



Trinity Times News of Trinity Church

From the Priest-in-Charge

Dear Friends,

When I lived in Philadelphia, there was a trolley driver that used to say "Take your time, and hurry up" whenever she stopped the trolley. I remember laughing every time I heard her say that. Take your time. We do not like to take our time. A prime example is when Christmas decorations and music start to appear in stores shortly after Halloween. We as a nation do not like to wait. The late theologian Henri Nouwen, after living and teaching in the United States noted that Americans do not like to wait. In fact, most people consider waiting to be a waste of time. We are taught

that "idle hands, are the devil's workshop". We always seem to be in a hurry. We tend to praise those who are always on the go. It seems that the more that you can accomplish during your lifetime, the better.

The Bible, however, has major themes of waiting. "I wait for the Lord all day long." says the Psalmist. Isaiah writes "Those who wait for the Lord will renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

Advent is a time for waiting. It is the season of the Church year in which we are to prepare ourselves to receive the

Christ child into our hearts. What juxtaposition! During what for so many of us is the busiest time of the year, the church asks us to wait.

When we pray, we are told that God speaks to us when we slow down and listen. This Advent, try to carve out times when you can slow down. Times when you can wait and listen. Preparing for the holidays means also preparing ourselves, making room, clearing out our hearts and minds to receive God's most precious gift.

Take your time, and hurry up!

May God bless your Advent.

Fr. Bob+

"Realize deeply that the present moment is all you ever have"

Eckhart Tolle

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Special points of interest:

- *Tales from Hound Haven*
- *General Convention News*
- *Children's Sunday, December 23rd*
- *Christmas Eve & Day Service Schedule*

Birthdays & Anniversaries November



December Birthdays

2 Connie O'Grady
4 Julie Beech
13 Mary Karlson
16 Jane Storm
19 Jennifer Tolley
19 Marianne Ayers
20 Virginia Parry
21 Dylan Campana
27 Torrey Lyn Salmon

December Anniversaries

11 Vince & Mary Cole
28 John & Kathryn Ritter-Vicich

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"
One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping".

Tales from Hound Haven submitted by Julie Beech

After we finish eating Thanksgiving turkey, Mom says we have to start Christmas decorating! Since I've been in the shelter, this will be my first home Christmas in a long time and I'm excited.

The biggest decision this year seems to be where to put the Nativity scene. Mom was telling me about the animals in the manger, but said sadly there was no dog. I stopped her because here was something I knew about!!

Years and years ago my mega-great-grandmother "Samsky" (Samoyed/husky) lived in Bethlehem with an innkeeper and his family. She remembered a cold night when a man and wife came looking for a place to stay. The wife was ready to have a baby and her husband was very worried because they had no place for shelter that night. The innkeepers wife said there was no room there, her husband suggested this barn but she objected

saying a barn was no place for a woman to have a baby. Only the animals could have their young in the barn! That's when my mega-great-grandmother stepped in. She tugged at his mistress's cloak until she went to the barn after her. Suddenly she saw the barn through my grandmothers eyes - a warm place that needed a little cleaning, but a special and welcoming place. She put clean straw in the manger and put more clean straw around it. Then told the young couple they could stay there and then went to bed.

As to the young couple, Mary and Joseph, settled in the barn where the animals made them welcome. The pretty gentle cow nuzzled Mary's neck and lowed her offer of comfort and milk. The sheep came over shyly and offered their woolly bodies for warmth and all the excited goats were like a cheering section, keeping everyone's spirit positive. Donkeys nearby told Joseph they were small but

strong and able to help any way he wanted. A small cat was curled up in the corner with her curious eyes, ready to take it all in and then spread the news!

The baby Jesus was born that night into a place of warmth and love and it was all due to a dog behind the scenes!

Merry Christmas to all,
Chrystal



October:

331 Families 626 Adults
 381 Children
 134 Seniors
 1,141 People

November: As of November 7th

362 Families 683 Adults
 461 Children
 136 Seniors
 1,280 People

Thank you, Lorraine Naiko

Saint of the Month

Reprinted with Permission

Nicholas of Myra

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas of Myra who was born during the third century in the (then) village of Patara in Greece. Not much is known about his early life except that his parents were wealthy and raised him to be a devout Christian. They were an inspiration to Nicholas, leading him to become generous and caring. Both parents died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Nicholas inherited considerable wealth from them, but used all of his money to assist the needy and the suffering.

Nicholas exhibited a great love for children and a deep concern for sailors. He was also known as the friend and protector of all in trouble. As he went through life, Nicholas followed the words of our Lord to "lay up treasure for yourself in heaven" by praying every day and by performing good deeds.

The most famous story about Nicholas tells of how he helped three sisters who were without a proper dowry. Without money, they could not marry and would be forced into a life of slavery. Wishing to remain anonymous, Nicholas approached their house at night and tossed a bag of gold into the

chimney for each of the sisters. The gold landed in a stocking hung to dry. (This resulted in today's custom of hanging stockings in the hopes of receiving gifts.)

When the Bishop of Myra died, the priests and the people came together in their cathedral to select a new bishop. In a dream, God told one of them that they should all pray together the next morning. He promised that someone would come through the cathedral door as they prayed and that person should be their choice. It was Nicholas.

As a young bishop, Nicholas was even more aware of the needs of his people. He would travel everywhere offering to help those in difficulty; then quietly disappear without waiting for recognition. His followers were so inspired by his life that they, too, began to lead holy lives filled with good deeds.

In 303, the Roman emperor, Diocletian, thought that Nicholas had special powers and commanded that the citizens of the Roman Empire worship him as a god. Christians, claiming allegiance to only one God rebelled, as did Nicholas. Diocletian, angered by their stubbornness, sent all of them to prison. For more than five years, Nicholas was confined to a small cell. He suffered from cold, hunger,

and thirst, but never wavered in his belief. He was finally released when Constantine came into power. Nicholas then returned to his post as Bishop of Myra.

Nicholas died on December 6, 343 and was made a saint a century later. In 1809, the New York Historical Society convened and named Sancte Claus the patron saint of New Amsterdam, the Dutch name for New York City. Widely celebrated in Europe, St. Nicholas' feast day, December 6, is kept alive with stories of his goodness and generosity.

Saint Nicholas continues to be a model for the compassionate life. So widely revered is he that more than two thousand churches were named for him, including three hundred in Belgium, thirty-four in Rome, and more than four hundred in England.

The gold coins, represented by three gold balls, have come to be symbols of money lenders and pawn brokers. These symbols can sometimes be found in artistic representations of Nicholas. His facial characteristics – high cheekbones, sunken cheeks, and clenched mouth – are typical of Byzantine imagery and indicate courage and fortitude.

Stewardship Consecration Sunday Update

76 people attended the Consecration Sunday worship services on November 18th. Those worshipping at the 10 AM service heard our guest leader, Charlie Barebo, deliver a sermon on the spiritual nature of stewardship. Charlie included his personal reflections on various examples of giving that he has witnessed while serving in different capacities in the Diocese of Bethlehem.

Consecration Sunday culminated with a sumptuous Celebration Luncheon in the parish hall. It featured four types of hero sandwiches, different (potato, macaroni) salads and cole slaw, and a delicious array of dessert pastries. The mood was happy, the socializing ongoing, and the conversations were lively. Charlie Barebo remarked about the warmth and friendliness of everyone at Trinity (well, we already know that but it's always nice to hear it from a visitor --- especially someone from the diocese!). It was an uplifting get-together.

During the luncheon the Estimate of Giving cards completed and returned at the services were tabulated. 44 cards were counted and their respective figures equaled a total pledge of \$ 74,416.00 for 2013. Congratulations and hearty thanks to all who demonstrated their reflection on the message of Consecration Sunday by filling out and handing in their cards.

Estimate of Giving cards will now be sent to all parishioners who were not with us on Consecration Sunday. Thank-you notes to those returning completed cards will also be going out shortly. To coincide with the copy deadline for the January newsletter, the Consecration Sunday campaign will conclude shortly before Christmas and its final results will be announced in that newsletter.

A sincere thank-you to all at Trinity who came to hear the Consecration Sunday presentations and who attended worship services and the luncheon on November 18th.

The Stewardship Committee and Consecration Sunday Stewardship Team

General Convention

The 141st General Convention of the Diocese of Bethlehem was held on October 5-6 at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Dunmore. Fr. Bob, Barb Gessner and I attended on behalf of Trinity. Friday was a business session. There will be no cost of living increase for lay and clergy and the cost of Supply Clergy will remain the same. Also, we will no longer be required to have an outside audit done by a CPA. A yearly audit completed by a parish audit committee according to the guidelines in the Manual of

Business Methods of Church Affairs will be accepted by the Diocese. The final resolution dealt with disaster preparedness. All parishes will develop a disaster preparedness and response plan that will be on file with the parish and the diocesan office. Considering what we just went through with Sandy the necessity for this is obvious. Friday's session ended with Eucharist. I cannot adequately describe the feeling of being in Church with hundreds of people, the pipe organ being played by Canon Mark Laubach, a choir

(with our own Tom and Virginia Parry participating) and brass instruments raising the roof. If you ever have an opportunity to attend Eucharist at Convention, absolutely do so. Friday night was dinner with speaker Canon Elizabeth Geitz who wrote *I am That Child*. She discussed her book and her experiences in Cameroon with AIDS orphans. Saturday was small group day. We broke down into groups of 6 and discussed Mission and various problems faced by our congregations. By, Carolyn Tolley, Sr. Warden.



This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” (Psalm 118:24)
When my 2 youngest grandkids come to stay with us they insist that at every meal we say prayers and join hands...and no one had better take a bite until this is done! At bedtime they pray also and it never fails to amaze me that they don't dwell on the bad things but only on the good that happened that day. What happens to us when we become grow up and become adults?? We almost do the opposite, we dwell on the bad instead of rejoicing in the small, good things that happen. Kids are thankful for the day itself and then they also pray, child-like, that monsters under the bed won't come out while they're sleeping or that their hurt knee gets better. I also noticed that kids dwell on things, not on emotions. We, as adults, seem to dwell on feelings - who hurt us, who didn't treat us right, etc - the boys do pray for things, like what they will get for their birthday or Christmas...they don't pray that someone, whoever, will treat them better or nicer or stop hurting their feelings. Kids rejoice and they don't even know it.

So, as we begin this holiest of seasons and have our holiday meals let us take time to rejoice as we look into the faces of those that we see around our holiday table ... things won't all go smoothly, maybe a lot will go wrong, it's a hectic, busy time..someone will say something they should not have said, maybe someone needs an extra hug....there will be too many people and too little time. Rejoice also for those not at the dinner table, those gone from our view, those that we remember in our hearts only. Rejoice that baby Jesus grew up and gave His life so that we might have life everlasting. What better gift is there than that! REJOICE! and be childlike about it, as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child long ago.

A PRAYER

Father, I know that Your promises are new every morning. Help me to be a good steward of all that I have received from you.. May the joy of your love be the first thing my mind settles on at the break of day.
Amen.

Patricia Goodwin

December Calendar

Dec. 1 - Christmas Bazaar, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 - Pageant Rehearsal, 11:30 a.m. Church

Dec. 9 - Vestry Meeting, 11:45, Library

Dec. 10 - Trinity Crafters, 10:00 a.m. - Noon, Library

Dec. 14 - Newsletter Deadline

Dec. 21 - Newsletter Mailing

Dec. 22 - Greening the Church, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Services

Christmas Pageant/ Holy Eucharist, 4:30 p.m.; Festive Holy Eucharist, 9:00 p.m.

Dec. 25 - Holy Eucharist, 10:00 a.m.

Dec. 24- Jan. 1 Office Closed, Christmas Holiday

Jan. 1 - Morning Prayer, 9:00 a.m., Church

Our Prayers have been requested for:



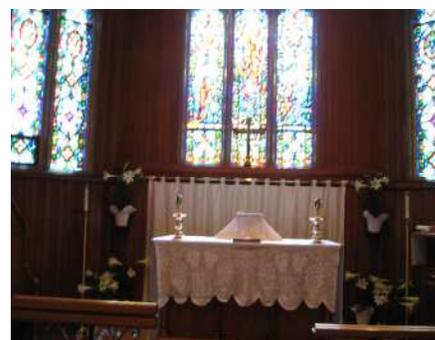
Ed Benintende
Penny Clark
Mary Baker
Victoria Forstein

Porter Caldwell
Frank Fiore
Marilyn Croneberger
Art Frawley
Alan White
Hal Daniels
LeeAnn Daniels
Christopher Rose

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*

Parish News

Funeral, Gwendoline Hacker - October 23



Christmas Bazaar

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR – DEC. 1, 2012

Our Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, December 1, 2012 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. We will have hand-knit hats, scarves, sweaters and doll clothes, hand-sewn aprons, tote bags, wall hangings and quilted purses; hand crafted wooden items such as bird houses, as well as hand-baked goodies, and a delicious luncheon. There will also be attic treasures and Christmas decorations available. Do come and bring your friends and neighbors to do their Christmas shopping – you'll certainly find some delightful gifts.

There will also be a raffle – tickets are now available from Carol Butiste. The chances are \$5.00 each and the prizes are a hand-made quilt in fall colors, a ruby/diamond pendant, a \$100 gift card from Weis market, a hand-made afghan and a \$50 gift card from Olive Garden Restaurant. In addition, we'd like to ask all of you to contribute to the various tables – make some cookies or a cake, perhaps your favorite bread recipe or home-made jams & jellies to sell at our baked goods table. Jan Anglemire is in charge of this area, so let her know what you'll be donating. All donations of items for sale should be brought by FRIDAY – we'll be setting up then and need to have things priced and ready when customers come in on Saturday morning.

REFLECTION

"The fool has said in his heart, there is no God". [Psalm 14 v 1]

How Great is Our God? Here's something to think about...

Sometimes God seems far from us in our daily life and we begin to doubt Him. It seems to me that God is a God of order, design and of laws, not of doubt and chaos. When we consider God in the universe, how awesome, how Great is our God!!!

I bet that you didn't know that the eggs of the potato bug hatch in 7 days, every time, not sometimes - those of the canary in 14 days; those of the barnyard hen in 21 days. The eggs of ducks and geese hatch in 28 days; those of the mallard in 35 days; The eggs of the parrot and the ostrich hatch in 42 days. (Notice, they are all divisible by seven, the number of days in a week! hummmm)

God's wisdom is seen when he created an elephant. The four legs of this great beast all bend forward in the same direction. No other quadruped is so made. God planned that this animal would have a huge body, too large to live on two legs. For this reason He gave it four fulcrums so that it can rise from the ground easily.

The horse rises from the ground on its two front legs first. A cow rises from the ground with its two hind legs first. How wise the Lord is in all His works of creation! There is the hand of the Designer revealed in His arrangement of the minutest detail of sections and segments as well as in the number of grains in fruit and vegetables.

Each watermelon has an even number of stripes on the rind. Each orange has an even number of segments. Each ear of corn has an even number of rows. Each stalk of wheat has an even number of grains. Every bunch of bananas has on its lowest row an even number of bananas, and each other row decreases by one, so that one row has an even number and the next row an odd number.

The waves of the sea roll in on shore twenty-six to the minute in all kinds of weather. All grains are found in even numbers on the stalks, and the Lord specified thirty fold, sixty fold, and a hundred fold, all even numbers.

God has caused the flowers to blossom at certain specified times during the day. Linnaeus, the great botanist, once said that if he had a conservatory containing the right kind of soil, moisture and temperature, he could tell the time of day or night by the flowers that were open and those that were closed!

There is a relationship between the pressure, volume and temperature of a gas. The ratio between the diameter and circumference of a circle is constant, no matter how large the circle. The notes of a musical scale have a relationship to one another. Design demands a designer!! Likewise the lives of each of us are ordered by God in a beautiful way for His glory,

"The Lord will keep you from all harm; He will watch over your life - the Lord will watch over your coming and going, both now and for evermore." [Psalm 121 v 7]

"Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point."

M.J.G

Getting to Know You



Thomas Charles Sayer, former Vestry member & parishioner since 1986 with wife Betty. Tom was born in the Temple Univ. Hospital in Philadelphia where he grew up. His father, Thomas, was an electrician with an 8th grade education, which was common in those days.

He graduated from Olney HS and attended the Moore School of Electrical Engineering (now part of Pennsylvania University) on a scholarship. 1-1/2 years later he was drafted into the US Air Force for 27 months where he rose to the rank of corporal. After the service, Tom completed his education on the G.I. Bill*. (*back then, one year tuition at Penn University, an ivy league college, was \$250. WOW!) After graduation, he was employed by Philco Corp (the radio people) as a junior engineer of research. It was through a senior engineer colleague, that he met Betty, an electrical technician and his future wife.

Tom tells with a smile of a one couple dance in Betty's residence which she shared with her aunt and uncle. A dance, music from a record player, probably a Victrola, which

lasted long after the music stopped. You guessed it - they were married December 1949 at the Evangelical Congregational Church. The wedding party included Roman Catholics and Jewish people. Tom and Betty shared their first apartment in Philadelphia not far from the then Beaver College for Women.

When the family started arriving, they moved to a comfortable home in Abington Township, Pa. They raised 5 children - Carol, Thomas, LeAnne, Michael & Peter. In time, Tom and Betty purchased a summer place in Big Bass Lake in Gouldsboro in 1983. This became their permanent home in 1986 when Tom finally retired.

Tom and Betty chose Trinity as their church because of its diversity in all ages of parishioners, where they quickly became involved in special groups, vestry, etc. Tom is predeceased by Betty whom he credits a born organizer, the most remarkable person, and the best thing that has ever happened to him. Tom gives Betty credit for the close relationship he shares with his extended family to this day. Perhaps we will share Betty Sayers' story in the Newsletter one day.

I thank you Tom for sharing your story. God Bless both of you.

Respectfully Submitted by Dick Orner

Trinity's Annual Christmas Pageant

Christmas Pageant—2012

Merry Christmas! It's a little early, but we are now in planning mode for our annual Christmas Eve Pageant of the Nativity. At 4:30 PM on Monday, December 24, we will share again in the wonder of Christ's birth, enacted by the children of our Sunday School and Youth group, as well as the many willing grown-up children who make this event so special.

Our first practice will be held after church on Sunday, November 25, to distribute scripts, go over anthems and carols, and identify angels, shepherds, sages, etc. We'll also try to inventory the costumes at that time to see if we have enough, in the right sizes, or need to construct some new ones. Our cast seems to "grow" every year, in more ways than one! Handy sewers are encouraged to get involved.

Some new highlights to the Pageant are added each year, as well, so we hope that all participants and worshippers will be happily surprised and delighted in little changes to the program.

Please mark your calendars, show up for rehearsals (and study your parts in between), EVERY SUNDAY IN ADVENT, FOLLOWING MORNING WORSHIP, and start getting into the Christmas spirit of hope and joy. ALL are welcome to participate—there can never be too many angels and shepherds around the cradle! For more information, check with Kathryn, Kristen, or Barb, or contact the office.

O Come, let us adore Him!

Adult Sunday School

Weeks of Forgiveness - Adult Sunday School Jill Long

Fr. Bob presented a program that really made us think. How do I forgive when I'm still so mad, even after all these years or days? That person has passed or is still around. I'm still in pain from the physical or mental scars. It's as if we carry 1 to 2 to 5 to 10 to 40 pounds of rock with me 24/7. We spend time hoping that the past could be different, "if only" i.e. We can put our hope in the future. We can pray to be that forgiving person. Eucharist helps our heart to soften. We can choose to let go. It may take 7 X 70 times before we let go of the hurt. And when we do, we can use that experience of being hurt to help others. We can't change the past but we can change how we create our thoughts. We don't want to give space in our head dwelling on an unhealthy and hurtful issue. Fr. Bob has 4 - 15 minute videos on Forgiveness to lend. It's worth the time.

The next few weeks we will be studying Advent.

Join us at 9:15-9:45 in the library on Sundays. Whatever we do, it's always thought provoking and informative. And, we have the best leader in Fr Bob!



Vestry

Jan Anglemire
Barbara Gessner
Dan Harris
Susan Kennedy
Claudia McClellan
Rob McMahan
Don Scheck
Carolyn Tolley
Nigel VanGronigen

Worship Services: Sunday, Holy Eucharist 8 & 10 a.m.
Adult Education, 9:00 a.m. September - June
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. September - June
Tuesday, Morning Prayer, 9 a.m.
Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9am – 2pm

The Rt. Rev. Paul V. Marshall, Bishop of the Diocese of Bethlehem
The Rt. Rev. John P. Croneberger, Assisting Bishop
The Rev. Robert J. Criste-Troutman, Priest-in-Charge
The Rev. Ralph C. Roth, Rector Emeritus
Carolyn Tolley, Sr. Warden
G. Thomas Parry, Jr. Warden
Virginia Parry, Organist & Choirmaster
Jan Anglemire, Parish Administrator
Carolyn Tolley, Treasurer
Bonnie O'Brien, Clerk of the Vestry

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Unconditional Love
with Everyone!***

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