



Trinity Times News of Trinity Church

From the Priest-in-Charge

Dear Friends,

In 1925, the *New York World* celebrated the birthday of Abraham Lincoln with a cartoon that has become something of a classic. Two Kentucky farmers are pictured talking over a picket fence. One asks, "Anything new happen lately?" The other responds, "Nothing much. A new baby was born over at Tom Lincoln's place, but nothing much ever happens around here."

I'm sure there were folks who said the same thing in Bethlehem on the night when Jesus was born. I can picture them-can't you?- standing on the corner just outside the inn. "Anything new happening around here?" "Naw, just a baby born down in the stable. Nothing much ever happens around here."

The greatest event in the history of humankind, and most people were not even aware of it. The sad part is that it holds true even today. There are many people that do not know the story of the baby born in the stable. Christmas is more about a guy who drinks Coke and hangs out with elves and reindeer.

The story of Abraham Lincoln is often known far better than the story of Jesus. The reason is that people feel comfortable talking about Lincoln and what he did. People don't always feel comfortable speaking about Jesus. Part of our call as baptized Christians is to tell The Story. We can tell our stories about what Christmas means to us. We can talk about candlelight services on Christmas Eve, we can talk about giving because Christ gives to us and we can talk about the importance of why Jesus was born.

When we share our stories, we show others that it was not just any night in Bethlehem. We show that what happened that night still has a direct impact on our lives today.

May you all have a blessed Christmas,

Fr. Bob+

"We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses." Abraham Lincoln

Inside this issue:

From the Priest-in-Charge	1
Birthdays and Anniversaries	2
Prayer Requests	3
Prayer Chain	3
Stewardship "Flourish in Faith"	4
Christmas Bazaar	5

Birthdays & Anniversaries



December Birthdays

2 Connie O'Grady
4 Julie Beech
12 Becky Hendricks
13 Mary Karlson
19 Jennifer Tolley
19 Marianne Ayers
20 Virginia Parry
21 Dylan Campana
27 Torrey Truskowski



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*

December Calendar of Events

Dec. 1 - Advent Lessons & Carols, 10:00 a.m. service

Pageant Rehearsal, 11:30, Church

Dec. 4 - Trinity at Food Pantry, 8:30 a.m. - Noon

Dec. 7 - Christmas Bazaar, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Dec. 8 - Vestry Meeting, 11:45 a.m., Library

Dec. 8/15 Pageant Rehearsal, 11:30 a.m., Church

Dec. 13 - Newsletter Deadline for Information

Dec. 14 - Rubber Band Bracelet Making, 2 - 4 p.m.

Dec. 19 - Red Cross Bloodmobile, 2:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 20 - Newsletter Mailing

Dec. 22 - Christmas Pageant, 4:00 p.m. followed by covered dish dinner

Dec. 24 - Family Holy Eucharist, 4:00 p.m.

Festive Candlelight Holy Eucharist, 9:00 p.m.

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

Our Prayers have been requested for:

Mary Baker
Ed Benintende
Penny Clark
Lee Connolly
Fr. Bob & Neil Criste-Troutman
Randy Criste-Troutman
Bishop Jack & Marilyn Croneberger
Hal & LeeAnn Daniels
Victoria Forstein
Claudia McClellan
Becca McConnell
Rob McMahan
Jim Rawson

Christopher Rose
Lois Rothrock
Katrina Troutman
Donald
Will Klopp
Jon & Austin
Paige Kozak
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*

Prayer Chain

Dear friends,

I have spoken of our Prayer Chain Ministry on occasion during announcements, and I would like to address that here.

I am quite proud of what we have become as a community of prayer as we have grown to reach outside of our church building and into the world. When we first began with this ministry, we had a handful of people who were on a telephone list. We are now sharing prayer requests with over 1,000 people. I no longer have any way of counting and our requests are shared with other prayer communities. My best and most hopeful "guesstimate" would be that we reach somewhere over 5,000 people by the time our prayer requests are forwarded and shared with other prayer chains. Our own list reaches as far south as Venezuela, across the United States and Canada, and well into Europe as far as Germany.

Not too shabby for a little church tucked away in the woods of Mount Pocono! We truly have a heart which transcends borders.

The beauty of the power of prayer is amazing. In the moment that it takes to merely see the subject line of an emailed prayer request, your prayer has already been offered to God.

Please consider adding your email to our list by contacting me at MtPoconoRob@msn.com or by reaching out to Fr. Bob with your contact information. If you do not utilize email, we can be in touch by telephone. All we need is your contact information.

Most importantly, please know that we are available for prayer and this is taken quite seriously and with the utmost of confidence when requested. The vast majority of our prayer requests come with a desire for anonymity and that is always honored. When you have a prayer request, please reach out to us and allow our community the opportunity to pray. If you or anyone is in need of prayer, just send us a message by email, telephone or a note in my mailbox in the parish office.

Rob McMahan

Stewardship “Flourish in Faith”

Stewardship (“Flourish in Faith” campaign --- preliminary report)

A fine crowd attended the Commitment Sunday services and luncheon on November 10th. Forty-five (45) completed pledge cards were returned for a total commitment of almost \$ 93,000 (note: an additional card was handed in the next day, bringing the total to just under \$ 96,000). Of that amount Trinity’s officers and vestry members committed nearly \$ 33,000.

Follow-up letters and commitment cards have been sent to the approximately 25 households that were unable to attend the Consecration Sunday activities. A final report on the total numbers of cards returned and amount committed for 2014 will be ready in early January.

Sincere thanks to all for your generous giving to Trinity Church. Thanks also to all on the Stewardship Committee who helped in putting together the “Flourish in Faith” campaign and luncheon, and to those parishioners who offered their personal thankfulness stories at the services leading up to and on Commitment Sunday.

For Trinity Church,
Don Scheck
Stewardship Chair



*ANNUAL CHRISTMAS
BAZAAR*

Saturday, December 7, 2013

10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church

137 Trinity Hill Road

Mt. Pocono

*(Off Route 611, just south of Mt. Pocono opposite
Paradise Riding Stables)*

HAND MADE CRAFT ITEMS

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

CHILDREN'S SHOPPING ROOM - FREE GIFT WRAP

HOME-BAKED CAKES, COOKIES, PIES, ETC.

DELICIOUS LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

*Come find that unusual Christmas gift you've been looking for,
pick up some dessert for your week-end suppers and have a
lovely lunch by the fireside.*



Vestry

Patricia Goodwin
Daniel Harris
Andrea Hauck
Becky Hendricks
Susan Kennedy
Rob McMahon
Peter Salmon
Nigel VanGronigen
Tim Vincent

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
Richard Naiko, Jr. Warden
Virginia Parry, Organist & Choirmaster
Jan Anglemire, Parish Administrator
Peter Gonze, Treasurer
Deborah Gower, Clerk of the Vestry

**TRINITY EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

137 Trinity Hill Road
Mt. Pocono PA 18344

Phone: 570-839-9376
Fax: 570-839-7277

Email: trinitychurchmp@verizon.net

***Share God's
Unconditional Love
with Everyone!***

**[We're on the Web
trinitymtpocono.org]**