

# TRINITY NEWS

March, 2006

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MT. POCONO PA

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

It is a beautiful February afternoon. So far we have enjoyed an unusually gentle winter. A couple of snow storms have happened that have affected attendance at Sunday worship because of the timing, but we have not had the ice of last year. We do well to give thanks!

We had a horrendous wind storm which resulted in a very strange occurrence indeed. You may already have heard about this. If you go out to the Memorial Garden and look up to the right of the Celtic cross, you will see where the top of a hemlock broke off. Then look a little further to the right and you will see that top standing on the ground, between two trees, looking like a third tree. It is really unusual. We are fortunate that the wind carried it there rather than into the building – stained glass windows, offices, or wherever. We do well to give thanks!

Long before I came to be your rector water began to seep into the basement. When the rain is heavy there is standing water in the furnace room that flows out from there. A variety of stop-gap measures have been tried over the years which have reduced the problem. We have received a grant of \$3500. from the Society for the Advancement of Christianity in Pennsylvania to assist us with the expenses of permanently correcting the situation. You will hear more from the Vestry on that. We do well to give thanks!

A group of people have gathered with a particular concern for the preservation of our beautiful stained glass windows. Consultation with one firm of experts in the field has taken place and arrangements are being made for a second similar session with another firm. Some of this work will be done as Memorial Gifts. Some will be done as offerings of thanksgiving. Some will be done because people believe in restoring and maintaining beautiful works of art. We do well to give thanks!

Last month you had the opportunity to focus on the music program at Trinity as you read our February newsletter. I hope you availed yourself of that. We have an exceptional program for a parish of any size! Within that context there are a group of people seeking to discern the possibility of having the Hook and Hastings tracker organ which was here for so many years restored to its home. We do well to give thanks!

Week in and week out people come seeking God. They are warmly welcome and some discover that they have found a home among this parish family. In order to further inform our community our Evangelism Leadership Team is hosting an event called "Living Website" on Sunday afternoon, May 21<sup>st</sup>. When you are invited to participate, please say yes! You will see more about it inside. We do well to give thanks!

As we enter the season of Lent, I invite you to consider participating in our Wednesday evening program. We will begin with a simple potluck supper, celebrate the Holy Eucharist, and share our reflections on our reading of The Gospel According to Judas by Ray Anderson. The book is about forgiveness. May you find this season to be a time of reflection, of discipline, of discernment. As we repent and return to the Lord, we have much to be grateful for.

Yours in Christ,  
Ginny+

MARCH & APRIL, 2006

March 1 – 8:30am-Noon Trinity at Food Pantry  
9am & 7pm Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes  
6:15pm Soup Supper, Parish Hall  
March 8 - 6:15pm Potluck & Study, Parish Hall  
March 14 - 7pm Vestry, Library  
March 15 - 9:30am Prayer Chain, Library  
6:15pm Potluck & Study, Parish Hall  
March 18 - 8:30-11:30am Trinity at Food Pantry  
March 22 - 6:15pm Potluck & Study, Parish Hall  
March 24 - Newsletter Deadline  
March 28 - 7pm Evangelism Leadership Team, Library  
March 29 - 6:15pm Potluck & Study, Parish Hall  
March 31 - Newsletter Mailing  
April 5 - 8:30-Noon Trinity at Food Pantry  
6:15pm Potluck & Study, Parish Hall  
**April 9** - Palm Sunday  
**April 13** - Maundy Thursday 7pm Holy Eucharist & Foot  
Washing  
**April 14** - Noon Good Friday Liturgy, Followed by Stations of  
the Cross  
7pm Good Friday Liturgy  
**April 15** - 7pm Easter Vigil  
**April 16** - Easter Day  
April 18 - 7pm Vestry, Library  
April 19 - 9:30am Prayer Chain, Library  
April 21 - Newsletter Deadline  
April 22 - 8:30-11:30am Trinity at Food Pantry  
7-10pm Arts on the Mountain  
April 25 - 7pm Evangelism Leadership Team, Library  
April 28 - Newsletter Mailing

TREASURERS REPORT –JANUARY 2006

January 2006 Expenses Paid, \$13,606.20  
January 2006 Income, \$12,918.60  
Net Income for January 2006 (-\$687.60)

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

2 Caitlin Scheck  
5 Kayla Price  
7 Jamie Schmitt  
11 Sara Schmitt  
13 Robert Butiste  
19 Vincent Cole  
27 Deborah Gower  
30 Barbara Lord

ANNIVERSARIES

7 Robert & Deborah Gower  
31 Charley & Ginny Day

*Worship Wonderings*

*On special occasions and high feast days we use incense during our worship understanding that this is an extraordinary way of honoring God with Scriptural testimony to this. Frankincense was one of the gifts offered to the Holy Child when the magi came from the East.*

*Incense is used during the entrance procession. Then the altar is censed. Incense is used at the proclamation of the Gospel. During the Offertory when the altar is being censed it is appropriate for anyone who is not already standing to do so. After the Thurifer has censed the altar party, he or she will turn to cense the congregation. When s/he bows, it is appropriate to acknowledge that action by reciprocating it. During all of this we make every effort not to interrupt the musical offering of our musicians.*

*All of our senses are impacted by our worship. How glorious that is!*

## Please give us your ideas.

On February 10<sup>th</sup> our Worship Committee met. We debriefed the season just past and discussed possibilities for what is ahead. Together we talked about Christmas of 2005 and then looked at the calendar and noted that the Fourth Sunday of Advent 2006 is on December 24<sup>th</sup>. That means that in the morning we will celebrate Advent IV and late afternoon and evening we will share our Christmas Eve traditions. The early service will be the pageant and Eucharist and the later service will be festive Eucharist.

Our question has to do with the time for these two Christmas Eve services. We raise the question because the day is a long one and we seek ideas to make the day be best for our parish and for your families.

The morning schedule will not be affected. We will have Advent IV services at 8 AM and 10 AM as usual. But we may want to look at the times of the Christmas Eve services. And so we are asking you to talk and think about possibilities and their implications. There will be a suggestion box in the parish hall. Please write up your ideas and put them in there. At the end of the summer the box will be opened and the Worship Committee and I will review your ideas. If it seems that a change is advisable, that will be considered and discussed before any decisions are made.

If you have any questions about this, please call me.

*Ginny+*

## Social Concerns

"It's Up To You"

In our backyard baseball games we sometimes kid around when someone comes up to bat in the last inning with two outs and the score tied and we chant, "It's up to you; it's up to you", as if everything depended on this moment. We think we are just kidding, but the batter may be feeling some real pressure because many people do feel a sense of responsibility in the activities of their daily lives. When we look at the state of the world and see so many examples of man-made and natural disasters this feeling of responsibility can lead to despair. What can we do about it all?

One response is to say, "It's impossible. Any effort I can make will be too small to make a difference", and so do nothing. Another is to say that government and private organizations have the resources to deal with these problems and leave it up to them. But doing nothing is not an answer if doing something will help. And governments can't do it all and private organizations depend on support from people like us. If we help them, knowing others are helping as well, our combined efforts can make a difference. It's up to you - but not you alone.

At Trinity, we are presently suggesting three ways to help. Our Sunday School kids will be making their annual Lenten appeal to support the very effective Heifer Project. We also encourage you to give to the annual appeal for our national Episcopal Relief and Development fund which lives up to its name by responding to hurricanes, earthquakes and tsunamis and also working to help people develop the resources to take care of themselves. By the time you read this, we will have held our Arts on the Mountain benefit concert for Katrina relief, but we would still welcome additional contributions for this purpose - or you may wish to buy one of the art works donated for the same cause, which will still be displayed this coming month.

It's up to you!

*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  
Jacob Gower  
Pamela Bender  
Nancy Curtis  
Jeff Landi  
Raphael Bannister  
Stacey  
Martin Kilanowski

We all enjoy decorating our homes and inviting friends and neighbors to come and share good times and the fruits of our labor. It's simply natural that, after working hard to create a warm environment, we want to share it -- to show it off a little.

We enjoy the blessings of an amazing life here at Trinity. Our home is beautiful, our music is a gift to God and our people truly care about one another. God is worshipped with every breath that we take and with every thought that we share. I'll never forget the emotions I've experienced as Trinity nurtured me, and continues to do so. I stand in awe at the transforming power which is generated through the love and devotion which thrives not only within our building, but in the very fabric which is woven of our individual lives and brought forth into our worlds.

On the 21st of May, our Evangelism Leadership Team will host a "Living Website" in which we will invite our neighbors to come and surf our site -- on site ! We will staff the building and the grounds with parishioners who can speak to our visitors about The Episcopal Church, Trinity Church, our Church School, Meditation Path, Labyrinth and Memorial Garden. In true Trinity fashion, satisfying refreshments will be offered to our treasured guests.

This is a unique opportunity for us to showcase not only the mortar and bricks of our fine building, but the true mortar and bricks of our spiritual lives together.

Please mark your calendar and be with us after worship on the 21st of May to welcome our neighbors to God's unconditional love and saving embrace.

Warmly,  
Rob McMahon  
Chair, Evangelism Leadership team

A View From The Pew  
By Joe Krol

Being dyslexic, the English language at times is quite confusing to me. We have so many words that mean more than one thing. And the whole "i before e" thing...that logic will probably evade me for the rest of my life.

Sometimes I am amazed with all the double and triple meanings to words we can communicate as well as we do.

Take the word "race". I can remember a time in my life when the word race had only one meaning. It was a competition between two or more people or things with the one coming in first being the winner. In fact race can mean a whole host of things from a way to describe what genus you are born from to the color of your skin or the place in the world you or your ancestors came from, a rapidly flowing channel of water, . There are lists of words that come from the root word. It goes on and on. It can be used as a noun or a verb and can be shared over all life in the universe.

The more amazing thing to me is how often it is misused. We hear that there were race riots in LA, and that the lack of action in New Orleans was racially motivated because the vast majority of the people living there were of African decent. We hear people "using the race card" or how bad race relations are. You may be asking yourself where are they wrong.

We loose sight of the fact that we are all members of the HUMAN RACE. The color of our skin, birthplace of our ancestors is only one small way to define our race. Inter racial marriage to me should mean we are marrying someone from another planet. And every riot is a race riot because all of the participants are HUMAN. Unless they happened to show up from an old episode of Star Trek or The X Files.

If the people who we hear spending so much time and effort trying to divide people, many of them using titles of Reverend, used the same zeal in uniting us as HUMANS, GOD's CHILDREN as their title would suggest we would be so much better off. I hear many people quoting Dr. Martin Luther King in the same sentence as they are spewing hatred and I wonder what would he say?

I am not naive and I know that there are many people who hate, dislike, fear and chastise because of physical differences or even sexual orientation. There is plenty of work that needs to be done. So what's my point?

Simple, when we stop thinking of ourselves as white, black, Hispanic, African, Gay, Straight, Jew, Gentile etc... and start thinking of ourselves as GOD's children we will make greater strides. If we look for what's special in a person rather than what's different our eyes are open to all possibilities and closed to prejudice.

If GOD wanted us all to be the same we would be. I mentioned Star Trek earlier, on that show there was a race of people called Vulcan's. They had a philosophy called IDIC, an acronym for "Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations" that embraced the tolerance of all peoples and ideas to help create a society that is greater than the sum of its own parts.

Think of what our world would be like, if in just this case alone, life imitated art.







