

Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

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Last Pentecost - November - 2006

Greetings,

As the leaves drop from the trees and we all get ready to hibernate for the winter, it will not be long before we enter a season of intentional preparation and expectation for the coming of the Lord's nativity.

During the month of November, we will hear about Martha, who affirms her faith that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. We will hear about a poor widow who symbolizes those who are exploited by the so called privileged.

This woman, who puts in the collection box only pennies, Jesus says, "has put in more than all others."

These two humble women have served the role of teacher for the disciples.

In this newsletter, you will see a Diocesan resolution which is in response to General convention. This resolution is called a "Resolution on Holy Habits" and calls for us to commit ourselves to corporate worship, daily prayer and study and Sabbath time in our own lives.

It asks us to consider our standard of giving and to prayerfully consider working toward increasing our pledges.

I think of the poor widow and know that Jesus does not commend her for giving everything she owns but commends her faith in knowing that Christ is present for her.

We are required only to be faithful, not successful and not rich, but faithful. The Lord asks only that we be faithful with what he gives us.

As we approach Advent, we prepare our hearts and souls for the coming birth of Christ. It is a time of self-examination.

We examine our stewardship of time, abilities, and money and consider how we are using all three for the proclaiming of God's kingdom.

A quote: *The more distinct and clear cut is our sense that all we have and are is a gift, the more vivid will be our sense of a direct and abiding relation with God, a consciousness that we are only because he is.*

All we have and all we are is a gift from God.

I thank God for the people of Trinity, for those who are here now, those who have been with us in the past and those who are to come.

We have been given a fortune in talent, personality and love within these folk. All that we have experienced with each other tells us that our corporate worship and giving of ourselves is truly invaluable. Like the commercial says, "Priceless."

I like the reading from Luke 6:38; "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you will give will be the measure you will get back."

In the Bishop's address at the diocesan convention, he boiled it down to two choices: slow extinction or intensive mission.

We can use all that we have and all that we are to select and make happen the latter.

Mother Trula



On November 5th, Boy Scouts Chris Bailey and Fran Magurno, will make a special presentation to us as part of the *God and Church* Program. They will also receive their awards. This program is designed to help young people grow in to their understanding of the Christian Faith. The goals are

to help young people strengthen their relationship in Christ and to learn about and participate in the worship and ministry of the church. Mother Trula has been working with the two young men. Chris is the son of Alden Chapman and Bonnie Bailey. Fran is the son of Jim and Tina Magurno.

From Diocesan Convention: Holy Habits

A resolution on "Holy Habits" was proposed by the diocesan Stewardship Commission. Though no one spoke against adopting the resolution, there were perhaps a dozen nays voiced when this was approved by a significant majority of the delegates. The text of the resolution follows:

This 135th Convention of the Diocese of Bethlehem, in response to the General Convention Resolution on Holy Habits, encourages all members of the Church to develop a personal spiritual discipline by adopting the resolution below:

Be it resolved, That in recognition of the church's tradition of calling us to work, pray, and give for the spread of God's kingdom, all members of the Episcopal Church are encouraged to develop a personal spiritual discipline that includes, at a minimum, the *holy habits* of daily personal prayer and study, tithing, Sabbath time, and weekly corporate worship."

And Be it further Resolved, That those attending this 135th Diocesan Convention be given the opportunity to sign the following Declaration:

As Christian stewards and members of the Episcopal Church, we affirm that we are tithing as a minimum standard of our giving, or have adopted a plan to work toward tithing by increasing our giving by a least 1% of our income each year; and that, if we are not already doing so, we are

committed to give priority to corporate worship, personal daily prayer and study, and Sabbath time in our own lives—and we invite all members of this diocese to join us; *And Be it further Resolved,* That we, the delegates of this 135th Diocesan Convention, commit ourselves to present this declaration to the Vestries of our parishes for their prayerful consideration, signatures, and dissemination to members of our congregations for similar action;

And Be it further Resolved, That those signature lists be returned to the Diocesan Stewardship Missioner for compilation and distribution to any who request copies of the final document.

Trinity and ebay

No, we're not kidding. Traditional fund raising -- bazaars, raffles, rummage sales -- are an enormous amount of work by a very few people for very little return. So, we're going to try something new.

The things that are bought and sold on ebay are proof that one man's garbage is another man's treasure. Of course, we are not looking for garbage! But most of us have collectibles we've lost interest in, and Fanna Proper has volunteered to be the first to donate to the cause, a doll her mother bought, still in its original packaging.

Christ and Heather Hunsinger will be our ebay workers and will handle placing items up for bid and shipping them.

Your job is to look around your house, especially the closets and attic, for likely items to sell. Just about anything can be sold .. old, new, electronic, collectible. Talk to a member of the vestry if you find something to donate.

ARCC Silent Auction

The Abuse and Rape Crisis Center will hold a silent auction on Sunday, November 5, from 1:30 to 3:30 at the Sayre Elks Club.

ARCC's wish list for the month includes phone cords, blank VHS tapes and umbrellas.

November at a glance

November 5 - All Saints' Sunday and Special Boy Scout Presentation

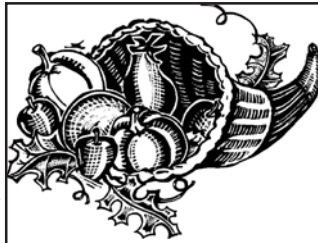
November 9 - Kristallnacht - The lights will remain on in the church all night as a sign of solidarity with those who suffered the horrors of the Holocaust, a silent statement of "Never Again!"

November 11 and 12 - Happening! A weekend for older teens at Kirby House. Please pray for these young people and their mentors.

November 12 - National Donor Sabbath. Give the gift of life; say "yes" to organ and tissue donation when the time comes. Discuss it now with your family

November 19 - Vestry meets

November 22 - Thanksgiving Eve - Holy Eucharist at 7 p.m.



November 26 - Last Sunday of the Church year and Pledge Sunday. You'll receive a mailing in the middle of the month with a pledge card. Begin to prayerfully consider your gifts of time, talent and money.

Sign up to host a coffee hour!

Coffee is made for you, just bring something to share after the service ... coffeecake, fruit, cheese, crackers, whatever you'd like. We're very easy to please!

Food Pantry

Please remember that the first Sunday of each month is Food Pantry Sunday. Please bring nonperishable foods in unbreakable packaging and place them in the basket at the back of the church. Thank you, Pat Gurney for delivering our donations.

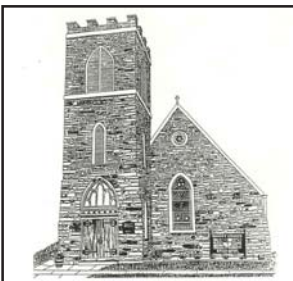
Musicians

Our pianist, Hana, will be in Japan the last two Sundays of the month. If you are interested in playing, even one hymn or an offertory, please talk to Mother Trula.

The Chemung Chapter of the American Guild of Organists was at Trinity on 10/21. They loved playing and hearing our organ and sent a thank you note for the opportunity. They left a spec sheet with us; it's on the back table if you wish to look it over

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November at Trinity