

Volume 5

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TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Trinity Times News of Trinity Church

Words from the Senior Warden

For a number of weeks Father Bob has been unable to serve the Parish either for pastoral support or Sunday services. The extraordinary burdens on the Criste-Troutman family are staggering, almost unimaginable. I would like to use this space to update you all on the key question many have asked: is Father Bob coming back?

The short answer to that critical question is no, not as Priest in Charge, but definitely for closure and to say goodbye. I anticipate that we will have that opportunity at the end of June, more to come on this later.

Late last year, in an effort to get Trinity Church back on sound financial footing, short and long term, the difficult decision was taken to have Father Bob move to part time with a contract that would expire in June. There was a hope that we might find a way for Father Bob to continue to serve the parish after the contract ended. Since then, a confluence of events have developed that now make it inevitable that Father Bob will not continue as Priest in Charge. Neil's health has continued to decline and at this point hospice has come in to help Neil with pain management, comfort and to support Bob and family. Neil and Bob have been living at their home in Pocono Summit because it has been easier for Neil. In the meantime, the tragic circumstances surrounding the arrest of son Randy have added to the grief and further added to an already stressed family dynamic. On top of all this, Father Bob had been considering retirement options when he turns 65 in June.

If you have been at Sunday services in recent weeks, we have been fortunate to have Father Donald Shearer and Father Hank Galganowicz. In the coming weeks, we will continue to rely on the services of supply priests with the intention of providing some continuity. For several months I have been in communication with the Diocesan office in Bethlehem to address Pastoral support for the Trinity parish. Canon Anne Kitch, who recently came to Trinity to serve as a Supply Priest and to meet with the Vestry, has been incredibly supportive, helpful and focused on assisting us with the transition we will be going through. Our goal is to engage the services of a long term interim priest, who would be available during the week (part time) and for Sunday Services.

The goal is to have continuity in pastoral care, and to have someone who would be available during the week on a limited time basis and to find someone who is retired so we don't have to pay for Pension & Medical benefits. This scenario would allow us to have strong, sustainable finances without dipping into our significantly depleted DIT funds. While we don't have a person identified yet, we continue to work with Anne Kitch to find the best fit for our needs and the right person to come to Trinity.

In summary, we are in a time of immense transition here at Trinity. We have strong outreach programs in the community, we have robust and active list of Parish activities supported and lead by energetic lay leadership, and we have a welcoming and accepting community. It is my fervent hope, wish and prayer that we continue to do all the things that make Trinity so special and ready ourselves, indeed embrace the changes that will be coming in the months ahead. Your continued participation, engagement and prayers will make this possible.

Please let me or any member of the Vestry know if you have questions, concerns that we can address and ideas for how to continue to make Trinity Church a place where all are welcome. Our prayers for Bob, Neil, Randy and for all the Criste-Troutman family may not seem like enough but are encouraged now and into the coming months.

Peter Gonze

Birthdays & Anniversaries



May Birthdays

3 Donald Ayers
16 Tegan Paige Vincent
16 Jim Siglin
17 Leroy Reaves
21 Michael Goodwin
21 Nneka VanGronigen
22 Benjamin Gower
23 Justice Brian Cook



May Anniversaries

3 Wendell & Jutta Moser
16 Bob & Vickie O'Grady
19 Nelson & Chandanie
Baboolal

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*

May Calendar of Events

May 4 - Trinity at Food Pantry, 8:30 a.m. - Noon
May 7 - Inside Clean-Up, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
May 8 - Bishop Sean Visitation, 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
Lunch Reception following 10:00 a.m.
Vestry Meeting with Bishop Sean, Library
May 9 - Trinity Crafters, 10:00 a.m. - Noon, Library
May 20 - Newsletter Deadline for Information
May 22 - 29 - Family Promise Host Week
May 23 - Trinity Crafters, 10:00 a.m. - Noon, Library
May 27 Newsletter Mailing
June 11 - Book/Media Sale, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Reflections

So we will soon be at the end of the Easter season. You are probably wondering why I am telling this story all over again. It is well worth retelling, it is the basis of all of our beliefs, something we celebrate every Sunday. For Christians, Easter is every day not just once a year. Ever wondered why the stone was found to be rolled away from the entrance to the tomb that first Easter morning? To let Jesus out perhaps?. I do not think so - more likely to let us in. After all Jesus could manifest himself in a room with locked and barred doors, he certainly did not need the stone rolled away. His body had been resurrected, not resuscitated, and was of a form that we have no real understanding, even now.

Another interesting thing about the resurrection of Jesus concerns the napkin that had hurriedly been placed over the face of Jesus before sundown on Good Friday. The gospel of John (20:7) tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes. The bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded and was in a place by itself.

"Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see. The other disciple ran faster than Peter and got there first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the napkin that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying to the side."

Is the folded napkin significant? Why was it folded and in a place by itself? It seems to me that to understand the significance of the folded napkin, perhaps we have to realize a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, every Jewish boy knew this tradition. When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was furnished perfectly, and then he would wait until the master had finished eating. If the master was done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers and mouth with the napkin and toss it onto the table. The servant would then know to clear the table. In those days, the wadded napkin meant, "I have finished". But if the master got up from the table and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant knew that the folded napkin meant, "I have not finished yet". The folded napkin meant "I am coming back".

In our service of Eucharist we say together:

*Christ Has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.
Alleluia*

Jesus promised to return to us one day - perhaps that day is sooner than you think - will you be ready?

M.J.G

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.

Our Prayers have been requested for:

Mary Banzhof
Sean Beech
Gary Bender
Ed Benintende
Alex Backora
Marva Cannonier
Fr. Bob, Neil and Randy 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*