

The Trinity Light

Number 52, for The Nativity of our Lord, December 25, 2017

An official weekly publication of Trinity Episcopal Church, Wetumpka, Alabama

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Our Mission: Trust in the Lord and Do Good.

*Our Vision: become a parish that Trusts in the Lord and Does Good
by coming together in Public Worship, Fellowship, and Reaching out to all.*



About Christmas

The word Christmas is a translation of an old English term "christmasse" which means "Christ's Mass".

The word was first used in England in the 12th century and in the 1549 Prayer Book, the day was simply called Christmas Day. But by the 17th century protestant reformers influenced the authors of the 1662 Prayer Book to change the title to, "The Nativity of Our Lord, or the Birthday of Christ, commonly called Christmas Day". This lengthy and awkward title was abandoned by most and is now called Christmas Day.

Matthew and Luke give few details about Jesus' actual birth. According to the Gospel accounts of Matthew and Luke, Mary was a young Jewish woman, possibly still a teenager, betrothed to a man named Joseph.

It is likely that Jesus was born not in a wooden barn but in a cave or a shelter built into a hillside. The hills around Bethlehem were dotted with small caves for feeding and boarding livestock. Joseph probably had to lead the donkey bearing Mary down a rocky, jagged path into the mouth of one of these caves as she was experiencing labor contractions. The gospel writers do not mention if anyone else was present, but self-delivery was not uncommon in 1st-century Palestine.

The exact site of Jesus' birth is unknown, but by the 3rd century, tradition had established a probable

cavern. Constantine's mother, Helena, erected the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem over the small space. Nearby is the Milk Grotto, a small cave with chalky white rocks, where it is believed Mary nursed the baby Jesus as they fled from Herod's soldiers. The story goes that she spilled a few drops of milk that whitened the rocks. To this day, Christian and Muslim women visit the Milk Grotto and ask Mary to help them conceive and nurse.

There is controversy about the date of Jesus' birth. Luke's account places Jesus' birth during a census conducted under the governorship of Quirinius, who, according to Josephus, conducted a census in AD 6. Matthew states that Jesus was born while Herod the Great was still alive and, based on the date of Herod's death in 4 BC many chronologists conclude that the year 6 BC is the most likely year of Jesus' birth.

In recent years, East Asian historians have attempted to match the birth of Jesus with special events in their history. They found that, according to the oldest record of the Halley's Comet during the Han Dynasty, "The comet heads east with its tail pointing west at night, and was appearing in the sky for more than 70 days" in 6 BC. This has been suggested as an independent record of the "Star" described in Matthew 2. If accepted, this suggestion would place the birthday of Jesus in summer rather than winter.

This Week at Trinity

Dec. 24: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

Dec. 24: The Eve of the Nativity - Christmas Eve

5:30 p.m. - Special Christmas Music

6:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Eucharist

10:30 p.m. - Special Christmas Music

11:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve "Midnight" Eucharist

Dec. 25: The Nativity - Christmas Day

Church Office Closed

Dec. 26: The Feast of St. Stephen

Church Office Closed

Dec. 27: Holy Eucharist will not be Celebrated

Dec. 31 The First Sunday after Christmas

8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

There will no breakfast or Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Christmas Lessons and Carols and Holy Eucharist

Sunday Ministers

Advent IV Dec.24, 2017

LEM: 8:00 a.m. Tonia Ayers
No 10:30 Service, breakfast or Sunday School

Acolytes:

Lector:

Epistoler:

Intercessor:

Altar Guild: B. Wilkinson/C. Wright

Flower Guild: Lucie Wadsworth

Vestry: Robert Quinn

Greeters:

Flowers.

Meet and Greet.

WTC. Dawn Kizziah

Teaching K-2nd. No Sunday School

Teaching 3rd-6th. No Sunday School

Christmas I Dec.31, 2017

LEM: 8:00 a.m. Emily Phyfer
10:30 a.m. Charlotte Lackey

Acolytes: Team 1: Hannah Beumer, Victoria & Izzie Taylor, Riley
Baker

Lector: Tonia Ayers

Epistoler: Hazel Jones

Intercessor: Tim Bailey

Altar Guild: B. Wilkinson/C. Wright

Flower Guild: Phyllis Kennedy

Vestry: Gardner Perdue

Greeters: Gary & Carol Wright

Flowers.

Meet and Greet.

WTC. Dawn Kizziah

Teaching K-2nd. No Sunday School

Teaching 3rd-6th. No Sunday School

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Lord of all life, below, above, whose light is truth, whose warmth is love, before the ever-blazing throne we ask no luster of our own. Grant us thy truth to make us free, and kindling hearts that burn for thee, till all thy living altars claim one holy light, one heavenly flame. Amen.

✠ *Oliver Wendell Holmes*

SAVE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREES

If you take down your Christmas Tree before Epiphany, don't forget that we need it for the Epiphany, Burning of the Green, January 7. Don't throw those trees away, and pick up any trees you see on the street and put all around back, behind the Church. If you can't get your tree to the Church, call us and we'll pick it up and all the others you've collected from the street. We need a good stack to bring in Epiphany.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

We celebrate and give thanks with Judie Hooks and Becky Garrard who celebrate their birthdays this week.

And with Kevin and Perry Caton who celebrate their anniversary this week.

We pray for those who have requested our prayers:

Immediate Concerns:

Travis Luckie, Karen Brooks, Karen Griddings, Hazel Westbrook, Ed Chalker, Kathy Gunter, Andrea Jackson, Bonnie Tibbs, Kaylee Higgingsbotham, Case Edwards and Gary Thompson.

Shut-Ins: Avis Finch and Mary Smith

Continuing Concerns:

Jackie Harper, June Ward, Crawford Kennedy, Johan Beumer, Kelley Wright, Linda Summey, Tom Ford, Glenda Rice, Rilla Keith, Ellen Williams, Dot Franklin, Billy Lacy, Voncille Lankford, Louise Lambert, Dianne Searcy, Greg Jones and Amelia Lovell.

WEEKLY PLEDGE OFFERING

Budgeted Weekly Pledge Income.....	\$ 3,500
Contributed Sunday, December 17	\$ 2,931
Budgeted Year to Date	\$ 178,500
Contributed Year to Date	\$ 165,492
Over/(under) Budget	\$ (13,008)

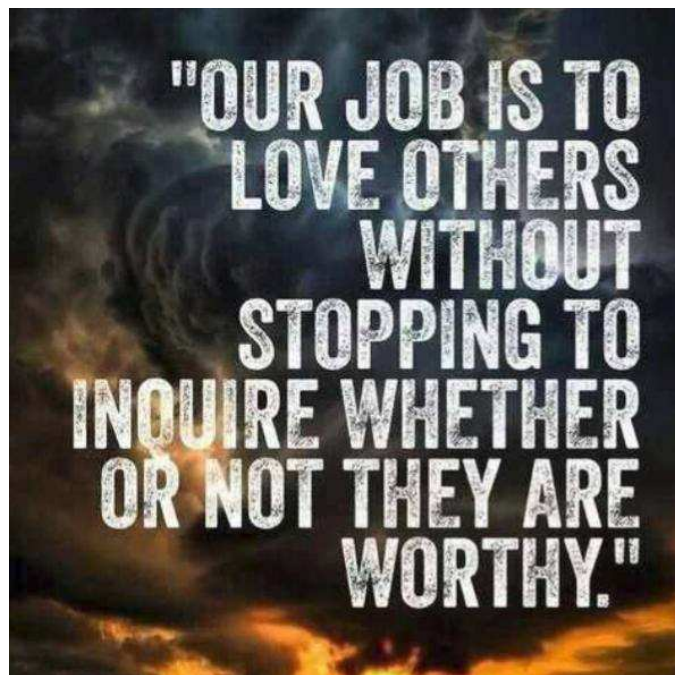
As you can see, our "end of the year" pledge offerings have fallen. Please check your contribution sheet which was sent out last week, and bring your pledge up to date.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS NEEDED

We need liturgical ministers – LEMs, Readers, Intercessors, Acolytes, Greeters – for the 6:00 p.m. and the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Services.

Please call, email or text Bob⁺ (bob@trinitywetumpka.org, 703-0089) to volunteer. We need your help!!!

TO PONDER



The Celtic Christian Tradition

God loves you.
No exceptions.

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You



**JOIN US ON SUNDAY, JAN. 7
TO CELEBRATE THE EPIPHANY.
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, WETUMPKA.**



**THE SERVICE OF LIGHT BEGINS
AT THE CHURCH AT 6:00 P.M.,
BURNING THE GREEN & EPIPHANY PARTY FOLLOW
Wadworth's Pasture, 3266 Trotters Trail
*(Don't worry, we'll help you get to the Wadworth's)***

Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings.



CHRISTMAS ANGELS

Once again, our Christmas Angel Program was quite a success, thanks to your generosity and the hard work of Tonia Caton, who coordinated, Sue Beumer who signed people up and Beverly Roberts who helped with the distribution.

