



# Trinity Times News of Trinity Church

## From the Priest-in-Charge

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Dear friends;

“The miraculous is everywhere!” What a great spiritual statement-except that it’s a lead in for an Apple i-phone ad.

Often spiritual phrases get co-opted by advertisers because we want to believe in the miraculous. There is the “miracle ear”, “Miracle Whip”, and various other miracle pills that will help us lose weight, become smarter, or help us from aging. It is doubtful that any of these products are really miraculous.

There is, however, a truly miraculous event that we remember each year around this time. The miracle is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The women who went to the tomb early in the morning were expecting to find the body of Jesus. They were not prepared for an empty tomb. Peter ran to the tomb and found folded linens, it was not what he was expecting.

The disciples heard the words of Jesus but they did not understand what he was trying to tell them.

At this time of year we are confronted with miracles. Plants emerging from the snow covered earth. New life, in the birth of baby birds and the young animals that live in our area. There is the miraculous all around us but we may miss these miracles because we don’t expect them.

“The church roof will collapse if I come back to church”. “My parents could never forgive me for what I have done.” “How can God love me? I have done some horrible things in my life”. These phrases become truth when we quit expecting miracles. The truth is, the roof will not collapse, forgiveness may be an option, and God always reaches out to us in love. We often don’t expect the unexpected.

God can take our brokenness and with the light of God’s love shine through our lives making a beautiful stained glass window with the cracks and shards.

Easter is a time of miracles. Let God’s miracle of dying and rising for us become real. Look around for the unexpected. Let God work miracles in our lives.

Have a blessed Easter,

Fr. Bob+

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Submit your news to Trinity Times News Editor,  
Jill Long [jillwilsonlong@gmail.com](mailto:jillwilsonlong@gmail.com)

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## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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### 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*

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## April Calendar of Events

- April 1 - Trinity at Food Pantry, 8:30 a.m. - Noon
- April 2 - Maundy Thursday, Soup Supper, 6:30 p.m. - Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, Stripping of the Altar, 7:30 p.m.
- April 3 - Good Friday, Holy Eucharist, Noon, followed by Stations of the Cross  
Church will remain open through 3:00 p.m.  
Holy Eucharist with music, 7:30 p.m.
- April 5 - Easter Sunday, Holy Eucharist 8:00, Holy Eucharist with music 10:00 a.m.  
No Sunday School
- April 12 - Vestry Meeting, 11:45 a.m., Library
- April 13 - Trinity Crafters, 10:00 a.m. - Noon, Library
- April 17 - Newsletter Deadline for Information
- April 24 - Newsletter Mailing
- April 25 - Spring Clean-Up, 9:00 a.m. - Noon  
Popcorn and Movie Night, Potluck Dinner, 5:00 p.m., Movie, 6:00 p.m., Library
- April 27 - Trinity Crafters, 10:00 a.m. - Noon, Library

## Our Prayers have been requested for:

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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*

## Cats in the Belfry

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Twenty-year old Sarah has a spring in her step. Just maybe she had a spring implant – a few small coils in her metatarsals – but we’re sure it’s because of God’s spring. We know He created all seasons, natural and personal, but this last one was a divine test! The anticipation of His greener creations -- grass, leaves, hummingbirds, flycatchers, and the like -- arouses our genetic obsession: bird-watching. (Birds must anticipate cat-watching, their requisite behavior for survival).

However, some human behavior remains a curiosity. In the spring, they put bean, cucumber, corn, carrot and tomato seeds in the earth and get lots of food. They reap and are nourished! Yet they put **bird seed** on the ground all the time and we reap nothing, not even a feather. (Sarah reminds us that you can’t grow jelly from jelly beans, and that we don’t sprout from pussy willows!).

Guess you already know that the greenbacks in Trinity’s potting shed need new growth and more gardeners, (preferably hardy perennials), in order to thrive. (*2 Corinthians 9:10*). The Wholly Cats hope everyone can add some “Miracle-Gro” to the “\$eeds” they have already sown. Spread The Good News!

(All you have to text is *Mark 16:15*).

# TRINITY BOOKS AND MEDIA SALE PROGRESS REPORT

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Temperatures are slowly rising, the dirty snow is melting and we are enjoying the gift of longer stretches of sunshine. Spring is upon us once again and we are grateful! In this season of renewal, thoughts turn to tidying up our nests, a good spring cleaning if you will. What a perfect opportunity to donate those books, movies and CD's that we enjoyed during the long winter.

We are off to a good start with donations for our first Trinity Book and Media Sale which will take place in early June. A giant "Thank You" to those who have already given us books, etc. for this event. We really need an ample supply of materials to make this a success so keep up the good work. I have sorted through my own bookcases, made an appeal to my book club and have gotten terrific results. People really do appreciate being able to recycle their books. My latest endeavor to garner donations involves my family. I've asked them to bring unwanted books (along with a casserole) when they come home for the Easter holidays! Leave no stone unturned folks!

Again, if you have donations but are unable to get them to the church, don't hesitate to call Cathy Siglin @570-595-2099 and we'll assist you. Thanks for all you do!

## Food Pantry Information

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The numbers for March so far :

225 Families served included are 8 new families.

373 Adults 216 Children 107 Senior Adults.

696 people served.

We had to close our regular first Wednesday and reopen on March 11th due to inclement weather.

*Lorraine Naiko*

## Meet Alan & June Eisenecker

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Happy Spring!

This time I am just the messenger, having gotten together some information regarding a couple that many of you will know well, others may be unfamiliar with. It is well worth taking a listen to their story, in her own words. This story is about Alan and June Eisenecker of Stockholm, NJ.

We grew up in Haledon and North Haledon, NJ and attended local schools. We met on the bus that took us to high school in 1948. We married October 6, 1951 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Paterson, NJ. Our wedding consisted of about 125 guests because we had a lot of relatives and friends back then. We took a honeymoon trip to Miami, Florida and back, then it took much longer to drive both ways since there wasn't a NJ Turnpike or I-95 back then. Three months after we married Al went into the Navy from 1952 to 1956 during the Korean "Police Action".

After holding a few jobs Alan retired from Picatinny Arsenal in Rockaway, NJ and June retired from SB Thomas Baking—famous for Thomas' English muffins. We both were in Data Processing. Our family consists of 3 grown boys, Glenn, Gene, and Gregg, who is married to Doreen. We have one granddaughter Brianne, who is attending Lebanon Valley College in Annville PA.

We came to Trinity as summer worshipers in the late 1980's when we started weekend camping at Out Door World in Scotrun. We usually camped from May to October and were at Trinity every Sunday unless something at home took priority. After being here several weeks, Betty Sayer approached us and invited us to a Trinity Mixers picnic at Jean and Wes Shirks' place. Here we got to know many more people and we became involved in many things that were happening. We felt very welcomed and enjoyed the Sunday services.

We stopped camping in 2008 and sold our trailer. We don't miss camping but we do miss Trinity. However, we do some trips each year with our favorite company, "Senior Tours".

Thank you , June, for sharing this with all of us.

As for me, I could not resist asking the obvious question—to what did they attribute their long, happy marriage???... To which she responded: "We were/are strong in faith, cooperation and trust".

What a touching and inspiring way to sum up their story. I hope that you have enjoyed knowing a little about a couple that don't make it to Trinity, Mt. Pocono very often but still hold us in their hearts and prayers. They were kind enough to share a wedding photo with us. It has been my pleasure to suggest this to June awhile back, we corresponded once in person and the other times via the old way, an envelope, stamp and hand written notes!

*Patricia Goodwin*



# Treasurer's Report

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## Treasurer's Report

Prepared by Peter Gonze

This brief report summarizes the detailed reports posted on the Bulletin Board. The numbers reflect cumulative activity through the end of February.

### Income Statement

- Pledge income is down year to date by roughly (\$2600) and special Gifts/Events are down by about (\$1140) . Of the (\$1140) \$845 (a donation to Meals on Wheels) is due to the revenue being booked in December. This will be a permanent variance for the year.
- Expenses year to date are pretty close to the budget. We are under budget by about \$350. While there are individual line items that have variances, the only one that appears to be significantly over budget is snow plowing/cinders. With the winter we are having that isn't a surprise. Never the less, our projections for expenses so far look pretty accurate.
- Hopefully, pledge revenue will pick up in March. I suspect lower than usual attendance at Sunday services in January and February, due to inclement weather, may have depressed receipts!

### Balance Sheet.

- There was a \$1000 reduction in the reserve for the Pipe Organ. The other change on the Balance Sheet was a decrease for flowers.

I invite your questions or comments!

## From the Minister of Music by Neil Criste-Troutman

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I will sing praise with the spirit,  
but I will sing praise with the mind also.  
I Corinthians 14:15b (NRSV)

Singing God's praise has been a part of the world since its beginning. Biblical scholars feel that probably the first book of the Hebrew scriptures to be written down, possibly by Moses c.1400 B.C., was Job. We read in Job 38: 1a,4-6:

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:  
"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?  
Tell me if you have understanding.  
Who determined its measurements--surely you know!  
Or stretched the line upon it?  
On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone  
when the morning stars sang together  
and all the heavenly hosts shouted for joy?"

Early in the Pentateuch, in Genesis 31:26-28, we find singing is mentioned. Laban has set out after Jacob after Jacob fled: "What have you done?... Why did you flee secretly and deceive me and not tell me? I would have sent you away with mirth and songs, with tambourine and lyre."

The book of Psalms, songs which were sung day and night at the Temple in Jerusalem while sacrifices were being offered, is the largest collection of hymns in the Bible. But we find songs throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, the Apocrypha, and the Christian Scriptures. Liturgical churches continue to sing the Mass, much of which comes directly from the Hebrew Scriptures. And all of Christendom sings hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs. But how do we sing them? Hopefully, with the spirit, and with the mind (understanding) also.

Having again established the importance of song in Scripture, hence, in worship, we reach the heart of this month's article: singing with the mind. Many translations of this Corinthians verse use the word "understanding" for "mind." Hymns are poetry, and as such have not only versification, but punctuation. The tradition in liturgical churches is firmly grounded in the concept that when words are being sung, music takes the "back seat." In other words, we follow the punctuation of what we sing, and not the musical phrasing. Many hymns have wonderful marriages of words and tunes, others not quite so good. And some verses of some hymns fit the normal "breathing spots" in the music (phrasing), while others do not. If we do not heed the commas, dashes, periods, etc., we lose the meaning, the sense, of what we are singing. There are many, many well loved tunes where if we follow the "breathing spots" in the music, we are not singing what the text actually states. One example is the setting of the beloved 23rd Psalm, where we read:

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want,  
he makes me down to lie in pastures green.  
He leadeth me the quiet waters by.

The hymn tunes we have for this versification of Psalm 23 are many. All of them, if we follow the musical phrasing ("breathing spots") we sing:

The Lord's my shepherd.  
I'll not want he makes me down to lie.  
In pastures green he leadeth me,  
the quiet water by (the quiet waters by what?).

Following the strong liturgical tradition where words have precedence over music is how I play the hymns and service music. Sometimes this causes awkward breaks, but that is quite okay, as long as we don't lose the sense, the understanding, the mind, of what the words actually mean. Look at our hymnody with the understanding of the words, and let's work together to make the music fit the understanding.

And keep up the wonderful singing. God bless each of you individually and corporately, as we worship together every time we have opportunity. Holy Week will soon be upon us, giving us more opportunities to review the cost our Redeemer paid to save us, to cleanse us, to make us new creatures, to give us hearts of flesh in place of hearts of stone. See you in church. Oh yes...don't forget to use your voices to make a "joyful noise to the Lord."

Love, peace, and blessings to all.

*Neil*