

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: 570-888-1491
information@trinityathens.org
Web Site: www.trinityathens.org
The Rev. Canon Edward L. Caum, Assistant

Easter - March - 2008

Greetings,

When I first started as Rector for Trinity, I revealed a "campaign" of sorts. The "campaign" was that it was time to "Rock this Church."

Well, I get motion sick very easily and I haven't been even a bit queasy since we had these discussions. I think we're floating and not rocking at all.

It happens in all areas of our lives. We become complacent. We don't see a need to "make waves" in any part of our lives. It's easy to do, life takes over. Getting the kids to all their sporting events, making sure that we don't miss any meetings on that committee we serve on, and all the others things life dishes us become all there is.

We have just come through the most "wave making" week of the year; Holy Week. Jesus tried repeatedly to keep the disciples awake, to teach them that they would need to love one another, to help them see what was to come. But they were complacent. They couldn't see that life around them was about to change drastically.

Is it possible, we at Trinity, are not looking into the future? Life is changing around us. This little valley has become a very diverse place but there is only so much we can see if we remain seated in the pews. Are we comfortable in our complacency?

Jesus asked us in John's Gospel on Holy Thursday to love as he has loved, to open our hearts and to serve others as He did.

In his sermon at the Chrism mass, Bishop Jack spoke of an evangelism strategy described as "rowing our boat out into the middle of the lake and sitting still, promising that any fish that jumped into our boat we would clean!" These caused me to think of how little

we've been rocking our boat and how still we seem to be, as if waiting for something to happen.

The pews in Trinity are warm and welcoming once a person gets in them. The people of Trinity are the same but I feel as if we're just waiting dutifully for people to jump into those pews.

I know that there is a plan for Trinity, if we just stay alert to what it is that Trinity has to offer.

We know there are people who are not always made to feel welcome. We know that warmth is not what they have found when looking for a church home. We know that we can provide that. It is time to get out of the pews and into our community to make the people whom we are to serve aware of the place they can feel welcome; Trinity Church, Athens.

The valley has many people from all walks of life who need to find a place in our pews, and we, in the midst of our life of servanthood, must never ever think that we cannot or should not bring those persons to the love of Christ.

As with the women at the well, it takes only one to spread the good news and to bring others to the living water so being only a few is not an excuse.

Please pray and consider the path of evangelism for Trinity. The mission of Trinity, "to seek and to serve Christ in all people," will require us to look beyond the shallow waters and go deep within our minds and hearts to accomplish our mission.

We cannot float. We cannot tread water. We must open our arms to those in our community who will find our church home exactly what they need in a church home.

God's Peace,
Mother Trula

Episcopal Church named "official denomination" of Major League Baseball

Here's some exciting news that's breaking this first day in April:

As a part of opening week festivities, Commissioner of Baseball Bud Selig and Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori announced today that the Episcopal Church has been designated the Official Denomination of Major League Baseball. The move was announced today in a teleconference with reporters.

"Faith oriented promotions have increasingly become a part of many minor league team," Selig said. "We felt that it was time to tap into this important demographic."

"We also want to reinforce our family friendly image while at the same time reaching out to a wide cross section of life-styles, incomes and tastes," Selig said. "We are pleased that the Episcopal Church will join us in this first partnership between a major sport and a church."

Many denominations were considered for the endorsement. Some traditions did not make bids for theological reasons, but unnamed sources described the behind the scenes competition as intense.

"The Baptists and Catholics both made strong bids," said a baseball official familiar with the negotiations. "And it is true that both traditions brought strong numbers to the table." Few commentators expected the Episcopal Church's bid to be as strong as it was.

Selig said that Episcopalians bring the right mix of arcane tradition, an appreciation of minutiae and a tolerance for long stretches of relative inaction that make them "a good fit for us."

"We believe that Episcopalians understand the nuances of the game and won't meddle with our traditions too much."

As part of the agreement, Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori said that a Suffragan Bishop for Baseball will be appointed. A name will be presented at a special House of Bishops meeting called for the purpose in May. The ministry of the

Suffragan Bishop for Baseball will be to coordinate the ministries of the church in the baseball environment.

"The designation of Official Denomination will be a boon to our evangelism," said the Rev. Jan Nunley. "Reflective MLB logos will soon appear as a part of the well known *Episcopal Church Welcomes You* signs in front of every Episcopal Church and along many streets in towns and cities across the US."

Observers also noted that the designation will also help the public differentiate Episcopal Churches from other churches that have recently appropriated the Anglican "brand" for their own use.

"The Episcopal Church encompasses many nations that differ along language and cultural lines—from the Dominican Republic to Taiwan—but we all share a love for Baseball," Nunley said.

"Theologians and poets have long described how the rhythms and traditions of baseball speak to us on many levels," Jefferts Schori told reporters. "Baseball shows us the presence of God in everyday things, that sublime combination of individual and team effort which reminds us of the Body of Christ and in the end God wants us all to come home."

Saying only that the marketing possibilities have "yet to be worked out" neither Selig nor Jefferts Schori would comment on rumors that pre-packaged Holy Communion and box-score editions of the Book of Common Prayer would be offered at kiosks at major league parks.

While some religious and sports commentators expressed skepticism at the move, and some wondered if the Presiding Bishop had the canonical authority to establish such a relationship, others were more forgiving.

"Baseball and Jesus." Nunley said. "They go together like peanuts and Cracker Jack."

Great news for a great day.

(ported from Episcopalcafe.com ... who says Episcoplians don't have a sense of humor?)



Trinity Episcopal Church - April 2008

Easter

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Trinity Prayer Cycle</i> 4/6 Joe, Laura, Peter and Time Cama; Rachel and Peter Cama-Lekx; 4/13 Fr. Ned, Barbara, Alan and Doris Caum; 4/20 Ian, Kathleen, Audrey and Sean Clare; 4/27 Joe, Stacey, Roman, Derek, Brandon and Parker Coston</p>		1	2	3	4	5
<p>6 Easter 3 10:00 Holy Eucharist 11:00 Coffee Hour <i>Sarah Catlin Draper</i></p>	<p>7 <i>Jan Beck, Jr.</i> <i>Kelly Murray</i></p>	8	9	10	<p>11 <i>Rachel Cama-Lekx</i></p>	12
<p>13 Easter 4 10:00 Holy Eucharist 11:00 Coffee Hour <i>Dianne Catlin</i></p>	<p>14 <i>John Gurney</i></p>	<p>15 <i>David Bean</i></p>	16	<p>17 <i>Catherine Gurney</i> <i>Stanley</i></p>	<p>18 Christophany, through Sunday Pray for the young people taking part</p>	<p>19 <i>Jim Patterson</i></p>
<p>20 Easter 5 9:00 Vestry Meets 10:00 Holy Eucharist 11:00 Coffee Hour</p>	21	22	23	<p>24 Clergy Bible Study, 10 a.m., Towanda</p>	25	26
<p>27 Easter 6, Rogation 10:00 Holy Eucharist 11:00 Coffee Hour</p>	28	<p>29 St. Mark</p>	<p>30 <i>Mark Hollywood</i></p>	<p>Coming in May Pentecost is May 11, which is also Mother's Day Trinity Sunday is May 18</p>		

Kajo Keji, 4/6 Kala Archdeaconry, The Ven. Eluzai Lo'boka Yairo; 4/13 Bori Archdeaconry, The Ven. Sadoka Toe; 4/20 Gederu Archdeaconry, The Ven. George Kenyi; 4/27 Kiri Archdeaconry, The Ven. Aмоса Buli Gwolo

Diocesan Prayer Cycle 4/6 Grace Church, Allentown The Rev. Patrick L. Malloy, rector, The Rev. Rodney Conn, deacon.; 4/13 Grace, Honesdale, The Rev. Ed Erb, rector; 4/20 St. Mark's/ St. John's, Jim Thorpe, The Rev. Joe DeAcasetis, priest-in-charge; 4/27 St. John's, Hamline, Marianne Berryman, S.W.

Anglicans Around the World 4/6 The clergy and people of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui, 4/13 The clergy and people of the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean. 4/20 The clergy and people of the Church of Ireland, 4/27 The clergy and people of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai.

Vestry News

The church has a new copier! After nearly a decade of hard work, the Sharp that was a gift from the late Gordon Langford will retire to the sacristy where it will be used occasionally, but otherwise will play golf most of the time.

The new machine is a Kyocera laser printer and copier, has a document feeder, can print on both sides and collate. It will save an enormous amount of time and can print on a variety of media.

Karen Nichols has agreed to take on the task of overseeing work to be done in and around the church, sort of a super sexton. So, if you notice something that needs attention, please talk to her. Thank you, Karen.

We are still in need of an additional vestry person. Please consider this ministry of stewardship. Vestry meets the third Sunday of the month at 9 a.m.

Mother Trula will be taking an emergency preparedness class, *Emotional and Spiritual Care in Disasters* this week at RPH. We look forward to hearing about it and thank her for giving her time.

Safeguarding God's Children, a workshop on child sexual abuse prevention, will be offered at Christ Church, Towanda, on May 31. The course is required for vestry members, church employees and those who have a key to the church buildings. Some of our vestry members have taken the class, three more plus our parish administrator will participate in this one. If you are interested in attending, please call the church office.

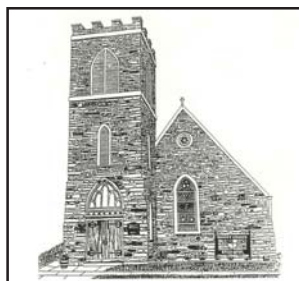
We'd like to plan a Spring cleaning for the sacristy, parish hall and grounds. Talk to Barbara if you'd like to help.

Budget Summary, February 2008

Please note: The total income figure reflects the carry-over from 2007, which was 8,675.45 and includes Altar Guild and Memorial funds.

	February	Year to Date	YTD Budget
Pledge Income	3,350	4,785	4,500
Investment Income	2,677	3,778	4,650
Total Income	7,535	19,383	20,025
Expenses	5,642	11,299	11,940
Net	1,894	8,084	8,085

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April at Trinity

Easter Season