

Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church
703 South Main Street (office at 701)
Athens, PA 18810
The Rev. Trula Hollywood, Rector

Office: Voice and Fax: 570-888-5715; Rector: 570-731-4280
information@trinityathens.org
Web Site: www.trinityathens.org
The Rev. Canon Edward L. Caum, Assistant

Christmas - Epiphany - January, 2007

Greetings;

As we begin a New Year together, I've been thinking about how long I've been worshipping at Trinity. Many of you have been with Trinity for several decades and have watched the many changes occur over the years.

Within the past few years, we have seen significant changes in growth. For awhile, new and young families were attending but would then have to move due to job transfers and for other reasons.

This was hard for all of us. We are a family style church and we all feel the loss when someone isn't with us any longer.

Many of us this year have been ill and unable to attend, which is also hard for everyone. We care for each other and when one of us suffers, it's felt by all of us.

There are some of us who have felt the pain of the loss of those familiar faces as a form of frustration. It can be frustrating to come to church and find the community shrinking, I know, and it's scary.

I worry, as many of you do, but truly believe that Trinity has a bright future. We have some very special gifts to offer those people who enter our community. We are friendly and caring. We are non-judgmental and inviting.

Jesus looked outside himself to the message that he carried. It was never about him but about his mission. We carry a message to the people who enter our church that, we as a community, however small, are a strong family who are committed to worshipping together.

We communicate our gifts to people outside the church in our kind and giving actions and spirit. Our actions speak of our love and thoughtfulness.

We have been given a gift in Jesus that speaks of God's love and thoughtfulness. It's as if he's saying, "Look, this is how much I love you."

I believe we experience God's love at Trinity through each other and for those who are not in church each Sunday. These are our gifts.

Change will continue to occur. As a family, hanging in there together, through these changes, is vital for the life of our church.

Please talk to me if you are having any concerns at all about the church or the church's mission.

I pray that everyone has the same comforting feeling as they enter the doors of our church.

I pray that, this year, we keep our mission in mind at all times, to seek and to serve Christ in all people.

I hope you all attend the annual meeting on January 28th after church. It's important that we're all informed about how our church is doing financially and spiritually.

I love the people at Trinity and know that we have much to offer. We've been talking about what we have to offer and how to use our gifts as God would have us for two years or more. Let's stop talking about it and make it happen.

God's Peace,

Mother Trula

Trinity's Annual Meeting is January 28

The meeting will follow our 9:00 service; brunch will be served. According to our by-laws anyone who attends Trinity on a regular basis is considered a member of the church and may take an active voice and vote at the meeting.

For those of you who have reports due (Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Clerk, Christian Education, Treasurers, Altar Guild, Building Committee, etc.) please have them ready by Sunday, January 21st. You may email them to bcaum@stny.rr.com or give them to Barbara on the 21st.

The annual meeting is always a rewarding time; we review the past year and plan for the coming year. We can make arrangements for child care, if needed, please let Mother Trula know soon.

We will be electing vestry members as well as our delegate to the 2007 Diocesan Convention. If you would like to serve in either capacity, do not hesitate to put your name forward. Thank you to our current, past and future vestry members.

Help for caregivers

Are you caring for an elderly loved one? Could you use some money to help with your caregiving expenses? How about funding for modifications to your home to help you continue caring for your loved one?

The Area Agency on Aging has a Family Caregiver Support Program that may be right for you. Benefits for income eligible caregivers are: Funding to purchase supplies or services (as much as \$500 a month); respite care, funding for home adaptations such as bathroom modifications, assistance in completing benefits and insurance forms.

The Family Caregiver Support Program serves caregivers of loved ones age 60 and older or those under 60 who have a diagnosis of dementia or related disorders. Call 1-800-982-4346.

The Altar Guild

...needs your help. Beverly Barton and Janice Beck have been the mainstays of the altar guild for a long time. As most of you know, they have both been laid low by serious illnesses in the past few months. We need to make a new schedule to cover the next few months. If you can volunteer for a month, please talk to Barbara. If you would like to help, but have not been trained, we'll train you!

The Feast of St. John Doe

In her eMo (Almost Daily Electronic Meditation) for December 27, Barbara Crafton suggests

there is much more to the Bible than just the things that happen in it, even more to it than the context and the intention of its writers. The beginnings of things aren't the whole of them, she says, just as someone doesn't know the whole story of a marriage just because they attended the wedding. Stuff happened after that. "The Bible is like that. It is alive, even now, old as it is. The Bible isn't just its writers – the Bible is also its readers. It always has been. We bring ourselves to it when we read it. We interact with it. We even argue with it, as one does with the living and cannot do with the dead." Read all of Barbara's eMo at her Geranium Farm, www.geraniumfarm.org.

A Prayer for the Diocese:

O God, by your grace you have called us in our Diocese of Bethlehem to a goodly fellowship of faith. Bless our Bishop, Paul, and other clergy, and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

January at a glance

January 7 - We celebrate the Epiphany and the Baptism of Christ



January 14 – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan. 18 to 25.

Let us pray: Creator of the universe, who made us different from one another in myriad ways we can see and in more ways we shall never know, yet made us all in your image; fill our hearts with your love and our minds with your wisdom, that we may truly become brothers and sisters of your only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (Lionel Deimel).

January 21 - Vestry meets

January 28 - Our Annual Meeting Brunch included!

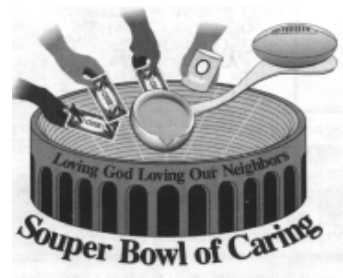
Sign up to host a coffee hour!

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

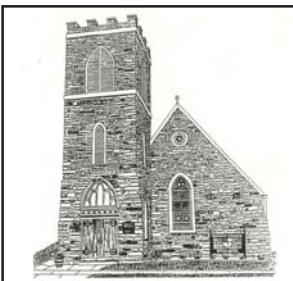
Please remember that the first Sunday of each month is Food Pantry Sunday. Please bring nonperishable foods in unbreakable packaging and place them in the basket at the back of the church. Thank you, Pat Gurney for delivering our donations.

Souper Bowl of Caring is coming February 4



Trinity Times is online at our web site in pdf format at www.trinityathens.org/Archives.htm. The earliest publication is 11/03.

Trinity Episcopal Church
703 S. Main Street
Office: 701 S. Main
Athens, PA 18810



January at Trinity