

TRINITY NEWS

October, 2007

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MT. POCONO PA

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

Following Jesus...

On October 3rd we begin our study of *Following Jesus in a Culture of Fear* by Scott Bader-Saye. All are welcome to participate. The book is right on target and very timely. If you ever feel that you'd like to stop the world and get off, or go disappear somewhere, this book makes it clear that all of us who have that experience are part of an ever-widening community of the 21st century. The work before us is to prayerfully discern how to displace the fears that many in the media and many politicians continually place before us.

I remember a first sense of being told that something was bad for us - particularly in our diets. Butter is bad. Eggs are bad. White flour is bad. And on and on. So we invented substitutes using various chemicals and next we learn that some of those aren't so good for us either. Steak is bad, milk from cows that have been given hormones to increase production is bad. Try soy milk. Then some discover allergic reactions to soy. Whatever we like to eat or drink is bad for us in some kind of way. We try to figure out a healthy diet and we're afraid of what will happen to us if we don't.

There are the fears of every day live, such as walking down the street in a big city. But are we any safer in rural areas? Personal safety becomes a huge priority. We'll do anything in order to stay safe. And I have to wonder what it means to be safe. Safe from what? From death? We're all going to do that, but we hope that it won't be in a violent situation. Safe from disease? That has never been possible. We keep working to discern ways to treat disease. And sometimes we succeed and that's a good thing. From time to time some people are still ostracized by the community because they have a particular disease. What sort of fear leads to such behavior?

Are we safe from conflict, from assault? Are we safe crossing the street where we live? One could wish to become a hermit. But are we safe in a cave? We need to take another look, develop a new perspective on how we live our lives in this time in history. This book is a hugely helpful tool for us.

In J. K. Rowling's 7th and final volume in the Harry Potter series, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, chapter 24 includes the telling of "The Tale of the Three Brothers." This is a spooky story about which Ron says "I just think it's a bit spookier if it's midnight." Harry's response speaks for where many of us are, "Yeah, because we really need a bit more fear in our lives." (page 407). The tone of sarcasm leaps off the page at the reader, and we nod in agreement with Harry. (This volume is the book of the month. See elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Following Jesus is not an easy journey. We know that. We hear the risks in Our Lord's conversations with his disciples, friends, relatives, and the masses of people that came to learn from him. He expects us to take risks if we are to be faithful. Can we do that or are we just too fear-filled?

A special invitation...

Scott Bader-Saye will be with us on October 3rd to begin our journey with his work. He will talk about his experience of writing the book. Potluck will begin at about 6:15 and will be followed by Dr. Bader-Saye's conversation with us. There will be opportunity to ask questions. Come. Invite your friends. You'll be glad you did!

May we learn to live without fear, walking faithfully with one another and our God.

Ginny+



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER, 2007

October 3 - 8:30am - 12:30pm Trinity at Food Pantry
October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - 6:15pm Potluck & Study, Parish Hall
October 4 - 9:30-11:00am Bible Study, Library
October 6 - National Acolyte Festival, Washington, D.C.
October 14, 21, 28 - 9-9:45am Confirmation Class
October 7, 14, 28 - 11:30am - 12:30pm Choir Rehearsal, Library
October 7 - 9am Prayer Chain Meeting, Rector's Office
10am Blessing of the Animals
October 9 - 7pm Vestry, Library
October 12 & 13 - Diocesan Convention, Cathedral Church
of the Nativity, Bethlehem
October 19 - Newsletter Deadline for Articles & Information
October 21 - 11:30am Annual Meeting, Parish Hall
October 26 - Newsletter Mailing
October 27 - 9am - 3pm Vestry Retreat, Parry Residence
October 28 - 10am Vestry Commissioning
November 1 - 9am Holy Eucharist, All Saints' Day
November 1, 15, 29 - 9:30am Bible Study, Library
November 4, 11, 18 - 9-9:45am Confirmation Class, Y

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

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

570-839-9376

570-839-7277

trinitychurch@nni.com

Website: TrinityMtPocono.org

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
Benjamin Gower
Jacob Gower
Deborah Gower
Mary Baker
Jeff Landi
Stacey
Anita Rivera
Alex Boehm
Violet McMahon
Victoria Forstein

Rose Smith
Karen Kern
Lynn Tinsley
Rob McMahon
Betsey Hassrick
George Emery
Lois Rothrock
Dick Orner

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows by J. K. Rowling is the 7th and final volume in this massive series. The Harry Potter saga has had an interesting history. Recently I had the opportunity to hear John Granger, who refers to himself as Hogwarts Professor (website: www.hogwartsprofessor.com), unpack the extensive Christian symbolism that imbues this series from the beginning. For me, the evening was a beginning. I am glad that I have read each volume as it was published. As I listened to Mr. Granger, who is an Orthodox Christian, I realized that I want to go back now and reread the series to move beyond the story line to a greater understanding of the deeper meanings.

This series and the movies based on the individual volumes have increased reading significantly. Interestingly enough, the statistics show us that when a new Harry Potter movie comes out, the book sales go up. This is good news, particularly if we can help people to understand the powerful symbolism and most importantly the triumph of good over evil.

Buildings & Grounds Update

The following is a summary of a report submitted to the vestry for its September meeting:

The last few weeks have seen a flurry of activity at Trinity. Several building projects have been completed to give it a bit of a facelift.

Blake Flaherty finished the fireplace chimney work in August, and then generously donated his costs on the project to Trinity. Donors to the "Fireplace Fund" were asked if their individual contributions could be applied to other building repairs and renovations. Those contacted unanimously said "Yes", so that some of these funds paid for the new floor coverings (they have a grouted tile look) in the narthex and vestibule of the parish hall. Mats for the traffic areas of the flooring were also purchased. All of these were installed on August 29th.

The rear entrance to the parish hall was spruced up by Bill and Kathie Herling in early September. They stained the steps and railings to nicely match the parish hall's exterior trim, and cut back some of the overhanging plants. Also, the Youth Group room (the first one to the right of the steps going downstairs) got new carpeting and a fresh paint job. The latter was ably done by the group's members.

Next up is fixing a small leak in the roof. The leak is over the sanctuary --- a small puddle appears after a heavy rain --- and developed after the cross on the roof was taken down for refinishing. Now in Joan Faulkner's capable hands, the cross should be back in place before cold weather sets in. In the meantime Trinity is getting estimates for repairing the leak.

We'll keep you posted on other work being done on the parish buildings.

Don Scheck

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE VESTRY, CAROL BUTISTE, CINDY HILL & FRED SCHULTZ
HAVE NOMINATED THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE TO SERVE ON THE VESTRY FOR THREE YEAR TERMS
BEGINNING NOVEMBER, 2007 THROUGH OCTOBER, 2010:

- MERRILL NANTON
- CAROLYN TOLLEY
- MICHAEL GOODWIN

PROXY
ANNUAL MEETING TRINITY EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OCTOBER 21, 2007

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 21, 2007 AND ANY EXTENSIONS THEREOF.

SIGNED _____

PRINTED 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.

Social Concerns: Fire and Ice

In his short poem "Fire and Ice", Robert Frost contrasts two views of the end of the world or, at least, life as we know it. Today these views are expressed in the debate over global warming. Several people have asked me to take another look at this issue, discussed here back in April. I therefore read two books presenting two sides of this issue, in addition to my usual sources of information. The books are "The Politically Incorrect Guide to Global Warming" by Christopher Horner of the American Enterprise Institute and "The Weather Makers" by Tim Flannery, a biologist at Australia's Macquarie University.

Those who question global warming suspect it is an environmental hoax being perpetrated on the public for the benefit of organizations, corporations and governments that can profit from people's fears. For example, global warming may be used to justify a return to nuclear energy, in spite of its problems, or to impose a high regressive tax on gasoline. These critics point out that their opponents are the same sources who issued dire warnings of a coming ice age only 25 years ago, raising questions about the scientific credibility of their current predictions of doom.

Horner and others argue that while some glaciers are melting others are being formed; that the lost snows of Kilimanjaro are a result of drought, not temperature; and that although the Arctic ice pack is partly melting, the Antarctic pack is getting thicker. The global rise in temperature recorded as 3.1 degrees F over the past 100 years is a result, in their view, of Russia closing down stations in the Arctic which measured colder temperatures and of urban sprawl near other existing weather stations giving a false picture of warming in their readings. They note that there have always been wide fluctuations in the past, including within the past century.

In contrast, the other side shows that great sections of the Arctic and Antarctic ice packs have melted; that the net loss of glacial ice is tremendous (19 out of 20 glaciers surveyed worldwide in a recent National Geographic article); and that urban sprawl itself is part of the global warming picture.

There are far too many complicated scientific issues for us to sort out, but we may be able to take one issue as an example of all the rest and see where it leads us. Let's look at the question of the Arctic ice pack melting. This pack, of course, covers the Arctic Ocean as well as much of Greenland and parts of other northern lands.

One concern is that rising sea levels from melting ice will inundate coastal cities all over the world. Because floating ice already raises the level of surrounding water, sea ice melting would not raise water levels at all. When land ice melts, several factors must be considered. Water doesn't go straight to the ocean. It creates rivers, ponds and lakes. Some sinks into the ground, especially as the ground thaws, and some is evaporated directly into the air. Still, an appreciable amount will find its way to the ocean and raise the sea level. Estimates of the worst case scenario vary though, from "a few feet" in Horner to 200 feet in Flannery, who notes that sea level was once 300 feet below today's height. The rate of melting would also be affected by other factors. It will increase as more bare rock is exposed since rock absorbs and radiates more heat. And melting ice creates its own slippery river under the block of ice, carrying it to the ocean sooner. On the other hand, the process could be slowed down if, for example, Greenland becomes green again and develops vegetation which traps water in the hydrological cycle. And we don't know that all the ice melt will become sea water: we may just become a cloudier planet, which would have its own problems.

Another concern of ice melting is the effect on wildlife. Although those who deny global warming point out that polar bears can swim if the ice does melt, those bears and other marine animals also need places to haul out and rest. Bears also hunt from the ice pack. Besides this, the ice in general carries nutrients which feed a rich concentration of krill and other small creatures at the base of the food chain that ends up feeding polar bears.

The overall conclusion of this analysis is one I think applies to all aspects of this complex issue. We don't know enough to predict what will happen with anything like absolute confidence. We can be confident that there are possible outcomes that would be dangerous to life as we know it. We should continue to study them and increase our knowledge. Meanwhile we should prudently do as much as possible to slow down this level of change so we can prepare for it and adapt to it as it comes.

We should support reasonable efforts to limit greenhouse gases. They begin with each of us taking responsibility for our effect on the environment. I think of two friends. One, driving along and drinking a soda finishes it and tosses the can out the window. "I'm not littering my environment," he says. "By the time that can hits the ground I won't be there anymore." The other, my college friend Tom, says, "When I'm driving along and tempted to throw a can out the window, I think of Immanuel Kant telling us that an action is moral only if it is right for everyone, and I hear the sound of a million aluminum cans hitting the pavement all at once – so I drive on and look for a recycling bin." Let each of us view our impact on the environment in that spirit.

Peter Salmon

FAITH STATEMENTS

A couple of Sundays ago, the Evangelism Leadership team hosted a luncheon in which we discussed the story of the wandering sheep and the lost coin. Together, a delicious meal was enjoyed (the recipe appears below) and life stories were shared. This sharing of our lives is so richly done at these luncheons and is a beautifully warm way to learn and grow together. I always find it quite moving to walk past and hear brief bits of these. During these discussions, everyone was invited to share their "Faith Statements" on graffiti boards at their tables. These boards are posted in the entrance to the parish hall for viewing. I highly commend them to you as you ponder your own faith statements.

I spent some time thinking about the parable of the 100th sheep and the 10th coin and what my faith statement of the day would be. I thought of other stories from the Bible; barren vineyards, fruitless fig trees, relentless whales on a mission, wandering sheep, lost coins, prodigal sons, mustard seeds, leaven hidden in measures of meal, and a gate to Heaven so narrow that camels can comparatively pass through the eyes of needles with more ease than pop stars pass through rehab! I must confess that finding a faith statement can be, at times, a challenge. Challenges, however, often reaffirm our faith. We commit ourselves to search and to seek, to question and to learn, to live and to grow. By sharing these challenges with others, we show them that it is natural and common to have questions about our faith in order to build upon it. Sharing our faith statements as we live our lives is one way of heeding our call to the Great Commission. It is also a way for God to speak to others through us. One who is lost needs to know the presence of God in his or her life, and that when we feel lost and search for God, God is busily searching for us.

A friend visited me recently to seek counsel and solace regarding a very serious conversation we had. As this unfolded, I worked hard at holding back a big old smile, lest my friend think I lack sincerity and concern. My smile, however, was because it was clear to me that God had spoken directly to this person through another party. There was no doubt in either mind that this was true. So, my faith statement ... "God is."

Respectfully submitted,

Rob McMahon
Chair, Evangelism Leadership team

CHICKEN CASSEROLE

4-6 Skinless, boneless chicken breasts cut into bite size pieces

1 reg. size bag frozen mixed vegetables

12 oz. sour cream

1 tablespoon dried onion pieces

1 can cream of mushroom soup

1 ½ rolls Ritz crackers (crushed)

1 stick melted butter

Enough slices of white American cheese to cover top of casserole (approx. 10-12)

Cook cut up chicken in small amount of olive oil until slightly brown. Place cooked chicken in a 9 x 12 glass or aluminum pan. Cook mixed vegetables in bag in microwave for about 10 minutes. Add to the chicken and mix well. In large bowl mix sour cream and cream of mushroom soup until smooth. Add dried onion pieces to mixture. Add this mixture to the cooked chicken and vegetables mix well. Smooth top with spoon. Cover completely with white American cheese slices. Sprinkle crushed crackers on top to cover and drizzle with melted butter. Bake in 350 oven for about 30 minutes.