

TRINITY NEWS

April, 2006

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MT. POCONO PA

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

New Beginnings

As the liturgical season of Lent draws to a close this year, so does the season of winter. And with the celebration of the Feast of the Resurrection, comes the beginning of spring. It is a time of change and new beginnings. For me this month heralds the completion and submission of the thesis for the degree I have been working towards at the General Theological Seminary since the spring of 2002. In May I will receive the Master of Sacred Theology in Christian Spirituality. And so a journey for me comes to an end. I want to thank you for your support, encouragement, and participation in this process.

This is a time for reflecting on where we have been, what we have done, and how we might be directed for the days ahead. Being mindful of the Pastoral Letter from the March meeting of our House of Bishops, I offer Lou Divis' brief comments on her recent trip to Mississippi ~ in her own words:

I spent 6-10 March at Moss Point, Mississippi as part of a missionary team from Church of the Epiphany, Clarks Summit. There were 3 other groups at the United Methodist Church, about 65 people. There were 2 showers, and the hot water never ran out!

We were assigned a roofing job, and I am happy to report, God has not called me to be on a roof. I was able to help my team somewhat, but also spent time with another team from Waynesburg, PA doing sheet rock.

The quiet of the neighborhoods was overwhelming. There were few children, a couple of pit bulls, very few cars, and once in a while, a chirp from a bird.

There was home after home after home with tarp on the roof, and the guts of the home on the sidewalk. There were a few FEMA trailers. People have moved out until their homes are repaired enough to move back in.

The homes had 3-4 feet of water in them, shingles blown off. The appliances, beds, books, insulation, furniture, wiring, etc. was ruined. Homes were in need of almost complete replacement. Some homes will never be repaired, many workplaces will not reopen.

Please keep this area in your prayers, and go to help pound a nail or two if at all possible. The Methodist Church will house teams for the next 2 years.

Thanks, Lou

We continue to pray for this work as we enter into the hurricane season of 2006.

As we look to the future, to discerning what God is calling us to, we are mindful of Jesus telling us that we are to go into all the world. As we continue to do the work of preparation for that ministry, several of us will participate in one of the training days being offered by the Evangelism Commission of the Diocese of Bethlehem, hosting the event on April 29th. I invite you to consider participating. Let me know of your interest. Our Evangelism Leadership Team will be well represented.

With the arrival of warmer weather we will be enjoying the gifts of God's creation more and more. Please make use of our Meditation Path and our Labyrinth and spread the word that they are available to anyone at any time. As you do so, please also encourage people to visit us particularly on Sunday May 21st when we will be having an open house to which the community is invited. We seek to invite people to come and see.

And we daily seek to discern what God is calling us to at this place and this time. May we hear and respond.

Your Sister in Christ,
Ginny+

APRIL, 2006

- 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 8 & 10am Holy Eucharist
- 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
FEBRUARY 2006

	February	Year-to-date
Income :	\$10,944.93	\$23,863.53
Expenses :	\$11,088.98	\$24,695.18
Net :	-\$144.05	-\$831.65

Terrorist attacks. Natural disasters. The threat of bird flu. Whether real or potential, instill chaos, fear and human suffering among our brothers and sisters . The church counts on one thing that other institutions may or may not have: faith. Your regular contributions to your church, as God's people reach out with faith, help to alleviate the chaos, fear and human suffering in the world. Pray for financial stability.

Michael Goodwin Treasurer

Pastoral Care –

Plans are underway for our Pastoral Visitation Training Event presented by Charley Day on Saturday, June 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. What we need now is for those of you who are interested in this ministry to let us know. Call the church office, send me an e-mail (herling@ptd.net), put a note in the collection plate, leave a note for me in the office, whatever is easiest for you. We'll need your name and phone number so that I can get back to you with details. We'd like you to be able to commit to visiting a shut-in approximately once each month. It's so important to keep those in our flock who can't get out and about in the circle of love – the parish.

And if you are a shut-in and we don't know about you, please send us that information. We try to keep track of everyone, but word doesn't always get to the proper channels. Keep good thoughts about spring – it should really be here soon and then we can all get out for a bit of fresh air and revitalization and re-creation.

Thought for the day – Sharing is caring.

Kathie Herling

APRIL CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 8 Joseph Krol
9 Jeremy Baboolal
16 Joseph Ayers
16 Barbara Gessner
17 Linda Salmon
17 Kathie Herling
27 Bill Lord
28 Gwen Hacker
28 Margot Atherton

ANNIVERSARIES

- 24 Michael & Patricia Goodwin
26 Thomas & Kelly Johnson
30 Richard & Janet Orner

PRAYER BEADING

The Prayer Beaders will reconvene on the third Monday of the month. We were able to put together quite a few sets, and have made a list of what will be needed soon. We hope to see everyone there, now that the weather is nicer. See you at 7 PM!

We are planning on putting together food gift jars to sell at our Summer Festival. We will be needing ideas, flour, beans, dried vegetables, bouillon cubes, etc., etc. If anyone knows where we can get supplies at wholesale, let us know. Once we decide what we are making, we will need your help putting it all together. The jars are quite attractive, with their layers of goodies and we will doll them up with bows and a colorful recipe card. I am hoping for lots of help and input- especially if you have done this before. Please contact me at 629-4754 if you can help me with any of the above!

Cindy Hill

SOCIAL CONCERNS

When I was in college and always short of cash, I used to visit my uncle's family 49 miles away from time to time. I didn't go there - at least consciously - to refill my wallet, but Uncle Finley would routinely send me back to school with an extra \$20 bill, worth \$20 in those high and far off times. Back then, I used it for myself, but in the years since I've tried to provide some "Uncle Finley money" to others when some sudden windfall, like his gifts, made it possible.

In our efforts to help others at Trinity, we have been emphasizing the Sunday School's Heifer Project, the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund, our Katrina relief work, and the ongoing mission of our Hunger Ministry. Over and over again you have been generous in your response to these appeals and we hate to keep asking, but the needs continue.

Of course, your needs continue as well and each of us is bound to be hit by unexpected expenses at any time - health problems, machines that break down, needs of family members and our own. But we also occasionally get money from Uncle Finley - income from an unexpected source, or finding something is going to cost less than we expected and budgeted. So this month we just want to ask you to share some of this 'Uncle Finley money', when it comes, with the causes Trinity is supporting to promote goals we all share. Thank 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
Phyllis Chase
Marge Cohen

At its March meeting the Vestry asked that the following information be placed before you in our newsletter. This offers some statistics about our pledges for 2006 and what the information suggests if we are tithing our incomes.

Vestry (13 members) total = \$24,000. for an average of \$1846. suggesting that the average annual income of the vestry is \$18,460.00

Congregation (55 households, not including the Vestry) total = \$59,028.
for an average of \$1073. suggesting that the average annual income of parishioner households other than vestry is \$10,730.

*A Definition of Interest: "A myth is a compelling story that points to the inner meaning of the universe and of human life." ~
Brian Wren in "Praying Twice."*

A View From The Pew
By Joe Krol

There are many people that get bored with their life and the mundane things that they need to do. The simple tasks, or the ones we hate doing, could be considered a goal or a dream come true to others.

Could you imagine, cleaning the litter box, taking out the garbage, shoveling snow or the ever popular scooping of poop (for those of us who have dogs), could be envied, and even wished for. I see this in my kids. Joseph's eyes light up when I let him mow the lawn. Or when he uses one of my power tools. Even my youngest, Samantha, the joy she gets when she is asked to throw something away or to go get a piece of clothing. They enjoy them because these are tasks that they know how to do, are skills that still new to them but more importantly they are ABLE to do them.

Have you ever moved to a new area? For the first few months we look forward to driving around town and exploring the new territory. After a while the driving becomes a drag or a chore that we have to do.

For those of us who can see, and hear when was the last time we really thought about what incredible blessings these are? We hate taking out the trash but when was the last time we have been thankful for the ability to walk, lift or carry something. These are blessings that we have each day but maybe they get less noticed because we have been doing them "forever".

On the flip side not everyone who is challenged, by our perspective, views what we have as a gift. There are blind people that have more acute senses of smell or touch. People who can't hear in many places are blessed that they don't have to hear the ugliness that is sometimes spewed forth by people. The list goes on but the important thing is that everyone looks at their gifts or lack there of differently.

Lets try this, put on a blindfold, set an egg timer for 5 minuets and walk through your home. Afterward think about that experience. Without our sight our familiar homes became a whole new world. You may have also heard sounds that you never have heard before, because you are experiencing a familiar place in a new way.

We can become the same way with respect to the way we worship. We have all heard the phrase "there but for the grace of GOD go I". When was the last time we took the time to really explore what that means to us? Think about how many times you have said the Nicene Creed, or The Lords Prayer. How different would that be if we put on a spiritual blindfold and take the walk through the Nicene Creed or The Lord Prayer in the dark? Let's not just read the sentences but explore what they mean. What are these words saying to us? This experience can be enlightening.

So where does all this lead to??? During this time of our Journey through the Holy Week maybe we can spend some time reflecting on our spiritual journey and where it has lead us. This would be a good time to re-evaluate what Christ's sacrifice means to us and how we can project those feelings to better spread his word. Through doing this, we may find that we have a rebirth of where what was old is new, and what we thought we knew, we learned again.

It is said that something isn't truly learned until it is applied. My plan is to take this Lenten period and try to apply what I have learned. Feel free to join me.