

TRINITY TIMES

*The News of Trinity Episcopal Church
Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania*

February, 2012

Our Mission Statement: Share God's Unconditional Love With Everyone.

Dear Friends,

Lent starts on February 22 this year. Every year people give up something as a penitential offering. The usual item was sweets when I was a child. We were told that we should give up something that we liked. A few weeks before Lent I would say that I really liked school. I never did get to give up six weeks of school, but I tried. Over the years all kinds of things have been given up. For some people, Lent becomes a time to renew a New Year's resolution.

This year, instead of giving up something, I would challenge you to take on something. You may want to consider taking on a new spiritual practice, such as centering prayer, praying with Anglican prayer beads, keeping a prayer journal, or any other method you may think of that will help you to become closer to God.

You may also consider volunteering for a ministry here at Trinity.

Becoming more involved in the life of the church would be a good Lenten discipline.

Whether you take something on, or give something up, let this Lent be a time to become closer to God. As we get closer to our God, we become more and more the person that God intended us to be. And together, we become the Parish God wants us to become.

May this Lent be a meaningful time for us all.

Blessings,

F. Bob

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FEBRUARY, 2012

- Feb. 4 - Popcorn and Movie Night, 7 p.m., Parish Hall
Feb. 11 - Diocesan Renewal Assembly, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Church and Parish Hall
Feb. 12 - Vestry Meeting, 11:30a .m., Library
Feb. 12-19 - Family Promise Host Week
Feb. 17 - Newsletter Deadline for Information
Feb. 19 - Youth Group Meeting/Pizza Lunch, 11:30 p.m.,
Youth Room
Arts on the Mountain, Reception 3 p.m., Parish Hall
Flute Concert/Art Show/Book Signing,
4 p.m., Parish Hall
Feb. 22 - Ash Wed. Services:
Imposition of Ashes, 7 a.m., Church
Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist, Noon, Church
Soup Dinner, 6 p.m., Parish Hall
Sign-up sheet for Soup Dinner Parish Hall
Imposition of Ashes, Holy Eucharist, Music, 7 p.m.,
Church
Feb. 24 - Newsletter Mailing
Feb. 29 - Holy Eucharist, Noon, Church
Pot Luck Lunch, 12:45 p.m., Parish Hall
Lenten Study, 1:15 p.m., Parish Hall
March 3 - Lenten Study, 10 a.m. Library

FOOD PANTRY NUMBERS FOR DECEMBER, 2011

FAMILIES	288
ADULTS	528
CHILDREN	307
<u>SENIORS</u>	<u>115</u>
TOTAL	950

MEALS PROVIDED - 8559

CHRISTMAS MEALS - 400

TOTAL MEALS PROVIDED - 8950

Our prayers have been requested for:

Ed Benintende
Steve Clark
Penny Clark
Ester Stein
Mary Baker
Victoria Forstein
Porter Caldwell
Frank Fiore
Marilyn Croneberger
Art Frawley
Donny Buctner
Adam Kostnbauter
Alan White
LeeAnn & Hal Daniels
Kristina Roberts
Neil Criste-Troutman

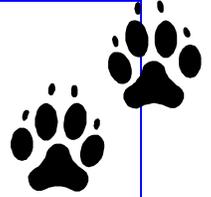


HAPPY BIRTHDAY FEBRUARY

- 1 Taylor Ayers
4 Lionel Baboolal
11 Vernon Yeich
14 Penny Clark
17 Robert Gower, Jr.
19 George Waters

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY FEBRUARY

- 14 Bob & Jane Storm
14 Tom & Tracie Salmon
21 Steve & Penny Clark



Tails from Hound Haven

I love February. It's a short month full of holidays.

I think most people like Valentine's Day best - chocolates, flowers, sweet nothings. That's ok - or probably pretty nice for humans.

Then its Washington's birthday - isn't he responsible for cherry pie? Lincoln has a birthday too. Lincoln logs are in his honor.

But my very favorite fascinating holiday is Groundhog Day! Every year Mom tells me Punxsutawney Phil will be on TV. He is so famous people come from all over to see him and they love him. He attracts happier, friendlier crowds than the politicians do!

I don't think they treat Phil very well though. They wake him up from a sound sleep, thrust him into the cold air and if its sunny, accuse him of being afraid of his shadow and causing more cold weather. I don't think Phil's afraid of his shadow. After all, he lives with it all year. I'm Cresco Sly and I see my shadow and it doesn't scare me! I guess weather forecasters have to blame someone.

Actually, I'm proud of Phil - the groundhog or woodchuck or scientifically the *Marmota Monax* (which is the name I like best). They really celebrate his appearance with lots of gaiety. Maybe I'm a little jealous when I appear I get a pat on my head, some endearing words and a milk bone - but not big parties like Phil.

But I'm happy with that lifestyle. Phil gets attention only once a year. I get it every time I come in! So life's good!

Sly





SUNDAY SCHOOL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

PLEASE JOIN US ON SUNDAY, MARCH 4TH FROM 8:30 - 9:30 A.M. FOR A DELICIOUS PANCAKE BREAKFAST. PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, ORANGE JUICE, COFFEE, TEA, HOT CHOCOLATE
ADULTS, \$7.00, CHILDREN, \$5.00

Stewardship Report

Here are the final figures for the Consecration Sunday campaign:

Statistical Report on Consecration Sunday Results

A total of 64 giving units (families, couples, and individuals) completed Estimate of Giving cards for 2012.

A total commitment of \$ 108,350.00 was made by the giving units. This represents a 3% increase over last year's pledges.

A total of 22 of these giving units (just under **35%**) increased his/her/their financial commitment from last year.

Two points should be made about these figures. The \$ 108,350.00 and the percentage increase it represents were achieved even though a couple of large pledge amounts made for 2011, for various reasons, will not be made this year. In short, the 2012 pledges are covering this reduction **and then some!** Also, and equally important, is that 12 (nearly **20%**) of the total pledges are new pledges. This is wonderful to see!

The response to the Consecration Sunday campaign was heartwarming. We recognize that some of you, for your own individual reasons, choose to give to Trinity in other ways. However you contribute, on behalf of the Consecration Sunday stewardship team we sincerely thank you for supporting this parish.

Bonnie O'Brien & Don Scheck

Co-chairs, Consecration Sunday stewardship campaign

REFLECTIONS

Sometimes I have the opportunity to read over a hymn before we sing it ; almost all our hymns contain real gems and insight to the Christian faith. In centuries past, singing hymns was an important means for teaching Christian truth in a church that was largely illiterate. Even so, hymn singing was and is, far more than just another way to disseminate Christian knowledge. It is a means for all believers, educated or uneducated, great or lowly, to express praise to their Creator and Saviour. It is a way for all of us to communicate with God using more than just words. It allows us to pour out our grateful feelings of the heart - feelings awakened by the experience of forgiveness, salvation and the gracious work of the Holy Spirit.

As you come to Church services each Sunday morning, remember as you lift your heart and voice in praise to the Lord, that you are joining with a chorus of believers of all peoples and all centuries throughout history, who have done the same thing. You are joining with the saints, past, present and future in one great chorus around God's throne. For as the great English hymn writer Isaac Watts once recognized. "The singing of God's praise is the part of worship most closely related to heaven"

M.J.G

CALLING ALL YOUTH!

On Sunday, February 19th, we will hold our initial youth group meeting after church. We are inviting youth from the 6th grade on to join us for pizza at 11:30 in the Youth Room. We will be discussing what direction we will be taking. Come and share your ideas! We really want this to be **your** group. Hope to see you all on the 19th.