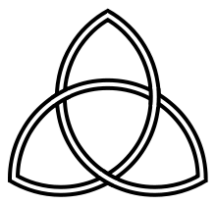


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Trinity Episcopal Church
Hamburg, NY
One Community United
in Jesus' Name



Dear Trinity Family and Friends,

January 28 was a beautiful Sunday. What a gift to worship together and to meet for God's work here in Hamburg. On top of all that, including the Wavy Lays and French Onion Dip at every table for the Annual Meeting, the bounty continues with Scout Sunday this coming Sunday, Ash Wednesday on February 14, and the wonder and awe of the Season of Lent. Thank you for all the guidance and recommendations and acts of welcoming.

For those I haven't met, my name is Al Johnson and I'm serving as Canon in Residence for Trinity, Hamburg. Together with Ann Markle, we will serve as your priests on a semi-rotating basis. I actually live in North Barrington, Illinois, and commute at least two weekends per month. Ann will preside the other weekends. Ann and I will do our best, teamed with our administrator Cheryl, and Maggie and Cami, to handle other pastoral emergencies as they unfold.

Currently, my number one goal is to meet as many of you as possible over the next two months. If you wish to share a cup of coffee or a meal during the weekends I'm here, let me know at the email address below and I'll get back in touch with you. Until then, join me in giving thanks for Trinity, Hamburg, and the people who make this community alive and thriving.

Love and blessings,
Fr. Al Johnson
ajohnson@dionwpa.org

My Beloveds in Christ:

As we move into Lent, I just want to take another opportunity to tell you how happy I am to be with this beloved community. It's a great pleasure and honor to be invited by you, and by the diocese, to assist Canon Al as you move through your interim process. It won't be an easy or short journey for you: challenging questions must be asked and answered. You also know that when you get to the final phase, the search process, that's not easy either. Fortunately, Canon Al has to do all the hard work with you, and I have the delight of just being a regular presence on the weeks that he can't be here! So thank you again for your gracious invitation to become part of your parish family as you enter this challenging and rewarding time.

Regarding Lent: You will find some changes in the colors we use on the altar and the hangings, and in the liturgy, as we do every year. People make it a practice to "give something up" for Lent, and they find that a rewarding reminder of the cycle of our church year. The purpose of that practice is to remind us of, and draw us closer to God as we move through the season of persecution, crucifixion, and ultimately into the glory of the resurrection. If the traditional "sacrifice model" achieves this for you, then by all means, take that on. But I encourage you to add some practice to your Lenten season, which might be just as useful in strengthening your relationship with God, and with the crucified and resurrected Christ. Some people adopt the practice of daily morning or evening prayer; others take on a time of reading the daily scriptures, which can be found in the back of the prayer book, or in the Forward Day by Day. There are other practices, such as meditation, or a time each day to enjoy nature, that helps them feel the constant presence of God. In any event, my prayer is that we all enjoy a holy, strengthening Lenten season together.

—Ann

Warden's Corner



It's often difficult to be joyful and grateful during the winter doldrums. We all seem to suffer through the shortened, darkened days and cold weather. But there is so much to be joyful about and grateful for!

Let's think about the following joyful things at Trinity:

We have our 2024 budget which shows a slight surplus (caveat being we have less expenses than normal)
We are blessed to have both Father Al and Reverend Ann here with us for the near future
We have a planned Lenten program that Sue Minekime will be leading
We have a full Vestry and Wardens positions (thank you to Julie Otis for standing for junior warden, and to Rich Emerling and Jim Burton for standing for the two vacant one year vestry seats)
We have a new Clerk of the Vestry, Adrienne Fuore
We have a Christian Education program for our youth
We have our Food Pantry reaching out to those in need
We have our Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
and mostly we have each other and God's grace! **And** it's only 5 weeks until Daylight Savings Time!

What do YOU have to be joyful about and grateful for?

As we enter February we begin our journey into lent, a time to revive our love of the Lord and refocus our hearts. This year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day, an appropriate day to reflect on what is in our hearts. Lent is also a period when we renew our baptismal promises, and think of new life. Lent comes from the old English word for spring. Lent is springtime, the beginning of new life, for us and for Trinity.

We survived a blizzard and copious amounts of snow this past month. We celebrated four new Eagle Scouts (including our very own Will Fuore). We held a successful Annual Meeting (great lunch folks), and we welcomed Canon in Residence Father Al Johnson, and Reverend Ann Markle to Trinity.

I don't know about you, but I am definitely looking forward, not just to February, but to all of 2024 as we celebrate life at Trinity.

One of my favorite song writers, Ray Wylie Hubbard wrote:

"The days that I keep my gratitude higher than my expectations, I have really good days."

Let us remain joyful and grateful.

Maggie



Meals on Wheels

June is Trinity's volunteer month to deliver meals to Hamburg residents enrolled in the program. FeedMore WNY has updated their computer system and has requested all volunteers to complete a registration form. You can find these forms on the table in the coffee room. Once completed, please submit them to Cheryl so she can electronically send them to FeedMore.

If you have not volunteered but are interested, please reach out to Linda Campbell for details. It takes just a couple of hours a week for huge rewards! We'd love to have you on the calendar!



Trinity Episcopal Church
In-House Pantry
261 E. Main Street
Hamburg, NY 14075

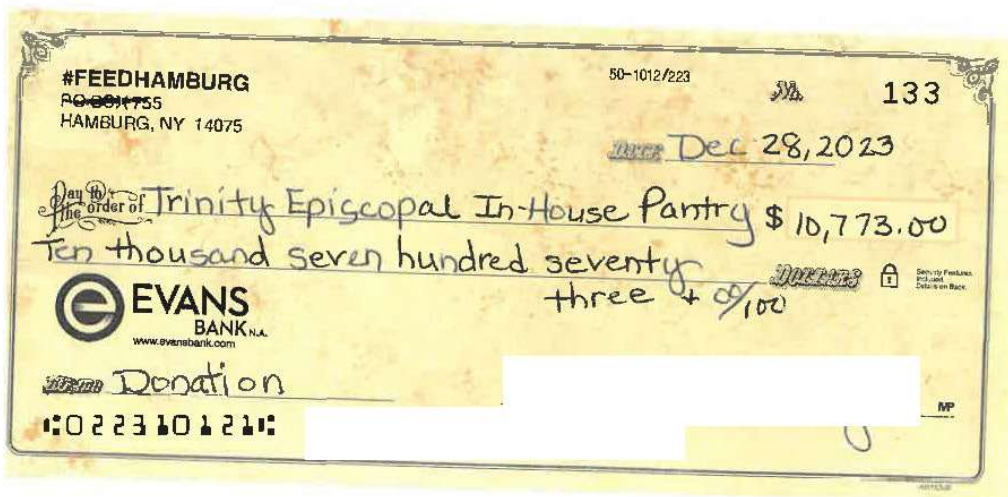
December 28, 2023

Dear Trinity Episcopal Church In-House Pantry,

As you know, #feedhamburg closed in January of 2023 and our Board of Directors voted to dissolve later in the year. We have been in the process of dissolution and finally got approval from New York State to distribute both our physical and financial assets. In keeping with the mission of #feedhamburg and our Articles of Organization, please accept this check to continue the work you are doing to assist families with food scarcity needs in our community.

Sincerely,

#feedhamburg
Board of Directors



Trinity Episcopal Church
Annual Meeting
1/28/24

Meeting was opened by Cami Wittmeyer at 9:31 am

- 1) Call to Order
 - a) 10:30 am
- 2) Welcome given by Cami
- 3) Review of January 2023 minutes
 - a) There were no previous minutes, just notes
 - b) Motion to approve the notes from last year by Judy Johnson
 - c) Sue Minekime accepted the motion
 - d) All in attendance accepted the motion and notes were approved.
- 4) Introduction of 2024 Vestry Candidates:
 - a) Claire Otis- 2 year term-2026
 - b) Karen Miller- 2 year term 2026
 - c) Dan Becker- 3 year term- 2027
 - d) Roz Delang- 3 year term- 2027
 - e) Jim Burton- volunteered for Vestry position and Vestry will vote to approve him at February 18, 2024 meeting
 - f) Rich Emerling- volunteered for Vestry position and Vestry will vote to approve him at February 18, 2024 meeting
 - g) Julie Allen-Otis- volunteered for the Junior Warden position and Vestry will vote to approve her at February 18, 2024 meeting
 - h) Adrienne Fuore- volunteered for the 1 year role of Clerk of the Vestry
- 5) Recognition of outgoing Vestry Members and Warden
 - a) Cami Wittmeyer- Warden
 - b) Linda Campbell- Vestry
 - c) Sue Hannel- Vestry
 - d) Carl Otis- Vestry
- 6) Presentation of the 2024 Operational Budget and Investment Report
 - a) Presented by Bob Matson
 - b) Clarification of 2023 Unaudited column of the budget line 123 (Donations) includes money for Families in Need, Columbarium
 - c) Line 129 & 622 of 2023 Unaudited column will be documented differently going forward. The Food Pantry budget will be documented separately.
 - d) In 2023 Trinity was able to make a full share tithe to the Diocese
 - e) In 2023 fundraising events provided about \$11,000 income
 - f) Newly formed Finance Committee plans to meet monthly to review finances of the church. They would like 1 more member.
 - g) Finance Committee members:
 - i) Bob Matson
 - ii) Bill Miller

- iii) Roz Delang
- h) 2024 Budget:
 - i) \$187,130 is proposed
 - ii) \$8,768 is a surplus
 - iii) One question: Is Fellowship included in the Hospitality line? (line 330)
 - (1) Yes
 - i) Things to consider:
 - i) Trinity will need to cover expenses for a new priest in the near future
 - j) Investment Funds
 - i) Beginning of the year balance: \$484,593.32
 - ii) End of the year balance: \$479,830
 - iii) This includes the Vestry allowed withdrawal to cover expenses
- 7) Buildings and Grounds
 - a) Ladies room upstairs was refurbished in 2023
 - b) All downstairs toilets were replaced in 2023
- 8) Holy Trinity Society Honorees- Rich Emerling
 - a) Honor past members that passed away in 2023:
 - i) Marydale Schmidt
 - ii) Pat Small
 - iii) Carl Otis
 - iv) Charlie Griener
 - v) David Saunders
 - b) 2024 Holy Trinity Society presented to:
 - i) Wendy Benzin
 - ii) Glenn Kremers
- 9) Questions or Comments:
 - a) Father Al- welcome and introductions
 - b) Discussion of what is outreach and examples of outreach
 - c) Parishioners were encouraged to sign up for Diocesan newsletter
 - d) Trinity should take advantage of Hamburg's Sesquicentennial Ecumenical service June 28-30, 2024
 - e) Discussion of ways to market Trinity
 - i) Social Media
 - ii) Promote Labyrinth
- 10) Meeting closed
 - a) 1/28/24
 - b) Motion by Maggie Campbell to end meeting at 11:30am
 - c) Moved by Rob Campbell
 - d) All agreed and motion passed to end the meeting

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

–Nikki, Adrienne, Cami, Ellie, and Dan



ELEMENTARY & MIDDLESCHOOL:

In January our children learned about fishing! We learned that our kind actions will “catch” God’s love and help share God’s kingdom.



HIGH SCHOOL CLASS:

Our High School class discussed religious symbols in The Chronicles of Narnia.

Next up: Star Wars!
(Come visit us, you must)



THANK YOU!

Thank you for continuing to support our Bottle and Can Drive!

You have helped us raise almost \$100!

Donations go to the account: Trinity Episcopal Youth Ministry

IMPORTANT DATES

Next Family Sunday:

2/18/24

Kids meet their teachers in the Undercroft at 9am and then join the Congregation at Communion.

All are welcome!

Bring a friend!



LET US PRAY:

Thank you God, for Jesus, who still comes looking for us and inviting us to follow him. Help us to follow Jesus each day.

Amen



Clergy Schedule

February 4—Fr. Al
February 11—Rev. Ann
February 14—Ash Wednesday – Rev. Ann
February 18—Fr. Al
February 25—Rev. Ann

March 3—Fr. Al
March 10—Rev. Ann
March 17—Rev. Ann
March 24—Palm Sunday—Fr. Al & Rev. Ann
March 28 —Maundy Thursday— Fr. Al & Rev. Ann
March 29 —Good Friday— Fr. Al & Rev. Ann
March 31 —Easter Day— Fr. Al & Rev. Ann

April 7— Rev. Ann
April 14— Rev. Ann
April 21— Fr. Al
April 28— Fr. Al

Shrove Tuesday

February 13th, Pancake dinner
5-7 pm

Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday

February 14 Ashes to Go from 5 pm—6 pm

Church Service will be held at 6:30 pm

Lenten Program Opportunity

Please join me for a program during Lent which will allow us to reflect on the important role forgiveness plays in our lives and as members of a Christian community.

"Practicing Forgiveness with all Your Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind" will meet on Wednesdays during Lent beginning on February 21st at 7:00 in the library. Daily devotional guides will be provided for all participants.

Please sign up in the Parish Hall or contact me if you have any questions. I hope to be hearing from you!

Sue Minekime at 716-992-3146

FEBRUARY 2024

It's a leap year! - This day is added to the calendar every 4 years as a corrective measure because the Earth does not orbit the Sun in precisely 365 days. Since about the fifteenth century, this extra day is the 29th of February .

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				01 6:15—7:45 pm Girl Scouts	02	03 Boy Scout Advancement 9—11 am
04 Scout Sunday 9 am HE Rite II 10 am Coffee hr 9—11 Pantry	05 10 am Knitters 10—12 Pantry 6:30— Boy Scouts	06 7—8:30 pm Red, White & Bluegrass jam	07 5—7 pm Pantry 7 pm Boy Scouts	08 6:30 Girl Scouts 8:30 pm AA Meeting	09	10 Girls Scouts World Thinking Day
11 9 am HE Rite II 10 am Coffee hr 7 pm AA Meeting	12 10 am Knitters 10—12 Pantry 6:30— Boy Scouts	13 Shrove Tuesday 5-7 pm—Pancake dinner	14 Ash Wednesday 5—6 pm Ashes to go 6:30—Service 5—7 pm Pantry	15 8:30 pm AA Meeting	16	17
18 Family Sunday 9 am HE Rite II 10 am Coffee hr Vestry Meeting Lent 9—11 Pantry	19 10 am Knitters 10—12 Pantry 6:30— Boy Scouts 7—8:30 pm Breast Cancer Support Group	20 7—8:30 pm Red, White & Bluegrass jam	21 5—7 pm Pantry 7 pm Boy Scouts	22 8:30 pm AA Meeting	23	24 Boy Scouts— Using Shelter
25 9 am HE Rite II 9—11 Pantry 7 pm AA Meeting	26 10 am Knitters 10— 12 Pantry 6:30— Boy Scouts	27 7—8:30 pm Red, White & Bluegrass jam	28 5—7 pm Pantry 7 pm Boy Scouts	29		

Happy Birthday ~ February~ Happy Birthday

Maggie Campbell

Pam Embler Lauren Gotsch

Michael Hayes

Frank Julian IV

Glen Kremers

Emily Morrison