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TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Trinity Times News of Trinity Church

Wardens Words - *Peter Gonze*

It's early August summer seems like it just got started but already there are "back to school ads", which doesn't mean too much to me anymore since my kids are grown...but I do feel my grand-kids' pain. Also, I am hearing the unmistakable sound of the katydids chirping.

As kid, hearing the katydids was a reminder that the days of summer were coming to an end and soon school would start again. Alas, we can't help it, summer will end... but let's look on the bright side, there are, after all, 31 days in August!

One of the rites of fall at Trinity is the annual Stewardship campaign. We all know the drill! But wait why are we talking about Stewardship now? It's not autumn! Stop...it's too soon!!

We tend to associate Stewardship with the campaign to get pledge commitments for the coming year, so we know how to build the annual budget. But stewardship is more than just money. Oh, don't get me wrong, we need everyone's help when it comes to pledging, we depend on it for our fiscal health. But there is more, there is the time & talent part too.

The Annual Trinity Picnic was a reminder to me that we have many stewards. Just look at the committees posted outside of Susan's office. There is broad participation and involvement in so many important works, whether it is Family Promise, Food Pantry, Fund Raising, all the hospitality functions, Social Action, Choir, building and grounds, and many, many, more. It is all part of Parish life, it's all part of being stewards in our parish.

Susan's sermon on a recent Sunday included the story of the "Stone Soup". All the villagers having declined to feed or help the itinerant visitor, eventually added a little something to the stone that was in the pot of boiling water. As each person added a little something to the pot, eventually a delicious soup was created...and there was ample to feed the visitor with plenty left over for everyone to take some home. And so it is at Trinity.

So as August commences, and we begin to see earlier sunsets, crisper evening temperatures let's remember to continue to enjoy what is left of summer. As the katydids chirp it is also a reminder that in a few weeks when September rolls around on the calendar, we will all be called to add our own spice to the soup which is the delightful community we call Trinity, our church home.

Our Prayers have been requested for:

Alex Backora

Sean Beech

Randy Criste-Troutman

Victoria Forstein

Wendell Moser

Merrill Nanton

Jim Rawson

Lois Rothrock

Tom Sayer

Pat Young

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*

Birthdays & Anniversaries



August Birthdays

1 Kathryn Ritter-Vicich
3 Tom Sayer
4 Dorothy Reaves
6 Jacob Gower
8 Charles Buttz
8 James Durso
14 Myra Bailey
14 Nelson Baboolal
14 John Vicich
22 Analiese Marie Harris



August Anniversaries

24 Nigel & Sharon VanGronigen

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*

August Calendar of Events

Aug. 1 – Trinity at Food Pantry – 8:30 a.m. – Noon
Aug. 2 – Newsletter Mailing
Aug. 5 – Fundraising Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Library
Aug. 12 – Vestry Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Library
Aug. 21 – Pastoral Care Committee, 9:45 a.m., Library
Aug. 26 – Sept. 2 – Family Promise Host Week
Aug. 28 – Communication Committee, Noon, Library
Aug. 31 – Newsletter Deadline
Sept. 6 - Newsletter Mailing

Family Promise Ministry

We can be proud of another year of providing a safe place to stay and food to nourish our Family Promise guests. If you have not been directly involved in hosting our families, I thought a description of a typical host week would be illuminating.

You are undoubtedly familiar with the volunteer sign up sheet, which I try to set up 3 to 4 weeks prior to our host week. In addition to gathering volunteers, we need to make sure our linens are sufficient for the number of people we are hosting and have them sorted out for each guest's use, and that the Sunday school rooms are clean and tidy with enough space for the number of inflatable beds needed for the families. Also, I contact our helper churches with my meal outline for the week and arrange with them which meal their group will serve, and which night they will serve it.

Our week begins on Sunday evening, with the families arriving at 7 PM by van from the Family Promise Day Center in Stroud Township near the Home Depot shopping area. They come with their inflatable beds and their personal belongings needed for the week. It typically takes a half hour to an hour to get settled in, during which time I show them where extra bedding and toiletries are stored, give them a tour, go over the home rules, and answer any questions they may have. The families' bedtime is no later than 9 PM, and they often choose to retire earlier, as their morning pickup time is so early.

Monday through Friday the Family Promise van arrives to pick them up at 5:30 AM. They are responsible for getting themselves up and out on time. We provide coffee and to-go cups for their trip to the Day Center. The families find that the early hour does not lend itself to breakfast here at Trinity, and usually have a quick breakfast at the Day Center. During the day, the children are transported to their school and the parents work on job searches, housing searches, transportation solutions and various training made available by Family Promise.

The families arrive back at Trinity at 5:30, and dinner is served at 6:00. Dinner time during the week is a wonderful time to get to know our guests and the volunteers from St. Maximilian Kolbe, the Pocono Mountain Women's Club, and Grace Seventh Day Adventist Church in East Stroudsburg. These groups have volunteered to prepare meals as they are unable to provide housing for the guests. They have been steadfast in providing delicious, nutritious meals since we began hosting our families. After dinner, the guests typically retire to their rooms downstairs for family time.

Saturday morning the guests don't get picked up until 8 AM, so we treat them to a hot breakfast of French toast, bacon and sausage, eggs and orange juice.

The week ends Sunday morning with our guests gathering up their belongings and bundling up their linens for our laundry volunteers to take home and wash. They leave Trinity at 7:30 AM and return to the Day Center. They will start their week at the next church on the schedule.

We hope they leave us with good memories of Trinity. It is truly an honor to serve them.

Cindy Hill