



Words from the Senior Warden

A Look forward!

Since the beginning of the year I have been working with the Vestry and with Canon Anne Kitch in anticipation that Father Bob would be leaving us in his role as Priest in Charge. More recently during Bishop Sean Rowe's visit in May, the Vestry discussed our concerns and ambitions as we anticipate our clergy needs in the months and years ahead.

No longer can we, nor most parishes as the Bishop reminded us, afford a full time rector. While the salary may be affordable when you add medical and pension costs, it simply isn't affordable for a small parish. Yet, our congregation is vibrant, active in community outreach, supporting a number of ministries and activities. Our desire is to have more than just a Supply Priest, someone who does the Sunday services. Excellent as they are, we need and want more continuity in pastoral support.

What to do?

Working with Anne Kitch, the Vestry is considering candidates who are retired (so we don't have to pay medical and pension benefits) and who are available to work at least half time i.e. Sundays and two days per week. The Vestry seeks pastoral care for our congregation and active engagement in the community to support our current and perhaps new outreach programs. Canon Law precludes Father Bob from serving in this role at his "home" parish, so we have to look elsewhere.

Finding the skills is the easy part. By just looking at the resume or CV, one can check off the requisite experiences and skills, no problem. Finding the right chemistry is the challenge, now that's the art! Who will feel called to come to Trinity, who will we feel called to invite?

When we find the right person, they will find a congregation that is welcoming, giving and actively engaged in outreach. That's who we are, as Ginny Day reminded me recently.

It is with a sense of purpose along with prayer, discernment and an open mind to consider the possibilities that the Vestry is engaging this task. In the meantime, we will continue to rely on the deep resources available to us through the very talented Supply Priests in the diocese.

Peter Gonze

Birthdays & Anniversaries



July Birthdays

3 Jutta Moser
11 Richard Orner
15 Robert James O'Grady
17 Pat Goodwin
25 Catherine Siglin
31 Joni Benintende
31 Susan Hurst



July Anniversaries

28 Charles & Tere Buttz

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*

June Calendar of Events

July 6 - Trinity at Food Pantry, 8:30 a.m. - Noon

July 10 - Vestry Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Library

July 11 - Trinity Crafters, 10:00 - Noon, Library

July 17 - 24 Family Promise Host Week

July 22 - Newsletter Deadline for Information

July 24 - 5:00 p.m. Popcorn & Movie Night (**NOTE CHANGE IN DAY THIS MONTH**)
Movie for the month - *ENCHANTMENT*

July 25 - Trinity Crafters, 10:00 - Noon, Library

July 29 - Newsletter Mailing

July 31 - Annual Parish Picnic, Noon - 5:00 p.m.
"The Roof" Paradise Township Park

TALES FROM A WELSH CORGI

Greeting to everyone in Trinity-land. Just a quick note from your friendly Corgi mate, Huw Morgan, along with a little advice, a little 'head's up', so to speak. In a nutshell, be nice to unexpected, uninvited visitors. Regardless.

Here's my story, a few days ago I was on our deck in my favorite spot looking around when here comes this black, long legged dog, loping down the road. Of course, you know me, ever the watch dog, I started barking fiercely, growling and gnashing my teeth, all of which caught mom's attention and she came outside to see what was going on. By then the black dog had stopped and came into my yard, if you can believe that! Guess my growling did no good. It just stood there a few feet from our deck. I kept up my warning barks but the black dog never barked, just stayed looking at me and then at mom. After a few seconds it went to the house next door and then to the house on the other side of us. Mom said to me "that poor dog is looking for its home, it doesn't know where home is". It was lost! At first mom thought it could have been with some human adults going for a walk and not on a leash as is the rule in here where we live, but, no, it was alone. Sad to say but the black dog was just looking lonely and worried, going from house to house. Mom really gave me fits over being so unneighborly considering that I have a home and this dog didn't seem to know where home was. She has never let me forget it, let me tell you. Mothers are like that.

So, folks, take my advice, no growling or gnashing of teeth when unexpected visitors come around, they just might be in need of a home.

Wishing you good health and a good summer,
Huw Morgan

Treasurer's Report - With an Appeal!

.....**Please try to stay current with your Pledge!**.....

June is a major transition month. For some it's graduation time, for kids it's the end of another school year and the beginning of the much awaited Summer Vacation! The summer solstice marks the change of the season from spring (not much of a spring this year) to summer! Days are longer and somehow life just seems to be a bit brighter and lighter as we are able to be outside more often.

June also marked the end of Trinity's contract with our Priest in Charge, Father Bob. The Vestry and the Wardens had been in dialog with Father Bob for over a year about how to address the significant budget deficits our Parish has experienced over the past several years. Sadly, we all agreed that it was no longer viable for the Parish to continue with a full time Priest. So, beginning last January we transitioned Father Bob to half time (Sundays and two days during the week), with a half a year contract.

Also, we petitioned the Diocesan Council to reduce our Assessment so that we could balance our budget and stop the deficit spending that was devouring our reserve funds in the DIT (Diocesan Investment Trust). We have been notified that the Council has approved our petition and the Assessment reduction we requested was approved. Canon Anne Kitch and Bishop Sean Rowe have each been very helpful and supportive of our efforts to work towards a sustainable operation.

A key assumption in our 2016 Budget was that contributions from Pledges received last fall would materialize at or close to the amounts pledged. Somewhat surprisingly our pledge income is about **-13%** below where it was expected to be by this time. I remain hopeful that we will close the "lag" and keep pace with the projections from last year's Stewardship Campaign.

On the positive side, we continue to manage our expenses and are currently below budget on the expense line, but not enough to absorb the shortfall on pledge income.

I once heard someone say that Episcopalians are the only people God trusts enough to take the summers off!!! As we head into the summer months, a time when Sunday Service attendance tends to drop a bit, please remember to help us manage our cash flow by keeping current with your pledges, even if you miss a few Sunday services!!!

An Open Letter to Robert Criste-Troutman

Dear Father Bob,

Well, here we are at the end of June. This is the time that we had agreed would be the end of your contract with Trinity Church as Priest in Charge. We knew this was coming, yet I am sad.

This event also coincides with your 65th birthday in June, (Happy Birthday!) and a time when you are now eligible to collect Social Security, draw on the Diocesan Pension Plan and participate in Medicare. A happier confluence of events!

As you know, I was unable to attend the luncheon sponsored by the Parish to recognize your retirement and to celebrate your time as our Priest in Charge. Had I been able to attend, I suspect I might have risen to say a few words and share a few thoughts....and it might have gone something like this.

First, how did you do it? I was just settling in on my own retirement when you asked to speak to me in your office. Somehow, effortlessly you engaged me to take on the Treasurer's duties from Carolyn. Later you repeated this action with finesse and next thing I knew I was Senior Warden. Through these experiences and working with you on the parish's temporal things, I witnessed first-hand the depth of your compassion and caring for each member of the Trinity Parish family. As we worked together to address our financial issues, you remained objective and supportive as we discussed changes that would affect both you and Neil. Your objectivity and concern for the Parish rose above what might have been better for you personally. Your selfless devotion to the Parish was and is a constant. I will miss working with you.

I always looked forward to your Sunday sermons for your liturgical insights, coupled with your humorous anecdotes and the way you were able to relate the day's readings to the real world. Somehow I found that you made it personal and it seemed to apply to me in my life. Your children's sermons were notable for a message that always seemed to resonate just as loudly for the adults. Maybe that was unique to the 8 o'clockers as we could be somewhat childish, but my guess is that the message rang loudly with everyone at 10 o'clock as well!

I am a better person for having met you. I am fortunate to have joined a Parish where there is a tradition of caring and giving which you embody. Your gifts of ministry which you always share selflessly leave large footprints to be filled in the future.

Thank you for your wisdom, your guidance, your ministry and most of all for being the caring, decent person you are. I have learned from you. I have grown because of you. I will miss you, as will so many others.

You will always be part of the Trinity family, a truly modern family!!!

With deep affection and high regard,

Peter

A Prayer

Eternal, All-Compassionate God:

We lift our hearts and voices in sorrow to You this day as we grieve the violence, the loss of life, and the destruction in Orlando. We entrust to Your infinite compassion all those who have died. May they rest in Your eternal peace.

We pray for those who are fighting for their lives, And for those who are maimed and injured in body, mind, and soul. Grant them easing of their pain and healing.

We pray for all those responding to this catastrophe. Give them steadfastness and wisdom. And, as You commanded us to do, we pray for our enemies. Let them not be lost in violence and hatred.

To all of us, grant deep compassion for all human lives, and an abiding longing for Your peace.

O God, send out Your Spirit And renew the face of our grieving world. Thru Christ Our Lord.

Our Prayers have been requested for:

Mary Banzhof

Sean Beech

Ed Benintende

Alex Backora

Fr. Bob & Randy Criste-Troutman

Victoria Forstein

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*

Reflections

Natural selection is one of the cornerstones of modern biology. The concept, published by Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace as a joint presentation of papers in 1858, was expanded in a later book that Darwin published and is more well known, called "On the Origin of Species".

Although natural selection is a very plausible theory, Personally I have reservations concerning the acceptance of it completely. As an example the cuttlefish (which is not a fish at all but a marine animal) is able to rapidly change the colour of its skin to match the surroundings and create complex colour patterns, through some mechanism which apparently is not completely understood. Research has shown that cuttlefish have the ability to evaluate their surroundings and match the colour, contrast and texture of them in the absence of colour vision and *in total darkness !!*. How do they do that??

In a recent article that I came across, researchers at the University of Bristol in the UK, have engineered soft materials that simulate the color-changing skin of marine animals like cuttlefish, indicating perhaps future "smart clothing" and camouflage applications. You may soon be changing the colour of your suit by pressing a button! The researchers found that by changing natural backgrounds, the camouflage responses of different species can be measured. Although its camouflage defense system is achieved in different ways and in the absence of colour vision, as previously mentioned, the cuttlefish can change its skin colours to match the surroundings.

Is this evolution or design?

Design demands a designer!! What do you think??

M.J.G