

TRINITY NEWS

November, 2006

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MT. POCONO PA

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

Autumn, 2006 has gotten off to a highly spirited start! There is lots of activity and enthusiasm during the week as well as on Sunday mornings here at Trinity. We have so very much to be grateful for. It truly is right and a good and joyful thing for us to give thanks and praise to God for the many blessings showered upon us so abundantly.

In our American culture, harvest season is a time when we traditionally do this in many and varied ways. Of course this month will see us participating in the national Thanksgiving holiday. Our Food Pantry will share God's abundance with those who need our help in receiving it. Our community will gather to give thanks in Word and Prayer and Song on Thanksgiving Eve at the United Methodist Church in Mt. Pocono. Every Lord's Day and at other times as well, we gather at the table to participate in the mystery of Christ's last command to us. We break the bread and share the wine, knowing that this sacrament has been continuously offered for over two millennia. It is an offering of thanksgiving.

In the midst of our abundance, we are becoming ever more aware of the reality of life for the majority of this global village's population. We are also learning and praying over ways to participate in changing that, ONE step, ONE person at a time. If every ONE would participate, we would succeed. Imagine the return to Eden that would be! Pray hard for that! And then follow God's guidance for action.

Speaking of prayer, we hear story after story of prayers being answered: in the well-being of individuals, in the revitalization of our youth group, and in some creative approaches to tackling our deficit. Your prayers matter! Keep at it! And as we ask, so must we give thanks when we receive answers, even if the answer is not the one we might have chosen!

It is God's loving abundance that draws us to worship our Creator. In the very center of our Sunday services is the time for us to make our offering of the fruits of our life and labor to the Lord. It is no accident that we are granted that opportunity between sharing the Word and gathering at the Table. Our offering is our central act of worship. We need to offer our gifts to God. In the early days of our ancestors, offerings of wine and grain and animals were made at the altar and burned. Somewhere along the way there came the gradual transition to offering these gifts without burning them, so that they could then be shared. But the worship-ful act of offering has not changed. What happens to our gifts after they are offered is not the focus. Offering them is, and doing so is still essential for us, for our wholeness and well-being.

So we offer to God the first fruits of the many gifts which God has granted us. What we are actually doing is returning God's gifts for God's use. Everything we have comes from God. Many of us say that easily. It is harder to act on that conviction. For many of us it is easier to return whatever is left over. I invite you to consider your own convictions about this. Your Stewardship Committee will have more to say in the months ahead as we live into the understanding that Stewardship is about all of life, about our relationship with God.

In this month of crisp days and changing colors leading to bare trees, this time of turkey, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie, may we rejoice and celebrate as we give God thanks for all that we have and for all that we are.

In thanksgiving for your being in my life

Ginny+



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 2006

November 1 - 8:30-11:30am Trinity at Food Pantry
 November 6, 13, 20, 27 - 7pm Yoga, Parish Hall
 November 9 - 7pm Remembering Kristallnacht with reading from "Night" by Elie Wiesel, Church
 November 11 & 18 - 9-11:30am Confirmation & Inquirer's Class, Library
 November 14 - 7pm Vestry, Library
 November 19 - 11:30am Acolyte Training, Church
 November 20 - 7pm Prayer Beading Library
 November 22 - 7:30pm Community Thanksgiving Eve Service, Mt. Pocono United Methodist Church
 November 24 - Newsletter Deadline for Articles/Information Office Closed Thanksgiving Holiday
 December 1 - Newsletter Mailing
 December 2 - 10am-4pm Christmas Bazaar, Parish Hall
 December 2, 9, 16 - 9-11:30am Confirmation & Inquirer's Class, Library
 December 3, 10, 17 - 11:30am Pageant Rehearsal, Church
 December 6 - 8:30am-12:30pm Trinity at Food Pantry
 December 12 - 7pm Vestry, Library
**December 24 - 8am & 10am Advent IV Holy Eucharist
 7pm Telling the story of the Incarnation with Carols & Holy Eucharist**
December 25 - 10am Holy Eucharist
 December 25-January 1 Office Closed Christmas Holiday
 December 31 - 10am Lessons & Carols
 January 7 - 11:30am Epiphany Dinner, Parish Hall

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1 Rachel Lyn Salmon
 2 Tom Parry
 2 Craig Anglemire
 16 Vickie O'Grady
 25 Liz Leary

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

8 Liz & Jamie Leary
 14 Bill & Barbara Lord
 23 George & Lillian Waters

Grace is when God gives you what you deserve.
 Mercy is when He doesn't.

The Gospel Procession

In the tradition of the Church, the reading of the Gospel is attended by marks of special honor. All stand for the reading, which is preceded and followed by acclamations directed to Christ, who is thereby acknowledged to be present in the reading of his gospel. All face the gospel book, and the person reading from it, throughout the reading and during the two acclamations.

The two lights carried in the gospel procession are both a token of joy and a symbol of Christ, the light of the world (John 8:12). The use of incense is also appropriate. The use of a processional cross at this point is not appropriate. The original purpose of the lights was to accompany the gospel book, a purpose that is obscured when a cross is carried, since they appear to be accompanying it instead. A cross, moreover, tends to call attention away from the book which should be the primary visual focus at this point. The person who previously carried the cross in the entrance rite should carry the gospel book accompanied by the lights.

See: Howard E. Galley, *The Ceremonies of the Eucharist*, page 89
 Byron D. Stuhlman, *Prayer Book Rubrics Expanded*, page 70

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

A NOTE OF HEARTFELT THANKS

To all of you for your prayers for our daughter-in-law, Julie Winters, who was very close to not surviving a terrible head-on collision with a huge pick-up truck. The Prayer Chain went to work right away while she was very critical.

She is broken up physically, but nothing will be permanent and she is healing rapidly. Home from the hospital on November first! Truly a miracle. No one will ever tell us that prayer is not effective.

Again, many, many thanks, and love to you all. Bob and Peg Winters

TREASURERS REPORT - SEPTEMBER, 2006

Total Contributions:	\$8,598.37
Total Expenditure:	\$12,556.86
Net income:	\$-3,958.49
YTD deficit	\$-12,377.09
Budget Pledged Offerings:	\$7,517.00
Monthly Pledges received	\$7,771.70

Michael Goodwin, Treasurer



FUND RAISER

2ND ANNUAL

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!

The Salmon family Von Trapp

Invites anyone who loves to sing
Christmas Carols to join them at
Quiet Valley's Old Time Christmas
on December 9th from 3-5pm.

We will form a pick-up choir
and sing familiar carols
in the 1890 schoolhouse
and spread good cheer
to the many groups that
tour the farm that afternoon.

Come join us and see why
"it wouldn't be Christmas without Quiet Valley"
See Tom Salmon for details.

Classes for

- those seeking to be confirmed
- those seeking to be received by this church
- those seeking to reaffirm their baptism vows
- those who want to know more

will be held on the following Saturdays, 9 - 11:30 AM

November 11, 18; December 2, 9, 16; January 6, 13, 20, 27

We will be studying the Book of Common Prayer, the Bible, Church History, Theology, Social Justice, and other items of interest. Obviously the work done in class will be a taste of each of these banquets. The more you "put in" the more you'll "get out"!

I wrote this piece realtime on Friday 18 August 2006.

Today was a particularly long day with typical Friday delays involving documenting my Mexicans for the Patriot Act -- a weekly ritual. Having time spare before my 5:45 bus, I settled in to Yankee / Red Sox game at a nearby pub.

The score is 12 - 3 Yanks, top of the 9th. Therefore, no play is crucial. The proverbial "Fat Lady" has sung. The Yanks hit a fly toward the stands and Boston's field catcher's reach just missed the ball as it screamed into the stands. A young man in his late 20s caught it as a boy of about 8 or 9 visually followed, glove on hand, in amazement. The young man was thrilled to have caught the ball and inspected the dirt and prints on it for a moment -- until he saw the boy. The camera stayed on them throughout this and continued to as the young man looked at the ball one last time and then gave it to the little boy whom he did not even know.

The boy gladly grabbed the ball and turned to his father to show it to him, forgetting the man who had now just sat back in his seat.

But he didn't care. He did not want gratitude, attention or money. He simply knew that this boy wanted that ball and that the ball meant more to him than anything else.

I couldn't help but cry.

I only wish that we would all share that happy, carefree love and consideration in sharing God's unconditional love and devotion to us. I wish that we could take God's love and be as enthusiastic about it as we are about baseball. I wish that we could be consumed with the same passion about God as we are about a "Subway Series".

We are blessed with His many gifts and we, much like the man in the stadium, understand that catching the gift is fun -- but giving it away is far better.

We must take the gifts of God and give them away to the proverbial children of the world. Let us not take that ball, encase it in plexiglass and store it in our dens. Let us give that ball away to a child -- even if that child is our own self -- and take that filthy, used, torn up and battered baseball to school, to the playground, to Grandma & Grandpa's, and show them our prize. And then, let us curl up with our treasured baseball as we sleep, smiling as we dream of the day we caught it. That's how it is with God's love, once we've experienced it.

*It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in the lowing.
That's how it is with God's love, Once you've experienced it,
You spread His love to everyone, You want to pass it on.*

*What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding,
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming.
That's how it is with God's love. Once you've experienced it,
You want to sing, It's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.*

*I wish for you my friend, this happiness that I've found.
You can depend on Him, it matters not where you're bound.
I'll shout it from the mountain top - PRAISE GOD! - I want the world to know
the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.*

Boston scored and we finished the game at 12 - 4. Simple division will give you a perfect score for a Trinitarian !

Oh, and by the way, the man who caught the ball was a Yankee fan ;-)

With respect and love to keep you warm until Spring Season,
Rob McMahan
Chair, Evangelism Leadership Team