



TRINITY TOPICS

WEEKLY NEWS

WORSHIP WITH US SUNDAYS AT 10AM

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DEAR FRIENDS

[We live on a visited planet](#)



Dear Friends,

Clergy are notorious bibliophiles. We buy books. We are given books as gifts. And we inherit books from older priests or their surviving spouses. We read a lot of the books that we have – or at least parts of them. The rest of the books serve as backdrops in our offices; as we sit in front of them, they make us appear more learned than perhaps we really are. Back in the day, clergy had “studies” where they read and contemplated. One of the gifts my father gave me after I was ordained was a hand-carved wooden sign that reads, “Parson’s Study.” Now, more often than not, we clergy have “offices,” suggesting that what we do is more managerial than it is pastoral. Since words matter, the change in terminology is worth pondering.

Over the last several years, I’ve drastically reduced my library. Part of the reason is that I move every year or two, and books are heavy! Part of the reason is that I no longer kid myself that I’m going to read or refer to most of them. The books I *have* kept are the ones I go back to again and again.

Every Advent, I take one particular book down from the shelf and read an excerpt from it every day. The book’s title is *Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas*. Just like Advent calendars, Watch for the Light gives me something to open every day – short pieces by some of the great spiritual writers. Some are from the distant past, like St. Bernard of Clairvaux and John Donne, and some are from more recent times, like Kathleen Norris and

Madeleine L'Engle. One of my favorites is by J.B. Phillips called "The Dangers of Advent." Phillips was an Anglican clergyman and a pioneering Bible translator best known for his *The New Testament in Modern English*, a translation that had its start during World War II, while he was vicar of the Church of the Good Shepherd in London. He found the young people in his church did not understand the King James Version of the Bible, so he used the time he spent in the bomb shelters during the London Blitz to begin a translation of the New Testament into modern English.

Here's how "The Dangers of Advent" begins: "By far the most important and significant event in the whole course of human history will be celebrated, with or without understanding, at the end of this season, Advent. The towering miracle of God's visit to this planet on which we live will be glossed over, brushed aside or rendered impotent by over-familiarity."

Further on in the article, he continues, "The particular danger which faces us as Christmas approaches is unlikely to be contempt for the sacred season, but nevertheless our familiarity with it may easily produce in us a kind of indifference."

Indifference due to over-familiarity. I don't know if that's a problem for you. I know it sometimes is for me. So I count on J.B. Phillips to remind me every Advent that the coming of Jesus at Christmas is – in his words – a "towering miracle."

"The Dangers of Advent" is too long a piece for me to include here. So, in addition to the brief snippets I've already shared, let me close this Dear Friends letter with the words Phillips uses to close his article. He writes: "... behind all our fun and games at Christmastime, we should not try to escape a sense of awe, almost a sense of fright, at what God has done. We must never allow anything to blind us to the true significance of what happened at Bethlehem so long ago. Nothing can alter the fact that we live on a visited planet."

We live on a visited planet. What an extraordinary thing to realize! I can't possibly become overly familiar with the idea, or indifferent to it either. How about you?

Blessings,
Stephen Applegate

GREENING OF CHURCH

Saturday, December 7 at 9:30. Sign up and save the date!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-53044906-greening>

YEAR END GIVING NOTICE

The end of the year is rapidly approaching, and with it comes an annual list of reminders. First, thanks to all who have paid or continue to pay your pledges faithfully! Please help us stay on budget by paying your 2024 pledge before the year ends.

Now the reminders:

- If you are ***paying your pledge via gift of appreciated stock***, please allow plenty of time for that transaction. You are encouraged to make your gift early so that we can produce year-end statements on time. Be sure to call or e-mail Heather Meyer, Director of Operations, regarding the type of stock you are donating. Please do not rely on your broker to inform Trinity of your gift – they often don't. Please call Heather at (419) 243-1231, or email her heather@trinitytoledo.org
- If you are mailing your donation, it **must be postmarked by Tuesday, December 31**.
- **Be sure to indicate your gift designation** on the memo line of your check, i.e., 2024 pledge, 2025 pre-paid pledge, Christmas offering, debt reduction, etc. If no designation is made, your gift will be automatically applied to your current year pledge, or if there is no pledge, to un-pledged gifts for 2024.
- If you have not yet made your pledge for 2025, Trinity encourages you to do so before year-end. Please prayerfully consider making an appropriate pledge for your household. If you do not have a pledge card handy, you may make your pledge online at <https://www.trinitytoledo.org/pledge/>

As always, your generosity in giving is much appreciated and helps support the mission and ministry of our progressive, inclusive, creative community of faith. Thank you.

~~Christmas "Advent" Sing-Along!~~

crafts, snacks & songs



Free event
December 11th 7pm
Trinity Episcopal Church

CHRISTMAS "Advent" SING-ALONG!

Crafts, Snacks and Songs Wednesday, December 11th, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

Join your Trinity Musicians as we sing the night away with our favorite CHRISTMAS SONGS! Featuring music like "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer," an interactive "Twelve Days of Christmas" and "Frosty the Snowman," just to name a few. Lyrics, snacks, crafts and songs will be provided. FREE EVENT.



CASTING CALL: TRINITY CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Rehearsal after church December 22nd,
and performed December 24th @ 4:00 pm

Trinity's calling all theatre enthusiasts and performers to sign up to participate in this year's Christmas Pageant! With a script written by Chelsie and Grace, you can trust it will be fun, joyful, and have a great message. (And, you'll have a great time!) While preference will be given to our youngest actors, all are welcome. We'll find a part for you. Click the sign-up genius to learn more about how you can get involved.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/christmaspageant24>



After an incredibly successful and flavorful Thanksgiving meal, we are excited to announce we are seeking volunteers for our Christmas Eve Luncheon. Immediately following our 12pm service, we will host a lunch in My Brother's Place. It will be very similar to our Thanksgiving setup, and we are asking for 15-20 volunteers willing to help cook, clean, and host. Set up begins at 10am, and we'll pause for service by 12pm. Lunch will be served from 1-2pm, and we hope to be all cleaned up by 2:30pm. Sign up Genius Link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-53729393-christmas#



Our big winners from Sunday's Dips! Dips! Dips! Bake Off have new trophies to decorate for Christmas. J. Michael Hull, 1st place; Bradley Baker, 2nd place and Lexi Haas, 3rd place. Well done, cooks!



Today, I want to share an update with you about changes that occurred this past year in Trinity's worship service.

Trinity's Sunday liturgy is part of our identity: it's one of the many ways we practice being progressive, inclusive, and creative. Bishop Anne requested that all parishes in her diocese use only worship resources authorized by the Episcopal Church in the spring of 2024. Her request had a significant impact on Trinity. The bishop was willing to listen to our concerns about the changes, and she asked Trinity to form a team and formally present feedback.

And we did.

Gathering a diverse group of people at Trinity was important, especially people with varied church experience. Trinity assembled a group of nine individuals to represent the parish: LaVonda Josett, Megan Simmons, Kyle Grefe, Becky Koskinen, J. Michael Hull, Jason Rahe, Brian Ingman, Allen Santiago and Mary Beroske.

The Liturgy Working Group at Trinity met twice to participate in a study consisting of four workbooks and one overall review of worship at Trinity. Each workbook compared authorized versus unauthorized sources for different parts of our worship service, and the final review offered additional feedback on how the overall worship experience has changed. The group had engaged and challenging discussions where group members felt safe authentically expressing different points of view. The second meeting included reviewing the data collected in the previous session and ensuring the letter we composed for the Bishop accurately reflected the thoughts and feelings of the Trinity congregation's representatives.

We are confident we have created work that honestly reflects the overall reactions and feelings of the Trinity congregation. Our letter was respectful of Bishop Anne's authority and reflected a true desire to collaborate. We want to be a church that is a part of a bigger system while ministering to our congregation; a congregation full of people of the LGBTQIA+ community and others who have experienced church-related trauma. Using varying forms of traditional words helps to heal broken spirits and facilitate faith in a way that using only traditional forms of liturgy cannot. We look forward to hearing back from Bishop Anne and Canon Koch, the diocesan liturgist, in the near future.

With an immense amount of love,
Chelsie Cree, Director of Music and the Arts



Christmas Memorial Poinsettia Sale

Christmas Memorial Poinsettias are on sale – you can order your poinsettia by [filling out our online form](#), or you can find order forms at the Parish Life Table in the back of the Sanctuary. When filling out your form, please be sure to include your first and last name, phone number and quantity. If you are requesting a plant in honor or memory of a loved one, please include their first and last name(s) which we will list in our Christmas Eve bulletin.

The poinsettias will be 6 1/2" with multiple blooms, for \$12.00 each. Flowers can be taken home after our 11pm Christmas Eve service. **Orders are due by Tuesday, December 17th!**



CHORAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT TRINITY

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Christmas ORNAMENTS

*Support the Trinity Community
Breakfast Program*

\$30



Trinity Episcopal Church

Christmas Service Schedule

Blue Christmas Service

DEC 18, 7 PM

Noonday Christmas Eve Service

DEC 24, NOON

Christmas Pageant

DEC 24, 4:00 PM

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

DEC 24, 2024

10:30 PM MUSIC BEGINS

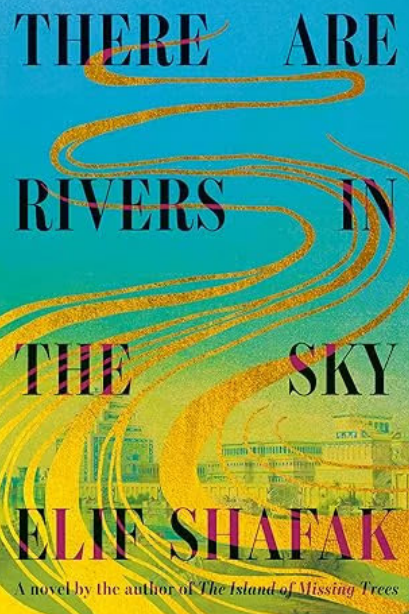
11:00 PM SERVICE

316 Adams Street

www.trinitytoledo.org

You are Loved.

BOOK CLUB



We will take a pause for the cause and meet on **January 19 at 6:30pm via Zoom** to discuss our next selection: *"There Are Rivers In The Sky"* by Elif Shafak. From the Booker Prize finalist, author of *The Island of Missing Trees*, an enchanting new tale about three characters living along two great rivers, all connected by a single drop of water. Zoom meet up details coming soon.

[Sign Up Now](#)

TRINITY@HOME LIVE-STREAM

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EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE

[Scientist Katharine Hayhoe discusses climate change during Los Angeles diocese's webinar](#)

[Diocese of Los Angeles] One of the most effective ways people of faith can help combat climate change is to start talking about it, in ways that connect people's personal [...]

[Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe leads first House of Bishops meeting, talks of supporting dioceses](#)

[Episcopal News Service] Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe on Dec. 4 chaired his first meeting of the House of Bishops since taking over as the denomination leader a month ago. Afterward, Rowe [...]

[Episcopal delegates leave UN climate change conference disappointed yet determined](#)

[Episcopal News Service] Episcopal delegates left the United Nations' 29th annual climate change conference disappointed with the end results, but they are determined more than ever to continue advocating for [...]

[Welsh churches create warm hub to bring soup and cheer through the winter](#)

[Church in Wales] A new warm space café in Dolgellau is helping the community combat the triple challenge of winter fuel costs, food poverty and social isolation. Clwb Cawl, launched by [...]



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DEAR FRIENDS

I'm not ready for Christmas



Dear Friends,

The season of Advent is always four Sundays long – the four Sundays before Christmas. However, the season's actual number of days varies depending on which day of the week Christmas falls.

This year Advent began on December 1 – one of the shorter observances of the season. Maybe this is why I feel like I'm running out of time. When I dropped some items off this past Wednesday morning at the dry cleaners, the person at the counter asked, "Are you ready for Christmas?" I'm sure he asks every customer the same question, but it stopped me in my tracks. Well. . . no, I'm not.

An article from a couple of years ago by Tish Harrison Warren had the title: "I'm Not Ready for Christmas. I Need to Take a Minute." Ms. Warren wrote that she could not force herself to dive into all the festivities and holiday cheer that these December days so often demand of us. "I need a season to notice, reflect on and grieve what we collectively and I individually have walked through this year (and the past few years, really). I need to take stock of where I am and how I got here," she says. So, she continued, she was particularly glad for the season of Advent – this precious time of spiritual preparation for Christmas.

I am, too. Aren't you?

Tish Harrison Warren continued, "We recall that we require ransom and rescue. Another year has gone by and we still live in a world in need of mending. We have learned anew through

these long years that a virus can suddenly change our lives, that our illusions of control and predictability are fragile and faulty, that lies are often mistaken as truth, that we cannot keep ourselves or those we love from pain, that the wreckage of poverty, injustice and darkness persist. This is the very world of heartbreak, Christians say each year, into which Christ came and will come again.” Christ came and will come again. In between, we wait and watch and hope.

I’m not ready for Christmas. I need a minute. But I will be better prepared if I set aside some time for reflection and prayer. I invite you to join me in preparing during these remaining Advent days, so that when we celebrate Christmas, our celebrations will be rich and full of joy.

Blessings,
Stephen Applegate

A BLUE CHRISTMAS

A Blue Christmas (and it’s not about Elvis!) Holding a Service of Healing & Hope during the Holidays

Trinity will hold a special Blue Christmas service in St. Mark’s Chapel on Wednesday, December 18, at 7:00 pm.

For many people, Christmas can be a difficult and heavy time because they are suffering some kind of loss – whether the loss is of a person, a dream, finances, stability, health, or something else. Churches hold such services on or near the longest night of the year and the shortest day – symbolic of the darker times of our lives when we find ourselves grieving, lonely, or longing for something better. So we’ll hold the service a few days before the Winter Solstice.

During a time that’s noisy with celebrations, we’ll carve out space for peaceful pastoral care and compassionate community for those who are struggling. Perhaps you are the one who is feeling emotional pain or shedding tears as you anticipate the holidays, or perhaps someone you know is in this situation. If so, we hope you’ll come to the Blue Christmas service to be comforted by God’s presence and embraced by the love of Jesus.

No, the Blue Christmas service has nothing to do with Elvis, but it does have to do with missing someone or something – and it will offer a time of peace and healing.

Trinity Episcopal Church

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I am a college professor passionate about helping others and breaking the stigma around mental health. As a mom of two young children, I coach as many of their sports teams as I can.

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Christmas
ORNAMENTS

*Support the Trinity Community
Breakfast Program*

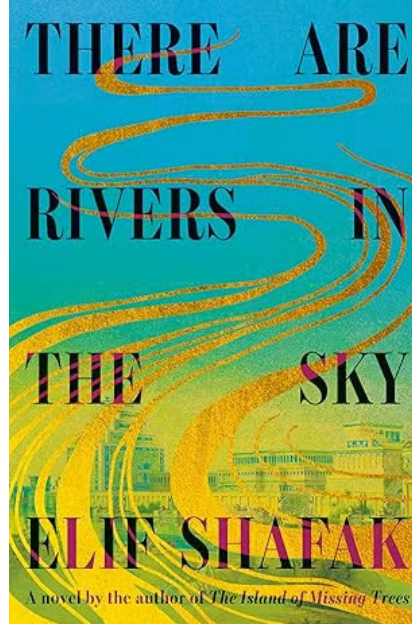
\$30



OFFICE HOURS

A reminder that beginning December 25 through January 2, Trinity's office will be closed for regular business.

BOOK CLUB



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EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE

[Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe bishop joins UN religious council on refugees](#)

[Episcopal News Service] The Rt. Rev. Mark Edington, bishop of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, has been invited to join the Multi-Religious Council of Leaders, a group of [...]

[New York's Church of the Intercession to host 114th annual candlelight service celebrating Clement Clarke Moore's 'A Visit from St. Nicholas'](#)

[Episcopal News Service] The historic Church of the Intercession in Manhattan will host its annual 114th annual Clement Clarke Moore Candlelight Carol Service on Dec. 15 at 4 p.m. Eastern [...]

Episcopal Church completes divestment from fossil fuel industry

[Episcopal News Service] The Episcopal Church announced Dec. 11 that it had divested entirely from the fossil fuel industry – marking the culmination of a decade-long shift toward environmentally conscious [...]

Episcopal Parish Network hosts webinar to give update on Sudanese civil war, humanitarian crisis

[Episcopal News Service] Over 20,000 people have been killed and at least 11 million people have been displaced since the latest Sudanese civil war broke out in 2023. Despite the [...]

Trinity Episcopal Church, 316 Adams St, Toledo, OH 43604, United States



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DEAR FRIENDS

Christmas once again...



Dear Friends,

In a few days, it will be Christmas once again. This year, everyone is coming home to Granville for Christmas – everyone except one son-in-law whose work in the New York financial world requires him to be in the city as 2024 comes to a close. To keep track of all the comings and goings, Terry and I have put together a color-coded calendar. If I read it correctly, everyone will be together for at least a few hours on December 26 – adult children, grandchildren, dogs . . . all in one place filled with happy chaos.

Our third child, Kate, and her husband, Mike, are expecting their first child in April. I haven't seen Kate in person since her pregnancy began, but the photos she's sent leave no doubt that she is "with child" as they used to say.

The Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Advent – this week's Gospel – is the story of not one, but two pregnant women – cousins – meeting. One of the women is Elizabeth, who will give birth to John the Baptist. The other is Mary, whose son, Jesus, will be born in humble circumstances in Bethlehem. I'm grateful that we acknowledge and honor Mary now in The Episcopal Church. It wasn't the case when I was growing up – probably a resistance to seeming "too Romish." Restoring her as an important figure during Advent is just right, it seems to me. Birth is inevitably preceded by a time of preparation, and the birth of Jesus is no different.

Just as a “pregnant pause” is a moment of hesitation that creates a sense of anticipation, so does a human pregnancy create a sense of expectation. Such is the case for Mary, who is known by many titles: Madonna, Theotokas (God-bearer), Star of the Sea, Queen of Heaven. The simplest and most profound of them is Our Lady – or in French, Notre Dame.

The Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Paris recently reopened after the catastrophic fire of 2019. One of the stories that came out of its re-opening was of Thomas Weinbeck, a land and environment manager from Bourgogne. His family had come to Parish to celebrate a friend’s birthday and had made it to the cathedral after visiting the city’s catacombs. “We didn’t even know there would be a Mass!” he said. I was particularly taken with what their friend, Annabell Kasynski, had to say about her experience, “To be honest, I also came to pray a little, even though I don’t really believe in it. There’s always hope that there may be someone up there, and this is not just any place, so maybe in here He’ll hear me.”

I suppose you could interpret her statement in many different ways, but the way I choose to read it is that there may be something waiting to be born in her. “There’s always hope that there may be someone up there. . . .” That hope, however tiny, has the potential to give birth to a full and rich faith.

If you see yourself at all in Annabell Kasynski, then this coming Sunday, with its theme of waiting for someone or something to be born, is especially for you. Please join us as we make our final preparations for the coming of Jesus.

Blessings,
Stephen

TEAM TRINITY



Trinity's staff wishes you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! The parish office will be closed from December 25–27, and December 30–January 2 since we missed out on that “long winter’s nap” mentioned in Clement Clarke Moore’s “The Night before Christmas.” We’ll be back in the New Year, refreshed and ready!



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\$30





ALERT:

SUNDAY 12/29, TRINITY KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL
WILL NOT BE HELD. LESSONS AND
CAROLS IS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.
TRINITY KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL RESUME
ON JANUARY 5TH.

QUESTIONS? EMAIL:
George@TrinityToledo.org

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WEST MISSION AREA SCREENING OF THE PHILADELPHIA ELEVEN

Sunday, January 6, 2025, 6:00 pm
St. Michael's in the Hills, 4718 Brittany Rd., Toledo

Many of us have never experienced a time when women couldn't be ordained as priests in the Episcopal Church. Fifty years ago, on July 29, 1974, eleven women (the Philadelphia Eleven) were ordained as Episcopal priests, two years before the General Convention affirmed and authorized the ordination of women to the priesthood. Join the West Mission Area for prayer, dinner (salad, pizza, and dessert), and a movie, when we will have a screening of The Philadelphia Eleven, a feature-length documentary about the experience of these women and their supporters, against the institutional church. [Watch the Trailer](#) RSVP so we have enough food. If you have dietary restrictions, please make note of them in the comments. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-54085004-west> For more information, email Jolene Miller, jolene278@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting January 26, 2025 following the 10am worship service.

Trinity Episcopal Church

Christmas Service Schedule

Blue Christmas Service

DEC 18, 7 PM

Noonday Christmas Eve Service

DEC 24, NOON

Christmas Pageant

DEC 24, 4:00 PM

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

DEC 24, 2024

10:30 PM MUSIC BEGINS

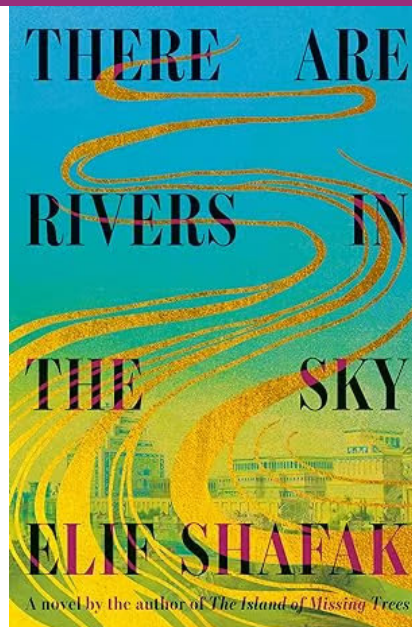
11:00 PM SERVICE

316 Adams Street

www.trinitytoledo.org

You are Loved.

BOOK CLUB



We will take a pause for the cause and meet on **January 19 at 6:30pm via Zoom** to discuss our next selection: *"There Are Rivers In The Sky"* by Elif Shafak. From the Booker Prize finalist, author of *The Island of Missing Trees*, an enchanting new tale about three characters living along two great rivers, all connected by a single drop of water. Zoom meet up details coming soon.

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TRINITY@HOME LIVE-STREAM

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EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE

[Chief Financial Officer Kurt Barnes to retire after 21 years in top churchwide leadership position](#)

[Episcopal News Service] Episcopal Church Chief Financial Officer Kurt Barnes plans to retire after 21 years, according to an announcement Dec. 19 by Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe. In addition to [...]

[Anglican Communion secretary general shares Christmas message](#)

[Anglican Communion Office] The Rt. Rev. Anthony Poggo, secretary general of the Anglican Communion, Dec. 19 released his Christmas message for 2024. Reflecting on the light of Christ and the [...]

[Heavenly host of colonial-era angels revealed at Boston church just in time for Christmas](#)

[Diocese of Massachusetts] Through a painstaking and possibly once-in-a-lifetime paint restoration project underway at Old North Church in Boston, a host of colonial-era angels is coming into view, one by one, for [...]

[Church of England outlines process for selecting the next archbishop of Canterbury](#)

[Episcopal News Service] The Church of England has offered a fuller explanation of the process that will lead to the appointment of the next archbishop of Canterbury by King Charles [...]



TRINITY TOPICS

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DEAR FRIENDS

The Twelve Smart Days of Christmas



Dear Friends,

If you are reading this week's Topics on its publication date – Friday, December 27 – happy third day of Christmas. I'm in Granville for a couple of days enjoying time with our family. It's been joyful chaos since I arrived home late on Christmas morning.

Yesterday, as I walked Bernie downtown for a “leg-stretcher,” we passed several Christmas trees already put out to the curb. These are the same trees I saw freshly-cut tied to the tops of cars driving into town the day after Thanksgiving. Their special time indoors has come to an end.

Christmas is already over for some people. The radio stations that converted to an “all Christmas – all the time” format have returned to their regular programming. Amazon, the US Postal Service, and brick-and-mortar stores are all handling returns. And we're on the brink of a New Year.

Not so fast, I want to say. Christmas is twelve days long. We have at least one song that reminds us of the tradition – The Twelve Days of Christmas – the 18th century English carol celebrating true love, gift-giving and birds.

Originally published in 1780, it was a children's memory game, and the words were chanted as each player attempted to recite the lengthening list of gifts. The melody was added in

1909 by Frederic Austin, who presumably gave the middle line its elongated flourish, “fiiivvve goooollld riiinnngs” — a detail best left off the composer’s resume. If it had never become a song, the multitude of leaping lords and milking maids might have disappeared completely right along with the traditional twelve days.

Some people love the song, and there are terrific versions of it – the one sung by John Denver of the Muppets [is a classic](#) with Miss Piggy claiming the five gold rings – and Straight No Chaser’s [send up](#) of the song still makes me smile every time I hear it, even though it’s been around since 1998. Others describe it as the Christmas equivalent of “99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall.”

One year (2013, in fact), the independent writer Pamela Forsythe “wondered about the preponderance of fowl [in the list] – six of the 12 days feature gifts of birds: partridge, turtle doves, French hens, colly or calling birds, geese, and swans.” She asked, “Aside from the hens and geese, which could provide eggs, what was the recipient to do with all the rest? Stock an aviary?”

And then she went on to compose her own fresh set of lyrics. Here they are:

The Twelve Smart Days of Christmas

On the 12th day of Christmas my true love gave to me:

Twelve consoling kisses,
Eleven geeks–a–helping,
Ten friends advising,
Nine coders weeping,
Eight teens–a–texting,
Seven new devices,
Six thrilling e–books,
Five ibuprofens,
Four “Downton” downloads,
Three apps to save time,
Two tiny earbuds, and
A smart phone delivered by drone

If you were to write your own list of gifts for the Twelve Days of Christmas, what would the list include? Fowl? Electronic devices? Experiences? Something for you to ponder in these days between December 25 and January 5.

Blessings,
Stephen Applegate

Saturday, January 11, 9:30 am

While we can't promise as much fun and camaraderie as we had Greening the Church in early December, we contend that there's something immensely satisfying about taking down seasonal decorations and *carefully* storing them for next year.

Please plan to offer an hour of your time to join your fellow parishioners as we de-Christmify the church. The large trees, the garland, the candles all need to go away so the church will be ready for the next day – The Baptism of Our Lord. It's Stephen's last Sunday, too, and you know he wouldn't want to leave a job unfinished. Coffee and donuts? Natch!

COME TO WINTER CONVOCATION: LIVING THE VISION

At our 208th Convention, Bishop Jolly cast the vision for our diocese: "Connected in Beloved Community, we seek to be faithful, healthy, effective, and sustainable sharers of the transformative love of Jesus." The 2025 Diocesan Convocation will help us live into that vision.

It will be held Friday, January 31, and Saturday, February 1, Sawmill Creek in Huron to learn tangible skills for how to live out our vision in our faith communities and across the Diocese. We'll be joined by two visiting trainers from The College for Congregational Development (CCD) who will lead us to deepen our faith and build our practical skills for being the church in the world today.

We will learn a lot to bring back to our community. The more people from Trinity to register, the more fun convocation will be! (We had a wonderful time with important conversations last year.)

Childcare and interactive activities for youth will be available. The cost to register is \$50.00 for adults and \$15.00 for children/youth. For more information about Convocation, registration, and hotel accommodations, see the [diocesan web page](#).

Convention vs. Convocation: Which is Which?

	Diocesan Convention	Winter Convocation
Focus	Doing the business of the diocese: Bishop Anne and her staff provide updates; voting on the budget, electing reps to committees and boards	Fun, fellowship, and formation: A time for us to gather as a diocese to make new friends, connect with existing friends, worship together, and explore how God is calling us as individuals and faith communities to serve God and our neighbors.
Attendees	Clergy, delegates from the community, and church nerds	Everyone! There is programming for grownups, youth, and kids. Each convocation has a theme to guide speakers, programming, and activities.
Time of year	Fall (usually November)	Winter (usually late January or early February)

TEAM TRINITY



Trinity's staff wishes you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! The parish office will be closed from December 25–27, and December 30–January 2 since we missed out on that “long winter’s nap” mentioned in Clement Clarke Moore’s “The Night before Christmas.” We’ll be back in the New Year, refreshed and ready!



WEST MISSION AREA SCREENING OF THE PHILADELPHIA ELEVEN

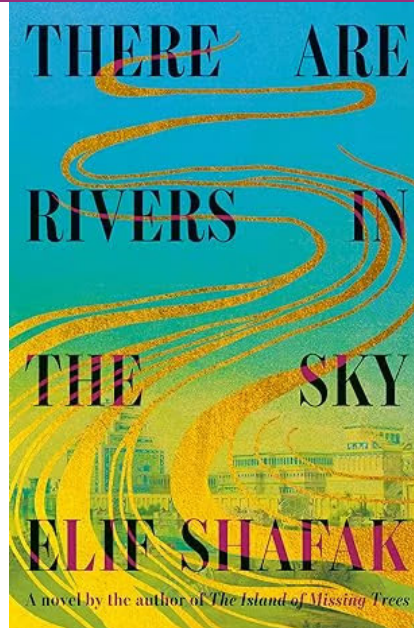
Monday, January 6, 2025, 6:00 pm
St. Michael's in the Hills, 4718 Brittany Rd., Toledo

Many of us have never experienced a time when women couldn't be ordained as priests in the Episcopal Church. Fifty years ago, on July 29, 1974, eleven women (the Philadelphia Eleven) were ordained as Episcopal priests, two years before the General Convention affirmed and authorized the ordination of women to the priesthood. Join the West Mission Area for prayer, dinner (salad, pizza, and dessert), and a movie, when we will have a screening of The Philadelphia Eleven, a feature-length documentary about the experience of these women and their supporters, against the institutional church. [Watch the Trailer](#) RSVP so we have enough food. If you have dietary restrictions, please make note of them in the comments. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-54085004-west> For more information, email Jolene Miller, jolene278@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting January 26, 2025 following the 10am worship service.

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EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE

[Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe's Christmas message](#)

Dear People of God in The Episcopal Church: Among the Christmas Gospels, Luke is surely the crowd pleaser. Nearly our entire visual vocabulary of Christmas—the manger, the shepherds, the angels—comes [...]

Diocese of Easton to consider partnering with another diocese after bishop's retirement

[Episcopal News Service] The Diocese of Easton Standing Committee released a statement Dec. 19 saying it will create a discernment committee to “determine whether our participation in God’s mission could [...]

Presiding bishop election, Title IV cases and ‘clergy shortage’ among top ENS stories of 2024

[Episcopal News Service] It was the year a presiding bishop said goodbye – and the year The Episcopal Church said hello to a new presiding bishop. Episcopalians put the pandemic [...]

Chief Financial Officer Kurt Barnes to retire after 21 years in top churchwide leadership position

[Episcopal News Service] Episcopal Church Chief Financial Officer Kurt Barnes plans to retire after 21 years, according to an announcement Dec. 19 by Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe. In addition to [...]