

TRINITY NEWS

July, 2007

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MT. POCONO PA

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

FROM THE RECTOR...

As I write this piece for our July newsletter, I am mindful of the powerful truth of the love of God found in Christian community. Charley and I are surrounded by love, prayers, support, encouragement as we live through this time of healing. His having to have open heart surgery was and is no small matter. It is transforming our lives in many and powerful ways. Our children have been a great comfort to us. Our extended family from Florida to Maine, from Massachusetts to Washington state, have been - well I can't seem to find the word to express how deeply moved we are by their loving concern. And our church family surrounds us with reminders of the bounty of God's love.

Thank you.

This is Evangelism at its very best, beloved. How intriguing that at Trinity our ministry of the month for July is Evangelism. I am in awe at that juxtaposition. If you have ever wondered "how to do evangelism" just look around you at what happens in our parish. I am persuaded that our life together impacts our communities in ways we may never know. You see, evangelism is not about numbers. It is about living the good news of God's love. When someone asks, "why do you do that?" we have the opportunity to tell our story, the story of God's love for us.

This past Saturday the Evangelism Commission of the Diocese of Bethlehem had a work day here at Trinity. During the mid-day break, I walked the meditation path and the labyrinth with Fr. Andrew Gerns, who chairs that commission. We talked about many things, including our shared convictions about what evangelism is and what it is not. All too often it has been equated with church growth. Many would suggest that you know you have been successful at evangelism if there are more people involved in your parish. That may happen. The difficulty with that mind set is that we become focused on numbers and on our particular parish church.

This is not a bad thing. Congregational development involves getting the word out that we are here. We do that through our website, newspaper ads and stories, our signs on the highway, fliers, and such. We make our parish visible by participation in the Pocono Mountain Ecumenical Hunger Ministry and by our coming participation in Family Promise of Monroe County. These are all good things. They are invitational and welcoming. People seeking a faith community which lives what they practice will resonate with all of that.

So if evangelism is not about numbers, what is it about? I am persuaded that it is about transforming lives. It is about reaching out to one person at a time to tell our story, the story about God's love which we know in the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is about loving one another as God loves us. That really does not sound so difficult. But there is a residual of the notion that "faith is a private matter." Some were raised with the conviction that discussing religion was inappropriate. We need to revisit Scripture if we think that.

For instance, when Jesus healed the Gerasene Demoniac he told the man "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." (Luke 8:39) Yes, there are places where he also tells people not to say anything. So what are we to make of the apparent discrepancy? Perhaps his sending forth of the disciples after his resurrection helps here. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19) is pretty clear.

The Mission Statement of the Diocese of Bethlehem is clear: "Live God's Love, tell what you have seen and heard." Just do it.

May your doings be blessings,
Ginny+



JULY/AUGUST, 2007

July 4 - Independence Day Office Closed
July 7 - 9-11am Youth Group Meeting, Library
July 10 - 7pm Vestry, Library
July 11 - 8:30am - 12:30pm Trinity at Food Pantry
August 1 - 8:30am - 12:30pm Trinity at Food Pantry
August 7 - 7pm Evangelism Leadership Team, Library
August 13 - September 2 Rector on Vacation,
The Rev. Elizabeth Myers, Supply Clergy
August 14 - 7pm Vestry, Library
August 18 - Noon - 5pm Trinity Summer Music Festival,
The Roof - Paradise Township Park
August 24 - Newsletter Deadline
August 25 - 9am - 2pm Youth Group Grounds Work Day
August 31 - Newsletter Mailing

JULY CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

26 Ken & Rose Smith
28 Charles & Tere Buttz

PASTORAL CARE NEWS

The Pastoral Care Team met on Saturday, June 16 for a productive meeting discussing visits made during the past year, procedures for the prayer chain, how the healing ministry works and information about Eucharistic visitors.

A plan has been laid out for checking at the various local hospitals to find out when members of Trinity Church are patients. We will be contacting the hospitals on a regular basis to determine if anyone from our parish is an inpatient. The only way this will work is if people entering the hospital as a patient inform those in charge of filling out the paperwork that they are an Episcopalian and a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Mt. Pocono. When asked your church affiliation, do not say Protestant. Be sure to tell them you are an Episcopalian and a member of Trinity. You can request they let your Rector know that you are a patient – some hospitals will do this for you (some don't). There are cards in the back of the church & in the Parish Hall, that you can carry in your wallet, that give the name of your church and the Rector's name with the phone number. Please pick one of these up and keep it with your insurance card. The best solution of all is to have the person who brings you to the hospital notify the church office immediately. We do want to keep track of our members who have to go to the hospital, but we do need to be notified.

The Prayer Chain members are always praying for those on our prayer lists and they also handle emergency calls when someone is suddenly taken ill or injured in an accident. Again the church office should be notified if such an emergency occurs. It will also help the members if the lists are kept current. If you have asked that a name be placed on the list for the bulletin or the continuing list in the newsletter, please update that information – let us know of a recovery, that the need for prayer no longer exists for whatever the reason, or if the person is still in need of prayer. The list could become extremely long if we never took any names off.

Each Sunday after the 10 a.m. service, someone from the Healing Ministry is at the Altar to welcome anyone who wishes to be involved in healing prayers. As soon as the Rector is free after greeting the congregation at the door, she will join those people at the altar for the healing service. Of course, those who are leaving the service are requested to be reasonably quiet so as not to disturb the prayers.

The team has decided to get together on a quarterly basis during the year. The next meeting will be on Saturday, Sept. 15, beginning with Morning Prayer in the church at 9 a.m. New members are always welcome.

Kathie Herling

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
Flora Rinker
Jon Ross

Ester Stein
Rhonda Treible
Marion Braithwaite
Lauren Boyadis
Jacob Gower
Deborah Gower
Mary Baker
Jeff Landi
Stacey
Anita Rivera

Alex Boehm
Violet McMahon
Mary Flaherty
Victoria Forstein
Rose Smith
Karen Kern
Lynn Tinsley
Charley Day

HAVE YOU READ THE HALL BULLETIN BOARD LATELY?

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Fireweed Evangelism: Christian Hospitality in a Multi-Faith World was written by Elizabeth R. Geitz, Canon for Ministry Development in the Diocese of New Jersey. Canon Geitz was the presenter at Clergy Day last November, focusing on the work of evangelism as presented in this book. In her introduction she answers what is probably the first question of the reader: "A fireweed is the first flower to bloom in burned-out places after a catastrophe, bringing abundant, colorful life out of the ashes of death." She continues with this description: "The experience of new birth lies at the heart of Fireweed Evangelism, which involves one soul reaching out in love to another soul in need of the healing power of the risen Christ."

I wonder why we make the ministry of evangelism seem so difficult and distant.

TREASURERS REPORT - MAY 2007

Pledged Offerings:	\$ 7,848.00
Total Income:	\$ 9,671.31
Total Expenditures:	\$10,122.20
Net Monthly Income:	\$ -450.89
Year-to-Date, net income	\$-2,966.01

We have received a measure of stability in our financial situation at Trinity, please pray that this may continue and give consideration in your prayers for the continuation of our fundraising activities to be successful.

Michael Goodwin Treasurer

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2007

THE ROOF PARADISE TOWNSHIP PARK

KEOKEE CHAPEL ROAD

NOON - 5PM

ENTERTAINMENT BEGINNING AT **1PM**

1-1:50PM *MILLION TO ONE* ROCK BAND

2-2:25PM *JOLLY RHEINLAENDERS* GERMAN BAND

2:30-2:55PM *BROADWAY FIVE* SINGERS

3-3:50PM *AND THEN THERE'S* WINTER ROCK BAND

4-5PM *TRINITY CENTENNIAL* BAND COMMUNITY BAND

FOOD WILL BE SERVED FROM **NOON UNTIL 5PM**

TICKET COST - \$ **35.00**

TICKET ADMITS TICKET HOLDER & ONE GUEST

FOR FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT ALL DAY

CHILDREN 12 & UNDER **FREE**

EACH ADDITIONAL GUEST \$ **5.00**

HOURLY DRAWINGS FROM TICKETS BEGIN AT **1PM**

TWO PRIZES DRAWN EACH HOUR

1, 2, 3, & 4PM \$ 25.00 EACH PRIZE

5PM \$100.00 EACH PRIZE

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

THERE WILL BE GAMES FOR CHILDREN

COME AND ENJOY A DAY OF FUN, FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT

AND SUPPORT TRINITY CHURCH!

TO PURCHASE TICKETS SEE: TOM PARRY, DARLENE SCHULTZ, CINDY HILL,

TOM SALMON, KATHRYN RITTER-VICICH, JAN ANGLEMIRE, INGA YEICH,

CAROL BUTISTE

From the Stewardship Leadership Team...

UTO Grant Application Update

It was not the “happy news” that I had in mind, but. . .

In April's newsletter I wrote that Trinity was awaiting word on its United Thank Offering application to fund a much-needed facelift for our parish hall. The work was to be done in conjunction with starting a monthly luncheon program here for seniors. The UTO Committee advised in late May that our application was not funded. According to its letter on this Trinity's “application met UTO Grant Policy and Criteria and was given serious consideration within the mix of 200 applications, and the dollars available this year.” Trinity was informed that the total funding requested in those applications exceeded \$ 7,000,000, but that the Committee only had roughly \$ 2,000,000 available for allocation. Letters of thanks were sent to UTO, for considering Trinity's application, and to the Diocese of Bethlehem for its related support.

However, thanks to the strong spirit of giving here at Trinity, there is happy news to report about the repairs and renovations for which the grant funds were earmarked. Several parishioners started talking and each offered \$ 100 towards the cost of the work, conditioned on those funds being matched up to the cost of the most pressing need, i.e., fixing the cracks and leaks in the parish hall fireplace. A number of phone calls later \$ 1700 had been committed to this project. By the end of fellowship time the following Sunday the pledges had surpassed the \$ 2000 estimate for the work. Thus far \$ 2400 has been set aside for the “Fireplace Fund”.

Blake Flaherty, who most of you know is a very skilled and experienced mason, will do the fireplace work. While a definite time has not yet been set for it, Blake hopes to complete it this summer. Also, it's hoped that the extra funds, plus the proceeds from the collection of supermarket register tapes, can be applied towards the installation of new flooring in the narthex and the parish hall's rear entrance. Sunshine Carpets in Mountainhome will handle that project. And, there's been discussion about going ahead with repainting the inside of the parish hall (another line item in the grant application), as well as replacing its current floor covering with a nice-looking but sturdier carpeting.

To those of you who have offered to give towards the expenses for these improvements, a heartfelt THANK YOU! Your generosity is truly appreciated. If you weren't called or contacted about the “Fireplace Fund” don't feel slighted. That's because the initial responses to the request for funds were so supportive, and the calls were made in no particular order. If you would like to contribute to the contemplated work in the parish hall please feel free to speak with me, Ginny, either of your wardens, or any vestry member. No amount is too small or too large!

I'll update you on this in next month's newsletter. Watch for any related news in the Sunday bulletins. Better yet, watch the parish hall and the other areas that have been mentioned. The work may be done before we know it.

Don Scheck

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Leigh Vella, daughter of Blake & Mary Flaherty has graduated *summa cum laude* from Kutztown University with a degree in Elementary Education and has accepted a position teaching fifth grade in Glen Burnie Maryland.

Emma Benintende, daughter of Ed & Joni Benintende has graduated from Stroudsburg High School, attaining the honor of Valedictorian. Emma will attend Harvard University this fall studying biological anthropology.

Miya Benintende, daughter of Ed & Joni Benintende has graduated from Drexel University with a degree in photography and will be living and working in the Philadelphia area.

Anne C. Smith, daughter of Don & Rosanne Scheck graduated with a Master of Science in Education degree in school psychology from Bucknell University in January. She is working as a contract school psychologist for The Frederick County Public Schools in Maryland. Anne and her husband, Gabriel Smith, live in Hagerstown, MD.

Caitlin A. Scheck, daughter of Don & Rosanne Scheck received her Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation, Park & Tourism Management from The Pennsylvania State University in May. She is doing an internship this summer with the Monroe County Conservation District to complete her degree requirements.

Pauline Saintu, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Saintu has graduated from John Jay College and will be continuing her studies pursuing a career in Criminal Justice.

Congratulations to all the graduates and good luck with your future endeavors. We are very proud of you!

"Anyone who thinks that they are too small to make a difference has never tried to sleep in a room with a mosquito." ~ unknown

An acquaintance, whom I haven't seen in over 6 years, returned to Mount Pocono the other night to visit. The reason for his visit was to give me a hug and thank me. I was a bit surprised by this as I did not recall anything that I could have done for him to warrant such a trip. We sat in my wine room, which has become a respected space for private conversation without intrusion. He went on to tell me how his life had been spiraling downward when I first met him. He abused drugs and alcohol, losing several of his front teeth to drug use and fighting. He lived in a room in a run down boarding house and was in a violent relationship with the resident across the hall. His self esteem was at an all time low and he made some unwise decisions which led to his HIV + status.

He now lives with his family, is gainfully employed, drug free and has had his teeth replaced. He credits me for showing him that he could change his life. When asked how, he simply replied "I was never different in your eyes; you were always kind to me".

Very often we don't realize the impact that we have in the lives of people we encounter. God uses our talents, our passions, and our hearts to show His love and care. Of course God could take care of all needs, but that is not His plan. Through our participation, we learn to have the heart of a servant, as Christ taught us.

Servant Evangelism is simply committing small acts of kindness in God's name. This could be giving small change to the person ahead of you at the register, shoveling the walk next door to yours, or cleaning the windows of an elderly neighbor. We do this to show God's love in a practical way, and to live out what the Bible says. We invite others experience the Bible, not just read it.

In Chicken Soup for The Woman's Soul, Donna Wick tells this story ("No Small Act of Kindness"): The day was Thankful Thursday, our "designated day" of service. It's a weekly tradition that my two little girls and I began some years ago. Thursday has become our day to go out in the world and make a positive contribution. On this particular Thursday, we had no idea exactly what we were going to do, but we knew that something would present itself.

Driving along a busy Houston road, praying for guidance in our quest to fulfill our weekly Act of Kindness, the noon hour appropriately triggered hunger pangs in my two little ones. And they wasted no time in letting me know, chanting, "McDonald's, McDonald's, McDonald's". I relented and began searching earnestly for the nearest McDonald's. Suddenly I realized that almost every intersection I passed through was occupied by a panhandler. And then it hit me! If my two little ones were hungry, then all these panhandlers must be hungry, too. Perfect!

Our Act of Kindness had presented itself. We were going to buy lunch for the panhandlers. After finding a McDonald's and ordering two Happy Meals for my girls, I ordered an additional 15 lunches and we set out to deliver them. It was exhilarating. We would pull alongside a panhandler, make a contribution, and tell him or her that we hoped things got better. Then we'd say, "Oh, by the way, here's lunch." And then we would vroom off to the next intersection.

It was the best way to give. There wasn't enough time for us to introduce ourselves or explain what we were going to do, nor was there time for them to say anything back to us. The Act of Kindness was anonymous and empowering for each of us, and we loved what we saw in the rear view mirror: a surprised and delighted person holding up his lunch bag and just looking at us as we drove off. It was wonderful!

We had come to the end of our "route" and there was a small woman standing there, asking for change. We handed her our final contribution and lunch bag, and then immediately made a U-turn to head back in the opposite direction for home. Unfortunately, the light caught us again and we were stopped at the same intersection where this little woman stood. She made her way to our car, so I put the window down just as she started to speak. "No one has ever done anything like this for me before," she said with amazement. I replied, "Well, I'm glad that we were the first. So, when do you think you'll eat your lunch?" She just looked at me with her huge, tired brown eyes and said, "Oh honey, I'm not going to eat this lunch."

I was confused, but before I could say anything, she continued. "You see, I have a little girl of my own at home and she just loves McDonald's, but I can never buy it for her because I just don't have the money. But you know what ... tonight she is going to have McDonald's!"

Respectfully submitted,

Rob McMahan
Chair, Evangelism Leadership Team

Diocesan Mission Trip

On July 28, 2007, twenty-one youth and four adults will leave for New Orleans. Two of these people will be Torrey and Rachel Salmon, members of this parish. We will be embarking on the first Diocese of Bethlehem Youth Mission Trip. The team will be working with the Diocese of Louisiana, doing reconstruction and anything else they need us to do while we are there.

In order to carry out the mission, the team needs financial support. We have already written letters asking for support and had three car washes in order to raise money. Currently, we are selling stock in the trip. For ten dollars (\$10) you will receive a postcard from us while we are in New Orleans and one admission to the post-trip dinner and slide show, as well as supporting an exciting and worthwhile endeavor. The dinner will be held at Trinity, Mount Pocono and at Trinity, Bethlehem on Sunday, September 23, 2007 at 5 pm. If you would like to buy stock, please see any member of the Salmon family or email Torrey at torreylyn@verizon.net. In an email, please include your name, address, phone number, and whether you will attend the dinner at Trinity, Mount Pocono, Trinity, Bethlehem, or not at all. If you would like to support the trip without buying stock, please mail checks, payable to the Diocese of Bethlehem, to: Diocesan House Attn: Barbara Lewis 333 Wyandotte Street Bethlehem, PA 18015, and write "mission trip" in the memo line. If you want to buy stock, please give checks to Torrey or Rachel Salmon, or place them in an envelope that has "mission trip stock," and your name and phone number written on it, and place the envelope in Tom Salmon's mailbox in the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Torrey or Rachel Salmon at 570-620-0783 or Torrey at torreylyn@verizon.net. Thank you in advance for your support.