

# TRINITY NEWS

June, 2008

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MT. POCONO PA

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

## *Moving Into God's Future Together*

At each of the past several vestry meetings, I have used the following prayer of Thomas Merton before giving my report on the status of our several ministries.

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.  
I do not see the road ahead of me.  
I cannot know for certain where it will end.  
Nor do I really know myself,  
and the fact that I think I am following your will  
does not mean that I am actually doing so.  
But I believe that the desire to please you  
does in fact please you.  
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.  
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.  
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road  
though I may know nothing about it.  
Therefore I will try to trust you always  
though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.  
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,  
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

At times we may feel uncertain and at other times we know exactly where God is calling us. In all times we seek to move into God's future in mission and ministry as we strive to please God.

With assurance of God's blessing on our life together over the past nine years, I invite you to move ahead with joy in continuing the work we have begun, in celebrating the work we have done, and in anticipating the work that God will call you to. Soon you will open these doors to Family Promise guests, welcoming them with love and caring for them with compassion and sensitivity. Our participation in the work of the Pocono Mountain Ecumenical Hunger Ministry continues with your support. Vigils for peace and times of remembrance bring us together with our brothers and sisters of varying faith traditions. Our rising awareness of global warming has planted the seed of revisiting the project of again offering canvas grocery bags such as those which Trinity made available some years ago. Many other events bring us together as a loving community.

Our young people seek our guidance as their journeys with Christ form and grow. Please continue in your diligent study of Scripture and awareness of the world for your own spiritual growth and so that you may support and encourage others providing them with a model of the solid foundation in our faith. The Pastoral Care Team and the Evangelism and Stewardship Leadership Teams will seek your ideas as their ministries evolve so that they may guide all of us in responding to our responsibilities to the world and to the church.

All of this finds its foundation in the worshipping community which gathers here on Sundays to share the sacrament of the Eucharist and which prays the daily office together here and wherever we are. We offer our best to God in our worship knowing that we then step out prepared to do the work God has given us to do.

On Sunday June 29<sup>th</sup> Bishop Paul will join us for the 10 AM service. We will celebrate our life together knowing that each of us will continue to serve God's people with the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to us to empower us for ministry in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

May you daily know the blessing of God's Shalom  
Ginny+

## JUNE/JULY, 2008

June 1 - 9am Teen Time with the Rector, Youth Room,  
Noon Church School Parish Picnic Rain or Shine  
June 1, 8, 15 & 22 - 11:30am Choir Rehearsal, Library  
June 4 - 8:30-11:30am Trinity at Food Pantry  
June 7 - 6pm Rector's Retirement Dinner, The Inn at Pocono Manor  
June 11 - 7pm Evangelism Leadership Team, Library  
June 10 - 7pm Vestry, Library  
June 20 - Newsletter Deadline  
June 27 - Newsletter Mailing  
June 29 - 8 & 10am Rector's Last Sunday  
10am service followed with farewell reception  
July 2 - 8:30-11:30am Trinity at Food Pantry  
July 4 - Office Closed  
July 8 - 7pm Vestry, Library  
July 13 - 11:30 Congregational Meeting with The Rev. Canon Jane Teter

**Save The Date - Saturday, August 2, 2008 Noon - 5pm Trinity Summer Music Festival at "The Roof" Paradise Township Park**

## JUNE CELEBRATIONS

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

4 Hailee Passno  
8 Ed Passno  
9 Tom Johnson  
10 Peg Winters  
12 Leigh Vella  
19 Jan Anglemire  
19 Bill Herling  
22 Chandanie Baboolal  
30 June Eisenecker

### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

18 Bill & Kathie Herling

### **Family Promise**

Good news! The Interfaith Hospitality Network announces the opening of Family Promise of Monroe County on May 18th. Trinity Episcopal Church will host our guests for the first time from Sunday evening, August 3rd through Sunday morning, August 10th. We are excited to be a part of this much-needed ministry, yet we are counting on you to help. Our parish coordinators will be contacting you with information on training sessions for all volunteers and specific volunteer opportunities. Thank you for any assistance that you can offer.

Volunteer training dates are as follows:

Wednesday, June 11 - 7pm - First Presbyterian of Stroudsburg

Thursday, June 12 - 7pm - Mt. Pocono United Methodist Church

Please let Darlene Schultz know which training session you wish to attend so that she can let the leaders know you will be attending. Thank you.

### **Reflections.....**

On Memorial Day we pause to recall and honor military personnel who have made such tremendous sacrifices for our freedom. The other day I saw a car bumper sticker that said "War is not the answer". My formative years were spent during World War II - a time of ration books - being attacked by low flying aircraft on my way to school and a visit to the air raid shelter every night complete with gasmask in a brown cardboard box slung over my shoulder with a piece of string. In those days our church choir sang Choral Evensong every Sunday (albeit it was in the afternoon because of the blackout). One of the prayers set for evensong is a prayer for peace and it remains one of my most treasured good memories of that terrible era.

"O God, from whom all holy desires, all good councils and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also by thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen." BCP, p 69.

Archaic language today - perhaps, but after about 312 repetitions it kind of sticks in your mind.

Remember the bumper sticker?,... it's right on the button, war is not the answer.

Pray for peace - God's peace, the kind "that passes all understanding". Pray for peace in the world, peace in this country and peace in our hearts not only on this Memorial Day but every day.

M.J.G

**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  
Bill Killpatrick  
Jon Ross  
Ester Stein  
Rhonda Treible

Marion Braithwaite  
Lauren Boyadis  
Deborah Gower  
Mary Baker  
Jeff Landi  
Anita Rivera  
Alex Boehm  
Victoria Forstein  
Lynn Tinsley  
Lois Rothrock  
Dick Orner

Alistair Stewart  
Penny Clark  
Merrill Nanton  
The Yurchak Family  
Ron Leone  
Marilyn Croneberger  
Theresa Leone  
Lila Anglemire

**Congratulations Graduates!**

Congratulations to our 2008 graduates. We are proud of your accomplishments and wish you luck in your future endeavors!

Congratulations to Merrill T. Nanton IV graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Recreation Park and Tourism Management. He is Considering getting his MBA at the University of North Texas or at Lock Haven.

Congratulations to Torrey Salmon graduating 5th out of 475 from Pocono Mountain East High School. Torrey will be attending The University of Scranton in the fall studying Neuro Science with a human development and women's studies concentration.

Congratulations to Theo Daniels graduating from Pocono Mountain West High School. Theo is still making plans for after graduation which may include the Army.

**Book of the Month - June, 2008**

From time to time each of us picks up a book and discovers on its pages profound truths that we want to shout to the roof tops. I have had exactly that experience and wish that everyone within the reach of these words would read *In the Eye of the Storm: Swept to the Center by God* by Gene Robinson. Whatever your views as to his election and consecration as the bishop of New Hampshire may be, his story is one that needs to be read. The Forward by Archbishop Desmond Tutu ends with these words: "Gene Robinson is a wonderful human being, and I am proud to be in the same church as he." Me too.

**Please note** that as of July 1<sup>st</sup> Ginny & Charley will have a new address: 3908 Eisenhower Way, Tobyhanna, PA 18466. There will be no change in e-mail addresses. The new phone number is not yet known.

**Trinity in Transition**

Did you hear the rumor Ginny is retiring? Well its true and we will be .....In Transition! Our first parish meeting will be Sunday, July 13th after the 10am service. Jane Teter, Diocesan Canon for Ministries, will celebrate at the 8 & 10am services and them guide us into our search.

Sunday, June 29th will be the day we send Ginny forth and we certainly hope to see all of you at the party after the 10am service. Please plan to attend these events.

Thank you,  
Betty Speicher, Senior Warden  
Tom Parry, Junior Warden

## **The Evangelism of Kindness**

There are times when we know of someone who is in great need and wants help, but we may feel at a loss about how best to respond. It is at such times that we can ask for help in surrounding them with support, protection and prayer. Whether this means turning to an already established community such as a service organization or gathering support from diverse sources, a group of people can be brought together to help an individual or an entire community. It doesn't always take money to help someone either. Cooking, cleaning, driving, or offering emotional support are all valuable and have the added benefit of the closeness of the human touch. In any case, God sends angels in the form of willing friends or strangers to gather their individual lights to surround those in need with the warmth of the compassion of God through us. These acts of kindness are a key piece of the lifestyle of evangelism we're called to live.

Some people may have difficulty accepting or even recognizing aid when it appears unexpectedly from unlikely sources. What we can do is to follow our inner guidance -- the Holy Spirit, give when we are moved to do so, and shine our light to the best of our ability. As we join our energy with others in the community, we become part of something that is larger and more powerful than the individuals within it. The Holy Spirit works through us in this manner.

When we act as part of a community of service like this, we are reminded that we are not only assisting an individual or select group in the moment, but we are serving God. As we offer our own light to the collective glow to help someone through a time of darkness, all of our lights become brighter. We can live every day from this place of light, knowing the freedom from fear and worry that allows us to receive and share the protective and supportive light of life through God.

Outside of those who are in need of help are those who aren't, but are in need of having the light of life shared with them.

Kindness is contagious. A smile begets a smile, simple courtesies encourage politeness, and a thoughtful gesture lingers in the heart. It feels good to do good and doing good deeds make others feel good. And so it goes, one good turn deserves another, and kindness becomes a way of life. Kindness is fundamental to life and it is essential in creating healthy, happy human relationships. We all need to be shown kindness and we all need to express it. Acts of kindness connect us to one another. It gives us hope in humanity and faith in the Spirit.

Sincere acts of kindness are almost always appreciated, even if there is no acknowledgment. For true kindness is unconditional with no thought of reciprocation.

Kindness lingers. We may forget the words, or even the person, but we seldom forget the act, a door held open, a cookie from a neighbor, a word of encouragement when we are feeling blue. Try it today; commit one act of random kindness. Chances are those you touch today will pass it on to others. We can change the world, one smile at a time.

With love & light,

Rob McMahon  
Chair, Evangelism Leadership Team

## Social Concerns

I'm grateful to report that one of the crosses created by Ken Banzhof to adorn our church roof has been thoroughly refinished and repaired by Joan Faulkner and Dick Orner, restoring its original natural wood appearance. We can thank Joan for the thankless job of removing a coat of paint applied by an over-zealous trim painter. Dick rebuilt portions of the cross which had rotted due to inadequate drainage in the fixture holding the cross, which will be corrected when it is reinstalled. Thank you to Dennis Bender for his generous gift of returning the cross to its place on the roof. Thanks, too, to Don Scheck for arranging the logistics of these efforts.

### Social Concerns: WWJD

As I'm sure you know, these are not the call letters of some mid-Western radio station, but an acronym used by both liberal and conservative Christian activists in recent years to support their work. "What would Jesus do?" they ask, and it turns out to be what they would do themselves.

Jesus didn't offer us a particular program for social betterment. He lived in very different circumstances than ours, in an occupied country ruled by an elite who co-operated with the Roman authorities. Ordinary citizens had no say in their government. There was no forum for public opinion about government policies other than mass protest or revolution, and these were not on Jesus' agenda (though he probably was put to death because the authorities feared he would lead a revolution). In addition, Jesus and his followers expected the immanent coming of God's earthly kingdom, so reforms as we think of them would have been beside the point.

It was, however, important to know how to live while waiting for God's kingdom and how to live in it, and here is where Jesus gave principles to guide us. Love your neighbor, feed the hungry, heal the sick, take care of widows and orphans, visit those in prison (including, I believe, those imprisoned by difficult circumstances like chronic illness). In our very different age, these are principles we have to apply to today's problems, when we are not expecting a quick end to human history and do have a say in our government and may also sense that the coming of God's kingdom depends in part on our efforts.

The question, then, is not "what would Jesus do?" but "What do we do about today's problems as followers of Jesus?" Let's take a specific example. Health care is an issue in the current presidential campaign and is by its very nature an issue for all of us in any case. Jesus' answer to health care was quite simple - he provided it. When a paralytic's friends, unable to penetrate the crowds around Jesus for his healing touch, lowered their friend down through the roof instead, you can't imagine Jesus asking whether he had insurance coverage. While firmly rejecting the old idea that sick people were suffering for their sins, Jesus had a profound understanding of the relationship between physical and spiritual health and tried as much as possible to heal both aspects of our lives.

A health policy based on these values would be universally available, unrelated to ability to pay. It would stress healthy lifestyles, including components of good nutrition, adequate exercise, rewarding work and sufficient relaxation. It would include compassionate care for the ill, not warehousing them in isolating institutions, but keeping them integrated in the ongoing life of the community. It would provide adequate incentives for care givers at every level so that those needing help would find themselves in good hands.

I hope to suggest specific ways that these values can be put to work in today's health care system in my next column, but right now I have to take Linda to a medical procedure where I hope she will receive compassionate and competent care and remain as healthy as ever. (It is nothing serious, so don't worry for her.) To be continued...  
Peter Salmon

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In these essays, we try to emphasize our individual responsibility to do our part in God's work. It may seem hard to believe we can do great things like Mother Theresa or Martin Luther King because they were famous and we're just us. But everyone starts out as "just us". I read this week about the beginning of the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama following the arrest of Rosa Parks who, herself, was "just us". With her customary "one phone call" she got in touch with her preacher to ask for help. He in turn, called a new young minister in town asking to use his church to hold a mass meeting, since it was the only one big enough for a crowd.

"Well, I'll have to ask my deacons and let you know," said the minister, not sure if he wanted to get involved in something so radical. A few hours later he called back Rosa Parks' minister and reported that his deacons said it would be all right. "Well, that's good Brother Martin," was the answer, "because I've already got 200 people coming to your church at 8:00 PM." And so, Martin Luther King was drafted into the movement that he would soon lead and which would define his life. But he started as "just us".

*Peter Salmon*