



From the Priest-in-Charge

Dear Friends;

What follows, is from the National Canons of the Episcopal Church. It concerns the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

Canon III.9.6

(6) The Alms and Contributions, not otherwise specifically designated, at the Administration of the Holy Communion on one Sunday in each calendar month, and other offerings for the poor, shall be deposited with the Rector or Priest-in-Charge or with such Church officer as the Rector or Priest-in-Charge shall appoint to be applied to such pious and charitable uses as the Rector or Priest in-Charge shall determine. When a Parish is without a Rector or Priest-in-Charge, the Vestry shall designate a member of the Parish to fulfill this function.

Here at Trinity, we do not use the offering of a designated Sunday for the Discretionary account. We have relied upon the generosity of our parishioners to fund this outreach. Years ago, many churches had an alms box used for this purpose. The discretionary account is used by the clergy to help those in need. It may be help with rent, gas, utilities, etc. Only the clergy know where or to whom the need is given.

The Discretionary account is used heavily during holiday seasons. I am asking all of you to consider making a contribution to the Discretionary account. Checks can be made to Trinity with Discretionary account on the memo line. Your generosity helps not only those who come to Trinity in a time of need, but also our fellow members when unexpected needs arise.

This parish is very generous in helping those who need our help. I want to personally thank you in advance for being part of this often little known, but vital outreach of Trinity.

God's blessings,
Fr. Bob+

Submit your news to Trinity Times News Editor,
Jill Long jillwilsonlong@gmail.com

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Birthdays & Anniversaries



February Birthdays

1 Taylor Ayers
6 Deanne Vincent
11 Vernon Yeich
14 Penny Clark
17 Robert Gower, Jr.
19 George Waters



February Anniversaries

14 Tom & Tracie Salmon

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*

February Calendar of Events

Feb. 1 - Vestry Meeting, 11:45 a.m., Library
Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23 - Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 4 - Trinity at Food Pantry, 8:30 a.m. - Noon
Feb. 15 - Pot Luck Lunch & Parish Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Parish Hall
Feb. 18 - Ash Wednesday, Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes, Noon & 7:30 p.m.
Soup Supper, 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 20 - Newsletter Deadline for Information
Feb. 25 - Lenten Bible Study, 1:00 & 7:00 p.m., Library
Stations of the Cross, 6:30 p.m., Church
Feb. 27 - Newsletter Mailing

Our Prayers have been requested for:

Mary Baker
Sean Beech
Ed Benintende
Lee Connolly
Fr. Bob and Neil Criste-Troutman
Randy Criste-Troutman
Bishop Jack Croneberger
Leeann Flynn
Victoria Forstein
Bill Gessner
Annaliese Harris
Rob McMahon
Alexis McNeese
Jenn Morse
Jim Rawson
Fr. Charles Rice
Lois Rothrock

Christopher Rose
Dudley Rowell
Janet

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

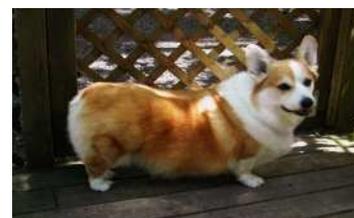
Oh friends, let me tell you, I long for the good ole days, when a bloke like me could stretch out in his favorite spot on the deck and leisurely and casually ponder what to say the folks in Trinityland.. All of that is gone, we are in dull old' winter and as mom says, 'it just goes on and on'. Truthfully, this cold weather suits me fine, I am finally cool and can even lay on my belly in the snow because Corgi dogs have 4 layers of fur. First I had to contend with the change in time, when my folks set the clocks back one hour my tummy didn't understand and every day I thought my folks were feeding me at the wrong time and walking me at the wrong time! And then, heaven forbid, I had to deal with another change, those cats have intervened, via this newsletter, and I haven't had a peaceful day since! They needle me and I needle back, all in fun, of course.

But then all of that changed, dare I admit it. I tell you this because I know you all can keep a secret. I heard mom talking to dad, about the story of how baby Jesus was shivering in the manger, a tabby climbed in and kept the baby warm. That almost brought a tear to my eye! I never heard before that a tabby was there then but regardless, if so, I envy that tabby. I would have liked to been there but you know me, too short to get up on anything. I can see it now, I would have tipped the whole thing over!! And that just would not do, so God wisely chose an agile tabby.

Never mind that we shall always, eternally, be like the cartoon strip 'Garfield'..i e, Odie (dogs) against Garfield (cats). But then, cats and dogs are so different. I'll give you that but it is the way the Lord made us. Actually, felines are more serene, and dare I say it, 'classy', you never know what they are thinking, whereas most dogs get excited over the least little thing. You might say that we dogs wear our hearts on our sleeve, if we had a sleeve. It truly is ok, be yourself, be the way God made you. And never forget that He is the boss. He knew what He was doing when He made all of us.

I leave you with some thoughts, by my nature I always wanted to 'pick' on the cats but I've changed my tune, my heart has been softened. Who could be annoyed with a fluffy critter that might have kept baby Jesus warm! Think about it! What a honor! So for awhile, how about no gripping' and fussing'. That goes for felines, canines and humans.

Cheerio until next time, your friend,
Huw Morgan



Throw Back Christmas

My Christmas story: Cindy Hill

I remember Christmas as a child the way most of us probably do. Such anticipation! Decorations and carols and gifts to open! I know I had fewer gifts at Christmas than my children later did, but I was always thrilled with what Santa and my family gave me. I must have been around 9 or 10 when I really, really wanted what I called a can-can slip. It was a half slip with full tulle layers to make your skirt flare out when you wore it. I had never snooped at Christmas prior to this year, but I just had to know if I was going to get this wonderful thing that I wanted more than anything. My mom's closet had a side area that had steps up to it where Christmas decorations were stored year to year. I reasoned that this would be a perfect hiding place for my can-can slip, so I went searching. There it was! I was so happy!

Well, Christmas morning came and the excitement and anticipation were all gone. I remember trying to be convincingly "surprised" when I opened the box that had my favorite gift in it, and my mom never knew that I had ruined my own Christmas. I never, ever did it again, and my children heard my story and also avoided the temptation to sneak a peek at my hiding places. My daughter did later confess finding one gift one time and also never ever did it again.

Food Pantry Information

Hello Everyone,

January has started out a little sluggish and with these cold opening days; we can all understand. Our statistics as of today are as follows :

Families served **270** = Adults 501 Children 289 and Seniors 112 = Total People served **902**

The products we are looking for in these cold months are pancake mix and cereal, chili or beef stew, pasta and sauces ,any side dishes like rice and or beans and mac and cheese always welcome and lets not forget soup. A great time to stock up on food store sales in January our Pantry is open all year and every donation helps.

Please see the flyer I have attached as we have decided to follow the Pocono Mountain School District weather closings. Just like the students and staff we all come from the various areas of Monroe County and we can almost bet if you are not getting snow it probably is snowing somewhere else so we will close accordingly.

Thanks for all you good thoughts and prayers for the folks who visit our Pantry. We appreciate your help in whatever way you can and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Naiko

Treasurer's Report by Peter Gonze

2014 is over and our final Financial Report of the Year has been posted on the Bulletin Board, please see the detailed Income Statement for a complete overview.

In summary, we finished 2014 with a **loss** of roughly \$22,000. Losses are never a good thing, but the good news here is that our loss was significantly less than had been anticipated. We were able to accomplish this by receiving more revenue than had been expected in the budget and by very tight management of our expenses, which came in below budget. The combined impact made a difference. The efforts of many made this possible-Thank You!

However, we are now at the beginning of a new year and a new budget. At the Vestry meeting on Sunday January 11, 2015, the Vestry reluctantly approved the 2015 Budget. The 2015 Budget anticipates a **significant** loss for the year, driven by a reduction in anticipated revenue even as we hold the line on spending. Although we have in the past been able to absorb our losses by dipping into our "savings account", we are now running low in savings. At the current rate, our savings will be exhausted by the end of 2016.

The Vestry plans to address implications for Trinity Church in an open forum at an upcoming Parish meeting in February when more specifics will be discussed. Our financial condition has not been news for quite some time. Now is the time to look to the future and decide how best to keep the lights on next year and for many years to come. Please be sure to attend.

From the Minister of Music by Neil Criste-Troutman

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
Psalm 98:4

(Some perambulations* from your minister of music)

Perambulation: a walk around a territory (parish, manor, etc.). Hence, a walk around and through the brain, gathering miscellaneous thoughts of your minister of music.

It is such a tremendous joy to serve Trinity Church in the ministry of music. And to hear the joyful, full-voiced singing has been a ministry to me. Praise the Lord!

Sermon: A discourse for the purpose of religious instruction or exhortation, especially one based on a text of Scripture, and delivered by a member of the clergy at a religious service.

I am perambulating on how many sermons we have in our Mass each week! I believe that there several in addition to the one in which Fr. Bob challenges us to be the people whom we are called to be. There are several sermons in song: firstly, all the service music we sing, which is almost entirely direct quotes from Scripture (much of it from the Hebrew Scriptures), or words based on Scripture. Secondly, there are all the hymns we sing, each one a sermon in song. A great portion on our hymnody is based on Scripture; others are poetic versions of the Psalter; others are gathered from several parts of Scripture; and others are poems based on a Scriptural idea, with an exposition (i.e. "At the Name of Jesus," "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine," "The Church's One Foundation"). But there is yet one more sermon in song. One of the most important sermons each week, **only** because of its function.

Felix Mendelssohn wrote one the most loved pieces of music, translated into English as "Songs Without Words." We too, each week, have a "Sermon Without Words." Have you guessed it? The Prelude. There is one--and only one--function of the prelude! To help us prepare to meet God in our worship. We come as a very disparate group of worshippers: various ages, races, abilities, gender, etc. We also come having had very different events prior to church. Some enter the nave with joy; some are sad; some angry; some depressed; some because "I should go to church"; others perhaps forced to come; some come hungry, not having food to eat or perhaps no time to eat breakfast. Some have had harsh words with family members or a friend; some come in tears. How do so many different people with so many different occurrences prepare to meet a holy God? Through silent meditation during the prelude.

Prelude: 1. an introductory event preceding a more important one; 2. a piece of music which sets the tone for a religious service to follow. **Exactly!** The prelude may be based on one of the hymns that will be sung; or based on a hymn not being sung but fitting the theme of the day; or a reflection of the theme or mood of that day's Scriptures. The prelude may be bombastic; joyful; introspective; quiet; or any combination of those traits. The main reason for the prelude, again, is to prepare to meet our holy God. That cannot happen if we are chatting with others, catching up on the past week's events, or worrying about the weather, and so on. The prelude is a time for silence, allowing for confession; thanksgiving; prayers for ourselves, others, situations in the world; forgiveness of those who have hurt us in any way. The music can serve as incense, lifting our prayers to God, calming our spirits, and opening our hearts and minds to expectantly meet our Redeemer. Thus, a silent meditation is offered to those who wish to use it as an aid in preparing for worship.

To close, many churches have signs posted before entering the nave: "Silence is requested as we prepare to meet God"; "Upon entering church, speak quietly with God; after church, enjoy speaking with others;" "Be still, and know that I am God;" and other similar aids to worship. The prelude is not a performance, nor is it to be taken lightly. It is prepared with a great deal of loving practice time, and is offered as a "Sermon in Song" without words. I pray at every practice that God will use what is offered in the ministry of music to touch the hearts, our very lives, of each of us gathered to meet our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN!

Cats in the Belfry



Fortuna tecum sit per Annum Novum! These were excellent holidays for feline cuisine! In keeping with tradition, we ate some fish on Christmas Eve. We also were indulged in some herring on New Year's Eve.

Speaking of fish, that intersecting arc sign used as a Christian symbol arouses our interest. That same sign was used by other peoples in the B.C. part. So, when being a Christian was illegal in the early A.D. part, the fish sign was not as noticeable as a cross. Why a fish? The Greek word for fish is *ichthus*. The Christians used it as an acronym to represent "*Iesous Christos Theou Uios Soter*" ("Jesus Christ Son of God Savior"). We are glad it is a fish and something we love. It makes our place in Trinity's belfry more connected to what's under it.

Did you know that there are hundreds of feral cat families living in the Colosseum in Rome? They are fed by kind human *gattare*, ("cat ladies") including the late Anna Magnani. Roman city government created a cat sanctuary on the site where Julius Caesar was murdered in 44 B.C., the Torre Argentina. The cats have the run of all the ruins and are well cared for by volunteers. It is illegal to kill a cat or dog in Rome. No laws concerning mice!

How did we get to this point in our message? Oh yes, those holiday fish. Lent brings even more fish, so we are giving up pigeons. *De gustibus!*