Epiphany Play Rehearsal

A rehearsal for the Epiphany play will occur during Sunday school on January 1st and 8th. Please contact Diane Sampson (434)409-4594 for more info.

## LAST WEEK'S VITALS TITHES & GIFTS

1. Last Sunday's attendance: 63
2. Report of Offering - Sunday, 12/18/11:

Pledge	\$2,720.00
Gifts & Plate	111.00
Breakfast Ministry	54.00
Rent	40.00
Flower Fund	110.00
Music Fund	547.65
Christmas Families	380.00
Building Fund	50.00
Bathroom	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$4,112.65

Thru 12/18/11: Total Pledge Received \$166,885 versus Pledge Budgeted 168,252, or a (\$1,367) deficit YTD.

*An Intentional Multicultural Christian Community of Reconciliation, Transformation, and Love*

## Holiday Schedule

Saturday, December 24th	Christmas Eve Service	7:00 pm
Sunday, December 25th* +	Christmas Day	10:30 am
Sunday, January 1st*+	Holy Communion	10:30 am
Sunday, January 8th	Pageant	10:30 am

Notes

- \*No Breakfast/Brunch
- +No Adult Education
- +No Sunday School

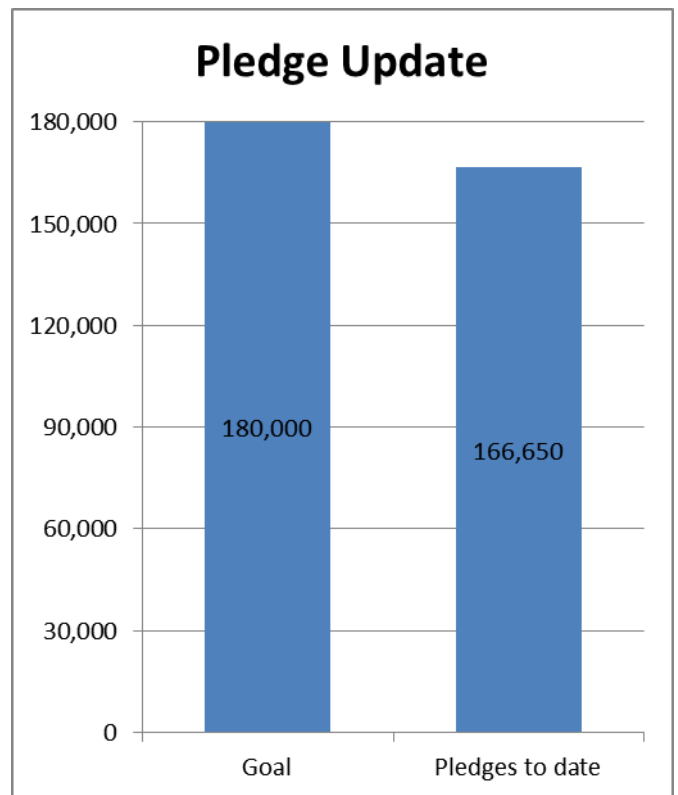
## 2012 Pledge Update

As of December 18th, we have received 50 pledges totaling \$166,500.

We have approximately 14 pledges outstanding.

We have a pledge income goal of \$180,000 for next year's budget.

We also have \$1,150 pledged for the Building Fund.



December 25, 2011 – Christmas Day

## A Christmas Message from Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori

*“See, your salvation comes” (Isaiah 62:11).*

The great prophets before Jesus proclaimed a vision of a nation and a people redeemed. We continue to share that yearning – as the Christmas hymn puts it, “the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.” We’ve seen abundant hopes spring up in the past year across the Arab world and Eastern Europe, and in the global Occupy movement. Those voices seek a world of greater justice, communities in which decisions and the gifts of creation are more available to all. Our understanding of salvation is most profoundly about justice in community, and as Christians we believe that help and healing for all are grounded in the incarnate presence of God – among us and within us.

We look for salvation to the one who came among us in the most humble way, a helpless child born in a scandalous way to a poor peasant couple. The Incarnation, God with us, changed the world in ways that we insist are leading to the ultimate healing of all creation. “See, your salvation comes,” says the prophet in every age, yet it is not yet fully come upon us. We live in hope for its fullness. May hope be nourished within us, in each and every human being and community, for the journey toward God’s healed and holy future.

That proclamation of coming salvation is a part of Isaiah (Isa 62:6-12) that will be read in some congregations at Christmas, but if you don’t hear it, go and read the whole of it. Its centerpiece speaks of what that salvation looks like:

*The Lord has sworn ...*

*I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies,  
and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you  
have labored;*

*but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord,  
and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.*

(Isaiah 62:8-9)

That is not a vision of pristine isolation, but a vision of comfort and healing to a people frequently at war, occupied, or exploited by superior forces. The fear of powerful others taking and using for themselves the produce of the poor is healed and transformed into a society in which the gifts God provides will be shared by all. For when salvation comes, that society will

*be called, ‘the Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord’;*

*and you shall be called, ‘Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken’*  
(Isaiah 62:12)

Jesus comes among us to remind us of a world living together in peace, to reclaim and make real that vision of creation for all humanity and all God’s creatures. That world is put right as relationships between God and humanity are set right. The relationship between God and human being cannot be set right without equal healing of relationships between us mortals. See, your salvation comes! Will we welcome that healing?

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori  
Presiding Bishop and Primate  
The Episcopal Church



“Romano d’Ezzellino” by Roberto Frison

## Trinity Leadership

**Lay Ministers:** The Congregation

**Bishops:** The Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston

The Rt. Rev. David C. Jones

The Rt. Rev. "Ted" Gulick, Jr.

**Vicar:** Pastor Cass Bailey

Vestry Liaisons

### RECONCILIATION

Nick Garber, (2014)

Diane Sampson, (2012) Clerk

### TRANSFORMATION

Deborah Gille, (2014)

Jenny Holmes, (2012)

### LOVE

Amy Griffith, (2013)

Erica Lloyd, (2014)

### SUPPORT

Lauren Fleischmann, (2013)

Senior Warden: Mark Bell (2012)

Junior Warden: Mary Newton (2013)

**Treasurer:** Beverly Bivins

**Asst. Treasurer:** Louise Gallagher

**Music Minister:** Carlton Dickerson



The altar flowers are given by  
Gloria Johnson.

## Lay Ministers Scheduled:

Saturday, December 24th, 2011

**Lectors:** Joe Kopp; Kristin Szakos

**Intercessor:** Helen Plaisance

**Chalice Bearers:** Gloria Johnson

**Acolyte:** Richard Johnson

**Ushers:** Amy Griffith; Joanne Kopp

**Counter:** Amy Griffith

**Greeter:** Gloria Johnson

## Lay Ministers Scheduled:

Sunday, December 25th, 2011

**Lectors:** Ayuko White; Sylvia Milner

**Intercessor:** Nick Garber

**Chalice Bearers:** Kendra Hamilton; Stephanie Commander

**Altar Guild:** Shirley Robinson; Lelia Brown

**Acolyte:** Kevin Barnard

**Ushers:** Jenny Holmes; Al Anderson

**Counter:** Diane Sampson

**Home Communion:** Cheryl Kasper

**Greeter:** Ann Majewski

If you are unable to serve, please get a substitute.