

TRINITY NEWS

September, 2005

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MT. POCONO PA

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

With the arrival of September we begin to say farewell to summer and move into the renewed activities of our life as a parish family. From time to time people speak of a concern about using that word in relation to the church. Some feel that as soon as the word 'family' is used that there are some who are excluded. There is a perception that a parish family event means that you have to be married and have 2.5 kids in order to participate. Not at all. Our parish family is all of us. And we are a delightful hodge-podge of single, married, partnered, with kids, with grand-kids, with no kids, young and not so young. We come from the whole range of educational, social, economic, ethnic, racial, national diversity that marks our community. What a blessing!

I think about Jesus being approached by someone who said "Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you." But to the one who had told him this, Jesus replied, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" And pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." (Matthew 12:47-50) This is what being a parish family is about. It is about seeking to live faithfully together and in community. Jesus does not suggest, nor would I, that we not honor our Mothers. We do that. And we honor our Fathers and other members of our households. And yet there is something very particular about belonging to a parish family. You have heard me say, on more than one occasion, that the most important thing we do together is to worship God. This time of worshiping the one who created us, of hearing the Word, of gathering at the holy table to share the meal of the Eucharist, is surely a time of deep intimacy in the most profound sense of that word. It provides us with a common bond like no other human activity can do. There are times when one or more will attempt to break that bond, to destroy

the community. In those times the community must set boundaries and stop the power of evil. And as a parish family we must do that.

As a parish family – with all sorts and conditions of siblings! – we move beyond our worship to the rest of our life together. That includes growing in our knowledge and love of the Lord. We seek ways to learn from studying Scripture, history, theology, and from sharing ideas with one another. That means listening to and respecting one another whether we agree or not. Christian Formation is a life-long process. Our youngest family members begin to learn in the arms of their parents and then in our nursery. They move on to Godly Play where they encounter the wonderful stories of our faith. In Spirit Kids class they explore ideas more deeply, and have opportunity to bring home thoughts to share with others there. Parents, ask your kids about Church School!

During the Youth Group years, we continue to learn the stories, and also to live into what they teach us by building a community which shares in both fun and service activities. Opportunities for Christian Formation continue for people of all ages. I hope you will participate in the opportunities of Sunday morning learning and mid-week fellowship and study. We continue to seek to offer a program which is diverse in topics and in schedule. If you have an idea, let's explore it together.

Life in our parish family is rich in so many ways. After a summer that has been a little less scheduled here at church, I hope that you find yourself renewed and refreshed and ready to discover what God might be calling you to in the months ahead. There will be some delightful and informative opportunities for that. Keep reading!

In joyful anticipation!

Ginny+



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- Sept. 1 – 1-3pm Prayer Beading, Library
- Sept. 2 – Newsletter Mailing
- Sept. 7 – 8:30-11:30am Trinity at Food Pantry
- Sept. 9 – 7pm Stewardship Meeting, Library
- Sept. 11 – 9am Christian Formation Registration Breakfast
- Sept. 13 – 7pm Vestry, Library
- Sept. 14 – 9:30am Prayer Chain, Library
- Sept. 19 – 7-9pm Prayer Beading, Library
- Sept. 23 – Newsletter Deadline
- Sept. 25 – 11:30am Evangelism Leadership Team Luncheon
- Sept. 30 – Newsletter Mailing

SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Tom Mettler
 - 2 Kyle Smith
 - 6 Peter Salmon
 - 8 Carol Butiste
 - 8 Kelly Johnson
 - 8 Tricia Mix
 - 10 Betty Speicher
 - 15 Jean Weiss
 - 17 Theresa Leone
 - 19 Mary Banzhof
 - 19 Rosanne Scheck
 - 21 Grace Fierro
 - 25 Lexie Vicich
 - 27 Martin Baboolal
 - 27 Lois Rothrock
 - 28 Steve Clark
- #### ANNIVERSARIES
- 17 Bill & Barb Gessner
 - 19 Ed & Caroline Passno

Christian Formation Registration Break- fast

September 11th at 9 AM
 for all those intending to register for
 and participate in
 ~ Church School ~
 Godly Play (preschool through 1st
 grade)
 Spirit Kids (2nd through 6th grade)
 ~Youth Group ~
 (7th through 12 grade)

I trust that everyone has had an enjoyable summer and is ready to get into the back-to-school routine. As the new church school director, I am looking forward to an exciting year in developing and implementing a program to enhance our children's spiritual education.

My main goal this year is to involve our children in the activities of the church. I hope to do this by incorporating more projects for display around the church. I also would like to see our children more involved in the services as well. I believe the more our children participate, the more they will understand and enjoy coming to church each week.

Of course, I can not fulfill these goals alone. I would like to thank Edith Armstrong, Caroline Passno and Eleanor Price for volunteering their time to teach again this year. Their dedication is so much appreciated. I welcome your thoughts and ideas. Also, if anyone is interested in teaching, please let me know. I can be reached at (570)595-9485. Blessings to you and your family.

Marianne Ayers
 Church School Director

A View From The Pew...

As many of you might have noticed there has been a vacant seat of late in the first pew. I have been renovating the Sherman Theater and as such every bit of my "spare time" has been spoken for.

So my "View" is more of a realization of the distance and time that has passed. In short, I miss all of you. They say that absence makes the heart grow fonder and with regard to my church family it is most evident.

I know that some of you are praying for me, and the success of the theater, and for that I am eternally grateful. You are all in my thoughts and well wishes...and I will be back (hopefully) soon!

While thinking of the time that has passed, and my church truancy, I also began to think of the many men and women that are away from home and their churches. I can relate to some of them and others I can not even begin to comprehend their situation. Some are away at school and some are defending our nation, while others have been struck by some unthinkable tragedy.

In spite of my current excessive activity, I do find solace in my relationship with God, which all of you have helped to foster and develop! As a family you have accepted me and my family, you have welcomed us, and offered us a peace of the Lord, that, during this time, has comforted me and my family. It is truly a wonderful gift.

The beauty of God's love is that when it is wished upon someone, or asked for or prayed for it transcends the physical home we call church and envelops the individual. God is in us, and part of us. At times, when we think "I cant go another day" and the stresses are too great he carries us through if we choose to let him! I'm reminded of a passage called "Footprints" ..."My child the times when there are only one set of footsteps are the times I carried you". I'm here to say, dear Lord and my Trinity family, thank you for carrying me.

To me, Trinity is like God's megaphone, a huge amplifier of God's love. It is a focal point that really captures his spirit. It is a special place that is full with love for each other and God's love.

Like any family we are a work in progress and none of us are perfect. We have different points of view, some of us are more conservative, some more liberal and frankly some of us just don't care what other people believe, which is good too. We are not without our problems. Which is OK. The one thing we have is an abundant spirit that stays with me even when I am not able to be "home".

God created all of us individually, so we would not be exact...which had to make his job pretty tough. Think how much easier it would be to have one mold for all of us. Hard work is good and important. So are each and every one of you!

The next time you hear Ginny or Rob asking you to spread the word, don't think for a minute that it is meaningless, or unimportant. Your words and actions, reached out to me and my family and have touched me in ways that I never knew existed. Shortly after being accepted into the church I told Ginny "for the first time in my life I am comfortable with Christ.". It was then I realized I had accepted him and have been forever saved. With out you all, I would still be spiritual nomad.

Thank you for helping me. Now get out there and help someone else see the light of the lord, they will be happy too.

Joe Krol, Evangelism Leadership Team

**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
Jacob Gower
Darlene Keller
Bill Lord
Ray Naseef
Bill Rhyne
Flora Rinker
Rudy Roscher
Jon Ross
Ellie Schenck
Ester Stein
Alistair Stewart

Tom
Rhonda Treible
Elizabeth Tunnacliffe
Marion Braithwaite
Priscilla Custer
Jeff Landi
Lauren Boyadis
John Frawley
Pamela Bender
Phillip Spahr
Nancy Curtis
Ellen Wolfe
Raphael Bannister
Harry Turner
Mary Jane
Stacey
Tom

Anyone wishing to send cards or notes to Sara Schmitt as she begins her time at the United States Air Force Academy should send them to:
Basic Cadet Sara Schmitt
P.O. Box 3428
USAF Academy, CO
80841-3428

PRAYER REQUESTS

In an effort to keep our Prayer List current, when someone is added to our Prayer List they will be placed on the list for one month. After that time if you wish to have the person remain on the list please contact the parish office. Those on our Prayer List are prayed for daily at morning prayer and also by those on our Prayer Chain. Please be in contact with the parish office with updates on anyone you may add to the list so that we can pray appropriately.

We will begin the one month rotation on September 1st.

The Nominating Committee for the Vestry, Don Scheck, Ken Smith, and Bob Storm, have nominated the following people to serve on the Vestry for Three Year Terms beginning October, 2005: Tom Parry, Linda Salmon, and Fred Schultz

The Nominating Committee is in the process of filling the remaining year of an unexpired 3-year term on the Vestry. An announcement about this will be made shortly.

PASTORAL CARE

I've been asked (or maybe I volunteered) to do some work for the parish as Pastoral Care Coordinator. In checking into this, I've noticed that there is a lot of pastoral care happening already such as newcomers gatherings, prayer chain, home visitation, etc. The whole idea of this position is to make sure that no one is being overlooked and that we're somewhat organized in our efforts. This area is not to be confused with outreach – Trinity also does a great job of that as witnessed by the sewing machine project, the food pantry and others. Pastoral care is taking care of each other – those already in the fold and not ending up with any lost sheep.

One area that I thought might require some attention is getting everyone who wants to be there to church on Sunday. Some people may need a ride for whatever reason and some may be willing to give someone a ride. If you're in either category, send me an e-mail at herling@ptd.net or drop a note to me at P. O. Box 127, Gouldsboro PA 18424. You can also reach me by phone at 570-842-6095. Thought for the day – “Speak kind words, hear kind echoes.”

Kathie Herling

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Ginny has asked me to write a short monthly column on Trinity's Social Concerns. You might reasonably ask what an artist knows about these things. I did major in history in college and had the equivalent of a minor in philosophy and religion. I have kept an active interest and involvement in the connection between these fields ever since. That is, the attempt to express the values we affirm each Sunday in the Monday to Saturday world. I will also be taking a course with Bishop Paul this fall to deepen my understanding of these matters.

In this first column, I wish to present an overview which will be spelled out in specific issues and projects in future months. Long before good news/bad news jokes, early Christians gave us the word gospel, meaning good news, which, of course, implies that there is bad news as well. The bad news for all who hope to express values in the world is that the world can't be made perfect. Even its best times are impermanent, like the world itself, and natural disasters and the perversity of human nature make it impossible to imagine an earthly paradise where "God will wipe away every tear" (Revelation's vision of a heavenly paradise). But the good news is that it is worthwhile to try. Not only do we "save the starfish" we are trying to help, but it makes a difference in saving our souls as well.

Along with his inimitable stories to illustrate them, Jesus gave us two rules, which are really three, to live by. We are to love God, our neighbor and ourselves. Paradoxically, we need to achieve the third one in order to meet the first two with all our hearts. These columns will be about loving your neighbor, but based on the belief that all three are inseparably important.

For humankind, loving your neighbor begins in self restraint. We are such a capable species that if each of us sought only his or her own betterment without thought of others, we would end up destroying ourselves and our environment. To the age-old Golden Rule - treat others as you would be treated - Jesus added a new dimension - "Love your neighbor as yourself" - not as Lady Bountiful doing good works, but because your neighbor is as close to you as the ones you most dearly love, and as worthy of your care and concern. Next month we will survey ways that this concern is being expressed at Trinity and consider possibilities for further action. Your ideas and comments are welcome.

Peter Salmon
629-0644







