

TRINITY NEWS

February, 2007

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MT. POCONO PA

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

In December I was visiting with Bill and Barbara Lord. We were talking about various activities in the parish. I told them about having a table in the parish hall with materials for both Evangelism and Stewardship in one place. Bill asked "What's the difference between Stewardship and Evangelism?" We had some interesting conversation about this, and I have been reflecting on the question ever since. It is almost like the old conundrum, what comes first the chicken or the egg. As I pondered I became more and more cognizant of the intertwining of these ways of looking at our journey of faith and responding to God.

Every one of us who says we are a follower of Christ was evangelized by someone. If we have always been part of a faith community, it would be our parents. Along the way it could be anyone who shared the gift of the good news of God's love with us. And we are to respond. We thus become the stewards of evangelism, of that good news. It is up to us to care for it, which means sharing it as lavishly as it is given.

In light of the interrelationship of Stewardship and Evangelism I want to tell you something about the knitting project for the Seamen's Church Institute. It is clear that we are being faithful stewards of our time, our gifts, our money, and our energy when we participate in such a program. A number of folks in our parish and in our diocese knit vests, scarves, hats for mariners who are at sea. These are sent by the institute to brighten up their Christmas and to give them a little real warmth. It is a blessing to be part of this ministry. The report from the institute recently posted on our diocesan meeting tells us that this year a record number of handmade Christmas gifts were given to the mariners who travel the oceans and rivers at all seasons.

Here is some of that posting:

"The Institute distributed 7,996 knitted gifts to deep-sea mariners and 4,264 knitted scarves to America's river mariners. Gulf Coast mariners received 3,950 gifts that included homemade cookies.

" 'These handmade gifts make a lonely, isolated and dangerous job working on the waters on Christmas Day a bit brighter. Mariners treasure these gifts that show they are not forgotten. They carry this witness of God's love with them on the high seas and on America's rivers,' said the Rev. Jean R. Smith, DD, SCI's Executive Director...

"The tradition of hand-knit gifts for the Christmas-at-Sea program stretches back to its beginning in 1898 during the Spanish American War when it was started...

"Founded in 1834, the Institute is a voluntary, ecumenical agency affiliated with the Episcopal Church that provides pastoral care, maritime education, and legal and advocacy services for mariners."

Even as we are being good stewards we are also being good evangelists for we are embodying the Gospel message of God's love in these homemade gifts. So what is the difference between the two? I suppose that a legalistic approach which seeks to put aspects of our life and of our faith into distinct tidy boxes would find some separating characteristics. I believe that we are called to be whole, to be holy, to be giving ourselves as we are called by God to do. Division has no place in such a view, and so we seek to nurture the intertwining that come with being children of God.

Look at the table. Materials may appear to be separated. But is there more than one message really?

Ginny +



FEBRUARY/MARCH, 2007

**February 2 - 7pm Bishop Paul's Visit to Trinity
Candlemas, Confirmation & Reception**

February 4 - 11:30am Evangelism Luncheon, Parish Hall
February 4, 11, 18, 25 - 11:30am Choir Rehearsal, Library
February 5, 12, 26 - 7pm Yoga, Parish Hall
February 6 - 7pm Worship Committee, Library
February 7 - 8:30am - 12:30pm Trinity at Food Pantry
6:15pm Potluck/Study, Parish Hall

February 13 - 7pm Vestry, Library
February 14, 21, 28 - 6:15pm Potluck/Study, Parish Hall
February 15 - 7pm Prayer Beading, Library

February 16 - Newsletter Deadline Articles & Information

February 20 - 5:30pm Pancake Dinner, Parish Hall
February 21 - 9am & 7pm Ash Wednesday Liturgy
February 21 - 6:15pm Soup Supper, Parish Hall

February 23 - Newsletter Mailing

March 4, 11, 18, 25 - 11:30am Choir Rehearsal, Library
March 5, 12, 19, 26 - 7pm Yoga, Parish Hall
March 7 - 8:30am-12:30pm Trinity at Food Pantry
6:15pm Potluck/Study, Parish Hall

March 13 - 7pm Vestry, Library
March 14, 21, 28 - 6:15pm Potluck/Study, Parish Hall
March 15 - 7pm Prayer Beading, Library

March 23 - Newsletter Deadline Articles & Information

March 30 - Newsletter Mailing

March 31 - 9am Altar Guild Brunch/Set-up Palm Sunday

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1 Taylor Ayers
3 Patrick Johnson
3 Lyle Hixenbaugh
4 Lionel Baboolal
4 Enikier Holman
11 Vernon Yeich
14 Penny Clark
17 Robert Gower, Jr.
19 Mary Flaherty
19 George Waters

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

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

STEWARDSHIP NOTE:

“Stewardship is what we do and how we live each day. It is the choices we make and the lifestyle we live – not just on Sunday but every day, one day at a time, one choice at a time, until a good and gracious God calls us home and asks for an accounting of who we are, what we believe, and how we lived.” Taken From *What Do I Own and What Owns Me?*

By Daniel Conway

Pastoral Care News

We'll be heading south in the middle of February and will be returning at the end of March. In that time, I hope some of my visiting team will make a few calls and/or visits with the people assigned to them. But, it's not just the job of the team – try to remember that if you don't see someone in church for a couple of weeks, a friendly call would be very helpful and very much appreciated. Perhaps some people are nervous about driving in the winter and would appreciate the offer of a ride to church on Sunday, or to an event that might be coming up. It's so important that we look after each other, offer help where needed – even just a call to keep someone apprised of what's happening at church or in the world. Contact from the outside when you're shut in during this dreary weather is always welcome.

Also, if you know of someone who needs a friendly visit, or needs to talk to the clergy, or who is going into the hospital, please let the church office know, so the proper steps can be taken. Hopefully, when we next get together, the sun will be shining and bulbs will be popping up through the ground.

Kathie Herling

Trinity Episcopal Church Mission Statement:

**Share Gods Unconditional Love
With Everyone.**

*Trinity Episcopal Church
HCR 1 Box 25
Mt. Pocono PA 18344*

Phone: 570-839-9376

Fax: 570-839-7277

Email: trinitychurch@nni.com

Website: TrinityMtPocono.org

Our Prayers have been requested for:

Ed Benintende
Steve Clark
Joyce DeGasperi
Bob Dexter
Al Eisenecker
Theresa Goffreri
Bill Lord
Flora Rinker
Jon Ross
Ester Stein
Rhonda Treible
Marion Braithwaite
Lauren Boyadis
Jacob Gower

Deborah Gower
Mary Baker
Jeff Landi
Raphael Bannister
Stacey
Martin Kilanowski
Richard Backora
Anita Rivera
Natashia Tomala
Alex Boehm
Violet McMahon
Mary Flaherty

Have you read the hall bulletin board lately?

TREASURERS REPORT - December, 2006

Total Contributions: \$15,092.65
Total Expenditure: \$10,882.64
Net Monthly Income: \$ 4,210.01

The following is our financial position for the year 2006 at the end of December.

Total Income Jan thro Dec : \$127,291.07
Budgeted Pledged Offerings: \$90,204.00
Annual Budget Total: \$119,054.40
Pledges received: \$94,157.50
Total Annual Expenses: \$135,729.58
Pledges in excess of Budget: \$3,953.50
Net Ordinary income: -\$8,438.51

Please continue to pray for financial stability at Trinity. Consider prayerfully an increase in your giving of 1 per cent this year towards our financial stability and if you have not pledged this year you may begin at any time, there is no restriction.

Michael Goodwin
Treasurer

I want to write about something that all of us know as Christians that we are supposed to be doing, yet few of us, due to fear, ignorance, busyness, and other excuses and distractions, are actively involved -- Witnessing. Our opportunity to "Share God's Unconditional Love With Everyone" through sharing our own stories.

This article is not designed to heap on the guilt or twist your arm, this message is intended to enable, equip, and encourage you... release you into becoming a fisher of people.

Shortly after his forty days in the wilderness, Jesus returned to Galilee to begin His earthly ministry. After being rejected in Nazareth, Jesus made His way toward the Sea of Galilee. Jesus began speaking to a growing crowd and then He got into a boat and began to preach. After preaching, He instructed the boat's owner to cast his nets into the sea. A bit reluctant after a long hard night of striking out, Peter and Andrew cast their nets and took in a haul so great that they had to get help and still their boats almost sank. Once Jesus got their attention, He extended an invitation to them -- "Follow me and I will make you fishers of people."

There is a story of a mother and daughter who were driving home after church one Sunday. The little girl began to ask her mom some questions about the morning service. "Mommy, there's something about the pastor's sermon this morning that I don't understand. He said that God is bigger than we are. He said God is so big that He could hold the whole world in His hands. Is that true? The mother assured her daughter that the pastor was correct. The daughter then said, "But Mommy, he also said that God comes to live inside of us when we believe in Jesus as our Savior. Is that true too?" Again, the Mom assured her little girl that the pastor's words were true. Then, with a puzzled look on her face the little girl asked, "If God is bigger than we are and He lives in us, shouldn't He show through?"

If Christ is in you He also should come through you.

We all know that the Great Commission calls us to go and tell -- nowhere in Scripture do you see the command to hang a sign that says come and hear. This means that each of us are a part of something bigger than ourselves. We are part of a grandiose plan contrived in the heart and mind of God the Father. He invites us, expects us, and wants us to be apart of His plan. Understanding that we are all called, what do we need to fulfill His call?

Please join the Evangelism Leadership Team on the 4th of February after Worship for lunch and conversation in the Parish Hall.

Oh ... and bring a friend.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob McMahon

Chair, Evangelism Leadership Team

Getting It Straight In The Desert

I'm sure Episcopalians have had many different points of view about the war in Iraq. Some saw it as a noble cause, aimed at getting rid of an infamous dictator and his stock of weapons of mass destruction, while bringing freedom to Iraq. Others of us felt that the UN (perhaps helped by the threat of an American invasion) was doing an adequate job looking for weapons, that Iraq was too divided by religion to achieve democracy and that America can't take on the role of removing all bad foreign rulers.

Whatever we thought in the past, these things are now clear: 1. Saddam Husein is gone from the scene, executed last year. 2. There are no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. 3. There seems to be no reasonable hope of establishing a democracy there which would defend the rights and safety of all Iraqi citizens. Therefore, none of the original goals remain. The question now for America is whether there is any further achievable goal that would justify the sacrifices we are making there.

The one answer that we hear is to prevent chaos, which could include a wider war with Iran backing the Shiites and Saudi Arabia backing the Sunnis, along with the daily massacres in Iraq. These problems are beyond our resources to solve alone: it is clearly time to enlist the international community in an effort to resolve them in the context of seeking a wider peace in the Mideast. This point of view is summed up in the statement below by our Presiding Bishop, Katharine Jefferts Schori, which I recommend to your thoughtful and prayerful attention. As with all these reports, I would very much like to know what you think.

Peter Salmon

Presiding Bishop's response to President Bush's speech on Iraq:

While I welcome President Bush's recognition that the situation in Iraq is unacceptable, I am deeply saddened by his failure to address peacemaking in the context of the whole region. It is a mistake to view Iraq only through the prism of terrorism. Others have pointed out that the road to peace goes through Jerusalem, not Baghdad. In order to bring peace to the Middle East, not just Iraq, and the land we Christians call holy, there must be a comprehensive regional plan that culminates in a two-state solution for Israelis and Palestinians. Our country must engage diplomatically not only the U.N., European Union and Russia, but all the nations in the Middle East, including Iran and Syria. Diplomacy, built on a foundation of mutual respect and interest among people of good will, not more troops, can bring an end to this tragic conflict. We continue to pray for our soldiers and their families, as well as for all the people of the Middle East, seeking God's wisdom in the search for peace with justice, for shalom and salaam.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church