

TRINITY NEWS

February, 2006

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MT. POCONO PA

Mission Statement: Share God's unconditional love with everyone.

Welcome to our February newsletter!

I am so pleased to be able to share this page and others throughout this month's edition of *Trinity News* with our Organist and Choir master, Virginia Parry. We have a growing and excelling music program under her experienced leadership. And I am so very grateful for that.

As you may recall I am currently working on my Master's thesis which considers the importance of the hymns we sing in worship for our spiritual journey. As you know, the most important thing we do together is to worship God. As music is a "great and glorious gift from God," it plays a significant role in our worship. St. Augustine is credited with saying "The one who sings prays twice." I have long recognized the importance and validity of that statement. In talking about his own baptismal experience at the hands of Ambrose in Milan, Italy, he wrote "How did I weep, during Thy hymns and canticles, touched to the quick by the voices of Thy sweet-singing Church! The voices flowed into mine ears, and the Truth distilled into my heart, where the affections of my devotion overflowed, and tears ran down, and happy was I therein." (*The Confessions of St. Augustine*, Book 9, Article 14)

It is my hope that you will have an enhanced understanding and appreciation for our music program – what is already audible as well as what is to come! – after enjoying what is offered to you here. May God bless each of us as together we continue to offer psalms and hymns and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19) and beautiful instrumental music to God's glory.

Ginny+

An Enlightenment on "Active" Worship
By Virginia Parry, Organist & Choirmaster

Many of us have in our hearts a high worship ethic: we diligently seek to understand the many facets of the Worship Service. This begins as soon as we enter the Sanctuary, with these facets serving as "preparation" for Worship. During the 2006 Epiphany Season, we are paying special attention to how we begin the hour: those very first moments as we enter the church, find our seats, and hopefully, read through the Worship Section of the Bulletin to focus our minds on the Scripture texts and themes to come.

Since January 6th, you may have noticed that the opening of the Service has been switched around slightly. We now hear Trinity's bell calling us to worship; then announcements are shared in a dialogue between Ginny, our Rector, and the parishioners. This is followed by a Chorale Prelude—not a recital piece, or a "filler" to accompany further walking about or chattering (sometimes at full voice! I am grieved that this occurs on a regular basis, at a time when we are preparing for Worship!)—but a continuation of readying ourselves.

You may or may not be aware that each piece of music—hymn, anthem, prelude and postlude—is chosen to reflect/emphasize the Scripture for the day, or the season of the Church Year. The sermon, of course, ties all the elements together. A Chorale Prelude is actually two musical compositions, generally written for a Worship Service. The first part is a "Chorale"—the singing of a hymn tune with appropriate text, either scriptural or seasonal (i.e. Epiphany). The second part is the Organ Prelude, which is specifically chosen as a composition based on the same hymn or "Chorale". The congregation remains seated for this combined Prelude, which offers us a two-minute opportunity to further reflect and prepare to Worship. We hope that this simple explanation is helpful and that your worship will be enhanced by these subtle adjustments.

It is also my hope that members of the Parish will share their comments regarding these small changes with Ginny Day, and that you will continue to be open to the experience as we work to enrich our worship here at Trinity Church.



FEBRUARY, 2006

- Feb 1 8:30am-Noon Trinity at Food Pantry
 6:15pm Potluck & Study, Parish Hall
- Feb 2 7pm Candlemas, Church
- Feb 7 7pm Trinity Centennial Band Meeting, Library
- Feb 8 6:15pm Potluck & Study, Parish Hall
- Feb 14 7pm Vestry, Library
- Feb 15 9:30am Prayer Chain, Library
 6:15pm Potluck & Study, Parish Hall
- Feb 18 8:30-11:30am Trinity at Food Pantry
- Feb 22 6:15pm Potluck & Study, Parish Hall
- Feb 25 Arts on the Mountain
- Feb 28 7pm Evangelism Leadership Team, Library

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Taylor Ayers
- 3 Patrick Johnson
- 3 Lyle Hixenbaugh
- 4 Lionel Baboolal
- 14 Penny Clark
- 17 Lynn Schmitt
- 17 Robert R Gower Jr.
- 19 Mary Flaherty

ANNIVERSARIES

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

The Vestry has requested a condensed report for the readers of Trinity's Newsletter. The following summarizes the essence of several reports written since 2003 by Peter Salmon and Virginia Parry.

Trinity Episcopal Church had in our chancel, for the first 75 years, a HOOK and HASTINGS tracker-action pipe organ. In 1971, it was replaced by our present Allen electronic organ. The PIPE ORGAN has been in several long-term loan locations, and has been found by Peter Salmon at the famous "Pipe Organ Clearing House" in New Hampshire. Their CEO, John Bishop, has deemed this instrument, worth at LEAST \$50,000., to be truly ours, with no cost to reclaim ownership. However, moving it again will involve some expense. Peter Salmon (Chairperson) and members of the Committee looking into this matter have consulted with Bishop Paul, our Rector, and members of the Vestry, as well as several of the best organ builders in Pennsylvania, former and present organists and other musicians of our Parish, and interested Parishioners.

We now await a quiet time, following the Christmas season, when we can turn our attentions to researching possible grant sources for organ restoration, and the pricing of possible electronic adaptations to our present console. We will continue to work earnestly and thoughtfully on this project until it is resolved!

You, as members of Trinity Parish and/or interested readers of this Newsletter, may obtain copies of any written reports regarding the Pipe Organ, after January, 2006. Please ask any member of the committee to gather them for you: Peter Salmon (Chair); Mary Banzhof, organist emeritus; Lyle Hixenbaugh, consulting engineer; Tom Salmon, Associate Organist-Choirmaster; and Virginia Parry, current Organist-Choirmaster.

Warmest wishes to you in this Epiphany Season,
Virginia Parry

TAKE TIME

Take Time to think...It is the source of power.
Take Time to play...It is the secret of perpetual youth.
Take Time to read...It is the fountain of wisdom.
Take Time to pray...It is the greatest power on earth.
Take Time to love and be loved...It is a God-given privilege.
Take Time to be friendly...It is the road to happiness.
Take Time to laugh...It is the music of the soul.
Take Time to give...It is too short a day to be selfish.
Take Time to work...It is the price of success.
Take Time to do charity...It is the key to heaven.
Salesian Missions

The PMEHM Food Pantry had a busy year in 2005. 14 people from Trinity take turns serving at the food pantry on the first Wednesday of each month. Last year we also served one Saturday a month, but in 2006 we will only help on 6 Saturdays, because the first Wednesday often is the busiest day of the month, sometimes hitting 48 families! In 2005 439 separate families were served; 46% came 4 or more times, but only 2% came every month. 190 families were brand new this year. 10% of our families have come since 1999; mostly seniors. Families can come once a month, from 9AM to 11AM. The new Kiwanis Club members help us on the first Wednesday and sometimes we have 4 people doing intake and 6 people making up boxes of food. It is a satisfying ministry to be a part of and we can always use more help.

Linda Salmon, Trinity Church Coordinator

Social Concerns

After our trip to Biloxi with all your donations to help the people there, we gave an informal oral report in church and put a picture display on the bulletin board, but I have been hoping to produce a more comprehensive illustrated report. This would, however, be more than a newsletter item, so here's the short version.

Neither words nor pictures seem adequate to give a real sense of the extent of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. For miles along the Gulf coast, people's material lives have been broken into little pieces and scattered all over the ground. Even buildings that are still standing need to be totally gutted and rebuilt inside. The whole job will take years and is made more difficult by limited resources. Insurance companies are resisting paying claims. Government help, though immense, can't possibly match the needs. For example, FEMA is able to provide small trailers, the kind you might pull behind your car, on temporary loan to replace people's lost homes. Temporary emergency unemployment benefits are about due to expire, though it will be much longer before the Gulf area economy is really working again.

These needs provide continuing opportunities for outsiders to help. Some opportunities include financial gifts to help in the rebuilding effort, gift certificates to help individuals meet their needs and volunteer work projects, supervised by master craftsmen. We are planning a fund-raising Mardi Gras event at Trinity for Biloxi and the musicians of New Orleans on Saturday February 25th at 7:00 PM. Come enjoy good music including jazz and gospel singers and consider buying art contributed by some of the area's finest painters. If you are interested in taking part in perhaps a week-long work party in the Spring, please let me know, and we'll start making arrangements. If you have old musical instruments in decent condition gathering dust in your closet, consider donating them for musicians and students down there. A full report will be available in the parish hall as soon as I can get it ready. Thanks for past and future help.

Peter Salmon

OUR MISSION IS TO
SHARE GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE
WITH EVERYONE.

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Our Prayers have been requested for:

Ed Benintende
Steve Clark
Joyce DeGasperi
Bob Dexter
Al Eisenecker
Theresa Goffreri
Bill Lord
Flora Rinker
Rudy Roscher
Jon Ross
Ester Stein

Allistair Stewart
Rhonda Treible
Marion Braithwaite
Lauren Boyadis
John Frawley
Pamela Bender
Nancy Curtis
Jeff Landi
Raphael Bannister
Stacey
Martin Kilanowski
Jacob Gower

From the Pastoral Care Coordinator

Here at Trinity Church, we have several folks who cannot join us in all the activities we have at church, and in some cases get out of the house only for doctor's appointments and such. Naturally these people would very much like to have people from the parish visit with them now and then – social interaction is so important, just knowing that people care and will take the time to stop by makes a big difference when you're a "shut-in." In the early Spring, we'd like to offer the opportunity to those who can help in this ministry by holding a sort of "how-to" seminar. Our own Charley Day led a presentation recently at the Cathedral and he has agreed to provide this same kind of seminar for us. What we need of course, are volunteers who would be willing to participate and also be able to commit to visiting someone at home at least once each month. In the grand scheme of things, that's not a huge amount of time to give to something that will mean so much to the recipients.

Please leave your name at the church office or send me an e-mail, so I'll know who is interested. When we have a group of people who can take part, we'll work out a date and time and get moving on this project. I'll be out of the area for a while – we're heading south on January 29 and will be back in PA around March 20, but I will be keeping in touch and you can reach me on the internet (herling@ptd.net).

Kathie Herling

Treasurers Report for the New Year 2006

The good news is that for the month of December 2005 our church finances were at a surplus of \$987.73 mainly due to some generous donors.

TREASURERS REPORT - December 2005.

December 2005 Expenses Paid, \$9320.85

December 2005 Income, \$10,308.58

Net Income for December 2005 \$987.73

You will also see the chart in this Newsletter showing our income and expenditure totals for each month of 2005. We are now beginning another financial year at Trinity with a new budget; this is a good time to be aware of our returns from the Stewardship campaign that ran at the end of last year, and look to the year ahead. From our membership we had a total of \$90,227.96, pledged which was an excellent result for a small congregation such as ours and represents a little over 12% increase in our giving. However for the coming year the Vestry has had to accept a deficit budget; despite cuts in certain areas we are likely to have a gap between income and expenditures by years end. To fill the gap we will need to rely on the our faith in God as a church and his goodness to us in his promise to provide for our needs if we earnestly ask him in prayer. Please pray for financial stability in our church.

Michael Goodwin.
Treasurer

Mark Edward Laubach

Mark Laubach is recognized throughout the United States and abroad as a gifted organist. Since winning first prize in the 1984 American Guild of Organists National Young Artists' Competition in Organ Performance, he has performed, taught and lectured in such notable venues as AGO conferences nationwide, the Kennedy Center and the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., St. Thomas, St. Bartholomew, Riverside Church and Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, West Point, the Crystal Cathedral in California, and concert halls from Houston to Baltimore to Chicago. In Great Britain, he has played at Westminster Abbey, the Chapel of Kings College in Cambridge, and in the cathedrals of Bristol, Chichester, Gloucester, Lincoln, Norwich and Wells.

Mr. Laubach's discology includes works by Wagner, Reubke and Liszt on his "Teutonic Titanics", released in 1995, on the Pro Organo label; "French Fest" (also Pro Organo) was recorded in 1997, on the Berghaus organ at Grace Lutheran Church in River Forest, Illinois, and features works by Franck, Dupre, Durufle and other French organ masters. Critics have describes Mark Laubach's work as "Breathtaking...playing which 'dares' comparison for its sheer brilliance and understanding of the muse."

Mark Laubach began piano at the age of six with Earl Bryan Seip of Palmerton, PA, and organ with Clinton Miller of Allentown. He received a Bachelor's Degree in 1982, magna cum laude, from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, studying organ with George Markey and Donald McDonald, and harpsichord with Mark Brombaugh. His Master's Degree in Organ Performance and Literature was awarded by Eastman School of Music, where he studied with David Craighead and Arthur Haas. In 1984, Mark was the recipient of a one-year appointment as a Fellow in Church Music at Washington's National Cathedral, serving as apprentice to Richard Wayne Dirksen and Douglas Major.

Since 1986, Mr. Laubach has served as Minister of Music at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (designated in 2000 by Bishop Paul Marshall to be the Pro-Cathedral of the Diocese of Bethlehem) in Wilkes-Barre, where he administers a busy liturgical, choral, concert and broadcasting schedule. Under his leadership, the magnificent Berghaus pipe organ was rebuilt in 2002, and now stands as the finest of its type in the Mid-Atlantic region. Mark also maintains a busy teaching studio, mentoring private organ students, and students enrolled at Marywood University in Scranton. Several of his students have distinguished themselves in competitions, concerts, and as active church musicians. Mr. Laubach also serves as adjudicator for numerous organ competitions and is in frequent demand as a lecturer on liturgical planning, hymnody, basic improvisation, pastoral skills and worship service playing skills. He is active in the AGO, the Organ Historical Society, and the Royal School of Church Music in America, for which he serves as host and organist for annual summer training courses based at St. Stephen's.

Tom Salmon, Associate Organist-Choirmaster at Trinity Episcopal Church, is awarded the AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS Organ Scholarship from the PA Northeast Chapter. Mark Laubach, Minister of Music at St. Stephen's Episcopal Pro Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre, PA, was chosen as the 'Master Teacher'. The Scholarship Fund was established by the local chapter because of the amount of discussion on both the national and local levels concerning the depleting number of trained organists available to carry on the great tradition of church music. Schools of music and conservatories throughout the country and abroad have acknowledged decreasing enrollments among students studying organ—a fifty year downward spiral! The National American Guild of Organists has charged its chapters to try to attract both young and more mature musicians to the “King of Instruments.” We, the members of THIS local chapter of the AGO, have been looking for qualified, interested musicians to take advantage of the opportunity. Happily, Tom Salmon “BIT”!!!

Tom Salmon is a 1986 graduate of the Berklee College of Music in Massachusetts. Since then, he has had an eclectic music career, based in the Poconos, involving everything from his high school band beginnings on trombone, to guitar, dulcimer, autoharp and ukulele. He has been playing the piano since age six, and has a habit of picking up odd instruments and learning to play them, which has landed him such odd jobs as playing Spanish guitar for “Man of La Mancha”, electric bass for “Grease”, banjo for “Daddy Warbucks”, pump organ for Quiet Valley’s “Old Time Christmas”, trombone for the Jolly Reinlaenders German Band, singing children's songs for pre-school programs, directing and singing in the Barbershop Chorus of the Poconos, accompanying opera and cabaret singers, organizing the parade band for Buck Hill Falls' annual 4th of July festivities, occasionally sitting in with the Pocono Dulcimer Club, and playing jazz piano at wedding receptions.

When he began playing for services 15 years ago at Analomink UMC, Tom had literally no experience at the organ, but he didn't let that stop him, and learned many differences between piano and organ technique. Subsequent jobs have led him to the present; he takes weekly organ lessons with Virginia Parry, and monthly master classes with Mark Laubach, to learn correct techniques on the “King of Instruments”. He can often be seen warming the organ bench at Trinity with his youngest daughter, Teri, in tow.

The “King of Instruments” at the Pro Cathedral

Virginia Parry was chosen as the “qualified organ teacher” from the Northeast PA Chapter of the AGO to give weekly lessons to Tom Salmon at Trinity Church. Virginia (Goodyear) Parry began private piano studies at the age of five; violoncello lessons were added at age ten; voice and organ lessons began at age thirteen. Even at an early age, Virginia knew that the Church would be the main focus of her music vocation.

Virginia graduated from Messiah College, a small Liberal Arts college tucked in the woods thirty miles south of Harrisburg. At that time, it had one of the few distinguished departments of Sacred Music remaining in the country; presently, it offers only a music education major. Virginia earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Music, with a major in Sacred Music/Organ Performance and a minor in Vocal Performance. She studied organ, sacred choral music and conducting with Ellen and (the late) Kenneth Landis, who were well-known for their Concert Series at the historic Harrisburg Market Square Church. The Landises were also internationally recognized for performances in the U.S. and abroad with world-famous composer and organist Jean Langlais of the Basilica of St. Clothilde in Paris (where Franck and Dupre also played).

Virginia also studied organ with Dr. Ronald Sider, the Sacred Music Chair at Messiah, who founded the Harrisburg Singers and the Oratorio Singers. Dr. Sider will soon be retiring as Choirmaster and Organist at Grace Church in Harrisburg, where Tom Parry sang as a member of the professional choral quartet, and where Tom and Virginia were later married!

Virginia Parry served as full-time organist and choirmaster at five churches in the Harrisburg area, moving to the Poconos in 1997 and continuing to work as both Director of Music and Christian Education at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Scranton (she earned a Christian Education degree in 1981). Virginia says, “This is my 47th year as a professional church musician—and I still love it!” [The choir at Trinity would like to say that WE LOVE working with her!]

Presently, Virginia is Dean of the Northeast Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and is a member of their governing Board of Directors.



