



Trinity Times News of Trinity Church

From the Priest-in-Charge

Dear Friends,

This winter has held on for as long as possible. March, it seems, came in like a lion and will be going out like a lion. The white that still covers our grounds seems like it will never end. If you are like me, you are searching for any signs that spring may be on its way. As I look out the office window, I see that one of the shrubs is turning red. There is hope!

There is always hope. God has made our earth in such a way that even during the harshest winters, new growth will come. Buried under the deepest snow, seeds are waiting to burst forth. The same can be true for us. Often there are times when we feel buried under stresses and strains. Times when it seems that we will never fully recover; it may be a death, the loss of a job, troubles at school, an impending move or a catastrophic illness. Like the winter it seems to never end. In Psalm 22 which we read on Good Friday, the psalmist says "I am poured out like water, all my bones are out of joint; my heart within my breast is melting wax; my mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd, my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; and you have laid me in the dust of the grave." Vs.14,15

But just like the winter, God promises us that these bleak times hold a spark of life in them. Later in Psalm 22 we read; "For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty neither does he hide his face from them; but when they cry to him he hears them." V.23. God knows what is causing us pain and grief. God hears our prayers and the silent cries we send heavenward. Just as signs of spring always come, so does God answer our prayers. Those answers may not be the ones that we want or expect, but they are the answers that are best for us.

As we approach Easter, may the winter outside and our inner winter blossom into a radiant spring.

Fr. Bob+

Submit your news to Trinity Times News Editor,
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Inside this issue:

From the Priest-in-Charge	1
Birthdays and Anniversaries	2
Prayer Requests/Tales from a Welsh Corgi	3
Living in the Now & Treasurer's Report	4
Event Opportunities	5
Paradise Township Historical Society	6

Birthdays & Anniversaries



April Birthdays

5 Timothy Vincent
8 Monique Girard
16 Joseph Ayers
16 Barbara Gessner
17 Linda Salmon
17 Kathie Herling
26 Dylan Scott Vincent
28 Margot Atherton



April Anniversaries

11 Vernon & Inga Yeich
24 Michael & Pat Goodwin
30 Dick & Janet Orner

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*

April Calendar of Events

- April 2 - Trinity at Food Pantry, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
- April 5 - Diocesan Training Day, St. Stephen's Pro Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre
- April 5,12,19,26 - Choir Rehearsal, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m., Library
- April 7,14,21,28 - Good News Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall
- April 10 - Christm Mass, 11:00 a.m. Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem
- April 13 - Palm Sunday, 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. Blessing of Palms, Holy Eucharist
with reading of the Passion Gospel
Egg Hunt, 11:30 a.m.
- April 17 - Parish Office Closed
Maundy Thursday, 6:00 - 6:45 p.m. Soup Supper
Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, Stripping of the Altar, 7:00 p.m., Watch begins following the service
- April 18 - Parish Office Closed
Good Friday, Holy Eucharist, 12:00 Noon followed by Stations of the Cross
Church open from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Holy Eucharist with music, 7:00 p.m.
Newsletter Deadline for Information
- April 20 - Easter Day, 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, No Adult Education or Sunday School
- April 25 - Newsletter Mailing
- April 25 - 27 - Christophany, Pocono Plateau
- April 26 - Popcorn and Movie Night, 6:00 p.m., Library
- April 27 - Vestry Meeting, 11:45 a.m., Library

Our Prayers have been requested for:

Mary Baker
Sean Beech
Ed Benintende
Lee Connolly
Fr. Bob & Neil Criste-Troutman
Randy Criste-Troutman
Bishop Jack Croneberger
Victoria Forstein
Paige Kozak
Becca McConnell
Rob McMahan
Jim Rawson
Lois Rothrock
Christopher Rose
Dudley Rowell

Katrina Troutman
Donald
Will Klopp
Jon & Austin

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*

Tales from a Welsh Corgi by Patricia Goodwin

Greetings and Happy Easter to you all out in Trinity-land. All this talk about ashes and Heaven has me puzzled. I know, I know, I don't think dogs do go to Heaven, but when I think about that, I'm ok, I have a little bit of Heaven right here on earth every day. It's all in learning to appreciate what you've got.

I need to have a talk with St. Francis, he just might have enough 'pull' to sneak us cats and dogs into Heaven, if only to cheer up owners who recently had left their families down here. My idea of Dog Heaven would be days filled with chasing cars (although I still don't know why we do that), cats, squirrels and maybe a few birds and having treats of unlimited donuts holes (my personal fav) and maybe a few jelly beans or extra dog treats. Having days that are always sunny and warm, cool nights and please, St. Francis, most of all...no fleas or flies!!! I would spend my days remembering the good times, the walks, the belly rubs every morning, and most especially the love of my family, my mom and dad have been very good to me so to me that is Heaven right here, right now.

I always hear about Easter Egg Hunts...you can keep those...for me my best memory of Easter would be one of my first ones with my mom and dad, I was still a puppy. Everyone was at our house, all milling around and talking at the same time and nobody noticed that I had snuck into my folks bedroom. Low and behold! Behind their bedroom door, right on the floor, was a big bag full of many kinds of Easter candy and bless their hearts, they had put it all down at eye level for me!!! I heard someone calling my name, 'Huw! Huw Morgan!' over and over but who would answer when tempted by so much forbidden goodness! I had just gotten one piece of candy out of the bag, a chocolate bunny and was about to tear into the wrapper when the door opened! I had been discovered!! Not one morsel touched my lips! I was quickly ushered out of the room and the bag taken away to somewhere higher out of my reach but I was soooo close! Alas, the candy wasn't for me after all!

Speaking of St. Francis, I wonder if he would hold that incident against me? Be good, love your family at this Holy time of year and give your own critter an extra belly rub, just because.

Your friend, *Huw Morgan*



How to live in the “Now”

Physical fitness is part of my spiritual practice. I live at Pocono Farms and make good use of our excellent fitness center and it's staff. In five one-hour classes a week I join with other members under the leadership of a certified instructor.

Often the exercises are punctuated with banter, laughter and popular music. While there is great value in all of this, I choose to focus my attention on my body and pay attention to what it is doing and feeling. This is an important step in being emotionally present and attentive to what is going on in my body and to the experience of God's Presence.

The practice of the Presence of God is done in many ways and is a discipline done by most, if not all, religions. It can also be done constantly if we choose to do this. Attentive-ness to God is basic to the spiritual life and growth. Oddly, this is often left to chance in the life of the Church. Just as physical fitness may be neglected as a practice, so spiritual fitness can also be neglected to our detriment.

"Mindfulness" is a term which can refer to being in God's Presence at all times - when we eat, when we walk, when we sit - acknowledging our spiritual nature and the eternal Presence of God in all our activities and inactivity.

The result of practicing mindfulness leads to peace, calmness and attentiveness to what is going on around us and within us.

The Rev. Charles V. Day

Treasurer's Report

February 2014 Treasurer's Report

Prepared by P. Gonze

- Income Statement and Balance Sheet reports with detailed line items prepared and distributed by Jan Parochial Report for Diocese completed; due on March 15th

Summary Report focusing on major Variances vs Budget attached

- Overview:

Full Year Budget assumes +14% in total Revenue & +2% in total Expenses vs. 2013

○ February actuals:

✦ Revenue vs 2014 Budget: (\$772) Expenses vs 2014 Budget: +\$5660

✦ Non pledge giving up

Other revenue items down: Plate, Holy Day, Space Use,

○ January/February actuals

✦ Revenue vs 2014 Budget: (\$4020) -16% Expenses vs. 2014 Budget: (\$3051) -11%

Pledge Revenue +12% (including prepaid pledge); +5% (without prepaid pledge)

✦ Revenue vs. 2013 Actuals: (\$664) -3% Expenses vs. 2013 Actuals: +3523; +16%

- Pledge Revenue up; other income items down year to date

- Higher expenses are higher impacted by higher snow removal a permanent negative variance and medical insurance payment which is a timing variance (paid last year in March) which explain \$3100 of the variance
Several one-time expense items reported in January remain in the mix

Comments:

✦ Reporting vs. monthly Budget continues to be misleading

Performance vs. 2013 year to date **suggests** that we are on track (or heading in that direction)

I'M NOT OLD

I woke up, I lifted my arms, I moved my knees, I turned my neck.....
Everything made the same noise: CRRRRAAAACCCCK!

I came to a conclusion: I am not old, I am crispy!

Oprah & Deepak

Oprah & Deepak Choprah are offering a meditation, on line, for free. It is a 21 day meditation experience, ***Finding Your Flow***, beginning April 14. "Join us for this 3-week journey toward awakening and activating the powerful energy within!

....discover how to experience and influence your own energy flow-a dynamic current that brings more joy, love, and fulfillment to you...through you...and for you.

Register on the Oprah site. Those who do the meditation can meet in late May to discuss their experience. *Jill Long*

Gods' Wings

After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he gently struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings.

The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies.

Then the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body. The mother had remained steadfast... because she had been willing to die, so those under the cover of her wings would live.

"He will cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you will find refuge." (Psalm 92:4)

Maundy Thursday Soup Supper

Maundy Thursday, April 17th from 6:00 - 6:45 p.m. Trinity will host a Soup Supper before the service which begins at 7:00 p.m. Please sign-up on the sheet in the parish hall. If you would like to help with the making of soup, bread, or rolls, please mark the sign-up sheet or call the parish office at 570-839-9376.

Paradise Township Historical Society Visits Trinity

One Hundred Eighteen and Counting...

Sunday afternoon March 2, about 40 enthusiastic members of the Paradise Historical Society came to Trinity to learn about its history from long-term members of the church. We told them how Trinity began as a group of people meeting for worship on a porch in Mount Pocono who decided they wanted to build a church. And how, in an iconic decision, after several years of collecting money for a building, they gave their whole fund to the Diocese of Texas to help recovery efforts in the wake of a major hurricane. We noted that this kind of concern has remained a vital part of Trinity to the present day, with activities like the Hunger Ministry and Family Promise - and delegations from Trinity to the Gulf to help after the much more recent Hurricane Katrina.

We told how Trinity quickly rebuilt its building fund and even more quickly - in a matter of weeks in 1896 put up the church building where we still worship today. At the opening service, the Rev. Dr. Loring W. Batten, the guiding spirit of the original construction and Trinity's long time summer pastor, said that everything we do should "as far as possible, be beautiful". And we pointed to our stained glass windows, art and music, and other efforts we have made to fulfill that hope.

After Rev. Batten's long service, which lasted until 1942, the Rev. Dr. William Caley took over until the early 1960's when the congregation decided they wanted to become a year-round church. (Both Dr. Batten and Dr. Caley had major responsibilities elsewhere in the winter.) One member of our current congregation, Mary Banzhof, was a member back then. She described her role: "I used to play the piano for our hymns, but they said that since the organ had the same keys as the piano, couldn't I play that? I was willing to try. At first I treated it as a keyboard instrument, but, in time, I taught myself the foot pedals as well."

Having been approved as a mission church by the Diocese of Bethlehem and built a Vicarage for a priest, Trinity called its first full-time leader, the Rev. Ernest Young. A few years later began the long tenure of Rev. Ralph Roth. Under his leadership we were promoted from mission to full church (and the Vicarage became a Rectory); we expanded the building with an addition for education and offices; and instituted social service projects. He was followed by Rev. Canon Virginia Rex Day, who expanded our social service role and expanded the role of lay people in worship. We are now, of course, enjoying the third year of Father Bob Criste-Troutman's leadership, still aimed at ways of expressing the love of God through beauty and service in the twenty-first century.

After a review of its history we had a tour of the church, followed by the customary refreshments. It seems fair to say that "a good time was had by all."

Peter Salmon