One of my favorite descriptions of praying the Daily Office speaks not of cloistered chapels or vested clergy, but of couches, cats, and iPads. In a Living Church’s blog post Derek Olsen writes:

“I do not know why my cats seem attracted by prayer, but they are. Perhaps it’s because my lap will remain in a fixed position for 20 minutes. Maybe it’s because they like my fuzzy robe. Maybe there really is an air, an attitude, a spirit of peace and serenity that gathers around those who pray: that feeling you have when you step inside an ancient sanctuary and instantly recognize an odor of holiness, a space sanctified by decades of prayer, the hopes and dreams and anguish breaths clinging to its walls like lingering incense smoke.

I do not know.

But what I do know is that, settling onto the couch for Morning Prayer, coffee cup in one hand, tablet in the other, I inevitably find one or both fuzzy lumps snuggled next to me, purring in my ear from the couch’s back, or plopped in my lap.”

For the entire blog post, visit http://bit.ly/FindingNotFixing. Derek Olsen is not a priest, though he happens to be married to one. Rather, Dr. Olsen is a scholar and a layperson who writes about the rhythms and practices of the church that have been shaped over the centuries. One of those ancient rhythms is daily prayer as practiced by the Anglican tradition: morning and evening prayer is a daily discipline that roots our days – and if we are faithful to it, our whole lives – in a regular engagement with psalm, canticles, intercessions and thanksgivings. It is a practice that changes us subtly and slowly, yet profoundly.

I don’t have cats, but I do try to start each day with coffee and the Daily Office on our living room couch before my children wake up. But though the Daily Office can be said in private, it is especially meaningful when said in community. During the season of Advent, Dale Murphy, the chair of Cathedral Council and someone who prays the office regularly, will be leading morning prayer on Wednesdays in the cathedral chapel at 7:30 & 9:00 a.m. This offering is both a way of observing the season of Advent while also exploring this practice as a possibility for Trinity going forward. We’ll just do it for the season (December 4, 11, and 18) and then see how it worked. It’s lay-led, so if you’d like to lead it or simply want to know more, please connect with Dale Murphy at dale.murphy@sbcglobal.net.

This is a wonderful opportunity for prayer and community, and to ground our Advent fellowship in the sacred rhythms of daily prayer. Whether this is a service you faithfully pray at home with your cats or something you’ve yet to experience, I hope you’ll join us for morning prayer in Advent on Wednesdays.

Blessings,

BJ+

- The Very Rev. Bernard Owens
A MESSAGE FROM THE VESTRY

Thank you to the 163 households who have made a pledge to Trinity Cathedral for 2020! This is great news! Also, as of the writing of this article, the average pledge had increased by 39.5%. Trinity is truly “Growing in Gratitude.” Your proportional giving not only transforms your life, but also helps Trinity be a place of joy and transformation for all people. Pledging also helps Trinity’s vestry and staff in our planning and budgeting. It’s not too late to turn in your pledge forms in person or online (trinitycleveland.org/pledge-form-2020/).

Advent and Epiphany inspire us to share our “good will towards all people.” In this season we should remember those who struggle with food and housing insecurity. Please consider making a contribution during Trinity’s Christmas offerings, which are dedicated to our hunger and outreach ministries.

As the year draws to a close, it is a great time for reflection, including on finances. You may find that your finances performed better than you predicted when making your 2019 pledge or maybe you are lucky enough to receive an end-of-year bonus at your job. If so, consider an end of the year gift to Trinity Cathedral. This can be placed in the offering plate or made online at http://bit.ly/GiftTrinity.

As a reminder, if you are aged 70½ or older, you may be able to make a nontaxable charitable distribution directly from your IRA to Trinity Cathedral for up to $100,000 each year. These gifts count towards a donor’s required minimum distribution but do not increase the donor’s income. Please consult your financial or tax advisor to see if this opportunity is right for you.

Vestry minutes are available at http://bit.ly/TrinVestry. Our next meeting is December 19 at 5:30 pm. As always, if you have any concerns, you may send them to the wardens at yourvestry@trinitycleveland.org or contact any member of vestry listed above.

CHRISTMAS TIME

VESTRY MEMBERS

Gary Benjamin
Elizabeth Billings
Kim DeNero-Ackroyd
Tim Espy, Treasurer
Jane Freeman
Paul Herrgesell, Junior Warden
Marie Kittredge
Janet Lechleitner
Linda Lee
Patricia Roberts, Senior Warden
Bryan Sickbert

CHRISTMAS FLOWER REMEMBRANCES

A gift to Trinity’s Christmas Flower Fund is a special way to remember or honor a loved one at Christmas time with flowers on the altar.

All remembrances received by December 18 will be listed in an insert in Trinity’s Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship bulletins.

You can put your check for remembrances in the offering plate or send it to the church office. Please include the name of the person you wish to remember or honor in the check memo.

Online remembrances can be made at trinitycleveland.org/christmas-flowers/. Contact Doreen Hughes at 216-774-0415 or dhughes@trinitycleveland.org to order by phone or for more information.
2019 was a busy and eventful year for the Trinity Urban Farm. Dozens of volunteers helped throughout the season, multiplying the core team’s efforts in planting, nurturing and harvesting. The farm’s attendance was 448 volunteers throughout the course of the year working a total of 1,035 hours. Most of that total came from the group’s regular Saturday morning workdays, but it also includes individual work time spent harvesting during the week, fundraising, building and purchasing items for the farm.

Spring 2019 in Cleveland was historically wet, and this slowed our preparations and planting. But after June 21, summer was warm, dry, and we enjoyed good growing conditions. The annual harvest did not meet the 2019 goal of 3,500 pounds of food, but it was bountiful nonetheless, with 2,741 pounds being donated to hunger programs, including our own A Place at the Table. This exceeded last year’s total by nearly 400 pounds. The farm’s all-time total since 2006 has reached more than 17 tons of food. Top crops for the year included 1,098 pounds of tomatoes, 511 pounds of zucchini, 336 pounds of collard greens, 249 pounds of green beans and 181 pounds of radishes. The radishes were a particular success this year, including spring and fall crops that far outpaced what the farm had ever yielded before.

Another major accomplishment was the purchase and transformation of a used shipping container to the farm’s permanent storage shed. It had long been a desire of the farmers to have on-site storage, and when 4 months use of a shipping container was donated last year, the farmers knew they couldn’t live without one. Farm volunteers donated all the funds needed to purchase a 20-foot container which was delivered shortly before the season began in March. The shed now stores mowers, trimmers, shovels, rakes, hoes, wheelbarrows and all the other tools and supplies. Even the farm’s inventory of over 250 tomato cages fit inside when the season ended in November.

The farm welcomed groups from many different walks of life this year in addition to our Trinity volunteers. We hosted the Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage on their service project in spring, which was accompanied by a farm blessing from Dean Owens. Two separate groups from the Cleveland Clinic helped prep and paint the storage shed a lovely shade of marjoram green. We continued to welcome students and parents from Padua Franciscan High School who complete their required community service at the farm. This is the sixth consecutive year of the Padua partnership.

Next year is the farm’s 15th anniversary season. Volunteers are working towards ensuring more fresh, nutritious produce is used at A Place at The Table. Once again they will aim for 3,500 pounds or 1½ tons of food to donate. They’ll be pursuing some grants and other fundraising during the offseason and hoping to have a mural painted on the new shed. If any artists are interested, please contact Scott Blanchard at sblanchard@trinitycleveland.org. The crew always appreciates new volunteers, so let Scott know if you’re interested. Look for an announcement of the farm’s annual potluck supper to kick off the season in early March.
Your Christmas offering for both Christmas Eve services and the Christmas Day service will be used for Trinity Cathedral’s hunger and outreach ministries such as A Place at the Table, the Marion Sterling School Partnership and Trinity’s Urban Farm.

Every Sunday, A Place at the Table provides hot meals to hungry Clevelanders. The Marion Sterling Partnership provides tutoring, teacher assistance, school supplies, Thanksgiving dinners and more to the students of our neighborhood school and their families. Trinity’s Urban Farm harvests more than 2,000 pounds of food donated to hunger programs each year.

Your generous gift will enable us to share your blessings with those Clevelanders who are most vulnerable.
PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

Greening of the Cathedral

Sunday, Dec. 22
12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
(After the 11:15 a.m. service)

Join the flower guild and other Trinity volunteers as they work with festive greens and decorations, making the church look and smell great for the holidays. Volunteers are needed for various tasks – setting up the creche, decorating Christmas trees and arranging fresh greens and poinsettias. No experience is required, so please stay for a little while to help make it a beautiful Christmas at Trinity Cathedral! For more information contact Diane Hexter at 440-590-5950 or dianehexter@howardhanna.com.

Advent Retreat

GIFTS FOR THE WORLD

Advent is a season of preparation and anticipation. But it is also one of new beginnings. How might we regard Advent as a season of discernment? How can we explore our own spiritual gifts to help us to be an incarnate presence to those around us? The world hungers for a taste of divinity. Let us grow in our capacity to see and share the multifaceted gifts that God has given to each of us.

We hope you will join Dean Owens for this Advent Retreat sponsored by the Adult Formation Committee of Trinity Cathedral.

**When:** Saturday, December 7 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
**Where:** Conference Room C/D
**How:** Register at https://tinyurl.com/TrinityAdventRetreat
**Fee:** $25, limited scholarships available for those in need

For More Info: Contact the Rev. Adrienne Koch at akoch@trinitycleveland.org

Ordination of Anna Sutterisch
Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m.

Former Trinity member Rev. Anna Sutterisch will be ordained a priest at Trinity. Anna worshiped at Trinity while a student at Baldwin Wallace University. After graduation, she joined the Episcopal Service Corps and went on to receive her Master of Divinity from Bexley-Seabury Seminary. Anna currently serves on Bishop Hollingsworth’s Diocesan staff as Canon for Christian Formation.
Please help keep the children of nearby Marion-Sterling School warm and well-dressed this winter. Bring new mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and socks to hang on the Mitten Tree in the Promenade throughout the month of December. The school’s administrators tell us that these warm winter items are really needed and appreciated by their students.

The mitten tree is part of Trinity’s Marion Sterling School Partnership which includes volunteer tutoring, assisting teachers, and annual collections of school supplies and Thanksgiving dinner baskets for families.
**STEWARDSHIP**

**GROWING IN GRATITUDE 2020**

Heartfelt gratitude is extended to the 163 households who have joined in the joyous spiritual practice of pledging to our Stewardship Campaign. You are amazing! The total amount pledged as of this printing is roughly $396,000, a 36% increase over last year.

If you haven't had a chance to pledge, it's not too late so we can count you in the list of those pledging in the Dec. 22 bulletin. Please contact Doreen Hughes at dhughes@trinitycleveland.org or pledge online at https://trinitycleveland.org/make-a-pledge/.

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**BrownBag Concerts**

Trinity offers this free concert series at noon on Wednesdays. Bring a lunch, purchase one in the cathedral for $7, or dine after the concert at neighboring Elements Bistro Cafe (discount coupon in the program). Freewill offering.

- **December 4**
  - **A Jazzy Christmas**
  - The Gateway Band, with vocalist Jennifer Cochran, brings a lively performance of Christmas carols to the Cathedral.

- **December 11**
  - **A Ceremony of Carols**
  - Benjamin Britten’s masterpiece with the sopranos and altos of the Cathedral choir and harpist, Jody Guinn.

- **December 19**
  - **Annual Messiah Sing**
  - (NOTE: THIS FINAL CONCERT OF THE YEAR IS ON THURSDAY)
  - Trinity Chamber Orchestra, soloists, Todd Wilson, conductor, and YOU as the massed choir!

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**Have You Heard Our Podcasts?**

Did you know that our website, trinitycleveland.org has a wealth of recorded material that you can listen to at any time? Commonly known as podcasts, these recordings can be played from your computer, your tablet, your smartphone or your MP3 player. You can even download them for later mobile listening.

To get started, just click on “Podcasts” in the upper right hand corner of Trinity’s home page. The section is divided into three parts: Choral Evensong, the Forum and Sermons. You’ll be able to select from among dozens of recordings. Couldn’t make it to Choral Evensong? Listen to a full hour-long podcast including the music and the homily. Couldn’t attend the latest forum because you were teaching Sunday School? It’s available as a podcast. Were you out of town and missed Dean Owens sermon? You can listen to it on our podcast page.

The podcasts are updated every week, so you’ll always find the latest Trinity content. You can find historical recordings as well, in the archive, with some content dating back several years. A special thanks goes out to Trinity’s webmaster Sam Hubish who faithfully records this programming each and every week. He even takes photos to accompany all the recordings.
Walls of Love Come to Trinity

You may have seen Walls of Love projects around the Cleveland area. Organized by founder Holly Jackson, these “walls” are stocked with necessities and cold-weather items for people to take when they are in need.

Soon, Trinity will have its own Wall of Love, on the Prospect Ave. fence in front of Mather Hall. The sponsors of our Wall of Love are members of the Becoming Beloved Community group and Trinity’s Daughters of the King. They will install and maintain the wall, with the help of Holly Jackson. This winter, they will concentrate on providing items that people need in cold weather. Donations are requested: specific winter items (see list below) and monetary contributions, to purchase additional items. Clothing items can be new or gently worn (clean). Donated items can be left at the front desk, labeled for Walls of Love.

- Hats/earmuffs
- Chapstick
- T-shirts/sweatshirts (adult & child sizes)
- Emergency blankets/small tarps
- Sunglasses (eye protection)
- Gloves/hand warmers
- Socks
- Scarves
- Undershirts/thermal underwear
- Emergency blankets/small tarps

Monetary donations should be payable to Trinity Cathedral, with “Walls of Love” in the memo line—these can be mailed to Trinity or put in the offering plate.

Contact Janet Morrison jlmorrison611@gmail.com with any questions.

Praying with Mandalas

Did you know coloring can be a form of prayer? The spiritual practices of coloring mandalas (circular designs) will help you focus on God, hope, love, joy and peace. Trinity has two books available for $10 each: Mandalas, Candles and Prayers (especially for the season of Advent) and Praying with Mandalas. You can contact Ginger Bitikofer at gbitikofer@trinitycleveland.com or (216) 774-0407 for more details.

Holiday Artists’ Market

Sun., Dec. 15
8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Shop for gifts at the Holiday Artists’ Market being held at Trinity on Sun, Dec. 15. You can help support local artists while crossing some items off your Christmas list. The artists’ items will be displayed in Conference Room C/D, so browse and buy their unique holiday gifts between services. Zolten Wood Design, Community Greenhouse Partners and others will be on hand.
Trinity’s chapter of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship (EPF) has enjoyed a busy year of programming, participation and advocacy. The group worked on several focus areas throughout the world on which to pray, study and act.

Yemen Civil War
This ongoing conflict has produced a humanitarian crisis that continues to threaten the lives of millions of Yemeni civilians. The U.S. is involved as a member of a Saudi Arabian coalition fighting the Houthi rebels. Legislative measures to curtail the U.S. role have been unsuccessful. EPF members reached out to Trinity parishioners and the Diocese to contact elected officials to ask for an end to the U.S. participation.

Anti Death Penalty
The status of the death penalty in Ohio and the nation has undergone a lot of recent change. We contacted and encouraged others to contact Gov. Mike DeWine and the Ohio legislature to ask for the end of the death penalty in Ohio. The group continued to send personal cards/notes to Ohio death row inmates on their birthdays. Trinity EPF attended a program called Journey of Hope held at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Ohio City. Speakers included death row exonerees and family members of those killed by a death row prisoner.

Human Trafficking
The group met with Sister Anne Victory, HM, a leader in the effort to curtail human trafficking in Northeast Ohio. We also met Cheryl Gray, the leader of the Diocese of Ohio human trafficking initiative. EPF members attended forums and workshops to learn about the current state of human trafficking in Northeast Ohio and measures being taken to affect change. We also heard from Judge Marilyn Cassidy of the Cuyahoga County Municipal Court’s Human Trafficking docket. Recently, we read Nita Belle’s book In Our Backyard - A Christian Perspective on Human Trafficking and had a discussion of her work on this issue.

Celebrations
In July, Executive Director of EPF Melanie Merkle Atha and her husband, Steven visited Trinity. The couple has been traveling America in their van, meeting with active peacemakers for 44 consecutive weeks at the time of their visit. On Sept.22, Trinity EPF recognized the International Day of Peace with a brief service at the peace pole at the entrance to the Commons. The service featured prayer and hymns accompanied by musician Tim Smith. The 80th birthday of the global Episcopal Peace Fellowship on November 11 was celebrated by sending birthday cards to EPF, signed by Trinity members.

Join Us!
Our group is open to all and we welcome those who want to spread the peace of God locally and around the globe. We meet the first Sunday of each month at Trinity at 1:00 pm, except for the summer months when we meet at 11:30 a.m. For more information, please contact Bruce Freeman at freeman.bruce@gmail.com or Debbie Hunter at hunterd16@roadrunner.com.

Youth & Family Ministry

Sunday, Dec. 15 Christmas Present Wrap-Up
Bring your Christmas presents including those being donated to the Angel Tree project. Youth in grades 6-12 will be wrapping presents to help raise funds for our 2020 Mission Trip to Lotts Creek, Kentucky.

Tuesday, Dec. 24 Christmas Pageant
Advent is upon us and it’s also time to prepare for our Christmas Pageant! Children of all ages are invited to participate. Roles include animals, shepherds, angels, readers and more. Rehearsal will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Sun, Dec. 22. For both these events please contact Allie Heeter at aheeter@trinitycleveland.org for details.
This year will mark the 57th presentation year of the Boar’s Head and Yule Log Festival at Trinity. This joyful Christmastime event will be held on Sat., Dec. 28 with two performances, at (new times) 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. The Elizabethan-inspired pageant celebrates the arrival of the Christ child and the triumph of good over evil.

If you’ve never seen it before, you owe it to yourself to take part in this holiday tradition. It is a feast for the senses with its bright vibrant colors for the eye, the familiar and extraordinary seasonal music enhanced by the organ and brass for the ear, fragrances of incense and the royal banquet of ham, mincemeat pie and other delicacies for the nose. You can even partake of the ham and mincemeat pie, which is served after the second performance to audience, cast and crew members alike. Live animals are a part of the cast with goats, sheep, donkeys and even a camel participating in recent years.

Volunteers are needed, both costumed participants ages 4 and up, and behind-the-scenes personnel such as make-up artists, decorators, ushers and kitchen help. Taking part in the pageant can be very uplifting as you’ll join the throng of hundreds who show up for the performances each year, some even moved to tears by the spectacle and its significance.

Please contact Nancy Baxter at nanlyn@prodigy.net or boarsheadfestival@hotmail.com to participate. Only one rehearsal is held — Fri. Dec. 27 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Please remember that the presentation times are earlier than past years. This is a free, non-ticketed event and a freewill offering is taken at each performance.
UPCOMING PROGRAM & EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 3rd
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Sacred Space

Wednesday, December 4th
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM - BrownBag Concert
6:00 PM - 9:30 PM - Choral Evensong, Supper and Programming

Saturday, December 7th
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM - Gifts for the World - An Advent Retreat

Sunday, December 8th
10:10 AM - 11:00 AM
Sunday School & Youth Group
The Way of Love: Advent Bible Study
Forum: Aging Out of Foster Care
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM - A Place at The Table

Tuesday, December 10th
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM - Faith Journey Book Group

Wednesday, December 11th
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM - BrownBag Concert
6:00 - 9:30 PM - Choral Evensong & Supper

Friday, December 13th
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM - Knitting Pearls

Sunday, December 15th
10:10 AM - 11:00 AM
Tai Chi
Local Artists’ Holiday Sale
Youth Group Gift Wrapping Fundraiser
The Way of Love: Advent Bible Study
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM - A Place at The Table
12:30 PM - 3:00 PM - Greening of the Church

Tuesday, December 17th
5:30 - 8:00 PM - Vestry

Thursday, December 19th
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM - Messiah Sing
6:30 PM - Anna Sutterisch Ordination

Friday, December 20th
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM - Knitting Pearls

Sunday, December 22
10:10 AM - 11:00 AM
Community Gospel Reflections
Youth Group
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM - A Place at The Table
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Choral and Instrumental Prelude
11:00 PM - 12:00 AM - Choral Eucharist

Tuesday, December 24th
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Family Eucharist & Pageant
10:30 PM - 11:00 PM - Choral and Instrumental Prelude
11:00 PM - 12:00 AM - Choral Eucharist

Wednesday, December 25th
10:00 AM - 11:15 AM - Choral Eucharist with Lessons and Carols
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM - A Place at the Table

Thursday, January 1st, 2020
Trinity Cathedral, Commons & Diocese offices closed

FORUMS
SUNDAYS at 10:10 a.m.

December 8 - Aging Out of Foster Care: We'll be joined by Linda Torbert of Lutheran Metro Ministries’ Residential Youth Services who will discuss the issue and possible solutions to youth aging out of the foster care system.

WEDNESDAY EVENING PROGRAMS

This educational opportunity is offered at 7:30 p.m. following Choral Evensong and a catered soup and salad supper (suggested donation of $6 per person).

December 4 - How are Clevelanders Undesigning the Redline? In partnership with Ohio Transformation Fund and Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood, come hear from the Fair Housing Center for Rights and Research, Cleveland State University School of Urban Studies, Environmental Health Watch and the Greater Cleveland Congregations Cleveland Heights’ Housing Team about efforts to undesign the effects of redlining in the Greater Cleveland Area.
Trinity Cathedral invites you to Celebrate Christmas with Us

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE
5 p.m.
Family Eucharist and Pageant

10:30 p.m.
Prelude
Music for choir, organ, trumpet and viola

11 p.m.
Choral Eucharist
The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr., preacher
The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens, celebrant
Trinity Cathedral Choir

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25
CHRISTMAS DAY
10 a.m.
Eucharist with Carols

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
8 a.m. & 10 a.m.
A Service of Lessons and Carols with Eucharist

Pastoral Emergencies: 216-644-8423
Prayer Requests: Doreen Hughes, 216-774-0415 or dhughes@trinitycleveland.org
Donations: trinitycleveland.org/support
Space Rentals: trinitycleveland.org/about/space-rental-inquiry
Cathedral Connections: Submit your news items by sending to news@trinitycleveland.org