

VOLUME, 7

JULY, 2017

From the Priest-in-Charge



My contribution to the newsletter this month will be short: appetizer rather than an entree. I started vacation yesterday and should have completed this before I left for Cape Cod. So a short note to highlight what I hope will be our focus for this year and then I will put thinking about Trinity aside.

- Christian Education for both adults and children. We will try to deal with the issue that we are all stressed out about time.
- How do we support adults living as alive, awake and knowledgeable Christians in the 21st Century in a deepening relationship and discipleship with the Holy Spirit?
- How meet the challenge that most of the children do not come every Sunday because of shared custody or school extra curriculum schedules for Sunday. (Also I hope to support the Sunday school teachers by training, peer support and recruiting more teachers.)
- Social Media and Evangelization /Pastoral Care: Getting us more connected and known in the community. We will work on developing relationships with and information on resources that are available to our older members especially as drastic life changes face them. We also want to be knowledgeable about shelters and food resources other than the ones we help provide. People come to us constantly for help and we want to know what is available.
- We will look at how we are visible to the community and the world: our signs, Facebook and web pages, food pantry, book sale etc.

Hope the above feels exciting and some thing you want to make happen.

As you know, I am on vacation. I went to the local Episcopal Church this morning. They said they were Episcopalian but the early comers filled in the front chairs first so I am not sure. They did have a coffee hour but most of the congregation did not go to it. They sang with gusto, mostly hymns from our hymn book but others too. They use a Gloria from the WLP which I really liked. It is always a learning process to go to another community's service.

I will sign off for now. Do not expect me to return tanned. I am Irish, do not tan. I burn and peel. I do hope to return energized and rested and having had all the lobster and shell fish I want.

Remember the Parish Picnic. Hope to see you there...

In Christ,

Susan +

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Trinity Times
News of Trinity Church

Words from the Senior Warden

Feedback

Recently, Susan and I met with Anne Kitch, Canon to the Ordinary. The purpose of the meeting was to check in with Anne to review how things have been going at Trinity. This included a “progress report” on how things are progressing with Susan’s tenure as Priest in Charge after 6 months at Trinity. The Vestry recently completed a Clergy Review form which was shared with Anne.

From our work experience we are acculturated to see “the review” as a report card-pass/fail. This can result in a stress filled process for both the reviewers and the recipient. In my view, feedback is a gift and therefore the structure of the process was designed to encourage a dialog and to be non-judgmental.

The bottom line of the feedback was very positive. As we chatted with Anne for over 90 minutes discussing the many activities and programs at Trinity over the past 6 months it back very clear that much has been accomplished, a few changes implemented and a spirit of engagement and participation appears to be in place with growing momentum. This was widely reflected in the Clergy Review process from the Vestry.

I invite your feedback to me, to Susan, to any member of the Vestry. Continuous dialog, which literally means two-way communication, is a process and shouldn’t be a once a year point in time. While there will always be a range of feelings about what is good or bad, what should be changed and what shouldn’t be changed; what’s important is that we bring this to the “table” and not let it smolder under the cover!

Help Wanted

It’s an easy job. No experience required, training provided. No ladders, no special tools. We need, ideally two people to share the load, to put update our two “billboard” signs on 611. This means once a week, sliding letters into the sign to announce special events or service times. The sign doesn’t need to be updated every week but there are regular events that should be posted. Jan will provide the messages to be posted. No special skills required although some attention to spelling would be helpful!!!

Our signs on 611 are important and visible communication tools. Right now we don’t have anyone to help with this. This won’t take long and would be very, very, very helpful!!!

Updates

Congratulations to all who helped set up, staff and purchase books at the BOOK & MEDIA sale....Cathy Siglin, ably assisted by Jim and a bevy of volunteers had another successful event. Between the ongoing sale in the Parish Hall and the event last Saturday over \$750 have been raised!

Family Promise will be back at Trinity in July. Cindy Hill has a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall, please help as you can. This is one of our major Outreach activities, and we at Trinity are making a difference by helping families in the area through this ministry.

The other major outreach activities of course is the FOOD PANTRY. Many helpers from Trinity are regular volunteers for this program. I believe it is well known that Lorraine Naiko has been a major force in leading our participation and has been a leader within the Food Pantry Organization. Recently, Lorraine was elected President of the Food Pantry. While she has already been performing many of the functions and providing leadership, this elevation recognizes not only her contributions in the past but also her drive tenacity to make the Food Pantry available to meet the needs within our community. Congratulations Lorraine! Trinity will likely become even more involved with the Pantry not only on the first Wednesday of each week, but also on the first Saturday. Standby for a call for volunteers!!!

Be sure to sign up for the Annual Picnic, to be held at the Roof on Sunday, July 30th at noon. This year the Trinity Centennial Band will be playing at 1:30. So, come enjoy the fellowship and the food and relax and enjoy the music. What a great way to pass a summer day!

Summer is here...but planning is underway for Sunday School, Adult education, Stewardship, the Annual Meeting in September, and the Christmas Bazaar. Many hands make light work! God doesn’t take a summer vacation, and neither do God’s works....all are welcome, all the time!

Birthdays & Anniversaries



July Birthdays

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



July Anniversaries

7 Margaret & Audun Gythfeldt
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*

July Calendar of Events

July 2 - Arts on the Mountain Art Show with Penny Ross, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
July 5 - Trinity at Food Pantry, 8:30 a.m. - Noon
July 12, 19, 26 - Covered Dish and Study Group, 6:30 p.m. Dinner, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Study
July 9 - Vestry Meeting, 11:45 a.m., Library
July 10 - Trinity Crafters, 10:00 a.m. - Noon, Library
July 16 - 23 - Family Promise Host Week
July 18 - Worship Committee Meeting, 9:45 a.m., Library
Pastoral Care Team Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Library
July 21 - Newsletter Deadline for Information
July 24 - Trinity Crafters, 10:00 a.m. - Noon, Library
July 28 - 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.

One from the Road

Linda and I are sitting in the Denver airport waiting for a flight home after 4 weeks on the road visiting all 11 far western states with our daughter Jennifer and grandson Michael. We saw rare beasts and had plenty of unique adventures (as one of our hymns puts it), but have been totally out of touch with the media world and all its daily tweets and crises. So this month's column comes from a different perspective.

We started our trip on Memorial Day. The day before, our Sunday service had included singing the hymn that asks for God's grace "from sea to shining sea". The first thing that strikes an Easterner traveling in the West is how big our country is. It is much bigger than all the petty political efforts to impose a narrow one size fits all ideology on us all - and it will still be there when today's quarrels are forgotten. This is not to say that current issues are not important. Affordable medical care, preserving the environment and containing international and home-grown violence are all serious matters, but it helps to step back and view them in the light of eternity too.

The environment is an important feature of the American west. With Jennifer and Michael, we visited 4 great national parks - Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Yellowstone and the Tetons - while also putting in 5000 miles through purple mountain majesties, fruitful plains, mighty rivers, diamond deserts and the shores of the shining Pacific Ocean. The parks were often crowded - a testament to their popularity in an era when some in Washington would like to open them up to commercial exploitation. I don't think those crowds of people who care will let that happen. And if you also want to get away from crowds from time to time, there are many off road trails where you can be alone in your own private wilderness.

Another feature of America evident everywhere - from the Denver airport to park visitors - is the amazing ethnic and cultural diversity of our people. Those who would like to isolate one thread of this wonderful tapestry and make it the official standard for America are trying to bail out the ocean with a thimble. What does need to happen - and can with our help - is for all to have a greater sense of appreciation of the value of this diversity and the wonderful human environment it provides for all of us.

A footnote on the subject of diversity is our treatment of the first Americans (who we call Indians), whose ancestors came over the land bridge from Asia over 12,000 years ago. The warfare between white settlers and Indians in the 19th Century, which essentially ended at Wounded Knee in the late 1800's, left the Indians consigned to marginal lands too dry to raise crops and with the buffalo they depended upon slaughtered by white hunters. We saw a glaring example of this in Wyoming's Great Basin. It had been assigned to Crow Indians as worthless for any use, but when new ways of providing water there were developed, the U.S. government took it back again and opened it up to general settlement.

Today, we are involved in military operations around the globe, partly aimed at bringing American ways to places like the Mideast and Far East. Many of these efforts have been ineffective, in places like Iraq, Afghanistan and Vietnam for example. Meanwhile American pop culture has spread around the world without needing any special effort, while our attempts to impose our political culture have not worked. Without turning our backs on the world, I think we could be a more effective presence in it if we tried to lead by example, rather than imposition. A prime example would be revisiting our whole history of unjust treatment of American Indians and developing programs to rectify the mistakes of the past.

We are now seated on our plane in Denver, with its nose pointed towards Philadelphia and ultimately Allentown and home. If we have the strength, we hope to rejoin you at Trinity tomorrow morning. (Editorial note: After getting home at midnight, we couldn't make it the next day, but see you soon.) *Peter Salmon*

Annual Parish Picnic

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

News from The Top of the Mountain Ecumenical Food Pantry

Many of you may not be familiar with the Top of the Mountain Ecumenical Food Pantry. The pantry is located on Fire House Road in Pocono Pines just a few doors from Clymer Library in what was once the Lake Side House Restaurant. The pantry serves on average 250-275 clients a month distributing not only food but also clothing.

Free Summer Lunches for Children

The pantry is doing a pilot program in Arrowhead Lakes this summer to provide free lunches to all Arrowhead children from June 19th to August 20th. As many as 60% of children in the Tobyhanna school district fall below the poverty level and receive free lunches at school. This ministry needs to be continued over the summer months. The pantry is working in partnership with Pleasant Valley Ecumenical Network this summer. Hopefully next year they plan to expand to other communities in the Pocono Mountain school district.

You can be a part of this ministry by contacting Beth Larson @ bethdon@ptd.net or 570 722-1905

Andrea Hauck

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
Tom Sayer
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*

PHOTO PHONE DIRECTORY:

We don't have too much to update about the directory except that we are a month closer to our "photo shoots". We will begin to schedule appointments in the middle of August. Since we'll need to gather some information for the directory when we take photographs, we'd like to take advantage and update our parish informational well. Below is a list of the information we would like to capture:

Title (Mr., Mrs, Ms., etc.):

Last Name (s):

First Name (s): (including children)

Mailing Address: (City, State & Zip) (We will use the mailing address for the directory)

Physical Address: (City, State & Zip) (We will use the physical address for the parish listing)

Home Phone:

Cell Phone (1):

Cell Phone (2):

if you would like to get a jump on the process, you can fill out one of the forms that will be on the table in the parish hall next month. If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Smith at 917/370-8722