



NOVEMBER, 2009

# The Church of the Holy Trinity

Post Office Box 7773  
North Augusta, South Carolina 29861



# Newsletter

## ADVENT

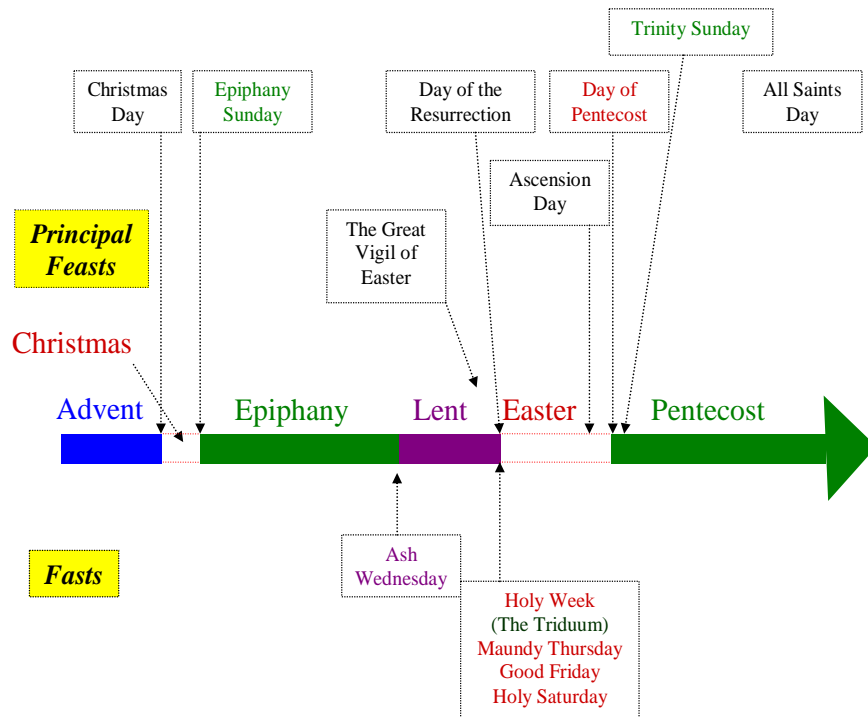
This month the *Season of Pentecost* is coming to an end, and the *Season of Advent* begins. The First Sunday in Advent is considered the beginning of the Church's liturgical calendar; so, we will actually entering a new church year.

The seasons of the church year have a long and rich history, and they have developed around themes emphasizing aspects of the Christian journey and experience. For instance, the Advent-Christmas seasonal cycle is about the Incarnation (God coming to us and dwelling among us). The Lent-Easter cycle is about Resurrection (God raising us to new life in the risen Christ). The Incarnation and the Resurrection are the two anchors of the Christian year, and the Sunday readings assigned in these seasons generally reflect these themes. There is what is called "ordinary" time between these two great seasonal celebrations of the Christian life: the *Season of Epiphany* and the *Season of Pentecost*. Epiphany (meaning "to make known") generally carries the theme of Christ being made manifest to a world that desperately needs a Messiah (The mission of the Church). Pentecost (The giving of the Holy Spirit to the Church) carries the general theme of the Holy Spirit empowering the Christian life and making all things new.

And so this month with the arrival of Advent we begin a new church year. The word *Advent* means *coming or arrival*. Since it is the season before Christmas, it is logically about getting ready for Jesus' coming. We naturally think of Jesus' first coming at Christmas, but if we listen to the readings that are assigned from the lectionary during Advent, we quickly realize that it is also about getting ready for Jesus' "second coming," which is the final completion of Christ's redemptive work in the world. This might seem strange to us that Advent, the first season of the Church year, is also about the very end of things. This, however, makes the strong theological point that the flow of history, including "Salvation History," not only has a purpose, it also has a destination. History is not a randomly stitched together series of events; rather, it is headed somewhere, and God is in the driver's seat. There is a divine destination for all of us, and *Advent* is about discovering the Way to that destination. The Way is Jesus. So, whether we are talking about His first coming as a baby laying in a feeding trough in a stable at Bethlehem 2000 years ago, or talking about His coming to us in power and glory at some undisclosed point in our future, Advent is about "God coming." Don't miss it when He does.

"Come, O Come, Emmanuel!" Father Rob

Have a  
Happy  
Thanksgiving



## The Spiritual Lives of America's Young People

Two very interesting books have been the focus of my reading recently: *Soul Searching* by Christian Smith and Melinda Denton (about the spiritual lives of teenagers 13-17); and *Souls in Transition* (about the spiritual lives of young adults, 18-27) also by Christian Smith. These books are based on surveys done concerning the spiritual lives of young people I found a few surprises and a number of affirmations. I will attempt to summarize them for you:

1. Young people with spiritual roots and church connections statistically do better in life. This includes such areas as social interaction, relationships, school, and general happiness. They tend to exhibit less guilt over behavior and past wrongs, are more future looking, and are more effectively seek meaning, purpose and productive direction for their lives than others their own age. It is clear from these studies that these life outcomes trend in the positive direction with deepening levels of faith commitment.
2. A common perception is that there are fewer teenagers and young adults seeking connection with God and His Church than in previous generations. These studies do not support this assumption. While religion is definitely not a priority for most teenagers, many today are remaining in the church, usually in the faith community of their parents, and the number doing so is not significantly different from teens 40 years ago.
3. It is true, however, that many struggle with articulating their faith, and many simply lapse into a form of "moralistic therapeutic deism" (a faith based on God expecting them to live right but who is otherwise detached and uninvolved... In other words, they are on their own). This displaces for many an authentic Christian experience based on a loving, growing relationship with God and neighbor, one that empowers, transforms, stabilizes life and provides purpose.
4. We all know that the teen years involve a growing independence and absorption into peer groups. The message parents often get in this process is "butt out," and American parents are frequently willing to comply. This is particularly true on issues of spiritual growth. I have often heard as a pastor something like this: "My teenager doesn't want to come to church or be part of the youth group, and I think he should make up his own mind." The result is that many younger teenagers find themselves uncomfortably on their own with some of life's toughest and most basic questions such as their true identity and what is real, true, valuable and morally right. Studies show that most teenagers very badly want loving input (after all, it's a scary world out there), but they want input and engagement on re-negotiated grounds that take into account their growing maturity and desired independence. This is when the art of parenting can be its most challenging, but also its most rewarding.

For us as a church family this means that we need to engage teens and young adults wherever and whenever we can. We need to help them bring faith issues out of the background of their lives and find a Faith that can positively shape their lives. We need to encourage young people to respect the faith of others but move beyond the modern cultural distortion that it is necessary to water down their own faith convictions in the process. Finally, knowing that parents are and have always been the key to the spiritual development of young people, we need to bring parents into our church fellowship and talk about the criticality of faith development along side physical and mental development in the life of their teens.

Worship Retreat 2009  
Vesiry Retreat 2009  
The vesiry and spouses meet



### The Church of the Holy Trinity

The Rev. Rob Hartley, Rector

The Rev. Dan Brown, Associate Rector

Susan Bafford, Senior Warden Ed Poston, Junior Warden

PO Box 7773, North Augusta, S C 29861

Worshiping at 125-2 Merovan Drive (Hwy 25, 0.6 miles past I-20)

[www.HolyTrinityna.org](http://www.HolyTrinityna.org) (803) 341-0075 email: [rector@holyltrinityna.org](mailto:rector@holyltrinityna.org)

### Wednesday Evening Supper and Bible Study

(Supper provided)

Study topic:

"War of the Worlds: A Study of Our Place in the Cosmos"

### 39 New Congregations Have Joined Us

We are a part of a "Province" of Anglican churches known as the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA). When the ACNA officially launched in late June of this year, it was a fellowship of 703 churches. Today, there are 742 congregations and we have an ambitious goal of planting 1,000 new churches in the next five years. "It is very encouraging to see how much progress has already been made," said Archbishop Robert Duncan.

## *A Word About Being Church*

There are many congregations in our community, big and small, all different in various ways. As different as they may seem, they are all alike in that they are all part of the One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church that spans time and location... they all have the same Lord and Savior... they all have the same mission... they all have their eyes on the same prize (to use St Paul's metaphor)... and they all are presenting a Gospel that draws people, confronts their idols, offers forgiveness, brings reconciliation, and offers new life... or, at least, they should be doing all these things.

How are we doing all these things? We indeed have a mission statement and we have articulated a vision. The vestry has a strategic plan that faithfully reflects the mission and vision we have in common with all other churches. But I also see how God is uniquely shaping us for that mission. It is upon this uniqueness that I would like to briefly reflect:

1. I think God is shaping us to be a community that is particularly open to allowing people "be" before they "know" or "do"... in other words, to "belong" before they "believe." Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matt 11:28-30). It is in the context of a gentle, compassionate, nurturing, teaching community such as this that people can come to a transformative relationship with Christ. I see this particular ethos as a strength the Lord is developing in this parish family.
2. Our witness to the world is uncompromisingly anchored in the deep Truths of the Apostolic Faith. I see God strengthening this in us day-by day.
3. We invite others into a worship that goes deep into the great traditions of the Church. But it is both ancient and new. It is not faddish. There is room for the movement of the Spirit. Our worship calls people to participate not spectate. Most of all, we are Eucharistic-centered, knowing better than most what it means to come the Lord's Table as a covenant community of God. Maybe we don't do any of this with any great deal of perfection, but God is moving us along in that direction, and it is something we can offer the seeker that many other churches cannot.
4. Finally, I observe that we are becoming more deliberate about inviting people to move from the fringes of the community to the warm, nurturing heart of the fellowship where growth in knowledge, love and service to God happens. We know that growing is not an option and are communicating that to others.

So, in this town there are many congregations, big and small, all different in many ways. We are different and have our part to uniquely play in what God is doing in this world.

Father Rob



## *Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, November 8 following Holy Eucharist*

1. Covered dish luncheon
2. Noonday Prayer
3. Rector's Report
4. The Expectations & ministry of the vestry
5. Election of two new vestry members
6. Financial Report for 2009
7. Senior Warden's Report
8. Junior Warden's Report
9. Building and Planning Committee Report:
  - o Interim worship space on Merovan Drive
  - o Property on Walnut Lane extension
  - o Long term building plans
10. Proposed budget for 2010
11. Capital Campaign for renovation of new worship space.
12. Closing Prayer

# NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<p style="color: red; text-align: center;"><b>All Saints Day</b></p> <p>10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Christian Ed</p> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday ingathering of food and money for our outreach ministries</i></p>	7:00 pm Marriage Seminar	6:00 pm Choir	5:45 pm Men's Group Woman's Gp  6:45 pm Fellowship & Bible Study	10:00am Eucharist & Prayers for Healing		
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<p>23<sup>RD</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 27B)</p> <p>10:00 am Worship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:30 pm Annual Parish meeting and covered dish luncheon</p>	7:00 pm Marriage Seminar	6:00 pm Choir	5:45 pm Men's Group Woman's Gp  6:45 pm Fellowship & Bible Study	10:00am Eucharist & Prayers for Healing		9:00-12:00 am Community Work Project
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<p>24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 28B)</p> <p>10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Christian Ed</p> <p>12:30 pm Vestry Meeting (lunch provided)</p>	7:00 pm Marriage Seminar	6:00 pm Choir	5:45 pm Men's Group Woman's Gp  6:45 pm Fellowship & Bible Study	10:00am No Eucharist		
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<p>Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King</p> <p>10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Christian</p> <p><i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday ingathering for the Clergy's Discretionary Fund</i></p>		6:00 pm Choir	No activities	<p style="color: red; text-align: center;"><b>Thanksgiving Day</b></p> <p>10:00am No Eucharist</p>		
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>					
<p>First Sunday of Advent</p> <p>10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Christian Ed</p>						