

TRINITY NEWS

September, 2006

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MT. POCONO PA

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

Christian Formation ~ A Life-long Adventure

Sitting in the shade of the porch at the beach house, looking out between the two houses in front and towards the bay, I know that summer days are waning and soon we will gather again with great joy and anticipation for the start-up of our Christian Formation program for the nine months ahead. It occurs to me that such a time frame, as with human gestation, is no accident. Formation is intended to bring new life into the world, and then continues as an on-going process, through the seasons of the years and of our lives. There are times of vigorous activity balanced with times for rest and reflection. Summer is potentially the longest of those at least for our kids. This summer was a lively time for adults at Trinity both during our Wednesday evening study of the Gospel According to Mark and Sunday morning "Coffee and Conversation with the Rector" which was comprised of a great diversity of topics!

On September 10th we will share and enjoy a light repast during the hour between services when we will have the opportunity to have informal conversation, ask questions and register for various opportunities. Our pre-schoolers, ages 3 to 6, will once again have the opportunity to participate in the "Godly Play" program. This is an outstanding learning opportunity for the youngest among us. It honors their deep spirituality and their uninhibited inquisitiveness in an atmosphere of love and encouragement. The "Spirit Kids" group is for those in grades one through six. Using materials which focus on the lessons being read in worship, our kids and their teachers explore together the wondrous expressions of God's unconditional love. The Adult Class will meet in the library to consider the lessons of the day, with the shared leadership of participants who are called to this ministry.

And at other times during the week there are opportunities for learning and growing together as well. The Wednesday evening study this autumn will begin on September 20th. We will work with the Millennium Development Goals, using materials developed by the National Council of Churches as our major resource. An Inquirers' Class for those who wish to be Confirmed (grades 7 and up), to be received into the Episcopal Church, or to renew their Baptismal Covenant will be offered. That program will culminate with Bishop Paul's visit to us for Candlemas, Friday, **February 2, 2007**. Please put that date on your calendar. It is the time when we support those who are making such commitments as we celebrate the feast of The Presentation of Our Lord and welcome our Bishop in our midst.

Because it is important for families to worship together regularly and because there are some days when we particularly want our younger members to be in church (such as the Blessing of the Animals on the first Sunday of October), a schedule of those Sundays has been developed. You will find that information elsewhere in this newsletter. It is a blessing to be part of a parish family in which all adults recognize the youngest among us as children of God who are welcome at the Lord's table and who have things to teach us as we share the journey together.

May God bless each and every one of us as we seek to grow in our knowledge and love of the Lord so that we may be faithful messengers of the Good News.

In His Name,
Ginny+



SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER, 2006

September 6 - 8:30-Noon Trinity at Food Pantry
September 10 - 9am Christian Education Registration
7pm Trinity Praise, Parish Hall
September 12 - 7pm Vestry Library
September 13 - 9:30am Prayer Chain Meeting, Library
September 20 & 27 - 6:15pm Potluck & Study, Parish Hall
September 22 - Newsletter Deadline for Articles & Info.
September 23 - 8:30-11:30am Trinity at Food Pantry
September 29 - Newsletter Mailing
October 1 - 10am Blessing of the Animals
October 4 - 8:30am-12:30pm Trinity at Food Pantry
October 4, 11, 18, 25 - 6:15pm Potluck & Study, Parish Hall
October 8 - 11:30am Parish Annual Meeting, Parish Hall
October 10 - 7pm Vestry, Library
October 13 & 14 Diocesan Convention, Bethlehem
October 14 - 8:30 - 11:30am Trinity at Food Pantry
October 15 - 10am Vestry Commissioning
October 21 - 9am-3pm Vestry Quiet Day, Church
October 22 - 10am Children's Sabbath

SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1 Tom Mettler
2 Kyle Smith
6 Peter Salmon
8 Carol Butiste
8 Kelly Johnson
10 Betty Speicher
10 Lillian Waters
15 Jean Weiss
19 Mary Banzhof
21 Grace Fierro
25 Lexie Vicich
27 Martin Baboolal
27 Lois Rothrock
28 Steve Clark
29 Kathy Kenney

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

17 Bill & Barb Gessner
19 Ed & Caroline Passno

YOGA CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!

Strengthen your body, mind, and spirituality by doing yoga. The class is geared to the young, the old, and anyone in between. We focus on specific postures to increase joint mobility, core stabilization, and muscular balance while centering our mind. The class is being held on Monday evenings at 7p.m, in the parish hall. Classes are \$5 each. You may pay as you go or pay a month in advance. Please join us. Aren't you worth it?

Pastoral Care News

The Pastoral Care Visitation Team is now in place, and shut-ins in the parish will be receiving calls from various members of the team as they go about their rounds. If you know of someone who should be visited and we don't have them on our list, please let us know. (Note to team members – be sure to turn in your visitation forms to Ginny and let me know that you've called on your assigned person – feedback is important and so is record keeping. Thanks)

Several people have expressed an interest in joining our group, so we're hoping to have another training session in the near future. Let me know if you'd like to be part of this ministry. Also even if you're not an official visitor, check on your neighbors, particularly those who are elderly, and parishioners who live near you to see if they need any help.

Recently on TV, mention was made of a song that was celebrating an anniversary – it had been written by a family in California 50 years ago. The song is "Let There Be Peace on Earth, and Let it Begin with Me!" Doesn't seem like we've made great progress on that in 50 years.

Kathie Herling

Thought for the Day: Let it Begin with Me.

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
Theresa Goffreri
Bill Lord
Flora Rinker
Rudy Roscher
Jon Ross
Ester Stein
Allistair Stewart
Rhonda Treible
Marion Braithwaite

Lauren Boyadis
Jacob Gower
Deborah Gower
Mary Baker
Nancy Curtis
Jeff Landi
Raphael Bannister
Stacey
Martin Kilanowski
Phyllis Chase
Richard Backora
Anita Rivera
Natashia Tomala

TREASURERS REPORT - JULY, 2006

Total Contributions:	\$12,377.40	Budget Pledged Offerings	\$7517.00
Total Expenditure:	\$11,669.40	Pledges received	\$9050.50
Monthly Net income:	\$708.00		

Our pledge support for Trinity church for July 2006 was increased as shown above, however the total contributions year to date are still less than our expenses, this means that Trinity is still working with a loss financially.

Year to date income	\$73,633.15
Year to date expenditures	\$80,902.48
Net income Year to date	(-\$ 7,269.33)

Please continue to pray for our financial stability this year.

Michael Goodwin - Treasurer.

The nominating committee for the Vestry, Mary Alice Holmes, Kelly Johnson, and Michael Goodwin, have nominated the following people to serve on the Vestry for Three Year Terms beginning October, 2006: Jan Anglemire, Bill Herling and George Waters

PROXY

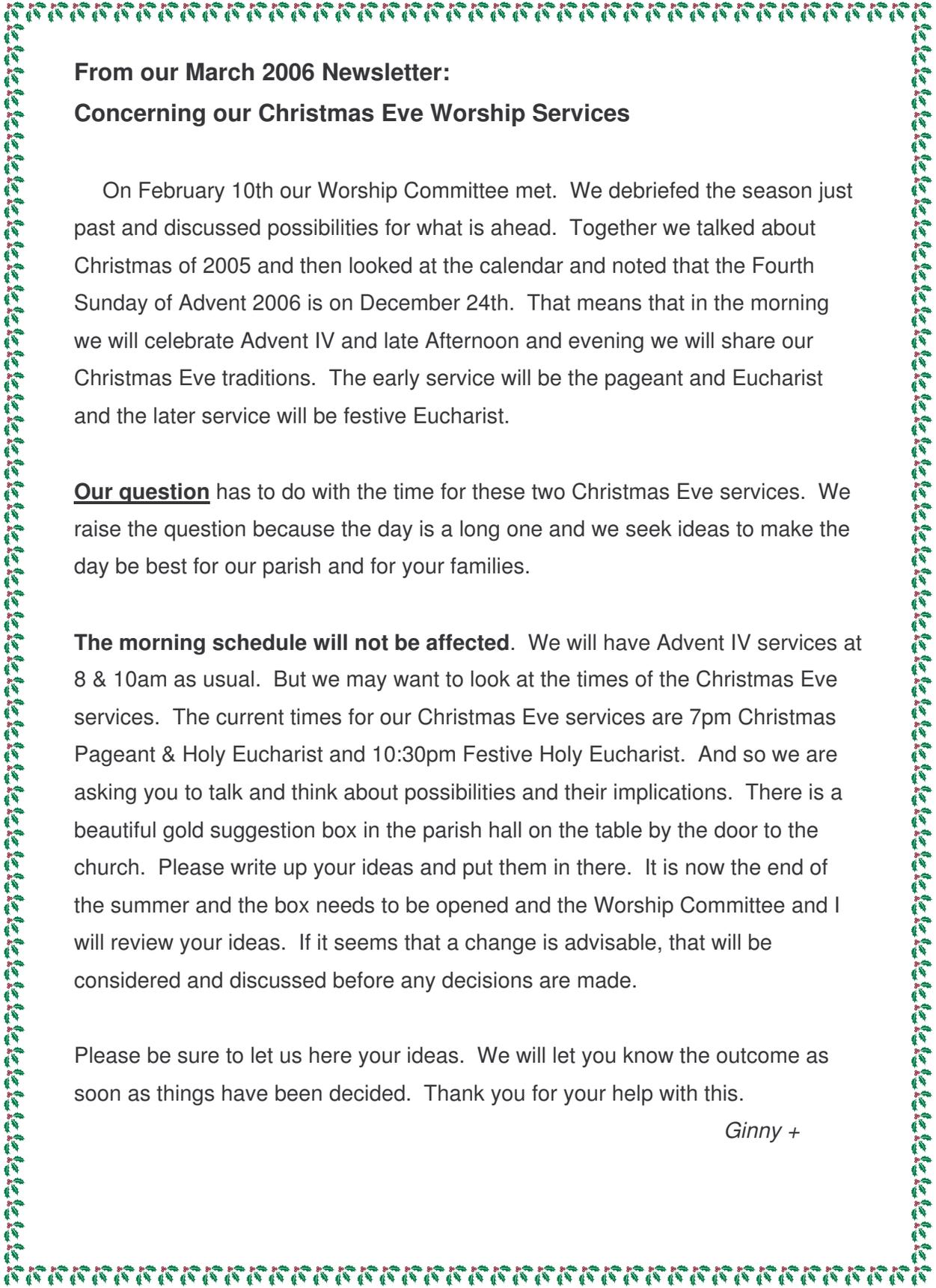
I (we), _____ appoint

_____ or the secretary of the Vestry (indicate one) to act as my (our) proxy for all matters that may come before the Annual Meeting of the congregation of Trinity Church, Mt. Pocono to be held on Sunday, October 8, 2006 and any extensions thereof.

Signed _____

Print Name _____

Note: The Secretary of the Vestry, if designated, will vote for the candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee and in favor of any other matters that have been approved by the Vestry.



**From our March 2006 Newsletter:
Concerning our Christmas Eve Worship Services**

On February 10th our Worship Committee met. We debriefed the season just past and discussed possibilities for what is ahead. Together we talked about Christmas of 2005 and then looked at the calendar and noted that the Fourth Sunday of Advent 2006 is on December 24th. That means that in the morning we will celebrate Advent IV and late Afternoon and evening we will share our Christmas Eve traditions. The early service will be the pageant and Eucharist and the later service will be festive Eucharist.

Our question has to do with the time for these two Christmas Eve services. We raise the question because the day is a long one and we seek ideas to make the day be best for our parish and for your families.

The morning schedule will not be affected. We will have Advent IV services at 8 & 10am as usual. But we may want to look at the times of the Christmas Eve services. The current times for our Christmas Eve services are 7pm Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist and 10:30pm Festive Holy Eucharist. And so we are asking you to talk and think about possibilities and their implications. There is a beautiful gold suggestion box in the parish hall on the table by the door to the church. Please write up your ideas and put them in there. It is now the end of the summer and the box needs to be opened and the Worship Committee and I will review your ideas. If it seems that a change is advisable, that will be considered and discussed before any decisions are made.

Please be sure to let us here your ideas. We will let you know the outcome as soon as things have been decided. Thank you for your help with this.

Ginny +

As summer comes to an end, I am very eager to begin another year with our wonderful Trinity children. I have many activities planned for the upcoming year in Sunday school to enrich our children's spirituality.

Traditionally, we will begin our new year with a Welcome Breakfast and Registration on September 10th. After which we will gather for our service, plant flowers in our garden and complete a banner to hang in the vestibule.

My goals this year are to allow the children to grow spiritually and to help create a sense of belonging and understanding of our church. We will learn this through song, prayer, stories and activities. Our Trinity children will be attending church services as a Sunday school group and participating in the service in many ways. We will also complete several stewardship projects to teach the children how important it is give back to our church and God. I am planning "Craft Sundays" for the children after church periodically through the year so that we can create crafts to sell at the festival. Please note the Sundays we all worship together - October 1, Blessing of the Animals; December 31, Sunday after Christmas; April 1, Palm Sunday; April 8, Easter Sunday; May 27, Pentecost.

I am always open to new ideas for activities and welcome new volunteers to help. Please let me know if you are interested. As always, I look forward to working with your child in the upcoming year. I hope to see all of you on September 10th.

Peace and blessing,

Marianne Ayers

Welcome back from what I pray and hope was a prayer filled summer season for you.

My summer has been amazing. Bishop Paul accepted me as a postulant toward candidacy for ordination as a deacon and life has led me to people in need. Some strangers, some friends, some family. For all of that I give great thanks to God for granting me love, courage and strength.

Parts of this writing are from an email that I quickly typed off from my blackberry and sent to Ginny. This all took place on 31 July 2006 and I share this with you as I believe that I've been led to do so.

As I rushed to my Times Square shuttle from Grand Central to Port Authority, I was delayed by an old man walking up the stairs toward me. He was bent over and had to crane his neck to see as he walked up the steps of the hot passageway with bags in tow. He needed the handrail and I could not pass for the throng rushing past him. So I stepped back and waited for him to safely work his way up the stairs. His pace, and our positioning, caused me to miss my shuttle. The shuttle doors closed as I approached, but I never thought to be angry about my delay caused by that old man. One result was that I missed my bus back home to Mount Pocono. Another result was much different.

I boarded the near empty shuttle (which would fill in a moment) once it approached and I took my seat.

Four young, good looking, college age men had already been seated near me and a 5th stood in the center of the car. As the doors closed, the one standing announced "Good afternoon, my name is Doug"

"Another street/subway performer," I thought. I try to support them as feasible, however, I had no cash with me -- only a metro card and my bank card. I looked away, so as to not make eye contact and allow guilt to set in me when I would ultimately walk on by without a donation.

Doug continued, "I'm traveling the country and I am here in New York for only one reason -- to profess my love for Jesus Christ and His love for you"

He was so charming and well spoken with medium length curly hair and brown eyes. He looked like any other college kid heading out with his buddies to check out the girls and toss back a few drinks, dressed in gym shorts, a t-shirt, and sandals.

He then spoke of how we will live forever with God because of the sacrifice Jesus made and that we need to accept Christ and profess Christ. He spoke of how much God loves us and all He asks is that we love Him in return. There was no banter about repentance or change. This young man was there just to state that God loves us unconditionally and we need to do the same.

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A few people laughed at Doug and that bothered me. So, when he announced that he was going to lead us in prayer and asked that we repeat after him, I did. Of course his four friends did also, and others joined in.

As we slowly rumbled into the station, several people approached him to talk.

What a presence he had! His friends looked on proudly as he spoke. "This is awesome," said one.

They remained in their positions waiting for the next carload of people to be shuttled back to Grand Central. I wondered how many trips they would make and how many people they would reach. One? Two? Thanks be to God!

As I walked past him, I thanked Doug and asked him to please never stop what he is doing.

Then I cried.

As I walked to Port Authority, I felt lonely and missed him and his friends and the way they spread the message.

I'm crying again as I write this. I can only begin to imagine how those who followed Jesus felt.

I conclude with two quotes which have helped greatly to assist me through my own trials this summer.

"As your faith is strengthened you will find that there is no longer the need to have a sense of control, that things will flow as they will, and that you will flow with them, to your great delight and benefit". ~Emmanuel Teney

"Before we can pray to the Lord 'Your Kingdom come,' we must be willing to pray, 'My Kingdom go'." ~Alan Redpath (adapted)

Submitted with love & respect,

Rob McMahon

Chair, Evangelism Leadership Team

Social Concerns: "All Kings Have Wars"

In my parents' college days students amused themselves by sitting on top of flag poles eating goldfish. In my more serious era a prevailing fad was the riskier one of trying to discover your supposed past lives through hypnosis. My roommate Warren volunteered to be a subject and found in his trance that he was a French peasant. "Who is the king?" asked the hypnotist, trying to locate him in time. "Louis, Louis is the king," said Warren. That didn't help much, since France had XVIII kings named Louis. "Does the king have any wars?" asked the hypnotist, still trying to pin him down. "All kings have wars," was Warren's classic answer.

War has indeed been a constant theme all through the 6000 years of recorded history and is often considered an inevitable part of human existence. In the 19th Century, the German military analyst von Clausewitz stated it as a doctrine, quickly adopted by the German state: "War is the continuation of policy by other means." After the initial successes of Bismark that doctrine ultimately proved disastrous for Germany. Yet, unaccountably, after defeating Germany in two world wars American leaders of both parties adopted it as our own.

It is simply not true. War is almost always the failure of policy and fails in its aims as well. America's recent unsuccessful efforts in Iraq and Viet Nam are part of this larger pattern. The results of using war to gain political ends have included the collapse of many of the empires that tried it, unmeasured suffering inflicted on innocent people, material destruction and a failure to achieve the war's goals. Yet wars continue because we don't seem to know a better way,

Are there other ways to handle conflict? One would hope that religions aiming to express the love of God in the practical world would have something useful to say. They do, but it is not always heard. In today's world one wishes that responsible Moslem leaders would say clearly that terrorist attacks on civilians and flying planeloads of innocent people into buildings are not the teaching of their religion. It is also up to Christians to tell our leaders that there is a better way.

There have been three classic Christian answers to these questions. One, which began with the Emperor Constantine in the 4th Century, has been to assume that since we are Christians God is on our side and whatever we fight for is right. Unfortunately for the logic of this position, it has most often involved one set of Christians fighting against another. And in fighting other cultures it has been a justification for inflicting horrors like the A-bombs of World War II. Nor does it find any support in the sayings of Jesus or writings of St Paul.

Continued...

Social Concerns continued...

Jesus clearly preached an ideal of personal pacifism in response to enemies. But many commentators have noted that he was preaching a personal ethic, not prescribing policy for the Roman empire. Still, in the 60 years since World War II this ethic, in the form of nonviolent resistance to evil, has been the consistently most effective strategy for "pursuing policy by other means". The work of Gandhi in India, Martin Luther King in our own South and mass movements in South Africa and the whole Soviet empire have marked this as the way to proceed if you want to achieve constructive change that works - as opposed to flying planes into buildings.

But nonviolent resistance has been successful as a way for oppressed people to achieve their goals - it has not been used as a method of national defense by a government trying to protect its people from injustice. This brings us to the third Christian strategy, formulated by St Augustine - the concept of fighting a "just war". Augustine lays down the conditions. The war must only be fought after all peaceful efforts at settlement have failed. The goal of the war itself must be just (which, for example, would not include preserving the status quo of rich people at the expense of the poor). The suffering caused by the war should not be greater than the suffering it is trying to prevent. The means used should themselves be just, not inflicting suffering on the innocent. Few wars would pass these rigorous tests.

These have been the Christian answers, but what is the practical answer when faced with an enemy that doesn't follow these rules? "Put your trust in God and keep your powder dry," said Colonel Blacker. Until a better world order is established you do maintain a military establishment sufficient to deter attacks on your country and like-minded allies - that is keeping your powder dry. But trusting in God means also working to establish God's political, social and economic justice in the world so that people everywhere have a stake in the peaceful world God intends for us. And you keep your priorities straight. We would be a lot further along the road to peace if we almost reversed the huge sums we spend on armaments and the much smaller amount we spend on helping people. We could then truly live in a world where we no longer had to say, "All kings have wars."

Peter Salmon