

Volume 3

March, 2016



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Trinity Times News of Trinity Church

From the Priest-in-Charge

A few weeks ago, Neil and I were in New York while he was getting radiation for his cancer. We stayed at Hope Lodge, which is run by the American Cancer Society for people who have to be in the city for cancer treatment. Memorial Sloan Kettering offers their patients a free shuttle service from Hope Lodge to the hospital. It is a very interesting ride. We leave from Hope Lodge which is located at West 32nd street, a half block from Madison Square Garden and arrive at the hospital at East 68th and York Avenue.

Each driver tends to have their own route that they like to take. Most however, turn from 32nd onto Madison Ave. and head north. It is amazing to go past block after block filled with exclusive stores ranging from clothing and shoes to jewelry and chocolates. Often on returning the shuttle takes 5th Avenue. There the monuments to consumerism are larger than life. As you pass Harry Winston's, the diamonds sparkle from 15 feet away. Bergdorf Goodman's is a stately building at the entrance to Central Park. It is also amazing to see that the stores on these two avenues and countless others are able to stay in business, especially in New York where real estate is at a premium. Yet they do and more stores are opening all the time.

It is very interesting to be on a shuttle with people in various stages of cancer, riding past all of these temples to consumers. The juxtaposition of what you see and what people are dealing with is amazing. That is the way life is sometimes. We can be dazzled by the world and all of its riches. As Americans we have a fascination with the rich and famous. Think Reality TV. But ultimately, our health and our relationships are really what matters.

During this season of Lent may we seek out a deeper relationship with God and with those close to us. Seeking out that which is most important for us and for the other; getting priorities straight. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matt. 6:21
May we have a meaningful Lent,

Fr. Bob+

Submit your news to Trinity Times News Editor,
Jill Long jillwilsonlong@gmail.com
or call 610 - 597-4559

Birthdays & Anniversaries



March Birthdays

5 William Killpatrick, Jr.
13 Bob Butiste
19 Vince Cole
27 Deborah Gower



March Anniversaries

7 Robert & Deborah Gower
31 Charley & Ginny Day

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*

March Calendar of Events

March 2 - Trinity at Food Pantry, 8:30 a.m. - Noon

March 13 - Vestry Meeting, 11:45 a.m., Library

March 19 - Popcorn & Movie Night, 5:00 Covered Dish followed by Movie, Library

March 20 - Palm Sunday, Blessing of Palms & Holy Eucharist 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

March 24 - Maundy Thursday, Foot Washing, Holy Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar
7:00 p.m., Church

March 25 - Good Friday Liturgy & Holy Eucharist

Noon & 7:00 p.m., Church

Church will be open from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Newsletter Deadline for Information

March 27 - Easter Day, Festive Holy Eucharist 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., No Sunday School

April 1 - Newsletter Mailing

May 8 - Bishop Sean Visitation, 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. services, Luncheon following the 10:00 a.m. service

On Pilgrimage: Dreaming a New Future



Welcome to this journey!

Bishop Sean, in a video post released to the diocese on the Feast of the Epiphany, calls us to this journey. You can view the video by visiting diobeth.org and clicking on "Pilgrimage." In the video, Bishop Sean responds to these questions:

Why are we going on pilgrimage?

Where are we going?

How can we participate?

Why are we going on Pilgrimage?

"The Diocese of Bethlehem is bold in choosing this time to uphold our personal and corporate spirituality and investing in a process to discover anew God's preferred future for us as a diocese."

Where are we going?

"On this journey, we create the road as we walk it."

"I hope pilgrimage leads us to a place within ourselves personally, within our parishes, and as a diocese, where our imaginations are opened to consider a future God would have us, a 'place' we've never considered before."

Where we are going is a place of discovery.

"I would challenge us to let go of any past image we have of ourselves as individuals, congregations, and diocese, good or bad. Not to look back to a path in the past we loved or even something we'd like to shed because we didn't love it, but rather to look to God to direct us to something entirely new, knowing God always accompanies us on our journey."

How can we participate?

We can all participate in this journey, by participating as individuals in our prayers, following the Pilgrimage Blog on diobeth.org or the Diocesan Facebook page, and by gathering congregation members regionally (this spring) for prayerful conversation.

You can participate by committing yourself individually to see this time as an opportunity to grow in God's spirit.

We can participate by engaging in a three-fold, prayerful examination that asks,

How is God stirring me?

How is God stirring my congregation?

How is God stirring us, as a diocese?

Welcome to this journey!

Lenten Healing

I am taking my own advice to stop doing something I don't want to do. Lots cross my mind....laundry, vacuuming, food shopping (love the other kind). Of course you can think of many more.

Prayer led me to the decision to stop looking back at faults of myself and of others. Being upset, mad, and angry takes up time which I can never get back. It alters my mood and how I feel about myself and others. I guess I'm thinking that I can change the past by reliving it. How often have we said out loud to ourselves "I'll never forgive her/him. I'll remember that (situation) forever!" And then you bring it up with the devil within you (remember Walt Disney's Goofy with the angel on one shoulder and the devil on the other?)

Our daughter severed our relationship almost 2 years ago. That meant not giving us access to our 2 grandchildren who are very close to us. It was a result of a crisis in her family. Enough said. Gerry and I were so sad and upset as you can imagine. Then we became angry. During this time we both prayed for God to show us a way to open up our relationship. Also during this time our daughter sent us notes of anger and blame that I couldn't read through and would throw them away.

Our second Christmas without her, she called to open up a conversation leading to she and I meeting. Through massive amounts of prayer and talking out loud in the car to God almost daily, I had to forgive her and myself in order to get beyond. I couldn't actually tell her that I forgive her as I didn't know what we had done, but between God and me, I forgave her.

And then there was nothing after we met. Nothing but Lent – the season of forgiveness. I took a chance and wrote her a text (our only way to communicate) telling her what happens when you carry anger, reminding her of her faith, and Jesus words of supreme forgiveness on the cross and that we love her. A week went by. She texted Gerry and said something our granddaughter ate, turkey bacon, reminded her of him. A short text, a minute opening, a small beam of light.

Not only did I have to rid myself (stop myself) of being upset daily at this situation, not only did I have to go to my Father and pray for forgiveness and guidance, I had to cleanse my being. And then He led me to the last thing I had to do – remind her of her faith and God's love. He has led us to begin healing our brokenness. Thanks be to God!

Jill Long

A message from The Rev. Peter Pearson



Peter Pearson

Lots of people are going to be posting things about pancakes and ashes over the next 24 hours. That's nice, but it really misses the point, and more than a bit. The next forty days are about more than giving something up for Lent or going to Stations of the Cross on Fridays. We are invited to go deeper into our own conversion during Lent. Deeper into CONVERSION. We can and will be changed if we allow it. That's a scary thought because we're often so comfortable, even in our misery. Change is uncomfortable and uncertain. But it's also important and even essential to the life of faith. Allow yourself to be changed for the better and for good. That's what Lent is really about.

Fr. Peter Pearson teaches iconography and has a northern parish.

FYI He will be doing a week-long retreat in Bethlehem in July. Contact Mo. Laura

At Trinity Episcopal Church lauramh@gmail.com

Seen on Facebook

A Doctor can save your life

A Lawyer can defend your life

A Soldier can give you peace

But, only JESUS can give you an EVERLASTING LIFE

Food Pantry Update

Hello Everyone,

We have reached the halfway point in February and maybe Winter weather as well and wouldn't that be nice. But just in case the Pantry will remain on duty. The statistics for February are more realistic as we look back on the statistics from last year. The families total 259 of which 11 are new registered families. The Adults 455, Children 243 and Seniors 123 total people served at 821. Our donations are allowing us to add 10 -15 extra food items and provided we keep our family numbers around the 250 mark we will have enough until April thanks to our very generous community support.

Thanks to all for your continuing support please continue to help us weather the state budget crisis with your generous donations.

Sincerely,
Lorraine Naiko

Cats in the Belfry



Well, your cat correspondents are finally back in print. The Wi-Fi wasn't working properly in the belfry so we couldn't opine until now. The repair cat said it had something to do with the vibrations from the church bells when those five planets were aligned last month and maybe from some solar storms. At least he didn't blame it on El Nino...or El Gato.

We see a lot from the belfry, like who is at church on Sunday. We know every congregant's name and pretty much what they drive, if they drive, and how they drive. (Some other time we will write a newsletter column about that!) But probably the most important thing we see from our perches up here is the peace on people's faces coming and going from Trinity. Maybe they don't see it because they are too close to each other. Or maybe they take it for granted and look past it. But **we** notice that they radiate contentment, especially when they leave, as if something invisible inside had been nourished.

Which brings us back to the Wi-Fi malfunction. Maybe it wasn't anything to do with the planets or the sun... **Just maybe** the radiant incandescence from all that inner contentment jammed our laptop. That would be divine interference, wouldn't it? Something to ponder, especially during this season when we live simply, reflect, repent, and grow closer to God. At month's end, we will REJOICE with you!! (Probably the Wi-Fi will go kaput again with your resplendent Easter Joy!).

Luke 24:46-47

Words from the Senior Warden

Once a month, here at Trinity Church it is usually the Second Sunday of the month, we have a Vestry meeting. There is an agenda, minutes are taken and Reports made by the members. Importantly, while only Vestry members can vote on items, Vestry meetings are open meetings. Anyone may attend.

But, what does a Vestry do; who serves on the Vestry; and why is it called a Vestry?

Origins: Originally the word referred to the room where the priest would vest, at which time local laity would meet with the clergy to discuss the affairs of the parish. Over time the name of the room came to signify the group of lay members who governed a parish because it was where they met. While the Vestry meeting location has changed, the name has remained the same.

Role of the Vestry: The Vestry of an Episcopal church has three primary responsibilities. The first two are managerial: to take care of parish finances and the parish buildings. The third is to choose individuals to fill various positions of leadership and representation: the choice of a rector, the choice of delegates to the diocesan convention, and the selection of others as the diocesan canons may stipulate. The Vestry also serves as an advisory council to the rector who by church law is the parish's chief liturgical and pastoral officer.

Membership: The Vestry consists of lay members of the church. The Vestry at Trinity has 9 members, a clerk (who may or may not be a member of the Vestry), a Senior and Junior Warden, and a Treasurer. The list of current Vestry members is printed on the back of the Sunday Bulletin. Vestry members normally serve a three-year term and must be confirmed adult (16+) communicants in good standing of the parish.

Milestones & Goals for 2016

In last month's Newsletter I wrote about the role of the Vestry Liaisons. At the February Vestry meeting, each member of the Vestry assigned to a liaison role had been asked to report back on Goals for our various Ministries. The purpose was to engage members of each ministry to focus on one, two, three items they want to achieve this year. People are more willing to support what they create, thus getting feedback is essential.

The response was amazing. Each of us were impressed and invigorated by the ideas, discussion and level of engagement. Here is the list that was prepared with a brief summary of the goal. We expect to report regularly on progress and will add to the list as time passes. Here is the list!

Building & Grounds

- Clean out the undercroft
- Driveway repair: drainage, pipes, stones

Christian Education

- Begin a small Bible Study group at parishioner's home
- Godly play training session this summer

Evangelism/Communication

- Clean up the Labyrinth
- Parish Yard Sale in July

Outreach

Food Pantry

- Develop a power point presentation & leave behind material to target businesses in the area
- Plan for a 30th anniversary celebration
- Build our Social media presence
- Facebook: more pictures (with permission), more stories about Trinity with focus on activities
- Crafters, Lunch Bunch, Movie Night

Hospitality

- Prepare for the Bishop's visit in May

Parish Life

- Milestone Dates Box: Update/Collect important dates (Birthdays & Anniversary's) for inclusion in Newsletter
- Check Parish member list vs. Canonical list

Stewardship

- Add Diocesan Stewardship messages to Newsletter each month; keeping Stewardship in all forms visible throughout the year
- Include ideas from Diocesan Training session (March 5th)

The Bishop is Coming to Trinity!

On Sunday, May 8th (Mother's Day) Bishop Sean will visit Trinity, Mt. Pocono. Bishop Sean will be with us for both the 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. services and join us for a lunch reception following the 10:00 a.m. service.

After a time of fellowship, food, and conversation he will meet with the Vestry. Please mark your calendars with this important date and plan to attend so Bishop Sean is able to meet all of the wonderful people here at Trinity, Mt. Pocono.

Trinity's Second Annual Used Book and Media Sale!!

As I sit here looking out at the combination of snow, ice and rain pelting the backyard, I happily remind myself that spring is just around the corner. I begrudgingly acquiesce to the restrictions Mother Nature has set for me today and turn to getting things done inside. A perfect day to start gathering all the books I've read and can now pass on for someone else to enjoy. How about you??

Trinity will hold its second Annual Used Book and Media Sale again this year in late spring. We are gratefully accepting donations of books, CDs, and DVDs for the sale. Please, no textbooks or encyclopedias. The donation bins are still located by the back door to the church. If you need assistance with a donation or have any questions about the sale, please call Cathy Siglin at 570-595-2099. Let's work together to make this a big success again this year!!

Cathy Siglin

Our Prayers have been requested for:

Sean Beech

Gary Bender

Ed Benintende

Alex Backora

Marva Cannonier

Fr. Bob and Neil Criste-Troutman

Victoria Forstein

Bill Gessner

Annaliese Harris

Alexis McNeese

Jenn Morse

Wendell & Jutta Moser

Jim Rawson

Fr. Charles Rice

Lois Rothrock

Heather

Patti

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*