



JANUARY, 2010

The Church of the Holy Trinity

Post Office Box 7773

North Augusta, South Carolina 29861



Newsletter

The Feast of the Epiphany



The church celebrates seven principle 'feasts' throughout the year. One of them occurs this month, known as *The Feast of the Epiphany* (Jan. 6). Being part of a Church that is 2000 years old, we inherit a lot of older language, such as the word 'feast.' Today we would probably use words like 'celebration.' The word 'Epiphany' is also older language meaning 'manifestation' or 'appearance.' In the western church the Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated at the close of the 12 days of Christmas and celebrates the arrival of the Magi (The Three Wise Men) at Bethlehem. Since it is a feast that normally does not occur on a Sunday, we tend to include the coming of the Magi in with our Christmas celebrations.

What exactly is it that we are celebrating on January 6 that causes it to rank along with other Principle Feasts of the Church (Christmas, All Saints Day, Ascension Day, Pentecost Sunday, Easter and Trinity Sunday)? It is a Principle Feast of the Church because it celebrates the 'manifestation' of God's bounteous love and saving grace to the whole world. Jesus came for all people, and that is Good News for a world so desperately in need of a redeemer. The Magi represent the worldly acknowledgement that Jesus is indeed the Messiah (in Greek, *Christos*, from which where we get 'Christ').

The gifts given by the Magi (gold, frankincense and myrrh) help us further identify who this Messiah is:

- ❖ Gold is given to a King; in this case Jesus, the King of Kings.
- ❖ Incense (frankincense) is given to symbolize the presence of a deity; in this case God Himself who was incarnate in the person of Jesus.
- ❖ Myrrh is given as a symbol of priestly anointing; in this case Jesus the Anointed One, our Great High Priest, who represents us by virtue of His righteousness (not our own righteousness) at the very throne of God. Myrrh was also used for embalming, signifying that this baby is to be the 'Suffering Servant' of Hebrew Prophecy who will give his life for the world.

With all this packed into this celebration of the coming of the Magi, there is little wonder Epiphany is counted among the 'Principle Feasts' of the Church. The *Feast of the Epiphany* also ushers in a time in the church year known as *The Season of Epiphany*. This season will provide for us a bridge from the *Advent-Christmas Season* to the *Lent-Easter Season*, the two pinnacles of the church year. During Epiphany, we explore scripturally and liturgically the theme of Christ being made 'manifest' to the world.

Welcoming Visitors

As you have seen, our visitors have increased in number. Experience tells us that most visitors will be either unchurched or nominally churched. These visitors come with expectations and form immediate judgments that govern their return or their desire to become part of this church family... here are a couple of those needs and expectations:

- Although most visitors do not want to be smothered or have attention drawn to them, they do hope for warm, genuine greetings that make them feel welcome, comfortable and included. If a face is not familiar, or if you don't remember someone's name, introduce yourself, even if you know it's not their first time with us. Pick them out to greet at the passing of the peace. Our goal should be to have visitors greeted by at least seven different people before they leave that morning. Our focus should always be on the visitor's needs and on making their time with us comfortable and spiritually enriching.
- Although visitors do come seeking God, they also come seeking caring relationships. They should leave knowing they have the possibility of at least one new friend because they were here. If you had a good conversation with a particular visitor, follow up with a note or phone call of appreciation. Express an interest in "showing them the ropes" and explaining what makes this church family tick. Tell them what excites you about your Faith as it is being lived out at Holy Trinity. This is called "witnessing," but most of all it is just being a friend.

Visitors have other expectations, of course, like a service they can participate in (albeit from their seat in the back), uplifting and familiar music, positive sermons that address their everyday lives... the list goes on. What you and I need to know above all, however, is they are seeking contact with God and a relationship with you and me. We need to be intentional about interacting with our visitors, making them feel at home, and letting them know that indeed their expectations can be met at the Church of the Holy Trinity.

Fr. Rob

What's Your Perspective?

Your overarching perspective on life (the lens through which you view the world) is often referred to as your “worldview.” I wrote about worldviews in our July-2009 newsletter, but this is an important topic; so, I thought I would follow up on this a bit. You have a worldview whether we can articulate it or not. It is your “big picture,” the way you harmonize all you believe about life and the world you live in. It is your way of understanding reality and responding to it... your basis for making decisions, both big and small. Does this sound important? It does to me.

Every worldview should be able to answer at least these questions:

1. Who am I, where did I come from, why am I here, where am I going?
2. Where is peace, joy, fulfillment and purpose to be found in life?
3. What obstacles stand in my way to finding these things, and how can I overcome these obstacles?

Here is how different worldviews can generate different answers to these questions:

1. A person whose dominant understanding of the world is “naturalism” would answer the first question like this: “Who we are and why we are here is only a product of random acts of nature and evolution. I am on my own in this “survival of the fittest” world, and I’m at the mercy of my own human nature.”
2. A “materialist” would probably answer the second question like this: “Since the material world is all there is, fulfillment can be found only in the acquisition and enjoyment of material things, even if it is at the expense of others.” In other words, “he who has the most toys wins.”
3. Finally, a “secularist” would answer the third question like this: “The world can be fixed and my destiny fulfilled only through reason, logic, human intellect, science and technology.”

A Christian worldview, on the other hand, answers these questions biblically:

1. Who I am is a beloved child of God, created to be eternally in fellowship with God; therefore, fulfillment, joy and peace is to be found in my relationship with God. (Genesis 1:27-28)
2. My relationship with God is distorted because of my fallen human nature (greed, pride and self-absorption, etc). Purpose and power for living is to be found in recovering my walk (my relationship) with God. (Genesis 3:8)
3. What stands in the way of recovering this relationship are three things: 1) myself; 2) this broken and hurting world in which I live; and, of course, 3) the devil who seeks to prevent me from full fellowship with God. Try as I will, I alone cannot overcome these obstacles arrayed against me; God is obviously my only hope and my salvation. (Luke 19:10, Isaiah 65:17-25)

A Christian worldview, therefore, is life understood and lived from God’s perspective.

What is your perspective? What is the dominant worldview through which you understand life and respond to it? The truth is that we all have a blend of worldviews, even us Christians. But as disciples of the living God, we strive (by the grace of God and the power of God’s Holy Spirit in us) to possess a mature, comprehensive “Christian worldview” that is day-by-day less tainted by the world, the flesh and the devil. We know ultimately this is the only source for living life to the fullest; for as Jesus says, “I am come that you might have life, and have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)

Fr. Rob

Lay Ministries for the Sunday Eucharist

If you are unable to do the ministry as scheduled, please make arrangements to with someone take your place and inform Fr. Rob. This will relieve the clergy of having to designate someone at the last minute on Sunday mornings.

Ministry/Date	JAN 3	JAN 10	JAN 17	JAN 24	JAN 31	FEB 7
Euch. Min.	Rosemarie	Ginger H	Nancy H	Lany H	Paula W	Monique T
Ushers	Ed P	Wayne L	Ray G	Tom R	Homer H	Bill B
Presenting Bread/Wine	Bill and Sonya M	Annette & Louis M	Mary P Marguerite P	Larry and Martha P	Ed and Marilyn P	Brenda R Carol R
Lector--OT	Carl C	Richard M	Ed P	Marylin P	Myrle W	Margaret C
Lector--NT	Donna L	Annette M	Tom R	Ellie G	Rich L	Judy C
Prayer Team	Ginger H Wayne L	Rosemarie Mary P	Joe W Myrle W	Ginger H Wayne L	Rosemarie Mary P	Joe W Myrle W
Altar Guild [week of]	Rosemarie Jeanie	Ginger Barbara	Marguerite Annette	Annette Myrle	Rosemarie Jeanie	Ginger Barbara
Acolyte	Monique T	Ellie G	Monique T	Ellie G	Monique T	Ellie G



Offering Envelopes

Those of you awaiting 2010 offering envelopes, you will find them on the table in the hallway. If you would like a box set mailed to you, let the church office know.

The box set contains one envelope for each Sunday in 2010. weekly envelopes are very useful for those committed to systematic giving keeping up with your tithe. If you haven't used offering envelopes in the past, your vestry and clergy recommend you give it a try.



The first reported case of 'Mad Cow' disease.

Holy Trinity Confirmation Class

Classes for Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation of baptismal vows will start on Saturday, January 23, 2010 and end on February 13, 2010. We will meet at 10:00 AM at the Church. Confirmation scheduled for Sunday, February 21, 2010 when Bishop David Anderson comes to visit. You must come to four of the classes. The teaching and discussion will be led by Fr. Dan. Please see him for further information.

2nd Sunday Covered-dish Supper

January 10, 5:30 pm

Brenda and Bill Bargeloh will be sharing their story and about their spiritual journey.

The Bishop's Visitation

1st Sunday of Lent (February 21)

Bishop David Anderson (suffragan, or assistant, to our diocesan bishop, The Rt. Rev. Martyn Minns) will be with us on Sunday Feb. 21. Bishop Anderson will do what bishops normally do when visiting parishes under their charge: he will spend time with the clergy and vestry assessing the spiritual and temporal health of the congregation; he will be available to anyone wanting to meet with him, pastorally or otherwise; he will look at the health of the clergy and their ministries to the people of Holy Trinity; and finally, at our Sunday worship, he will offer laying on of hands and prayers for those desiring to confirm or reaffirm their baptismal vows, or for those desiring to be formally received into the fellowship of this communion.

The role of the bishop in the life of God's church is described in Scripture. The New Testament makes reference to the ordained office of *episcopoi*, or "overseer," which is translated out of the Greek New Testament into English as "bishop." An example is Titus who was left on Crete by the Apostle Paul to "straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town." (Titus 1:5) The bishop's functions are:

- Oversee the churches in an area or region.
- Appoint *presbuteroi*, translated into English as "elder" or "priest" as his representative in the local congregations.
- Be the local church's connection to the broader "one, holy, catholic and apostolic church."
- Represent the broader church to the local parish.
- And as the successors to the Apostles, guard the "Faith once delivered."

The vast majority of churches worldwide and throughout time have maintained this biblically based structure, as we do here in the Anglican Communion.

"Confirmation," "Reaffirmation" and "Reception" are important and serious steps in life of any Christian. In order to be presented to the bishop for these rites, it will be necessary to attend Fr. Dan's Confirmation classes beginning in January, or seek instruction from Fr. Rob or one of the lay catechist in our congregation.



Happy New Year

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
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JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p style="text-align: center;">2nd Sunday of Christmas</p> <p>10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Christian Ed</p> <p>Ingathering of food and money for outreach</p>		6:00 pm Choir	<p>5:45 pm Men's Gp Woman's Gp</p> <p>6:45 pm Fellowship supper and study: Healing and Deliverance</p>	10:00am Eucharist & Prayers for Healing		10:00 am to Noon Tutoring (Lunch Provided)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p style="text-align: center;">1st Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Christian Ed</p> <p>5:30 pm Covered Dish supper and program</p>		6:00 pm Choir	<p>5:45 pm Men's Gp Woman's Gp</p> <p>6:45 pm Fellowship supper and study: Healing and Deliverance</p>	10:00am Eucharist & Prayers for Healing		10:00 am to Noon Tutoring (Lunch Provided)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p style="text-align: center;">2nd Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Christian Ed Vestry meeting following</p>		6:00 pm Choir	<p>5:45 pm Men's Gp Woman's Gp</p> <p>6:45 pm Fellowship supper and study: Healing and Deliverance</p>	10:00am Eucharist & Prayers for Healing		10:00 am to Noon Tutoring 10:00 am to Noon (Lunch Provided)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p style="text-align: center;">3rd Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Christian Ed</p> <p>Ingathering for the rector's discretionary fund</p>		6:00 pm Choir	<p>5:45 pm Men's Gp Woman's Gp</p> <p>6:45 pm Fellowship supper and study: Evangelism</p>	10:00am Eucharist & Prayers for Healing		10:00 am to Noon Tutoring 10:00 am to Noon (Lunch Provided)
31						
<p style="text-align: center;">4th Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Christian Ed</p>						