

Volume 1

January, 2013



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Trinity Times News of Trinity Church

Food Pantry News

375 Families (703 adults, 455 children 145 seniors)

This was one of the largest numbers we served in any month this year.

December has been slower I am happier to report so far :

321 Families (998 adults, 383 children, 130 seniors)

The month is not over yet and this week we have 3 families coming for help on Thursday and hopefully we can close out the week. However, we do have the following week to go. Donations have been slow and steady once we empty the shelves somehow the donations are replaced. We must thank the schools for their food drives, the clubs of the community that support our cause and our core of Churches who manage to get us donations week after week. Our community support includes Wal-Mart and the Tobyhanna Army Depot. There are many local businesses as well. It takes everyone's help to make the Pantry work and no donation is too little. The Tobyhanna Army Depot Operation Santa will be in full force Saturday the 15th and our clients will be receiving their turkeys on that day and maybe a surprise.

Merry Christmas to all and A Happy and Healthy New Year,
Lorraine Naiko

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson..... "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait'". Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ray, you be Jesus!".

Inside this issue:

Food Pantry News	1
Birthdays and Anniversaries/Tales from ...	2
Saint of the Month	3
Evangelism	5
Calendar of Events	6
Christmas Bazaar/Family Promise	7

Special points of interest:

- *Tales from Hound Haven*
- *Consecration Sunday Final Numbers*
- *Children's Sunday, January 27, 2012*
- *Family Promise News*

Birthdays & Anniversaries November



January Birthdays

2 Wendell Moser
9 Don Scheck
14 Ingeborg Yeich
19 Ed Benintende
20 Bonnie O'Brien
23 Carolyn Tolley
23 Janet Orner
23 Cindy Hill

January Anniversaries

17 Peter & Linda Salmon
21 Leroy & Dorothy Reaves

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*

*"We can't take any credit for our talents. It's how we use them that count."
Madeleine L'Engle*

Tales from Hound Haven submitted by Julie Beech

I've not been christened. I've not been confirmed - but I have been Collared!! It's a beautiful collar. Fr Bob sent it home to me. It's dark blue with a Episcopal shields all around it. It's a very comfortable collar and I feel very safe in it. Mom says we are approaching the Christmas season and I should remember that the joy, is in giving, not the receiving - although I certainly enjoyed receiving my new collar. I don't have much to give except a lot of loving licks. Some people don't like receiving it though!

I sent short holiday notes to my relatives letting them know that I have a home this Christmas and how happy I am to be here.

A distant cousin, Alf, a Norwegian elkhound, wrote back with a little information about his yuletide activities

in Norway. Santa Claus is called "Julenissen". There are also small gnomes "Nisse" who help Julenissen distribute presents.

The Nisse also guard the farm animals and the birds are treated to a sheaf of wheat for their Christmas meal. Candles are lit every evening from Christmas Eve to New Years Day.

Every year the country of Norway gives the United Kingdom a big Christmas tree. It's the way of saying thank you to the people of the United Kingdom for the help given to Norway during WW 11. The traditional Norwegian Christmas tree decorations are small paper baskets made in the shape of a heart, flags, apples, and candles or white lights.

Alf also sent me a copy of a very

popular Christmas song - The Musevisa. (The Mouse Song) which is written below for me to share with you.

There will probably be snow in Norway at Christmas. Maybe we'll even have some here. I haven't seen any big snow yet. I hope you enjoy my little column as a gift to you for a joyous and blessed Christmas (I do still like receiving though)

Crystal



Saint of the Month

Elizabeth of Hungary

(Elizabeth of Thuringia)

Elizabeth was born in 1207 at Pressburg, now Bratislava. The daughter of King Andrew and Queen Gertrude, she lived for only a short time. Yet, for the quarter century that she lived she was child, princess, mother, queen, widow, and one of the most pious women to ever live. Elizabeth made more of an impact on the country than most people who live three times as long.

When she was but four years old, Elizabeth was sent to Thuringia, Germany, to be raised with her arranged husband-to-be of a privileged family. Though she was brought up in complete opulence, Elizabeth grew to be a very religious child who directed all of her actions to God.

At thirteen, Elizabeth was married. The boy she had been with since childhood had died, so she married his brother, Ludwig. It was a wonderful marriage. Ludwig loved her deeply, and the couple shared similar philosophies in the service of God and in giving to the poor.

Ludwig spent his entire life acting for the will of God. While he traveled, he gave over control of his finances to Elizabeth who promptly disseminated everything, even the finest robes, to the poor of the territory. She built a twenty-eight bed hospital and visited the residents daily. She was completely dedicated to the care of orphans.

Shortly after Ludwig joined a crusade for God in 1225, he died of the plague. This left Elizabeth a widow with three children at the age of twenty. She was at first incredulous; then distraught almost to insanity. Louis' death was the turning point in her life.

Elizabeth's brother-in-law felt a sense of duty toward Elizabeth and her children. He was, however, a cruel and harsh man compared to his brother. He offered to provide the family enough to survive, but nothing more. Elizabeth did not agree to his terms as this would leave her nothing to provide for the poor of the community. She finally put her children in the care of her family and, with a passionate desire to continue in God's service, joined the Franciscans at Eisenach, where she became a member of the Third Order of St. Francis. While there, Elizabeth completed the Franciscan hospital.

In 1228, Elizabeth settled in Marburg under the spiritual direction of her confessor, Conrad of Marburg. Conrad's direction seemed to have been harsh, domineering, severe, and insensitive. He provided companions for her that would punish her with slaps in the face and blows with a rod. Elizabeth would occupy herself with menial tasks like spinning and carding or cleaning the homes of the poor. Her life was shortened by these austerities and the almost sadistic direction of one who had been a successful inquisitor of heretics.

Elizabeth died at the age of twenty-four. Within only four years Pope Gregory IX named her a saint. The numerous St. Elizabeth Hospitals throughout the world are, for the most part named, not for the Biblical Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, but for this princess of Hungary.

Princely clothes and a crown are often Elizabeth's costume in art, although she wears the Franciscan habit. She is depicted holding alms, a pitcher, a basket of bread, fruit and fish, and an apron full of roses.

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Stewardship Consecration Sunday Update

Consecration Sunday---final results

Sixty-two (62) Estimate of Giving cards were completed and returned on and after Consecration Sunday. They pledged a total amount of \$ 99,608 for 2013.

Eighteen (18) households that pledged in 2012 increased theirs for 2013, and twelve (12) new households pledged for 2013.

Sincere thanks to all for making this year's campaign a success!

Stewardship Committee and Consecration Sunday Stewardship Team

Shepherds News

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCH.....

Led by Father Bob and Susan Kennedy, we have established a shepherding committee for Trinity. But it's not about getting animals to the manger for our Christmas pageant. Our aim is to be sure to express Trinity's concern, in words and actions, for those parishioners who have difficulty getting about, sometimes called "shut-ins". While every member of Trinity shares this concern and we trust that you act on it on your own, we also want to provide a backup safety net to be sure these needs are being met. Members of the committee will call, write, visit and provide home communion for those who

would like these services. We also will check on possible needs caused by events like hurricanes and snow storms and arrange help. As we go along, we expect to identify other needs.

If you or someone you know at Trinity would like this help, please let Jan know at the church office (839-9376). Though there has to be some sharing of information, every effort will be made to maintain confidentiality. We will only publicize concerns that you want to share with the congregation. If you would like to serve in this ministry, please contact Jan too. You can lighten lives with a friendly word, an offer of help, an arm around the shoulder.

As a separate but related activity, we are asking all of you to serve on our committee by each making your own list of people you know in and outside the church who need help and providing a space to note your contacts with them. (We are planning to provide a form for this purpose, but you can also make one on your own.) Nobody will be looking over your shoulder - this is not a report, but simply a way to help you keep track of all those you love who have a special need for your help as a reminder to make a call, send a card, pay a visit or, especially, ask for God's help through your prayers.

Peter Salmon for the Shepherding Committee

Evangelism

Most of you probably know that I maintain a lot of connections in South America. One of these is a priest, Fr. Rick.

Fr. Rick studied in Manhattan and was directed toward work in Haiti by Mother Theresa's Sisters of Charity. He shared the following with me through a dear friend and partner on Trinity's Prayer Chain in Mexico City.

Once upon a time, in fact more recently, there was a young boy who was brought to us malnourished and sick. His name was Jean Tony. Sadly, we see so many sick and malnourished children, that it was not his condition that made him stand out to me; rather it was because he would just sit and stare and never say hello when someone passed by him.

At the end of very long days, as I plodded to my room exhausted, he would not say a word as I went by. Finally one night I said, "Why don't you ever say hello?"

He said, "to who?" and I said, "to me, and to whoever goes by!"

Jean Tony said, "I didn't see you go by. I am blind"

I learned that Jean Tony is recently blind from degeneration of his eyes because of lack of vitamins, and he has not yet learned the many other ways to "see" that people who cannot see develop over time.

So I sat down next to him, on a chair three times too small for me, and we started to chat.

I could see right away Jean Tony was a cheerful boy, curious and playful. When I asked a number of questions about his blindness so I could understand it's onset and his chances of seeing again, he said to me:

"Why are you asking so many things about my eyes? Everything else I have works!"

I was astounded. What a beautiful focus. What a phenomenal spirit.

Our continued chats were always marked by curiosity, wonder, cheerfulness, and enthusiasm.

We soon became fast friends, he with me because I brought him a harmonica and a trumpet and other small treasures. Me with him because I wanted, and needed, the energy of his beautiful spirit. His spirit is a gift to him and a gift to me, a gift of grace.

Thinking of this, I realize that Christmas is rapidly approaching. Frank and I don't need "things" any longer. In fact we're looking to downsize. What a blessing.

Ancient spiritual writers tell us that the full Christmas story has three parts. The first and the third are seen with the eyes. The middle part we will never see if we are spiritually blind.

The first visible part is the birth of Christ among us, as the one who saves us from the sin, ignorance, darkness, and evil that is around us and can be in us. He is Savior. He is also Redeemer. He pays the price, first for us and then with us, so that we can

live as children of light.

The third part of the story, which according to the Scriptures will also be visible to the human eye, will be the deliverance of all Creation to God.

So, the question remains. What is the second part, which is invisible and cannot be directly seen? What is the third miracle, which is in the middle?

The second part is us, the second part is now. We are about to enter into Christmas. We are the "miracle in the middle".

The trouble is that we can be blind to the season or middle days of Christmas.

The physically blind Jean Tony which Fr. Rick speaks of is not. But we might be. Just as Jean Tony was made blind by lack of nutrients, we can be made blind by so many things: by anger and hatred, by jealousy and prejudice, by greed and power-lust, by arrogance and non-forgiveness. We can be swallowed up by care and concern only for ourselves, which leads to apathy.

Apathy is the biggest blinder of all. Apathy is a very simple stance: "I don't care."

"I don't care about someone else's problems. I have my own. I don't care about the poor unless they are the poor of my neighborhood. I don't care to hear the ridiculous chatter of a small blind boy."

We can be people who see completely, and carefully, and that is who we are called to be and the message we are called to share. That's our job – and I for one don't want to annoy my boss!

What do you want for Christmas?

Personally, I wish for each of us to have the spirit of Jean Tony. I wish for the cures of hatred, pride and all the destructive blinders that keep us from being children of light. I wish wisdom, peace, love, friendship, faith, and hope. I wish for peace on earth and good will in all people.

And I wish for our deep well-being, health, peace, and a life fully alive to the miracle in the middle!

Merry Christmas!

Rob McMahan
Chair, Evangelism Leadership Team

January Calendar

- Jan. 1 - Morning Prayer, 9:00 a.m., Church
Jan. 7 - Shepherds Meeting, 11:00 a.m., Library
Worship Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Library
Jan. 13 - 20 - Family Promise Host Week
Jan. 13 - Vestry Meeting 11:45 p.m., Library
Jan. 14 - Trinity Crafters, 10:00 a.m. - Noon, Library
Jan. 28 - Trinity Crafters, 10:00 a.m. - Noon, Library

Our Prayers have been requested for:



Ed Benintende
Penny Clark
Mary Baker
Victoria Forstein

Porter Caldwell
Lee Connolly
Frank Fiore
Marilyn Croneberger
Art Frawley
Alan White
Hal & LeeAnn Daniels
Jim Rawson
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

- October 7, 2012 - Baptism, Victoria Grace Leary
November 4, 2012 - Baptism, Brigitte Adele Girard



Christmas Bazaar

The 8th Annual Christmas Bazaar held on December 1 was a resounding success, bringing in a total slightly over \$2500.00. Things looked rather bleak at the start of the day, with a rather dense fog surrounding the whole area, but shoppers were not to be denied and a good turnout of folks looking for delightful Christmas gift came out.

A big hit was the Children's Shop, with only children allowed in to purchase gifts for their parents, siblings & friends. The elves in charge did a great job, even providing gift wrapping. The smiles on the children's faces leaving with their surprises for Mom were a delight to see.

The prizes were drawn near the end of the event, the main prize of a hand-made quilt won by Julie Beech, which delighted the whole crowd.

Many thanks go to all who helped make the day a big success by making gift items, baking cakes and other goods, manning the tables and doing all the other necessary tasks involved in such an undertaking.

Plans are already underway for next year's event, which will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2013. Inge Yeich and Kathie Herling have agreed to be chairmen and will be looking for volunteers to help in the various areas.

Family Promise

Great news from Family Promise! Our family with the 5 children is looking to get a house very soon. Speaking of soon, our host week is four short weeks away, and our signup sheet will reappear. I want to thank everyone again for the all the help and enthusiasm the last time we hosted. Sandy kind of rearranged things, but thank heaven, Trinity had power throughout, and we got through it quite well.

Family Promise is sponsoring a fund raising pie sale on January 20th, which happens to be the last day we next host our families. We are being asked to make pies and sell them here at Trinity, with the proceeds going to Family Promise. It sounds delicious to me. What a great opportunity to show off your pie-baking skills!

Our next scheduled week is January 13th through 20th. And in case you haven't heard, we have new cots for sleeping over! Who wants to be among the first to try them out?? As always, I will find out later how many guests we will be having when we get closer to the date.

I hope you had a chance to check out the materials on the Family Promise display. Help is needed on weekends to stay with the families at the day center for a few hours at a time. If you think you may be interested in this part of our ministry with Family Promise, please contact Karin or Laurie at the day center at 420-8589.

Cindy Hill



Vestry

Jan Anglemire
Robert Ceci
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
Debra Gower, Clerk of the Vestry

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