

VOLUME, 9

SEPTEMBER, 2016



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Trinity Times News of Trinity Church

Words from the Senior Warden

With respect to the calendar, September marks the beginning of the months with less onomastically exciting names that signify nothing other than their numerical position in the year. *September* comes from the Latin root *septem-*, meaning “seven,” because in the original Roman calendar September was the seventh month of the year rather than the ninth. But for most of us, the month of September signals the end of summer, the beginning of autumn, the start of a new school year and a return to cooler nights and shorter daylight hours! The countdown to election day, Thanksgiving and Christmas (Yikes!) begins.

One other big event for all of us at Trinity Church is the Annual Parish meeting which is scheduled for September 18th. Really, a big event???? Well it is an important opportunity to report to the Parish on where we stand with our finances, search for a minister and updates from our various ministries.

At last year’s Parish meeting we discussed the need to make changes. Among the changes announced was to transition Father Bob from full time to part time and that his contract would end mid-year. The Vestry reluctantly agreed to make these changes because it was clear that continuing to run a deficit budget (spending more than we collect in contributions) was unsustainable and was a threat to the future viability of our Parish. Then, in January 2016, for the first time in years the Vestry approved a Balanced Budget based on the changes being implemented.

As will be discussed at the Annual meeting, through July, our financial performance is tracking on or close to budget. Assuming contributions, including pledge giving, continues in 2016 as expected we will have close to a breakeven budget. The projected 2017 budget is expected to have a surplus so we can begin to reinvest in programs. Getting to this point hasn’t been easy and has resulted in a lot of changes.

One thing that hasn’t changed is the tremendous work done by each of our ministries. This is all work that is lead and performed by lay leadership and volunteers. The work of Trinity continues and we continue to make a difference in our community.

I have written in this space previously that the Vestry is seeking to find a part time minister, Sunday + 2 days during the week or said another way, a half time minister. Among the qualities we seek in the new minister is someone who will bring the teaching of the church into our daily lives, support and inspire our ministries, attend to the pastoral needs of the congregation, listen, help us build our awareness in the Pocono community and bring us together through open communications. And of course we need to have a cost effective financial arrangement so we continue to have a balanced budget!

Mission Impossible? Pie in the sky? Time will tell, but I believe Yes We Can!!!

“The Vestry’s ministry is to take care of the church’s temporal things. The challenge is to discover the spiritual underpinnings of such worldly work.” We will, with God’s help.

Peter Gonze

Birthdays & Anniversaries



September Birthdays

1 Bill Gessner
6 Peter Salmon
7 Emma Hendricks
8 Carol Butiste
10 Lillian Waters
14 Mary Durso
19 Mary Banzhof
25 Janice Pearson
26 Annie Scully
27 Lois Rothrock
27 Evelyn Anne Cortez



September Anniversaries

10 John & Grace Ferrantino
15 Marie Milone & Joanne Smith
17 Bill & Barb Gessner

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*

September Calendar of Events

Sept. 7 - Trinity at Food Pantry, 8:30 a.m. - Noon

Sept. 11-18 - Family Promise Host Week

Sept. 11 - Sunday School Begins, 10:00 a.m.

Sept. 12 - Trinity Crafters, 10:00 a.m. - Noon, Library

Sept. 18 - Annual Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Parish Hall

Sept. 23 - Newsletter Deadline for Information

Sept. 24 - Popcorn & Movie Night, 5:00 p.m., Library

Sept. 26 - Trinity Crafters, 10:00 a.m. - Noon, Library

Sept. 30 - Newsletter Mailing

Annual Meeting Proxy

**PROXY
ANNUAL MEETING
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 18, 2016**

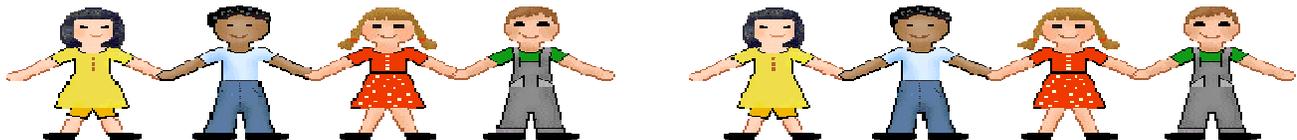
I, _____ appoint

_____ OR the Clerk of the Vestry
(indicate one) to act as my proxy for all matters that may come before the annual meeting of the congregation of Trinity Episcopal Church, Mt. Pocono to be held on Sunday, September 18, 2016 and any extensions thereof.

Signed _____

Printed Name _____

Note: The Clerk of the Vestry, if designated, will vote for the candidates proposed by the nominating committee and in favor of any other matters that have been approved by the Vestry.



Sunday School

For Age 3 through 5th Grade

&

5th through 8th Grades

begins:

September 11, 2016





It's Back to School Time!

...which means it's also back to Church School time at Trinity Church! Sunday School for children from age 3 through 8th Grade will begin at 10:00am on Sunday September 11, a week after the Labor Day holiday.

We kicked off the start of the program with "A *Godly Play* Experience" on Saturday August 20. At this gathering of parents, grandparents and children, veterans of the program and new kids participated in the telling of the

Parable of the Good Shepherd. Then the Children had a chance to use art materials or journals to process the story, each in his or her own way. The grown-ups also had the opportunity to process what they had heard through the various materials, and then talked about the program.

Godly Play is a wonderful program developed by Jerome Berryman, an Episcopal Priest, and is modeled after the work of Maria Montessori in which the children learn through the exploration of a variety of media. In the context of learning Bible stories and liturgical lessons, the children are receiving the foundation for participation in our worship together in church.

And, this year, we will also be offering a class for kids in grades 5 through 8 at the same time. This group will be working on exploring the stories of our faith at a deeper, more age-appropriate level. Lessons will parallel the readings for each Sunday's worship. The curriculum will also help to prepare them for Confirmation Class when they are old enough.

Both classes will meet downstairs during the first part of worship and will conclude in time to join their families upstairs for communion. Our tradition has also been for all the children to be upstairs the last Sunday of each month.

You can look forward to seeing the children in the older class taking a more visible role in worship on those days.

If you would like to learn more about our Sunday School programs or are interested in helping to teach either of the two classes, please contact Barb Gessner at bgessner@verizon.net or 570-460-9335.



Raising Funds

RAISING FUNDS FOR REFRIGERATED TRUCK FOR 2nd HARVEST OF LEHIGH VALLEY. Jill and Gerry Longs Bethlehem Rotary club is having an event on October 2nd to benefit 2nd Harvest purchase. 2nd Harvest has raised \$70,000 and Rotary is raising the final \$50,000 through the event and area donations. This truck will enable delivery of dairy, meats and seasonal foods to the far areas as Monroe and Pike. For donation information please contact Jill Long 610 625-5105.

Trinity Pocono Food Bank is close to our hearts and the reason for our involvement in this effort.

Are you involved in a cause? Let us know.

Vestry Nominees 2016 - 2019

The following people have been nominated as candidates for a Three Year Vestry Term. These terms will begin in September, 2016 and end in August, 2019.

The candidates are: Chris Eidschun, Andrea Hauck, Cindy Hill. They will be voted on at the Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, September 18, 2016 following the 10:00 a.m. service.

The three retiring Vestry Members are: Becky Hendricks, Richard Orner, and Tim Vincent. We thank them all very much for their time and service to Trinity

Reflections

Why Morning Prayer?

When I was a young boy our parish priest could be seen twice daily in the village church reading Morning and Evening Prayer. I suspect that prayer had been offered like that for a long time, as a church had stood in the same spot for nearly 1200 years. The priest was usually alone, but sometimes there would be two or three older parishioners with him. I often wondered in those days why he did this. So, do you know what! I asked him. Now some seventy years or more later I find myself doing the same thing, reading Morning Prayer on Tuesday mornings at Trinity, usually alone. Why Morning Prayer?.

The Daily Office as it is called, is one of the bright gems of the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer, but people don't know it like they used to; perhaps due to the mobility of our modern world, changes in the attitude of the faithful, and over the years, certainly some erosion of the moral fiber of our society. Gone are the days when folks gathered in the village church each morning to say their prayers on the way to work.

Even so, I have found over the past ten years or so that I have had the privilege of reading Morning Prayer at Trinity, that it has great power. It has power because I have seen prayers get answered; it has power because it forces us to pray the psalms, to read the scriptures, and to form our lives in prayer. As a community, it binds us together. We may not all be in the same room praying at the same time, but we can still be shaped by the same scriptures, the same hopes, and the same petitions to God. However, it goes beyond that; when we pray we are joining thousands or perhaps tens of thousands of other Episcopalians and Anglicans across the world in the same age-old practice, as the one Body of Christ. I hope that some of you use the Book of Common Prayer and pray Morning and/or Evening Prayer at home. That's got to be worth something, most likely a great deal more than we realize.

M.J.G

Our Prayers have been requested for:

Mary Banzhof

Sean Beech

Ed Benintende

Alex Backora

Fr. Bob & Randy Criste-Troutman

Victoria Forstein

Bob Grace

Wendell & Jutta Moser

Jim Rawson

Fr. Charles Rice

Lois Rothrock

Heather

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*