



## From the Priest-in-Charge

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I just looked at the weather forecast for the next week in Mt Pocono. Thunderstorms or rain every day. It almost seems like a relief from the humidity and high temperatures we have been having. However, there are great things also on our horizon. Our Bishop Elect will be consecrated a bishop this coming September 15. Our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry will be the chief consecrator. You all know Michael Curry. He was well known before but his recognition quotient worldwide was boosted by his sermon at the Royal wedding. Many people seemed to have been astounded by his sermon. Anyone who has read his books or listened to his messages and videos directed to us recognized his powerful evangelical spirit and his emphasis that we are called to hear, embrace and spread the Good News of the Gospel.

Clergy in the diocese have been invited to spend a morning with him the day before the consecration. We are all invited to the actual consecration on the 15<sup>th</sup>. If you did not get to one of the walk abouts, come meet Kevin. If you have already met him come to celebrate his ascension to being our shepherd. Come let us break bread together in this house of Bread: Bethlehem.

On another note: Trinity will be having our Annual Meeting here on September 9 after the combined 8 and 10 o'clock service. This will be our last summer annual meeting. Our Diocesan By-Laws now say Parish Annual meetings will be held in January. Our traditional reasons for holding our meeting in the summer have diminished and it will be good to have our adoption of the budget happening at the beginning of the year. So I invite you all to come in September and hope you will come back to our next Annual Meeting in January, 2019 when we will elect vestry members for the terms that are expiring.

Hope to see you on 9/9 when we will be discussing all the wonderful things that Trinity is engaged in and 9/15 when The Rev. Canon Kevin will be consecrated.

*Susan +*

## Warden's Words - Sr. Warden, *Peter Gonze*

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On September 9<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our Annual Meeting. You may recall that the new Diocesan By Laws do not allow proxy votes, you must be present at the meeting to vote. Also, holding the Annual meeting other than in January requires the Bishop's approval, which we have received.

Among the topics on the Agenda are reports from our various ministries with a focus on Stewardship. Through the reports there will be witness to the commitment of time and talent from so many. No Annual meeting would be complete without a review of our finances and the challenges we have to maintain and repair our buildings and grounds.

After reflection, Susan and I believe that beginning in 2019 we should forgo the request for the meeting to be held in September. Rather, we plan to hold the Annual meeting in January. A rationale that may have been the case for holding the meeting in September was that many people were away in warmer climates in January. In fact, it seems that most folks are now here in January.

A January Annual meeting allows us to present a budget for the coming year and talk about programs and initiatives for the months ahead. Consequently, we plan to postpone the approval of new Vestry members until the January meeting. Current Vestry members who would have been going off Vestry, have extended their terms for another four months.

In about one month, Trinity will be hosting an Open House. This is a BIG event and will require "all hands-on deck". While we will be showcasing the church, its history and showing off its beauty what really counts are the people....you! After all, the building is just the building, the people are the church.

We see ourselves as "welcoming" and believe that that is the way everyone sees us when they visit for the first time. Smiles, hello's and initiating a conversation with some you haven't met before doesn't come naturally for any of us. It takes effort, a bit of courage and a leap of faith!

With all the efforts to invite the community in, the last crucial step is to make connections. Where are you from, how did you hear about this event, can I offer you some refreshments...smile, make eye contact, shake hands act glad to see people! These are generally good tips in any social engagement and will work just as well at the Open House.

Well, here we go again. With Labor Day we start the fall season. Sunday school will be starting up, the Stewardship campaign will kick off and before you know it, we'll be seeing the leaves fall, pumpkins and Thanksgiving followed by the Christmas bazaar and the Christmas holidays. Maybe by then the rain will have stopped!!!

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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### September Birthdays

6 Peter Salmon  
8 Carol Butiste  
14 Mary Durso  
25 Janice Pearson  
26 Annie Scully  
27 Lois Rothrock



### September Anniversaries

15 Marie Milone & Joanne  
Smith

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*

## September Calendar of Events

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- Sept. 2 - Fundraising Committee Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Library
- Sept. 5 - Trinity at Food Pantry, 8:30 a.m. - Noon
- Sept. 7 - Newsletter Mailing
- Sept. 9 - Trinity Annual Parish Meeting, Following the 10:00 a.m. Service  
Brief Vestry Meeting following the Annual Meeting in the Library  
NO 8:00 A.M. SERVICE ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2018
- Sept. 15 - Ordination and Consecration of the IX Bishop of Bethlehem  
The Rev. Canon Kevin D. Nichols  
11:00 a.m. First Presbyterian Church, 3231 Tilghman Street, Allentown
- Sept. 28 - Newsletter Deadline for Information
- Sept. 29 - Popcorn and Movie Night, 5:00 p.m. - "The Light Between Oceans"
- Oct. 6 - Trinity Open House, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- Oct. 12 & 13 - Diocesan Convention, Bethlehem PA

## Our Prayers have been requested for:

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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*

## Recipe of the Month - *Carolyn Tolley*

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### SHEET TRAY SHRIMP AND POTATOES WITH LEMON

My new favorite way to make dinner. One pan and easy clean up.

1-1/2 lb. baby potatoes  
2 bell peppers, any color, sliced  
1 bunch scallion, cut into 2-inch pieces  
2 lemons, thinly sliced  
¼ cup olive oil  
1-1/2 tsp. kosher salt  
½-1 tsp crushed red pepper  
1-1/2 lb. frozen shrimp, peeled and deveined

Preheat oven to 450.

Toss potatoes, bell peppers, scallions and lemon slices with ¼ cup oil, 1 tsp. salt and red pepper on a rimmed baking sheet. Roast until potatoes are tender, 20-25 minutes.

Toss shrimp with 1 tbsp olive oil, and ½ tsp salt. Arrange in a single layer on top of the vegetables and return to oven. Roast until shrimp are cooked, about 5 minutes.

# Reflections.....

## THE TELEPHONE -*How Times Change*

When I was a kid we had one red public telephone box in our village, sometimes you would see a number of people waiting outside to make a call. To do this you picked up the instrument asked the operator for the telephone number you required, shoved two copper coins into a slot and when you heard your party say "Hello", you pressed button "A". If you talked for more than three minutes there was a tremendous clunk, everything went dead and you had to start again.

The Smartphone changed all that.

I came across a fellow named Jim the other day. Jim is a pizza man and is spearheading the effort on a social media page of "On Smartphones We Live" through his media page. Apparently several hundred smartphone users across the country have banded together via a social media page to discuss forming a new religion based on devotion to their electronic devices.

"We adore our sacred devices, just like other people adore and worship their own gods," says Jim, a budding leader of the proposed new church. You know says Jim, "Some of my friends literally can't live without their smartphones, right? We need them for work, for play, for communication with friends and family, just for everyday life. And let's face it, it's a spiritual experience. We spend most of our days with heads bowed as we wait in the doctors office, communing with our sacred devices. We adore them, just like other people adore and worship their own gods. There's no reason why we shouldn't make it official. We need our own religion so that we can enjoy all the same privileges and protections granted to others as they engage in their own faiths."

Jim gets comments on his page including one from Serena Jones, who said she was "like a lost, wandering and confused idiot" before she bought her Samsung Galaxy S8 Plus. "It found me the right hairdresser, a place to fix my Cadillac and a date for New Year's Eve. It has centered my soul."

Another commenter told Jim that he "gets all shook up" when he is separated from his Apple iPhone X . "Last week I went for my first visit to the "Exercise Depot" to get in shape for baseball; they made me leave my phone in a locker. I couldn't text for the whole hour I was there. I don't think that was right. There needs to be a law for that. I should have the right to keep my phone with me."

Jim says that having a smartphone-based religion would fix that problem. The U.S. Constitution's First Amendment states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." Under that umbrella, says Jim, the smartphone church's members would have the right not only to keep their phones with them at all times, but they would also receive other benefits such as paying no taxes on smartphone purchases, on connection and service fees, nor on properties acquired by the faith's organizers for religious practices.

Jim maintains that smartphone worship will easily fit the requirements for an official religion, such as being distinct from other faith groups, having a clear history, and its own creed and worship practices.

He hopes to apply for legal status within the next few months. "Right now I can't because I'm doing an 'X Man' marathon on my Google Pixel XL," he explained. Jim adds that he and his followers have not yet decided on a name for their proposed new religion. "We're still talking about it, and are open to suggestions. In fact one of our members is developing an app that will generate ideas for good names."

Will the religion have its own app too?

"Oh, you bet," Jim replied. "Just you wait. There'll be an app for that."

# Food Pantry News

Hello Everyone,

As of August 18, 2018, we have served 226 Families that equals a total of 716 people served. And they are 420 Adults, 181 Children and 115 Seniors. 8 newly registered families are included.

I know we have had the strangest weather this summer yet I hope you have found days in the warm sun to make you remember the summer good old days. Vacations are dwindling and with the up coming Labor Day weekend we will be working September 1st at the pantry. I hope to see you all there and for those on vacation wish you the best of weather. If you have had a change of plans and are not going to be able to be there for September openings please send me an email so I can find a substitute.

Good news we have a beautiful new sidewalk for those of you who take out carts. A big thank you to Coolbaugh Township for this project and for all the things they assist us with in this operation of our pantry building. We are grateful!

The children will be in school Monday at Pocono Mountain School District. If you are aware of any family in need please share our telephone number as a place they may seek food help. For other services the county there is a help number 211 in Monroe County area.

Thanks to all the many volunteers who have helped pack, stack, or donate special foods to be given this summer to allow us to serve our families. Donations of cereal products and snack fruit packs as foods for kids snack healthy choices were distributed in the summer months as extras.

Thank you all for choosing to be volunteers at our pantry.

See you all in September it's only a week away.

Lorraine

## Book Review

*Coffee With Jesus, by David Wilkie*

Coffee With Jesus is a compilation of comic strips that had been originally posted on Facebook. Each strip is four frames, and has a conversation with Jesus and various revolving characters who are very certain and opinionated. They may make you laugh, but definitely think. Because of the short nature of comics, my copy spends time in our various bathrooms, but it would also be great to have a morning cup regularly with the book. That is how i originally came to read it while online in the morning.

*Becky Hendricks*