

From our Priest-in-Charge

VOLUME, 1

JANUARY, 2017



Friends,

A God filled and joyous New Year to us all!

As I read my last month's note to you I realize I need to update some of the information. The rectory has been painted, is waiting to be cleaned and I expect to be moving in, if the weather cooperates, on Friday, January 5. I CAN NOT WAIT! This 3 ½ to 4 hour commute has been very draining. I have been slowly boxing and moving my library over to the garage. I wanted control over this as it felt that unpacking 750 books could be a gargantuan task if I did not keep it well organized. I am now starting to pack the rest of my house. The move will have to be done in 2 parts as the snow has already made my barn inaccessible and that is where my wood workshop: table saw, miter saw, thickness planer and hand tools etc. are. Where I want them is in the garage.

There have been meetings with Vestry, the Eucharistic Visitors, the Shepherds and the Worship Committee as well as some meetings and meals with individuals. Margaret Gythfeldt has agreed to become organist and choir director rather than interim organist. I thank her for also taking on the task of choosing music for services until I get my feet enough underneath me so she and I can do that together. Barb Gessner has been doing a great job with the Sunday School with little input or assistance from me. She and Margaret have been preparing the children for the Family service at 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

I want to make our relationship with our home bound members as real and supportive as possible and with that in mind, all of those members were brought advent wreaths and lap blankets or shawls. After Christmas we will be giving them poinsettias. As their priest, I want to meet all of these members so starting this coming Tuesday, December 20th, with each member's acquiescence, the Shepherds, the Eucharistic Visitors and I will be celebrating the Eucharist with them in their homes.

One of the evolving mantras of our parish is that we have to learn to live with our current resources. There is both the feeling and the fact that some of us are assuming heavy burdens. Although I appreciated that generosity it often leads to burn out and resentment. So for instance I have set a time limit on this Sunday's Greening of the Church. We will live with the decorating that our members who volunteer can accomplish in an hour or hour and a half, no more.

Peter refers in his part of this newsletter to the fact that some leadership at Trinity will be changing in the near future. Some examples: Rich Naiko is resigning as Junior Warden. His recent illness made his children realize they wanted him to spend more time and be a greater part in the lives of his grandchildren. None of whom live close by. Rich feels he can not do that and be responsible as Junior Warden. I have invited him to attend vestry meetings when he is in town and he has agreed. Jan and Carol have chaired the Christmas Sale for 9 years and they are not doing it next year. Grace and John are planning on moving to Florida sometime in the early summer. All these shoes will be hard to fill. Speak to me if you feel you want to contribute in any of these or other ways. Speak to me AND make sure I write it down. For those who have already shared ideas, check with me to make sure I have a written memo on it. In case you are wondering, I have read all the cards you turned in about ministries you feel called to and ideas you have. Thank you. I will try to incorporate you and your offering as soon as I can. If you think nothing is happening, talk with me. I have two goals about this: relieve members who are overdoing it and encourage members who want to volunteer. My ideal is to have no member in charge of more than one event or area and to create working teams for areas/events to support them and give them input: i.e. buildings and grounds, Adult Education/library, outreach, communication, evangelism, Christmas Sale etc. etc. My second goal is to get more members participating in the work of the church. No leader of this parish should ever say that a members help is unnecessary or a task already sufficiently covered nor should any member feel that their skill and time are not valued. If you have a comment about anything, go directly to the person responsible. In many cases that means me. In other cases Peter Gonze or a member of the vestry but only the member of the vestry who is responsible for that area. I want to encourage healthy and effective communication that nourishes all of us.

I wish all of us a Blessed Christmas and a growth filled, God filled 2017.

Susan+

Words from the Senior Warden

The time from Thanksgiving to Christmas seems to grow shorter each year. Almost without warning January and a New Year will begin. But before we move on it's worth reflecting on the year that was!

By all accounts, 2016 has been a year of challenge, change and hopefully new beginnings. It is always daunting for a parish to undergo a transition from one rector to another. In addition, Neil's steep decline and passing was a loss experienced by us all. We were fortunate to have had Canon Anne Kitch, Father Hank Galganowicz, Canon Ginny Day, Father Donald Shearer and some others here at Trinity during our search for a new part time Rector, Rev. Susan Treanor and to help us through a period of transition and uncertainty. Throughout the year members of the parish stepped up and almost seamlessly made things happen.

Optimism! Yes, I have a very positive outlook on where we are headed as a parish and as a church community. For example, it now seems that we will achieve our first balanced budget in years by the end of 2016, of course this assumes we get the "red" out and see all 2016 pledges fulfilled!!!

Importantly, our Stewardship co-chairs (Carolyn Tolley and Joanne Smith) report final totals for pledge amounts for 2017 to be \$93,545 roughly a 7% increase versus prior year and to total number of pledges at 49. The number of pledges is an increase from 46 in 2016, indicating some growth. Thank you to all for your thoughtful generosity. Having a pledge total helps immensely in planning our finances for the coming year. And a very heartfelt thanks to Carolyn and Joanne for all the work and time spent on the campaign.

Parish Meeting in January

At the Diocesan level, there have been changes too. New By Laws, which have become the standard for all parishes, were adopted at the recent convention. Trinity's By Laws by and large conform with those recently passed. One outcome of the Diocesan By Law changes is that we will hold a parish meeting on January 22nd to address some administrative matters that require a vote and therefore a quorum. One of the changes to the By Laws is that proxies can't be counted, so we need the quorum to be physically present. There will be more announcements about the parish meeting. Among some of the items to be addressed will be a review of 2016 financial performance, the presentation of the 2017 budget, election of a Vestry member and a review of the By Law changes.

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Words from the Senior Warden

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A call for your help!

Other changes that we know about.....the long time, highly motivated Bazaar Co-Chairs, Carol Butiste and Jan Anglemire, have announced that after many years they have decided it is time for them to step down. The Bazaar is a major fund raiser for the Parish generating about \$2300 this year. We **need** a fund-raising activity, whether that is a traditional Bazaar or some new format. We need your help, please speak with a Vestry member or Susan about your ideas for a fund raiser(s) and consider stepping forward to chair or co-chair the event!

John and Grace Ferrantino have chaired the Hospitality function for the past several years. What a great job they have done, taking on so much and making it look so easy! But they too will be stepping down sometime in the first half of 2017. John and Grace are planning a move to Florida, exact timing is to be determined. Anyone interested, willing, or just curious about what is involved, please speak with John and Grace. An Episcopal church without food events, is an oxymoron! While it may seem like a big job to take on, we have some ideas about how to simplify the job and make it more manageable. Getting a couple of folks involved now as apprentices would be ideal!

Well, that about wraps up this final report from me in 2016. My grateful thanks to all who support Trinity with time, talent, treasure and especially to everyone for just being among us.

To you and your family a safe and happy holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happiest of New Year's!

Peter Gonze

Reflections

So we begin another year, 2017 and - "Happy New Year" to all. New beginnings are exciting. I'm sure that God was excited when He created the universe with what scientists describe as a "big bang", What a new beginning !!. We are soon to have another new beginning in our country with a new term of government with a new President. How many new beginnings have you had in your life - perhaps when you began your first job or were married; maybe when you opened your first business or bought your first home.

God always offers us a fresh start - a new beginning. What an amazing new beginning we have at Christmastime, Jesus came as a baby to give us a fresh start ; God's love for us always has a new beginning. He sent His only Son that we might have a fresh start in reconciliation with Him.

We sing the hymn "New every morning is the love - to bring us daily nearer God" ; a hymn that tells of new love and new beginnings every morning. This hymn has been one of my favorites for many years; the words were written by the English poet John Keble in the early nineteenth century.

When we have a new beginning we should remember that God has a plan for each of us. I believe that He has given us all certain talents and capabilities. What we do with them is up to us. We can ignore them, or use them during our lifetime as best we can. I am sure that there is a power greater than any of us, that from time to time places opportunities in our way to help others . If we use those talents that we have properly, we will be living the kind of life we should live and be aware of that love that is new every morning.

M.J.G

Trinity's Annual Christmas Bazaar

Trinity's Annual Christmas Bazaar was held on Saturday, December 3rd. Many beautiful hand-crafted items were sold as well as delicious baked goods and a hot lunch. The bazaar raised \$2,347.14 for Trinity's general fund. Raffle ticket winners were:



1st Prize, \$150 Wal-Mart gift card - Andrea Hauck

2nd Prize, \$50 Hickory Valley Farm Restaurant - Charlie Buttz

3rd Prize, \$50 Pocono Cheesecake Factory - Cathy Siglin

4th Prize, Handmade Afghan - Vince Cole

Many thanks to everyone who helped to make this year another success! We truly appreciate all of your help and hard work!

Carol Butiste & Jan Anglemire, Co-chairs



Birthdays & Anniversaries



January Birthdays

2 Charley Day
2 Wendell Moser
9 Don Scheck
14 Ingeborg Yeich
23 Carolyn Tolley
23 Janet Orner
23 Cindy Hill



January Anniversaries

21 Leroy & Dorothy Reaves

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*

January Calendar of Events

Jan. 4 - Trinity at Food Pantry, 8:30 a.m. - Noon

Jan. 15 - Vestry Meeting, 11:30 a.m. - Library

Jan. 21 - Popcorn & Movie Night, 5:00 p.m. Dinner/Movie - Library
Movie for January *Brooklyn*

Jan. 22 - Annual Meeting, 11:30 a.m. - Parish Hall

Jan. 24 - Worship Committee Meeting, 9:45 a.m. - Library

Jan. 24 - Shepherds Meeting, 11:15 a.m. - Library

Jan. 28 - Snow Date for Popcorn & Movie Night, 5:00 p.m. Dinner/Movie - Library

Food Pantry News

Hello Everyone,

It finally happened our monthly numbers for November shows 311 Families first time the 300 mark for this year. We served 976 people and the breakdown is 544 Adults, 287 Children and 145 Seniors. We did however have 24 new family sign ups. The good news is we were able to serve everyone. Donations have been trickling in and I have received word we are getting donations in the month of January on promise. All that said it was a thankful November.

Lets pray for those in need will find us and we will always be there to fill the needs of others. Thank you to all who support us month after month as donors, helpers, and volunteers. We have accomplished so much and without you the Pantry could not offer the help needed by our neighbors. All volunteers young and older are so very important.

You are all priceless. If we could wish it would be that our clients will find that opportunity to sustain their families. Our numbers all year were lower than the previous year and that was an encouraging sign of better days. Remember our goal is not to grow.

Wishing for a safe, and healthy holiday season for all.

Thankfully,
Lorraine Naiko

Our Prayers have been requested for:

Alex Backora
Mary Banzhof
Randy Criste-Troutman
Victoria Forstein
Wendell & Jutta Moser
Jim Rawson
Fr. Charles Rice
Lois Rothrock
Jennifer Salmon
Ellie Schenck
Katie Scully
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*