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TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Trinity Times News of Trinity Church

Words from the Senior Warden

At the last Vestry meeting the agenda included a discussion about what it means to be Welcoming in the context of our own lives and especially here at Trinity. The discussion was stimulated by a Welcome statement Jill Long forwarded that is posted at Trinity Bethlehem. (See below for the text.) The statement was circulated among the Vestry members prior to the meeting and initially elicited a great deal of enthusiastic support. And why not, at first glance it seemed to be what we each believe we want to be! Importantly, as a group we discussed the Statement and reflected on what it means, is it intentionally welcoming or could it be construed as limiting. Clearly each of us had reflected on the words and we had a robust and candid conversation about the meaning of being Welcoming and the shortcomings in ourselves and in the Statement.

I think it is fair to say that all agreed that being welcoming is what we aspire to be. But does the statement exclude certain groups? Do we ALL REALLY mean it? How would we truly respond if people who look very different from the usual 8 or 10 O'Clockers came into the parish hall? For example, a young, inked (tattooed) and pierced couple, or teenagers with purple hair or a partially shaved head...how would they be greeted, would they be welcomed? Could the Statement be perceived as flippant? Does the Statement exclude some people/groups? If we leave out a group are we being exclusionist?

Yes, in some respects we could be carrying this further than originally intended. We all agree that we intend to be welcoming **to all**. But it did raise the broader question of are we as Welcoming as we think we are, or intend to be? How can we be more welcoming not just in words, but in our actions and interactions? We have a sign at the front of the Church building that states "All are Welcome", doesn't that say it all? In what ways are we unintentionally acting in ways that make us less welcoming? What is the intersection of Welcoming and Evangelism, where does it diverge?

As a group, the Vestry agreed that this should be a topic for a broader Parish wide conversation. Are we welcoming and in what ways can we enhance our Welcome. If a stranger came into our midst, what would "I" do...what would Jesus do? You are invited to read the Statement and let's chat about it. Offer feedback on your thoughts, use the I wonder box in the Parish Hall to offer thoughts, suggestions.

It is our hope that the more we reflect on the meaning of Welcome the better we get at it. Simply throwing up a sign doesn't make it so, it is a matter of what is in our hearts and in our daily practice.

WELCOME

**We hope that you will find the information that you are seeking
and that it will lead you to us.**

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, confused, filthy rich, comfortable, or dirt poor.

We extend a special welcome to wailing babies and excited toddlers.

We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're just browsing, just woken up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like 'organized religion.' (We're not that keen on it either!)

We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as kids or got lost in the city and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters...and you! --with kind permission of Coventry Cathedral

Peter Gonze

From our Priest-in-Charge

My contribution this month will be a number of short paragraphs about what is currently at the top of my concerns or issues.

First, I visited with Tom Sayer in the hospital this evening. He says he is not in pain if he is not moving. Surgery is not necessary and he says the plan is physical therapy in a rehab center. He is clear but also feels weak. I let him know we are all praying for him and he was touched and says he feels blessed.

Secondly I want to make a comment on Peter's piece and therefore have requested mine be second to his offering. Peter relates the discussion among the vestry members well and I agree that if we adopted and used that sign, we would have to really mean the words. Discussing the terms can be a great growth process for us. I want to add to this discussion that I think the word "welcome" needs as much fleshing out as the word "all".

Thirdly, I discussed with Peter and the Vestry that I want to concentrate on two areas for the next six months:

- 1)our Sunday School program and
- 2)the area of making us more visible to our surrounding community: Social Media, advertising, personal contact with local churches, communication and publicity.

The Sunday School has been faithfully and effectively directed by Barbara Gessner. However, our present children now span the ages of three years to fourteen. Ideally we should have three different class groups for the span of maturity and ages. One of them should be a confirmation prep group. Making this happen will depend on volunteers who feel called to work with children, will share their faith with them. In return, they will help choose the materials they will use with the children and will be supported in their ministry by training and regular discussions.

Communication: interested in learning more about how we can use social media to advertise who we are and growing our parish? The diocesan social media committee has volunteered to come and work with us on our Face Book and Web sites. The mantra about these media is that they have to be kept current and active. I would like to form a communication committee to oversee and brainstorm around making us visible and known.

Clearly both of these areas need members who are interested in making them effective. If you are interested or curious, talk with me.

We will also be pulling together a resource book to gather what we know about services for the poor: the homeless, the hungry, adults and children who live in abusive situations or relationships. We get calls for help and want to have more options that might answer emergencies as well as longer term help. Researching resources will not only help myself, Jan and Peter who get these calls but could be a way to help anyone from the parish who might answer a call for help.

THE MAP IS UP on the bulletin board! It was pinned up on Wednesday and by after services on Sunday 27 households had marked where they live and/or work on the map. If you do not know the reason for this map, I was told during my interview process that the parish wanted to be more connected with our community. It was only later that I discovered that most parishioners live a distance from Mt Pocono. The markings on the map will make this reality visible as well as help us respond to our homebound members or members who have a temporary need and see if members from neighboring areas are interested in forming discussion groups.

Lake Reflections I: Penny Ross

Penny Ross, a member of Trinity for many years who still visits this area to paint her colorful paintings and visit her grandchildren, will be the first artist in an Arts on the Mountain series in support of dam reconstruction at Lake Swiftwater. Penny has been an outstanding artist in the Poconos for 50 years. The exhibit of her paintings of the lake will begin as a preview during coffee hour on Sunday, July 2, and will be open to the public from 1:00 to 3:00 PM that afternoon. Classical guitar music by John Abel and strawberry shortcake will also be on the menu.

All income from art sales at this show will go to Lake Swiftwater, a 20 acre lake in Paradise Township, originally built and still maintained by Trinity members and sometimes a venue for our parish picnics. Though private, it provides public benefits by making a home for wildlife, including eagles, ospreys and otters; serving to control floods; and being an oasis of open space in our community. The purpose of the reconstruction, mandated by the Department of Environmental Protection, is to add another community benefit by making the dam able to withstand the greatest possible flood, something that might happen once in a thousand years. It is being financed by members of the lake, some government grants arranged by Senator Mario Scavello, and other fund-raising efforts, like Penny's show. Further exhibitions in this series will include Beverly Abel and Peter Salmon. Peter and Peter Gonze, both of whom have served as presidents of the lake for many years, would be happy to answer any questions you might have about this project.



Birthdays & Anniversaries



June Birthdays

5 Brigitte Adele Girard
19 Jan Anglemire
19 Bill Herling
22 Chandanie Baboolal
29 Nancy Killpatrick



June Anniversaries

4 Mary Alice Holmes & John Gillis
9 James & Becky Hendricks
18 Bill & Kathie Herling

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

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

June 11 - Vestry Meeting, 11:45 a.m., Library

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

June 17 - Popcorn & Movie Night, 5:00 p.m., Library
"Overboard"

June 23 - Newsletter Deadline for Information

June 24/25 - Trinity Annual Book Sale, 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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

June 30 - Newsletter Mailing

July 30 - Annual Parish Picnic, "The Roof", 12:30 - 4:00 p.m., Trinity Band, 1:30 p.m.

Sept. 19 - Photo Sessions for Parish Directory, 2:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Help Wanted

In a recent sermon, Reverend Susan asked us all for any information we could offer about help for requests for temporary shelter. There are several possibilities, and we should probably all be aware of them.

The Salvation Army in East Stroudsburg has been the primary source in the past. Their facilities are often full, but they do try harder to find room for displaced women. The East Stroudsburg Methodist Church in East Stroudsburg has also taken a major role in recent years in helping the homeless. Monroe County has had a temporary housing program in the past, which may still be available. When Linda and I were presidents of the Hunger Ministry, that office was run out of the Salvation Army building, but it was a county, not a Salvation Army program. Two other local programs, PATH and Family Promise, offer longer term help, but don't deal with immediate crises. Women's Resources deals with abusive crisis problems. (At Trinity, of course, we are active participants in Family Promise, thanks to active volunteers led by Cindy Hill and Carolyn Tolley.)

Our Hunger Ministry began with an initial impetus from 4 churches, including Trinity, and was a good old Episcopalian 3-legged stool. Trinity members Linda Salmon and Fran Schick were concerned about local and world-wide hunger, David Sanborn and others from Mt. Pocono Methodist were specifically concerned about Haiti, and the 4 priests and pastors were concerned about constant requests for temporary housing when they didn't have resources to help, except by digging into their own pockets, which they often did.

The original Hunger Ministry took over all these problems and provided programs to meet them. The budget included funds to provide short term stays in a Mt. Pocono motel that gave us a good rate. We had a committee to respond to these requests and to work with the county program to meet longer term needs. There were also committees to provide help to Haiti and run our local food pantry.

That was years ago. Since that time, local food needs have risen exponentially, from 20 families a week needing help to 200 at times, and the old programs for temporary housing and Haiti no longer exist, but those needs still exist, and meeting them was an essential element of our original ministry. I would like to encourage the present leadership of the Hunger Ministry to find ways to reinstate those programs, and all of us to support such efforts with our contributions. Rev. Susan is already doing that through a program she helped start providing regular meals for children at a school in Haiti. The thing about hunger, of course, is that it never stops. You feed someone one day, but they'll be hungry again tomorrow, so the help must go on.

Nothing in the last paragraph was meant to criticize the very able and dedicated leadership of the present Hunger Ministry, which includes long-time president Michael Stern and our own Rich and Lorraine Naiko, who continue to make enormous successful efforts to meet the needs of our Food Pantry. I'm in awe of all their work, and I'm deeply moved by the weekly sight of Trinity's children bringing all your food gifts to the altar. It's a high point of the week. But I hope we could stretch just a bit more to restore those other two components of our original ministry.

In her sermon, Rev Susan mentioned that she had been advised to beware of scams when people ask for money, and that's reasonable advice. In the past various ploys were sequentially popular with people who came to churches right after the service to ask for money - first it was for lunch, then diapers (or toilet paper), then gas money, and I forget the rest, but it always a series that was used by different people until it didn't work anymore. Then there would be a new theme. Bringing my homeless mother out of the hospital when I am also homeless could be the latest version, but there are safeguards against scams too. Early on in the Hunger Ministry, we set up a county-wide system to prevent double dipping and to guide our clients to sources of long term help. Hospital social service departments can help evaluate medically-based requests for help and so on. But ultimately, as Alfred Doolittle reminds us in *My Fair Lady*, the "undeserving poor" have needs too, sometimes for more self-discipline, but also for immediate help. It is part of our vocation as Christians to respond, rather than to judge. And most people who come to us really do need and deserve our help.

Peter Salmon

Food Pantry Updates

Hello Everyone,

As we begin our Summer we must make a request for donations due to another slight increase of the family numbers for the month of May.

So far we have served 270 including 9 new families and those served are: Adults 460 + Children 234 + Seniors 134 = 828 Total

The Post Office collection was substantial and we are packed with our donated bags for this month. However, as we look to June we should consider our donations on summer food items. Cereal is number one and peanut butter and jelly right behind, paste for mac and cheese and of course cold salads tuna or chicken to be added. Canned fruit with juice and drink mixes fruit and tea based.

I welcome students to help at the pantry as they are able and bring a parent along . It is a great bonding opportunity and a time for your children to interact with adults in a common activity. I ask please for a call if you intend to come by leaving your number and a message on our telephone machine. 570-894-2072.

We are grateful for your past, present, and future participation at the pantry. If you are newly retired and looking to share your time we have a place for you just call 570-894-2072

Thank you for all of your help and support and please keep us in your prayers. Have a great summer and hope to see you at the pantry. *Lorraine Naiko*

Photo Phone Directory

It's been about 7 years since our last photo phone directory was updated. So we thought it was time to do so!

We're using the same company, Life Touch. Each family or person that has their picture taken will receive one (1) free directory, one (1) free 8x10 photo and free access to a mobile version of our directory. There will also be an opportunity to purchase additional copies of your photos.

We have scheduled our photo session for Tuesday, September 19, 2017 from 2:00 to 9:00 pm. Please mark your calendar.

Stay tuned to future newsletters for reminders and additional information!

Trinity's 3rd Annual Used Book and Media Sale

Our annual book and media sale will be a two day event this year! We will open our doors to the public on Saturday, June 24th and Sunday, June 25th from 9:00 - 2:30. This year the sale will be held downstairs, utilizing all the rooms. This will allow us more space to display materials and allow you more opportunities to shop. We have a wide variety of books, CD's, and DVD's for sale, something for every interest.

Our ongoing "mini sale" in the parish hall has been a success, it has sparked interest among readers young and old alike, facilitated conversation and generated some money for Trinity. I'd like to thank everyone who has donated materials, purchased items or helped with the display. Our success would not be possible without all of you.

I have one more favor to ask. We can make this annual sale a giant success by spreading the word. Tell your family, your friends, your neighbors about the sale. If you use social media our sale flyer will be posted on Trinity's Facebook page, please share it on your Facebook page. See you at the book sale!!!

Trinity Annual Parish Picnic

Sunday, July 30, 2017

12:30 - 4:00 p.m.

“The Roof”

Paradise Township Park
Off of Route 191, Keokee Chapel Road

Contact the Parish Office
(570-839-9376) for directions

Entertainment:
Trinity Centennial Band
1:30 p.m.

Fantastic Food, Activities, Great Fellowship
Please bring your favorite dish to share

Please sign up in the Parish Hall
NO LATER THAN July 23, 2017

Our Prayers have been requested for:

Alex Backora
Mary Banzhof
Randy Criste-Troutman
Victoria Forstein
Bill Gessner
Jutta & Wendell 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*

A HYMN FOR PENTECOST

The Holy Trinity has been used for centuries in the church as a name for places of worship. Some of the hymns we sing in church services are well known to us while others are not. Before we sing a hymn it is really to our advantage to read over the words and meditate on their meaning. Our Worship Committee has asked me to write some descriptive notes from time to time about certain hymns, for inclusion in the Trinity Newsletter. One such hymn is #362 in our 1982 Hymnal that we will be singing several times during the Pentecost season.

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty," is one of the most well known hymns in the Christian church, it has been translated into and sung in many languages. The theme is about the Holy Trinity, the text was written during the nineteenth century by Reginald Heber. This hymn is an impressive rendition of the majesty and awesomeness of a merciful and loving God, it calls us to recognize that all that He has made, praises Him in the natural world of earth and sky and sea.

Heber was born in a small English village close to London. When he grew into a young man he went to Oxford University and after graduating, he succeeded his father as vicar of Hodnet, his family parish. Towards the end of his life Reginald Heber was appointed to oversee the Anglican Church's ministries in India, becoming Bishop of Calcutta; he died of stroke there. Among her dead husband's papers his widow found the words of one of the most powerful and beautiful hymns ever written, but it would take decades before the hymn took its place in worship services around the world. She found the words to 'Holy, holy, Holy' hidden away in a box with some other papers.

In 1861, a publisher asked organist John Bacchus Dykes to furnish him with a tune to this hymn; it made sense for him to turn to John who had a natural aptitude for music (he graduated with a music master that same year). John had been a church organist since he was ten-years-old and was co-founder and president of the Cambridge University Musical Society, (which is still very much alive today). Within thirty minutes he wrote the tune "Nicea," which carries the praise of the Trinity to Christians everywhere.

Michael Goodwin