

TRINITY NEWS

July, 2006

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MT. POCONO PA

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

Reflections on General Convention, 2006

Our General Convention has met and done a huge amount of work. There have been some significant conversations at "Coffee and Conversation with the Rector" around this work. Of course two 45 minute sessions can hardly begin to touch ten days of intense work by several thousand people gathered in Columbus in the middle of June. One thing that is abundantly clear to me is that the Windsor Report and its requests had an enormous amount of very serious attention and consideration. Some voices will deny this. They were not there and I suspect that nothing would appease some folks.

You have read or heard our Bishop's first response to the work of convention. There will be more to come which I will be sure is available to you in a timely manner. Beyond that, I want to share two pieces with you. The first is a statement from the bishops of the Diocese of New York:

"The recent action of the General Convention in respect to the consent process for bishops 'whose manner of life presents a challenge for the wider church' has in its turn proved a challenge for many in our own church. We supported the resolution, reluctantly. We did so being sharply aware of several things. First this is a part of a 'process'-- and processes by their very nature suggest an approaching resolution. Second, it seemed then and seems now, quite clear, that if we are to remain at the table to continue these important conversations, then our conversation partners need assurance that we are listening and taking their concerns seriously. This in turn points to the importance of what is called the 'listening process.' We can and should expect the most serious engagement in those conversations. Now is the time to see whether or not our conversation partners will take our invitation to a deeper sharing with the seriousness with which it is offered. And finally we take this action with full confidence that our new Presiding Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori will be a voice for all God's people in the councils of the Anglican Communion."

The Rt. Rev. Mark S. Sisk
The Rt. Rev. Catherine Roskam
The Rt. Rev. E. Don Taylor

It will now be important to discover whether those who have been clamoring for conversation, will in fact do so or will continue to say that we need to do so as they have for the past 30 years since that approach was agreed upon at Lambeth.

The second item I want to share with you is from the editorial page of the Pocono Record, on June 24th - with thanks to Fred Schultz who told me about it. The item is titled "Episcopalians shatter stained glass ceiling" written by Douglas Cohn and Eleanor Clift, from the Washington Post. The article is thought-provoking on the question of the position of women in our culture and beyond. There are many implications for us that come from the election of our next presiding bishop. Cohn and Clift end their editorial with

the following "Real men don't fear women's progress, a message that, despite the grumbling, propelled a woman to the pinnacle of a major religion, an inspirational achievement for both genders." This echoes the words from the floor of convention that it was "men who love and respect women who made this possible."

As we reflect on these and other issues, I am constantly reminded of Bishop Mark's constant reminder that we must "keep the main thing the main thing." What really matters is what Jesus calls us to do according to Matthew 25:35-40. And this will be the thrust of the Episcopal Church under the leadership of our Presiding Bishop elect, Katharine Jefferts Schori. You will recall that we have already spoken of the focus in our diocese on evangelism and mission. We have done some good work here at Trinity. And now we continue always remembering that we are not here for ourselves but for those who are not part of our congregation.

Think again of our Mission statement. We have committed ourselves to "share God's unconditional love with everyone." There are no qualifiers to that statement. We don't require that anyone become "like us." We don't ask that anyone believe as we do. We simply seek to proclaim the Gospel of God's unconditional love in what we say and what we do. We learn how to do that here by how we relate with and treat one another. This means that we listen with courtesy to the convictions of one another. It means that we acknowledge that our convictions vary. It means that all people are welcomed whoever they are and whatever their life realities are. No one is diminished or disrespected for being black, white, gay, straight, young, old, and on and on. All are beloved children of God just as we are, just as God made us. This is the model Jesus set for us. He was very intentional in his focus on the marginalized of his time and culture. If we do any less we are not being faithful followers.

There is much discussion about whether or not the Anglican Communion as we have known it in the past will continue into the future. Of course not. It has already changed. What the future will be, we do not yet know. What we in the Episcopal Church do know is that our General Convention has bent over backwards to do everything we can and more to keep the conversation going around the world wide table.

The Collect for Proper 6, which was used as much of the work was being done in convention is as follows:

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

I ask that you continue to offer that prayer on a daily basis.

Faithfully,
Ginny+



JULY, 2006

July 5 - 8:30-11:30am Trinity at Food Pantry
6:15pm Potluck & Study, Parish Hall
July 8 - 10am-4:30pm Summer Festival, Church Grounds
July 9 - 7pm Trinity Praise, Parish Hall
July 11 - 7pm Vestry, Library
July 12 - 6:15pm Potluck & Study, Parish Hall
July 17 - 7pm Prayer Beading, Library
July 19 - 6:15pm Potluck & Study, Parish Hall
July 26 - 6:15pm Potluck & Study, Parish Hall

JULY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

3 Jutta Moser
10 Steven Price
11 Richard Orner
15 Robert James O'Grady
17 Patricia Goodwin
30 Kyle Price
31 Joni Benintende
31 Susan Hurst

ANNIVERSARIES

26 Ken & Rose Smith
28 Charles & Tere Buttz

Dear Family at Trinity in the beautiful Poconos,

I am overwhelmed with your generosity to take me in as an intern and pray me into the diaconate and now to send me forth to love and serve the Lord with a considerable monetary gift. I thank you for helping me practice my preaching, and learning to practice what I preach. I thank you for the joy of fellowship and the warm welcome into your midst.

I take with me your love and caring. I will see your faces wherever I go, and be warmed by the depth of your love, and the joy of the music.

Your humble deacon, Lou

Pastoral Care News

In early June Charley Day made a presentation to a group of volunteers regarding Home Visitation. The morning was very informative, interesting and quite a pleasant experience for all who attended. We now have a team of visitors and we will be setting up schedules to visit those in our parish who are unable to attend church or other activities. We, of course, do need to know who these people are – if you know of someone who cannot get to church for health reasons, or for any other reason, please advise the church office, so we can add them to our list.

Also it is very important if you or someone you know is ill, temporarily incapacitated, in the hospital, in a nursing home or in any other type of need, to let the church office know. If you're not in church for a few weeks, you could be on vacation, visiting relatives, or just taking life easy at home for a bit. We can only help out in problem situations if we know about them. Have someone else give the office a call if you are unable to do so yourself. Communication is all-important – we have very few mind readers available to help out.

And speaking of communication, if you have given the office a name to be put on the prayer list, please keep us updated. We have no way of knowing if your friend or relative is better, worse or whether they still need our prayers or not.

Kathie Herling

Thought for the day – “You are the church.”

MID-SUMMER FESTIVAL
DATE: SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2006
TIME: 10AM - 4:30PM

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

MARK THIS DATE FOR GREAT FOOD, MUSIC, AND LOTS OF FUN, FUN, FUN!

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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 - May 2006

Total Contributions: \$7,525.84
Total Expenditure: \$10,317.58
Monthly Net income: -\$2,788.74

Budget Pledged Offerings \$7517.00
Pledges received \$6335.05

Our pledge support for Trinity church for May was below normal as shown above; please remember to maintain your pledges during the summer months as our expenses do not take a "Summer Vacation". Have a great and safe summer, continue to pray for our financial stability this year.

Michael Goodwin - Treasurer.

CHOIR NEWS-Summer, 2006

During the months of July and August, our weekly rehearsals will be held at the homes of choir members, meeting during the coolness of late mornings, and enjoying iced tea, coffee, fruits and sweets with our music. Want to join us? See Virginia Parry if you are ready to take the plunge!

FROM THE CHOIRMASTER, re: Musical Listings in the Sunday Bulletin

Did you ever wonder why a "Prelude" is listed for the organ "Postlude", or why anthems and solos are called "Motets"? Here are some answers, provided by the Oxford Dictionary of Music.

A "Prelude" can refer to any music, played or sung, before a ceremony, worship service, etc, as well as any music composed to be played before another piece of music (i.e. "Prelude and Fugue in G Major"). Therefore, a "Prelude" may be found in many places during a program or service.

However, a "Motet" or "Anthem" is quite another matter. At Trinity, we follow the tradition, established by the Roman Catholic Church, in placing any solo, instrumental or choral music for which the Liturgy does not prescribe a specific text, to be used at the Offertory or Communion, calling it a "Motet". A "Motet" can also refer to the form of Choral writing which dates from the 13th century, often to be sung unaccompanied, in Latin.

In short, an "anthem" may be considered the English-speaking Protestant Church's equivalent of the Latin "Motet" from which it is derived. The "Anthem" is an Anglican creation. We can simply say that we generally sing "Anthems", but when they are placed at the Offertory or Communion in the Worship Service, we may follow the tradition of calling them "Motets"!

I hope that this answers some of your questions. Please feel free to ask about the whys and wherefores of our music life at Trinity, at any time!

--Virginia Parry

SOCIAL CONCERNS

In the old Pogo comic strip the owl, who fancies himself as a scientist, brags about having invented a new bomb. The porcupine, the philosopher, responds, "Bombs is no good Owl. They put everything all over everywhere and in little bits too." This is a sadly accurate picture of what we saw in Biloxi last December.

Along 60 miles of coastline people's lives had been shattered and their belongings broken into little pieces and strewn around the landscape. Most homes had been damaged. Some, like the Episcopal Rectory near the ocean, had nothing left but a foundation. Even the houses that still stood were just shells - windows gone, interior walls destroyed, roofs patched with blue tarpaulins. Biloxi's famous gracious live oak trees were festooned with flying debris - scraps of cloth or plastic - instead of Spanish moss.

The people were doing what they could to survive. School buses picked up and delivered kids to ruined neighborhoods where their families camped in FEMA trailers that were no bigger than a single room in an average home. Some emergency money and unemployment insurance were keeping people going but that was due to run out. Commercial insurance companies were not returning phone calls, calling Katrina "an act of God" and therefore leaving it up to God to clean it up.

Years ago, when Linda and I were living in a house we were building, we kept going by finding little areas of our home where we had established some sense of order and we would fall back to them to renew our energy to tackle the jobs remaining to be done, which seemed monumental to us. We were doing that surrounded by a community that functioned. In Biloxi we saw people trying to cope with chaos when surrounded by chaos.

Still, they were coping. They cheered each other on in community centers that had not been hit or in makeshift substitutes, like the Episcopal church meeting in a schoolhouse, and then went back to work. We saw bulldozers and excavators filling dump trucks with rubble and construction workers building new homes. But there is more, much more, to be done.

With the financial challenges people face and the difficulties with insurance, much of the job has been and must continue to be the work of volunteers. While skilled workers are a special blessing, there is plenty of work that a reasonably able-bodied person can perform, from tearing out debris to swinging a hammer to providing support services for others doing these tasks.

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, our contact in Biloxi through Rector Harold Roberts, is meeting these needs through a joint effort directed by Lutherans there. They have set up simple camp-like accommodations for volunteers and welcome helpers for as long as they can stay. If you wish to participate, contact John Coyle 228-434-2037.

Here at Trinity, we have done what we could to support these efforts. When the news of Katrina first hit, you immediately contributed \$4500 for the Episcopal relief fund to use there. When we wanted to have a more personal relationship with the people there, you contributed a van load of requested household goods and some musical instruments for students in New Orleans. Two concerts and a benefit art show raised about \$1200 more to send to Biloxi and New Orleans.

Another hurricane season is on the horizon and the work is far from done. We don't have another specific program planned either to raise money or to get volunteer workers down there, but we are open to your suggestions and wide open to your offers to help.

Peter Salmon

Do Not Disagree With Your Priest.

That's the way I was raised. Your priest is a representative of the Church and your Church interprets the Bible for you in a way that you could never do. The decisions made by the Church and voiced by your priest have been carefully considered and are directly in line with Scripture. Therefore, they are best for you regardless of what you might think. That's the way I was raised.

Some might be upset that there are disagreements within the Church these days. I embrace the reality of that and I give thanks to God that I am now a member of a community which is able to disagree, debate and discern while still gathering together to worship God. Exploring and understanding differences is how we learn and grow. Exploring different opinions and points of view helps us gain understanding about the complexity of issues and allows us to gain insight into experiences different from our own.

Our Presiding Bishop elect Jefferts Schori told a magazine that what she values most in the Episcopal Church is "its historic ability to live with diversity and to celebrate that diversity. ... Some see that as a mighty sin, but I see it as one of the gifts of the creator. To be created in the image of God doesn't mean just one thing."

We have not always been 100% correct in our thoughts, words and deeds. The policies and practices of the Episcopal Church from just after the Civil War until the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision in 1954, when the Supreme Court ordered the desegregation of public schools is a prime example. Prior to *Brown*, the policy of the Episcopal Church had been to establish separate institutions to improve the plight of blacks; and although nationally the Church had shifted its policy towards integration, some prestigious southern churches had adopted resolutions endorsing segregation, affirming that segregation contained no intrinsic evil. When the Supreme Court ordered the desegregation of public schools, some southern Episcopalians heroically supported these new federal policies although they were ostracized and sometimes suffered even physical abuse for their beliefs. Subsequently the South witnessed increasing violence against Episcopalians who supported the civil rights struggle. A notable example was the murder of Jonathan Daniels, a black seminarian from New Hampshire, who was murdered in Alabama, August 20, 1965. By the late 1950s, despite the work of well known Episcopalians such as Thurgood Marshall, members of the Episcopal Church remained tepid about the issue of racial desegregation. Now, some of Marshall's fellow Episcopalians are saying that the spiritual hallmark of his life, his Christian commitment to racial justice, qualifies him for special recognition. They think the Episcopal Church should have May 17 -- the date of the 1954 Supreme Court ruling that segregated schools are unconstitutional -- observed as Marshall Feast Day.

One of the Benedictine principles is the beauty of a jigsaw puzzle – how it begins with a simple, non-descript piece which becomes a part of something beautiful when joined with the other pieces. Now if you ever want to really annoy someone who's a jigsaw freak, give them a large jigsaw puzzle with two or three pieces missing. It'll drive them crazy! Well, that's what the church is like. We're like a jigsaw puzzle where every piece has a place, and where if one piece is missing, the picture is incomplete.

Jesus knew that people struggle to overcome ethnocentric and sociocentric tendencies. He spoke to the woman at the well to teach everyone that the Lord has no bias, prejudice or partiality. Jesus chose to work through disciples from a diversity of backgrounds and social-economic classes. The Body of Christ is made up of a wide and deep diversity of backgrounds, professions and experiences that enrich the Church.

Respectfully,
Rob McMahan
Chair, Evangelism Leadership Team