

TRINITY NEWS

October, 2006

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MT. POCONO PA

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

September was entered rather gently as we moved from the different pace of summer to the realities that come with the impending arrival of autumn. That season is now with us and an abundance of opportunities lay before us as we continue to celebrate our life together and to reach out to the world beyond our doors. Elsewhere you will find an article about our MySpace page. I am so grateful for the effort that is going into that work which has been begun and is continued by our Webmaster, Erik Gregory. The responses to our page have been amazing. I have had occasion to answer questions and concerns expressed in the e-mail that our 'friends' on MySpace have sent. On the bulletin board we announced our Blessing of the Animals. As time moves along other events will be described there. Erik has reminded us that Jesus did not wait for people to come to him, but went to them. In reaching out through MySpace we are following Our Lord's example in a powerful electronic way that responds to the postmodern world.

On the first Sunday of this month we will enjoy our annual Blessing of the Animals at the 10 AM service. Your pets are welcome at that worship service, and will receive a blessing after communion. This is a rather boisterous time when we celebrate the wonders of God's creation. Carol Butiste and the others on our hospitality crew do a delightful job of providing special treats for the critters, including apples for Jack.

On the second Sunday of this month we will gather after the 10 AM service for our annual parish meeting. Please be sure to be there. We only gather in this way once a year so I would hope to see a large and enthusiastic turn-out. We will have extra goodies for coffee hour so that you will feel nourished sufficiently to participate! We will be electing three members to the vestry and conducting other business as required by the laws of Pennsylvania and the Canons of the Episcopal Church and of the Diocese.

On the third Sunday of this month we will commission our Vestry for the coming year. The following Saturday is their retreat. This year it will be a Quiet Day here at church so the building will not be available for any other activities until after 3 PM that day. Thank you for your cooperation.

The fourth Sunday of October is the annual National Observance of Children's Sabbaths. Along with faith communities all over this country we will focus our efforts on God's call and commandment for the faithfully to advocate and enact justice for the most vulnerable ones, children and the poor. Marianne Ayers and I have been working together on the materials provided by the Children's Defense Fund. In the presence of our children we are reminded of the children of the world. Overwhelming numbers of them live in poverty; 30,000 under the age of 5 die of hunger each day; primary education is a luxury in much of the world; nine million kids in our country don't have health insurance; elsewhere untold numbers have no access to medical care at all. Those participating in the Wednesday evening study of the Millennium Development Goals can give you more information. Data is available from many sources.

On the last Sunday of the month (yes, there are five Sundays this month!) The Venerable Howard Stringfellow, Archdeacon of the Diocese will be with us to preach and celebrate. We are honored to have him with us on this day.

At our convention on October 13-14 we will be hearing much more about how we in the Diocese of Bethlehem are being called to respond to the global poverty crises which impact adults as well as children. Bishop Paul has informally named the effort "Not for Ourselves." There is no question about the mandate from Jesus for this work. The only question has to do with how we put into action what we know to be our mandate.

All of this is about our life together in Christ and in this community of children of God who seek to be disciples. May God bless the ministry we share.

Shalom,
Ginny+



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER, 2006

October 1 - 10am Blessing of the Animals
 October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - 7pm Yoga, Parish Hall
 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 16 - 7pm Prayer Beading, Library
 October 21 - 9am-3pm Vestry Quiet Day, Church
 October 22 - 10am Children's Sabbath
 November 1 - 8:30-11:30am Trinity at Food Pantry
 November 6, 13, 20, 27 - 7pm Yoga, Parish Hall
 November 11 & 18 - 9-11:30am Confirmation & Inquirer's
 Class, Library
 November 14 - 7pm Vestry, Library
 November 20 - 7pm Prayer Beading Library
 December 2 - 10am-4pm Christmas Bazaar, Parish Hall
 February 2 - 7pm Bishop Paul's Visit to Trinity

OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

4 Mary Cole
 8 Ginny Day
 17 Mary Alice Holmes
 19 Neil Anglemire
 21 Bob Storm
 22 Bob O'Grady
 25 Stephanie Anglemire
 29 Merrill Nanton, IV
 30 Tom Salmon

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

6 Al & June Eisenecker
 10 Craig & Jan Anglemire
 14 Bob & Carol Butiste
 14 David & Eleanor Price
 25 Tom & Virginia Parry
 25 Bob & Peg Winters

Pastoral Care News

Several times over the past few years, we have received phone calls or e-mails from people in distance places, checking to see if we're okay after weather reports of heavy snow, or bad rain or windstorms in the area. This is always comforting to know that friends are thinking of us and checking on our welfare.

The same should hold true with our friends in the parish – I don't mean just a particular person that you have become friendly with, but all parishioners who are, after all, members of our family in Christ. Give a call, not just in times of weather worries or storm reports, but at any time you think of it – to someone in the parish who you know is alone at home and would be most appreciative of a phone call. Just knowing that someone cares about you can be a big boost when you're by yourself and don't get 'out and about' much. Hopefully, you all have copies of the Parish Directory – browse through it and see a name that's familiar to you, or an address that you know is in 'your neck of the woods' and give that person a friendly call. If you don't have a Parish Directory, they're available at the church office and are updated regularly.

Parish visitors should be out on their rounds even as I write this – stopping by to see those that we know are shut-ins. Let us know if you need to be on that list and we'll try to get someone out to see you. Now that we're approaching the winter months where we all get a bit of cabin fever, visits from friends can be very helpful. Have you ever noticed that share, care and prayer all rhyme!

Kathie Herling

Trinity Episcopal Church Mission Statement:

**Share Gods Unconditional Love
With Everyone.**

*Trinity Episcopal Church
HCR 1 Box 25
Mt. Pocono PA 18344*

Phone: 570-839-9376

Fax: 570-839-7277

Email: trinitychurch@nni.com

Website: TrinityMtPocono.org

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
Jeff Landi
Raphael Bannister
Stacey
Martin Kilanowski
Phyllis Chase
Richard Backora
Anita Rivera
Natashia Tomala
Alex Boehm
Taylor Ayers
Annie Turner

TREASURERS REPORT - AUGUST, 2006

Total Contributions: \$10,229.67
Total Expenditure: \$11,438.94

Net income: \$-1,139.27

Budget Pledged Offerings: \$7,517.00
Monthly Pledges received \$7,137.93

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.

eVANGELISM.com

The following is an article which Canon Bill Lewellis asked to be written for an upcoming edition of Diocesan Life. We've created quite a bit of excitement around the diocese. Here is the article.

Welcome to the future. It's called online evangelism. Trinity Episcopal Church in Mount Pocono, through the efforts of its webmaster Erik Gregory, has launched its own page on MySpace.com. This is the first (of which we hope to be many) in the diocese of Bethlehem and one of a handful of churches to do so across the nation.

MySpace is a social networking website offering an interactive, user-submitted network of friends, personal profiles, blogs, groups, photos, music, and videos. MySpace also features an internal search engine and an internal e-mail system. The service is free to all users and therefore free to the church. According to Alexa Internet, it is currently the world's fourth most popular English-language website, the sixth most popular website in any language and the third most popular website in the United States, though it has topped the chart on various weeks. The service has gradually gained more popularity than similar websites to achieve nearly 80 percent of visits to online social networking websites. It has become an increasingly influential part of contemporary popular culture. With the 100 millionth account being created on August 9, 2006 and a news story claiming 106 million accounts on September 8, 2006, the site reportedly attracts new registrations at a rate of 230,000 per day.

The site contains a link to Trinity's website as well as information about the church, worship, and upcoming events. In its first two weeks, Trinity gained 70 new "friends" and its profile has been visited over 300 times. The friends that Trinity has attracted are mostly under the age of 30, an age group not often seen in churches. Through the use of MySpace, Trinity has been able to actively reach out to people who are seeking a closer relationship with God.

Members can be sought out and asked to be a "friend" by using search criteria such as geographical location, gender, age, orientation and other identifiers. The "User's Friends Space" contains a count of a user's friends, a "Top Friends" area, and a link to view all of the user's friends.

Some new friends have emailed Trinity inquiring about a new church home. One emailed asking for advice within the first week. A single mother was about to lose her home and didn't know where to turn. Trinity was able to assist her by referring her to local agencies that could provide temporary housing and possibly assist her financially to get back on her feet again! She as also assured her that she would be held in prayer.

With this pioneering approach, Trinity has been able to invite new members to church. More importantly, however, is that Trinity is going to the people who are seeking. There are over 3,000 MySpace users under the age of 35 within a 20 mile radius who Erik is reaching out to individually. As Erik commented, "Jesus didn't wait for the people to come to Him, He went to the people."

Please visit us at www.myspace.com/trinitymountpocono.

Warmly,
Rob McMahon
Chair, Evangelism Leadership Team



FUND RAISER

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

DECEMBER 2, 2006

10AM - 4PM

WE NEED: HANDMADE ITEMS,
ORNAMENTS, CHRISTMAS GIFTS,

WOODEN ITEMS, AND

BAKED GOODS

BRING THE WHOLE

FAMILY FOR

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING,

HAVE A GREAT LUNCH,

AND SUPPORT

YOUR CHURCH!

When I returned from vacation, there was a business card in my mail box in the office. It was from The Rev. Vincent G. (Chip) Seadale, the Associate Rector at Christ Church in Ponta Vedra Beach, Florida. He had stopped by to borrow a Prayer Book. His card included his e-mail address so I sent him a note. He responded with this delightful story which I want to share with you, having been granted his permission to do so.

Dear Ginny,

Thanks for the nice note. I was delighted to find your beautiful little church. Since I was visiting my father and his mother and her sister that weekend, and learned that my grandmother and her sister don't have any idea whether they had been baptized over 90 years ago, I performed a couple of very meaningful baptisms in the presence of family that weekend! Glad I could borrow a prayer book from you.

I imagine you might be related to the Charles Day from Mt. Pocono who writes letters to (or is it book reviews for?) the Living Church periodically. Our family has had a place down near Lake Naomi since the early 40s, I think, and my dad was best friends with a guy named Joe Miller, whose family put all that together down there. If I get up there once a year to visit, that's a lot, but I have lots of fond memories of the Poconos from my childhood.

Blessings in your continued ministry there.

Peace,
Chip+

Note #29319 from Rob McMahon to BETHLEHEM OF PA:

Well, it's the weekend and we could probably all use some levity. So

I bake the Altar Bread that we use for Eucharist. I spoke with Frank on his cell phone earlier and told him that I need a bag of Whole Wheat Flour so I can bake Altar Bread.

"Where do I find something like that?" He asked. My reply was "Anywhere ... Bill's, Mr. Z's . any grocery store."

A short while later he rang back to say that he went to Bill's, was now at Mr. Z's, and wanted to know if I could use something different as neither store carries Holy Flour.

Yeesh.

Rob McMahon
Trinity Mt. Pocono

SOCIAL CONCERNS

"Solving the Puzzle"

In contrast to last month's long essay, we offer a quick parable based on an idea in a recent book, " My Cat Saved My life". It offers another answer to our wondering if our small efforts to help can make any difference in a problem-filled world.

In the long winter evenings after the holiday bustle, Linda likes to work on one of those 1000-piece puzzles. There is a great feeling of triumph as the picture finally takes shape. But there can be an equally great feeling of frustration when it becomes evident that one piece must be missing. Like the housewife with the lost coin described by Jesus, we will scour the house, looking under the couch, down in the depths of the armchair and other places that don't always see the vacuum until we find it so she can experience the joy and satisfaction of a complete picture.

So, too, although we may often think our efforts are insignificant in view of the world's enormous problems, each of us is part of God's complete picture of the world. The way our interlocking pieces reach out and fit the needs of others does make a difference in achieving a harmonious whole. Think of how much you accomplished recently, with Tom Sayer's leadership, in providing a lift van for Alex Boehm. And of all you have done through your support of the Hunger Ministry, the Heifer Project and Episcopal Relief and Development for many years. As the needs they respond to continue, we hope and believe you will continue to contribute your piece of blue sky to complete God's picture of benevolent concern for the world. Thank you.

Peter Salmon