

TRINITY NEWS

March, 2007

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MT. POCONO PA

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

Living into Lent and Holy Week

As this newsletter comes to you, we have entered the holy season of Lent. On the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, the children were given a Lenten activities calendar in the hopes that it will help them to grow in their understanding and appreciation of this season in our life together. Copies of a little booklet, *What you should know about Lent*, are available for you. Please help yourself and pray over its contents. We also have a supply of *Essentials: Lenten meditations on necessity and abundance*, from Episcopal Relief and Development, providing us with daily readings and reflections for these days. I commend them to you. Please look on the tables in the parish hall for both booklets. (If we run out we'll order more!)

We have carefully planned our worship for this season so that it will enhance your awareness that this is a penitential time, a time for stepping back from our usual activities and pace so that we might grow in our understanding of what lies ahead. Intentionality during Lent needs to be capped by a deep commitment to live through Holy Week in worship, prayer, and meditation on the mighty acts of God. I am persuaded that Easter too often becomes a day of fancy hats, chocolate and bunnies without this work. Please understand that there is nothing wrong with any of those things. Special traditions are wonderful reminders and symbols of days which are central to our lives as Christians. For those who would be disciples of Jesus, the significance of the Resurrection provides the meaning for the day. A full participation in Holy Week draws that significance to the place of deep mystery which is its due. And so I invite you to a different place, a renewed discipline, an offering of ourselves, our souls and bodies during Lent and Holy Week.

Along with the deep solemnity of our worship on the Sundays of Lent, our daily life as a parish family is adjusted. We attempt to limit the number of meetings so that you will take that time for prayer and meditation. We also try to reduce the pace in the office, though that can be a challenge! Ash Wednesday and the days of Holy Week are kept as quiet days as much as that is possible to do.

All of this is to help us to spiritually prepare ourselves for the realities of Holy Week which lie ahead. That week begins with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. It is triumphant - at least for the crowds. He enters riding not on a horse, an animal for battle, but on a lowly donkey, an animal for peace. We know the story, and yet it is important for us to live into it faithfully year in and year out. The story of Holy Week and Easter is the center of our faith as Christians. In *Living Faithfully as a Prayer Book People* (which is referenced elsewhere in this newsletter) Dr. John Westerhoff invites us to understand this time of the year as the beginning of our story. Then he writes the following about the three days at the end of Holy Week and the Feast of the Resurrection:

Now comes the Triduum liturgies, which begin after sunset on Thursday and extend to sunset on Sunday. The liturgies of the Triduum focus on the Eucharist as the Lord's Passover meal, on the redemptive death of Jesus that makes possible a new life of faith, on the sacrament of Baptism through which we are incorporated into the death and resurrection of Jesus and made members of his body, and on the resurrection of the historical Jesus. (page 33)

I hope that you will find this to be a helpful elucidation of what we do during those days. My prayer is that your experience of Lent will be transformative as together live into being what we already are, a community of reconciliation.

Faithfully,
Ginny+



MARCH/APRIL, 2007

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

April 1 - **Palm Sunday 8 & 10am Holy Eucharist**
No Church School

April 4 - 8:30am—12:30pm Trinity at Food Pantry

April 5 - 7pm Maundy Thursday Liturgy

April 6 - Noon & 7pm Good Friday Liturgy

April 7 - 7pm Easter Vigil

April 8 - **Easter Day 8 & 10am Holy Eucharist**
No Church School

April 10 - 7pm Vestry, Library

April 17 - 7pm Evangelism Leadership Team, Library

April 19 - 7pm Prayer Beading, Library

April 20 - **Newsletter Deadline Articles & Information**

April 24 - 7pm Stewardship Leadership Team, Library

April 27 - **Newsletter Mailing**

April 28 - 4-9pm Arts on the Mountain

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5 Kayla Price
13 Bob Butiste
13 Fred Schultz
19 Vince Cole
27 Deborah Gower
30 Barbara Lord

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

7 Robert & Deborah Gower
31 Charley & Ginny Day

STEWARDSHIP NOTE:

The Stewardship Leadership Team has officially begun our work. The goal of this team is to make stewardship an every day word at Trinity. Our hope is that everyone begins to understand that Stewardship is not a program. It is not the every member canvas. It is not a fundraising endeavor. It is not a pledge drive. It is a way of life. It is a celebration and it is how we recognize God's presence and importance in our lives.

At the January Vestry Meeting, we had the pleasure of enjoying a presentation by Dan Charney on Stewardship. He discussed his spiritual journey and relationships with money; along with several very real antidotes. Dan spoke about the complete picture of stewardship and I know that I had a better understanding of how stewardship is a part of our spiritual journey after Dan's Presentation. Dan will be with us again in March to speak to the SLT, and help us better understand and define our mission at Trinity.

It is my hope that at the March 15th SLT meeting we can look for real needs that are opportunities for lively stewardship discussions here at Trinity.

Respectfully,
Kelly Johnson,
Chair Stewardship Leadership Team

Book of the Month at Trinity

As I read I often think how much I want to share the particular book with others. Charley and I do some of this, of course. But there are books which I believe would be significant for many who will read this article to avail themselves of. Here and in future newsletters I will suggest one book each month for your reading. If a number of people (2 or more) are interested in doing so, we will then set a time to have some conversation around the book.

And of course to start I have a lengthy list! However, for March I suggest *Living Faithfully as a Prayer Book People* by Dr. John Westerhoff. In this particular work, Dr. Westerhoff invites us to allow our Prayer Book to form our lives in a fulsome way. Within the blessed diversity of the Anglican tradition, where the concept of the *via media* invites us to embrace a broad understanding of our Trinitarian God, the Book of Common Prayer brings us together. It informs our worship and sacramental life on a daily basis and through all of the passages of life. I remember commenting to Bishop Mark one time about classmates at Moravian Seminary, observing that they didn't have a prayer book. In his wonderful wisdom he held up the BCP and responded, "Yes they do." Our book is universal. And it is a blessing. Reading Dr. Westerhoff's book enhances our appreciation for the gift we have.

Happy Reading!
Ginny+

Trinity Episcopal Church Mission Statement:

**Share Gods 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
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 - January 2007

Total Contributions: \$11,385.94

Total Expenditure: \$11,870.53

Net Monthly Income: -\$484.59

Please continue to pray for financial stability at Trinity, we hear this term so often, but how do **YOU** pray for financial stability?. Perhaps the following may help you to think about this.

When I was just a kid, we used a prayer in the Anglican Holy Communion service in which we prayed for "the whole state of Christ's Church militant here on earth". I never hear this phrase any more these days in church but the intent of the prayer can be found on page 329 of our Book of Common Prayer. The following is my adaptation from one of the paragraphs to form a prayer to our Father in heaven to help us with financial stability - funnily enough it turns out that it is not about money!!.

"Open our eyes O Lord to see your gracious hand in all your works, that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may honor you with our substance and be faithful stewards of your bounty. Grant this O Father for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen."

Once in a while include the whole prayer in your intercessions, it's powerful stuff. In this day and age we certainly need it.

Michael Goodwin
Treasurer

With Open Arms ..

There's a story of a work site where blasting was being done. The workmen carefully placed the dynamite, laid the wires, set the detonators and safely retired to a secure location. When they were in place, they triggered the detonator for a 30 second countdown.

30, 29, 28...

Suddenly, a small child ran across the field from a nearby house.
27, 26, 25...

The workmen were terrified, knowing that a blast was impending, and that the child was in danger.
24, 23, 22...

They waved their arms and screamed frantically for the boy to be out of the blast zone.
21, 20, 19...

The child stood still and did not know what to do.
18, 17, 16, 15, 14...

Suddenly, the boy's mother came upon the scene and saw her beloved son in danger.
13, 12, 11...

She saw the workers screaming to get the boy to move.
10, 9, 8...

She dropped to her knees, stretched out her arms and smiled, warmly & calmly, welcoming the boy to her loving embrace.
7, 6, 5...

The boy ran to her, knowing of her love.
4, 3, 2...

He was saved.

This is what Jesus did for us. He stretched out His arms that we might know His saving embrace. We are called to be stewards of one another, unconditionally. Evangelism can be a frightening word, but we need to embrace it.

We show our compassion through our commitment to ministries. Eucharist is brought into the world; our community sees us, love is shared, as well as food, as our ministry at the Food Pantry, and many other ministries thrive and bring the love of Christ into the world. Our desire to give and provide for the homeless is growing and inspiring to others.

I wish you a prayer filled and meaning filled Lent.

Respectfully,

Rob McMahon

Chair, Evangelism Leadership Team

Social Concerns: On the Web

Kathryn Ritter-Vicich has responded to our last newsletter with some thoughts about social concerns. Ginny's article about the project of knitting for mariners reminded Kathryn of her experience years ago singing for the Norwegian Sjomannskirke in Brooklyn and their center in Manhattan as well, often singing hymns in Norwegian. Finding our church working with the same Seaman's Institute today made Kathryn feel that all the elements of our lives are connected by unseen rivers that flow underground or threads that weave us together as a human community.

Weaving those threads is most people's daily work as they go about their jobs and raising families. It is only the few, like the terrorists, who choose to disrupt this work rather than take part in it. Their incursions can cause major disasters but the common efforts of humankind have always overcome them, as we saw in the response of police, firefighters and ordinary citizens in New York on 9/11.

I once saw a bumblebee blunder into a spider's web and assumed the web would be torn apart as the bee thrashed and buzzed and beat its wings. Instead, the much smaller spider darted around until it could immobilize the bee, then wrapped it up in a neat package and went on to repair the damage to her web. (If you find yourself rooting for the bumblebee in this story because bees are cuter than spiders, think of Charlotte's Web - or remember the last time you got stung by a bee!)

We build the web of society with anchor lines rooted in God and strengthen it day by day by such small acts as getting the kids off to school in the morning, shoveling a walk (in winters when it snows) for an elderly neighbor, doing our jobs as teachers or road builders or carpenters, and showing up in church on Sunday morning.

One way we can make a positive difference during this Lenten season is to be generous in support of our Sunday School's annual effort to raise money for the Heifer Project and our Youth Group's plan to take part in Diocesan rehab work in New Orleans this summer. The New Orleans work, which needs some financial support, is a way to repair the torn threads of the web, as so many relief efforts must do. The Heifer project weaves new ones by giving farm animals to capable people in need all over the world. They raise them for their own family use and also agree to give their progeny to others. This 60 year old program has a shining record of success.

In the end, of course, a world in which people take care of each other is an inhospitable planet for dictators and terrorists, who would not find resources or support for their infamous deeds in it. Let us keep working and praying to hasten that day.

Peter Salmon

CHURCH SCHOOL HEIFER PROJECT SCHEDULE

February 25th	Distribute banks; Bird Feeder Sale
March 4th	Animal Trivia & Feed the Pig Game
March 11th	Pin the Tail on the Heifer Game/ Cookie Sale
March 18th	Go Fishing Game
March 25th	Fox in the Hen House Game & Chicken Dance
April 1st	Palm Sunday
April 8th	Easter Sunday; Ark banks collected