

TRINITY NEWS

June, 2006

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MT. POCONO PA

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

"What comes first? the chicken or the egg?" I think of this question as I think of how we set priorities. For instance, some among us, when asked to do something on Sunday, will say that is fine so long as it doesn't interfere with worshiping God. Others come to church if they don't have something else to do. I'm not talking about various family obligations that occur on weekends, but a whole range of activities that could as well take place at another time. This is part of the stewardship of our lives. I have no desire to make anyone feel guilty about how they make such decisions, only to invite thinking about them. It is, after all, a hugely valid question.

Sometimes people say they can't come to church because Sunday is a family day. That is excellent! And yet, for many of us "family day" has meant that we begin the day by going to church together to give thanks to God for all the blessings of our lives and for life itself. When I was growing up that was true because Daddy was the Rector. In the homes of friends it was true because that was what the family believed and lived. After worship the family spent the day together sharing meals and enjoying other activities appropriate for the day and the season.

How do we set priorities? We live in a society in which an inordinate number of people use anti-depressant medication and stress-reducing medication. I am on a regimen of medication to control blood pressure. I wonder if we have forgotten how to discern our priorities. I am persuaded that this is about self care. That is significantly different from self-centeredness. If we do not take care of ourselves, we cannot offer care for others either. Some would say that Jesus worked 24/7 so shouldn't we? However, if we look carefully we will find that he found time to step away. We read about him gathering in the homes of friends often with his inner circle around him. We know he stepped aside with the twelve to be with them without the crowds. And we know that he would go away alone to pray, to be with God.

What can we learn from that about how we set our priorities, about how we take care of ourselves so that we can live the Gospel in the world around us? It seems clear to me that there are two things (at least) that Jesus models for us. First, we must step aside and take time to simply be in the presence of God. We are

richly blessed here at Trinity with our lovely setting – named by my colleague Fr. Bill McGinty "a hidden gem." The church, the Memorial Garden, the Meditation Path, the Labyrinth are all here for us to partake of, and for us to welcome seekers to. What an amazing gift! As part of your spiritual self-care I invite you to come and feast upon them, to know God's presence in those places which so graciously remind us of God's abundant love for us in creation.

Secondly, we need to allow our friends and families to nurture us with love. That will happen in as many ways as there are people reading this newsletter. Surrounding ourselves in this way, and feeding upon God's presence, we are then prepared to go out into the world to care for others. We are all called to that ministry. A gentle reminder: on June 3rd there is a very particular opportunity for us to better prepare ourselves for that work. There is more information about that event elsewhere.

How do we set priorities? I invite you to look at your calendar and your checkbook. There you will find the answers as to the priorities which you have set, either with intention or not. Pray about what you find there. Talk with those who know and love you best. Others in your circle of friends or in your household may well have some wisdom to share with you if you are prepared to really listen. If you find that money seems to be the most important thing in your life, you may want to reflect on how that is impacting the rest of your life, including your relationships with people and with God. Or perhaps it is status in the community. Or perhaps it is having the best body or mind you can develop. None of these – none of these – is bad in itself. What leads to the need for anti-depressants, stress reducers, blood pressure medications and the rest is lack of balance. I invite you to join me in seeking to better balance our lives, to look closely at our priorities, to discern together whether our life styles are as healthy as they can be, and then to help one another towards more wholesome living. Certainly God's will for us is our well being. We have the responsibility to work towards that as well.

May God continue to bless your journey.

In Christ's love,
Ginny+



JUNE, 2006

June 3 - 9:30am-Noon Pastoral Visitation Training, Library

June 7 - 8:30-11:30am Trinity at Food Pantry

6:15pm Potluck & Study, Parish Hall

June 9 - 1-6pm Blood Drive, Mt. Pocono Municipal Building

June 10 - 6:30pm Newcomers Dinner

June 13 - 7pm Vestry, Library

June 14 - 6:15 Potluck & Study, Parish Hall

June 17 - 8:30-11:30am Trinity at Food Pantry

June 21 - 6:15pm Potluck & Study, Parish Hall

June 23 - Newsletter Deadline for Articles & Information

June 28 - 6:15pm Potluck & Study, Parish Hall

June 30 - Newsletter Mailing

- Our Prayer Chain will resume meeting on a quarterly basis on Wednesday September 13, 2006 at 9:30 AM.

JUNE CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

4 Hailee Passno

8 Ed Passno

9 Thomas Johnson

12 Leigh Vella

19 Jan Anglemire

19 Bill Herling

22 Chandanie Baboolal

30 June Eisenecker

ANNIVERSARIES

18 Bill & Kathie Herling

HOME VISITATION TRAINING EVENT –Saturday, June 3, 2006, starting with Morning Prayer at 9 a.m. in the church with training session led by Charley Day from 9:30 to noon. Be sure to sign up to help with this important ministry. A sign-up sheet is on the table by the front windows in the Parish Hall. Any questions, call Kathie Herling 842-6095.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

Martin Baboolal will graduate from East Stroudsburg South High School. Good Luck Martin!

Shaina Hale will graduate from Pocono Mountain West High School. Shaina will spend June 19– August 25 in Germany, then on September 1st she will leave for basic training in United States Air Force. Good Luck Shaina!

Every two seconds someone in America needs blood. Can you spare 45 minutes?

Trinity is sponsoring the Red Cross Blood Bank on Friday June 9th from 1-6pm at the Mt. Pocono Town Hall Building on route 611 across from the Mt. Pocono United Methodist Church. Anyone over 17 years may donate blood and there is no upper age limit. There will be free t-shirts for everyone and a gas card raffle will be held.

Volunteers are needed to escort people to various stations in the room and to assist at the canteen. Donations of non-diet juice or soda and cookies are needed. These may be brought to the church the week before June 9th. Please call Mary Alice Holmes at 646-4763 or the church office 839-9376 to offer your time or with any questions.

**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
Alistair Stewart

Rhonda Treible
Marion Braithwaite
Lauren Boyadis
Jacob Gower
Pamela Bender
Nancy Curtis
Jeff Landi
Raphael Bannister
Stacey
Martin Kilanowski
Phyllis Chase

TREASURERS REPORT - April 2006

As shown below Trinity Church had a surplus in our net income this month for the first time in many months. Continue prayer for financial stability.

Total Contributions: \$13,978.36

Total Expenditure: \$12,210.13

Monthly Net income: \$1,768.23

Michael Goodwin - Treasurer.

MID-SUMMER FESTIVAL

DATE: SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2006

TIME: BEGINNING AT 10AM

CO-CHAIRMAN: CAROL BUTISTE & JAN ANGLEMIRE

WE NEED:

CHRISTMAS TABLE - ORNAMENTS, DECORATIONS

JEWELRY TABLE - NEW & USED JEWELRY

WOOD TABLE - BIRD HOUSES, FEEDERS, SHADOW BOXES & OTHER SMALL WOOD ITEMS

BAKED GOODS - PIES, COOKIES, CAKES, JAMS, BREADS, PICKELS

PLANTS - HOUSE PLANTS AND PLANTS FOR YOUR YARD

CHILDREN'S GAMES & FACE PAINTING

RAFFLE & CHINESE AUCTION

HOMESPUN - WONDERFUL HANDMADE ITEMS

OUR OVER 40 BABY CONTEST (DEADLINE FOR PICTURES JUNE 17TH)

MOTHER'S UNION - ITEMS FROM KAJO KEJI

PRAYER BEADS

FLEA MARKET - ITEMS MAY BE BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH AND PLACED DOWNSTAIRS

IN THE CHURCH SCHOOL ROOMS BEGINNING FRIDAY, JUNE 1ST.

PLEASE NO CLOTHES, T.V.'S, EXERCISE EQUIPMENT OR COMPUTERS

WE HAVE NO WAY TO DISPOSE OF THESE THINGS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

**KEEP WATCHING FOR MORE DETAILS AND BE SURE TO MARK THIS DATE
FOR GREAT FOOD, MUSIC, AND LOTS OF FUN, FUN, FUN!**