


 ASH
WEDNESDAY

From our Priest-in-Charge

Sisters and Brothers,

As many of you know, we are planning to Baptize three children at the Easter Vigil on April 15: One, Zackary who will be 10 months old. Zackary is the great grandson of Louise Campesi and the son of Chris and Jessica Harrison and Barbara Kulwich's two grandchildren: Jolene and Richard Backora, 11 and 13 respectively. The Baptisms raise several questions:

What is the Easter Vigil? Why are we having this service?

Why baptize at the Easter Vigil since it is a night time service and may be inconvenient with a baby?

What responsibility does Trinity assume when young people, babies or adults are baptized?

I have also been asked what and why any preparation needs to be done with these candidates.

First things first: preparation. Although they will have sponsors, Jolene and Richard are old enough to speak for themselves. They need to have an understanding, appropriate to their age, of what they are vowing to God. Secondly, as their Christian community we need to understand our own vows that we will make: During the service, after the candidates, and parents and godparents have made their vows on behalf of the younger child, the celebrant asks the congregation: "Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ.?" We answer, as the church community that will model the Christian life for these children: "We will."

My theology of Baptism is that it is the gateway into a life lived according to the teachings of Christ and in relationship with God. I tell parents: "This is not magic." It is a step in the creation and molding of a Christian. Both the family and we take on an obligation and a privilege here. By example, by word and deed, we are the models of Christ and the life to which we and the children are being invited. We need also provide them with the knowledge of the life of Christ, the traditions of the church, how to develop and nurture a relationship with God, and an explanation of the values and ethics of Christianity. Some of this is done in Sunday School and so the children must be brought to attend and we must provide a well grounded, age appropriate program for them to learn and experience both the intellectual content of Christianity and our Christian community, our ministries and our fellowship. In short, how do we live out our love of God and our neighbor.

I could go on about what should be the qualities of god parents but I need to stop here.

The second question has to deal with the Easter Vigil. The perception here seemed to be that this is not our tradition. Wrong for both the Church in general and Trinity. Candidates in early Christianity were called catechumens and had a two year preparation for their Baptism. Secondly, before their baptism, they were not allowed to participate in the Eucharistic service past the offertory. Thirdly, they all fasted on Holy Saturday and were baptized at the Easter Vigil, the first service of Easter which was celebrated between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter morning. (In ancient times, the major holy days all started the prior night i.e. Christmas Eve is the beginning of Christmas.) All Sunday services throughout the year derive from and are connected to the Easter Vigil. (See p 285 through 295 in the BCP.)

Continued from our Priest-in-Charge

Here at Trinity, Ginny celebrated the Vigil each of the nine years she was rector here. Charles Rice celebrated the Vigil when he was here. Most years there were baptisms, sometimes multiples. Attendance ranged between 28 and 80 with the average being 50. I do not know why this incredibly rich service ended here. My first Easter Vigil was at midnight when I was in the 8th grade. I sang in the choir. In the years since, even in the period when I had left the church, I participated in the Easter Vigil. The symbolism and the music are powerful. There is nothing as moving as a well lived Lent culminating in the Easter Vigil. I encourage and hope that you will show your support for our children and their families and give yourselves the gift of participating in this year's Easter Vigil.

A few other notes: It looks from the sign in sheets that members have chosen Wednesday evenings to have the Lenten series on Who, What and How are we Episcopalians . There will be a pot luck and the sessions will run from: 6:30-8:00. Bring yourself and anyone you know who is curious.

Holy Week will be upon us soon. Look for the times of services. Maundy Thursday will be a retreat day for anyone who is interested. We celebrate this day the institution of the Eucharist. Thursday will end with an Evening Meal, washing of the feet, Celebration of the Eucharist and stripping of the altar.

The Eucharistic Visitors, the Shepherds and I have been celebrating the Eucharist in the homes of our homebound members. I hope to have been introduced to all of these members by next month. I congratulate all of our team for their care, and time.

Me and Haiti. I want begin to share with you my connection and personal mission to Haiti. I went to seminary with a Seminarian from Haiti. He graduated with me in 2009, went back to Haiti and was assigned responsibility for a parish in Port au Prince. The earthquake destroyed his church. He was assigned a new parish on the border of Haiti and the Dominican Republic where he started a school. During Lent that year he asked 5 of his fellow classmates for help. He said he had 130 children between the ages of 3 years and the 6th grade. He had them all day and had nothing to feed them for lunch. He said he did not know if they had breakfast and did not know if they might have dinner. He asked for the contents of our Lenten boxes that year. Together, our churches sent him about \$6,000, enough to feed lunch to the children for the rest of the school year. That summer, one of my parishioners at Grace, Honesdale said: "What do we do next? We are not going to abandon these children are we?" I realized that was exactly what I assumed. Since then, Honesdale has been sending about \$5,000 a year to that parish: San Sacrement. My fellow student has been transferred to a different part of the Island where he is responsible for 15 parishes and 14 schools. Grace Church voted to stay with San Sacrement.

Last March the Sr. Warden at Grace and I went to see what the school, the children and Haiti were like. I lived in Bolivia for 6 months. If you ask I will tell you that Haiti is poorer than even the rural areas of the altiplano in Bolivia. Conditions are worse now. Hurricane Matthew wiped out what little agriculture there was in Haiti. There was never any in San Sacrement. The soil looks like concrete. Everything is imported. Before the hurricane it cost .50 to feed a child in school. Now it cost's .80. Much to my surprise, I seem to be called to this ministry. Feeding people, both spiritually and physically is my call. My years of ministry to Hispanics did not prepare me for Creole speaking Haiti but I am driven to this supportive ministry despite that. I invite you as a parish or as individuals to talk to me about this. And I have a power point presentation on John Sullivan's and my experience there. I would love to share this with you and see if you too are drawn to this ministry.

Susan +

Words from the Senior Warden

As previously reported we had a balanced budget in 2016 (with a small surplus) and prospects for a balanced budget in 2017 looking very good. In January, we were off to a good start, we were slightly ahead of budget. This is great news and allows us to now focus on Programs and Parish Life.

If the money we raise through pledges and contributions is the fuel, our many volunteers are the engine that powers Trinity. At the January Parish meeting and in last month's Newsletter I wrote about a call for volunteers. Areas where we need help both participants and leaders. This month I want to say a bit more about what kind of help we need. Many of the activities can be broken down into sub groups, tasks that are more manageable and less stressful for a volunteer.

Several folks have stepped forward to help, and the chart is beginning to get filled in. This is a good start, but we have many more opportunities for you to apply your time and talents! Please consider taking on a leadership role, participating as a committee member, and lend a helping hand.

If you have an interest, but want to know more about what is involved please let any member of the Vestry know. We can arrange for someone who has done it, to fill you in. Importantly, your ideas and creativity are as important as your energy. Your thoughts on doing something differently are very welcome. Sometimes small changes can make an old activity even more inviting, interesting and exciting.

An active parish life with an array of programs not only contributes to our own enjoyment, it is also a way to invite broader participation among parishioners and is attractive to potential new members who may be looking to join a church that has strong, engaging fellowship.

A final note.... Movie night has been getting great reviews & participation and the lunch bunch has broad appeal as well. These are both great examples of activities that are fun, participative and signal what a vibrant parish we have.

Praying together is one dimension of Church life, playing and working together in Parish focused and outreach programs builds fellowship while strengthen our faith. Onward Christian Volunteers!!!!

Activities that Need Leadership

Leaders

Hospitality:

Coffee hour Coordinator	Cathy Siglin
Annual Picnic Chair(s)	Marie Milone & Joanne Smith
Set up	_____
4 shifts of cooks	_____
Clean-up	_____
Food Coordinators for Special Events	
Ash Wednesday soup supper	Jan Anglemire & Carol Butiste
Easter	_____
Baptisms	_____
COM-lunches	Cindy Hill
Food at the Bazaar	Jan Anglemire & Bob & Carol Butiste
Christmas Eve	_____

Fund Raising Committee-Need a meeting convener

Committee members: Pat Goodwin, Andrea Hauck, Chris Eidschun & others to be named!!!

Bazaar Chair(s)

Buildings & Grounds Committee Chair

Christian Education

Communications/Web enhancements

Treasurer

Trinity Pictorial Directory

Joanne Smith

Peter Gonze

Food Pantry News

Hello Everyone,

Our January was a big month for the Pantry this year . The total families served was 253 and included 7 new registrations. Composition of people include : Adults 446 Children 237 and Seniors 113 equaling 796 people served.

We continue to receive our donations but I have noted a slight increase and as our clients increase we are giving out as quickly as receive. If your organization is interested in products to donate we would request cereals hot and cold , peanut butter, bean products and any other food boxed or canned. Pasta and rice are always nice and canned fruit for children work very well.

February is our short month and before you know it March will be right behind.

Thank you for all your continuous support and we ask you to remember the Pantry and all the people we serve and the volunteers out there who keep up with the necessary activity in your daily prayers.

Lorraine Naiko

Trinity Book Nook

The Trinity book sales are taking off! In case you haven't noticed, we have a good selection of books for sale in the church hall. The small bookcase now holds a mix of fiction, nonfiction and mysteries waiting to be read. But wait, that's about to change! Our priest, Susan, has generously given us a larger bookcase. So, we will have more variety for adults and a space for children's books as well. So stop by, check it out, spread the word.

Read anything good lately? I invite you to share that with your fellow Trinity bookworms. Feel free to submit a brief summary for publication in the newsletter to me at csiglin1@gmail.com. Currently I'm reading **Twain & Stanley Enter Paradise by Oscar Hijuelos**. Some of you may recognize Hijuelos, Pulitzer Prize winning author of *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love*. His books have been translated into 30 languages and are certainly beautifully written. This book is historical fiction and is about the real life 37 year friendship between esteemed writer and humorist Mark Twain and the legendary explorer Sir Henry Morton Stanley. From their early days in the American west, to their admiration of each other's writing, their mutual hatred of slavery and their contacts in literary circles of the day, the story is compelling. Its one of those books I can't wait to see what happens but I don't want it to end either.

Cathy Siglin

Lunch Bunch

We gathered on the 15th at Franks in Bartonsville. As the weather kept everyone from church the Sunday before, Lorraine figured 8 had already signed up and probably another 4 would show up. Well, that 4 showed up with another 12+! 2 long tables of laughter, conversation and food. AND, while we ate, it snowed.

When we left, clear weather. I think Lorraine had a little magic up her sleeve.

Thanks, Lorraine, for getting us together.

Jill Long

Birthdays & Anniversaries



March Birthdays

1 Peter Gonze
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*

February Calendar of Events

March 1 - Imposition of Ashes offered from 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Trinity at Food Pantry, 8:30 a.m. - Noon
Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes, Noon, Church
Soup Supper - See sign-up sheet in parish hall, 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.
Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes, 7:00 p.m., Church

March 12 - Vestry Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Library

March 24 - Newsletter Deadline for Information

March 25 - Popcorn & Movie Night, 5:00 p.m., Library, March Movie "Spotlight"

March 31 - Newsletter Mailing

Reflections

Spring will soon be with us - a season of freshness, expectation and looking forward.

"All things bright and beautiful" the hymn we sing and probably learned as a child, is often sung in the Springtime. It tells of some of the beautiful things that God has created for our use and pleasure.

The author of the words of this hymn was the wife of a parish minister in Londonderry, Northern Ireland; the words were written to help children understand the phrase in the Apostles Creed, "I believe in God the Father, Maker of Heaven and earth".

When we think of God the Creator we often think of a massive all powerful person who created a vast universe and galaxies in space, mighty billowing oceans and storms with thunder and lightning.

However, this hymn written for young boys and girls, talks about smaller, quieter things. It speaks of little flowers that open, little birds that sing, purple headed mountains, ripe fruits in the garden and meadows where we play. God created these things not only that we would marvel at His creation, He did it also for us to enjoy.

Make this a day to reflect on the wonders of God's creation and the goodness He pours out to us new, every day.

Michael Goodwin

Our Prayers have been requested for:

Alex Backora
Mary Banzhof
Randy Criste-Troutman
Victoria Forstein
Jutta & Wendell Moser
Esther Parry
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*