

# Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church  
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## Christmas - Epiphany - January - 2009

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Greetings to all,

Happy New Year! It seems every single year, especially as we get older, we all comment on how quickly the last year passed. And again, it certainly did.

It's a time when many of us are coming up with New Years resolutions and looking forward to a fresh start.

I wonder sometimes about all of us, myself included, who keep looking for a "fresh start". It seems to me that what we are looking for is change when actually the opportunities of each and every day present us with a way to begin anew.

Every single day, if we look hard enough and listen closely, there is something that presents an opportunity for growth, for learning and for giving.

I hope that we take the time to truly examine those opportunities. I hope that we don't find ways to protect ourselves from growth as individuals and as Christians.

I truly believe we all limit ourselves in one way or another. I know there are many times in my life that I have limited growth for myself.

When we do this, we are taking something that God has given us and hiding it away in a closet just as we may be putting away some of those gifts we received for Christmas.

As we allow ourselves to grow, we become people who have more in our "gift repertoire" to share with others. In a sense, we receive the gifts of God and we re-gift. It is so exciting to know that God has given us a world where the possibilities are truly endless.

Trinity is beginning a new endeavor this month, reaching out to and presenting opportunities to those

who need a safe place to talk about their "coming out" experiences in a book study group. God has provided us with an opportunity to help others and to grow ourselves as loving, caring Christians.

You will see more about the book study in this newsletter, the newspaper and elsewhere. I am filled with joy when I think about the people of Trinity and their amazing ability to reach out and love all of God's people.

It is difficult to allow for growth because it potentially can cause pain or the loss of something or someone very important to us. There are sometimes very valid reasons to limit ourselves such as fear of isolation and rejection. I hope that we can alleviate some of that fear for at least some people. All of us want to be able to be our true selves and to live a life true to who we are as individuals.

I have three Maya Angelou quotes for all of us to consider as we start the new year:

- 1) There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.
- 2) I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.
- 3) One isn't necessarily born with courage, but one is born with potential. Without courage, we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We can't be kind, true, merciful, generous, or honest.

I hope your New Year presents you with many opportunities to have an open heart, an open mind, to learn, to grow and to love.

God's Peace,  
Mother Trula

You are invited to join us for a Book Study beginning January 18 at 3 p.m. in the Parish Hall at 700 1/2 S. Main St., Athens, PA

# COMING OUT AN ACT OF LOVE

By Rob Eichberg

Eichberg discusses coming out as a psychological and political process that affects not only individuals but their families as well. Because this book continually reaffirms gayness as a gift for everyone—straight and gay—it can be read by gay people coming to terms with their sexuality and by their parents, friends, and coworkers.

Copies of this book are available or can be ordered from Amazon. Please join us for a journey of discovery.

The first session will include the video, *For the Bible Tells Me So*, an independent film.


As described on the film's website, "Through the experiences of five very normal, very Christian, very American families — including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson — we discover how insightful people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child. Informed by such respected voices as Bishop Desmond Tutu, Harvard's Peter Gomes, Orthodox Rabbi Steve Greenberg and Reverend Jimmy Creech, *For the Bible Tells me So* offers healing, clarity and understanding to anyone caught in the crosshairs of scripture and sexual identity."

For more information, or to register, please call the church office at 570.888.5715 or write to [information@trinityathens.org](mailto:information@trinityathens.org).



# Trinity Episcopal Church - January 2009

Christmas  
Epiphany

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Trinity Prayer Cycle</b> 1/4 Kathy, Kevin, Alexandra and Jonathan Ayres 1/11 Ralph, Bonnie, Rose, Jeffrey, Chris and Justin Bailey 1/18 Patrick and Barbara Barry 1/25 Mike, Shelley and Jason Barry		<b>Kajo Keji,</b> 1/4 Longira Parish, The Rev. Emmanuel Yongo; 1/11 Loopo Parish, The Rev. James Lule; 1/18 Lori Parish, The Rev. Yunis Kiden; 1/25 Lorudung Parish, The Rev. Elinoma Rabuk Sebang		<b>1 The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4 Christmas II - Epiphany</b> 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour <i>Janice Beck</i> <i>Bryan Bean</i> <i>Marie Bubniak</i>	<b>5</b> 	<b>6 The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <i>Doris Caum</i>	<b>10</b>
<b>11 Epiphany I</b> <b>The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b> 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour 3:00 Benefit Concert, Epiphany Church	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <i>Sharon &amp; Harold Cole</i>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <i>Janet Gurney</i>	<b>17</b>
<b>18 Epiphany II</b> 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour -----Vestry Meets----- <b>3:00 p.m. Book Study:</b> <b>Coming out, An act of Love</b>	<b>19 Confession of St. Peter the Apostle</b> <i>Jake Armstrong(18th)</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <i>Paul Kelley</i>
<b>25 Epiphany III</b> 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Brunch and ---Annual Meeting--- <b>3:00 p.m. Book Study</b> <i>Catherine Page Gurney</i>	<b>26 Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <i>Joe Cama</i>	<b>31</b>
<b>Anglicans Around the World</b> 1/4 The Diocese of Lincoln in the Province of Canterbury; 1/11 The Diocese of Los Angeles; 1/18 Christian Unity; 1/25 The Diocese of Maine		<b>Diocesan Prayer Cycle</b> 1/4 St. Clement's/St. Peter's, Wilkes-Barre, The Rev. William S. Marshall, Jr., rector; 1/11 All Saints Church, Lehigh, The Rev. Jane Arrington Bender, priest-in-charge; 1/18 St. John's Church, Palmerton, The Rev. Abraham Valiath, priest-in-charge; 1/25 St. Andrew's Church, Allentown, The Rev. T. Scott Allen, priest-in-charge			<b>Coming in February:</b> <b>Book Study continues, Sundays at 3</b> <b>2/24 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper</b> <b>2/25 - Ash Wednesday</b>	

**January Highlights**

**January 4 - Christmas II and our Epiphany celebration**

**January 11 - 3:00 p.m. - Free Benefit Concert by Knights of the Glad Countenance at Epiphany Church, Sayre.**

Your offering of a new or used blanket or non perishable food item will be donated to local food pantries and The Bridge. (www.myspace.com/knightsofthegladcountenance)

**January 18 - Vestry Meets. Book study begins at 3 p.m. in the parish hall, please read the flyer on page 2 for more details**

**January 25 - Annual Meeting and potluck brunch following worship**

**The Advent Tree Project**

The Advent Tree was a huge success, gathering more mittens and gloves than we could fit into our largest food basket. Thanks to everyone who donated to the wonderful outreach project. They will be donated to Bradford County Youth Services and to Catholic Charities.



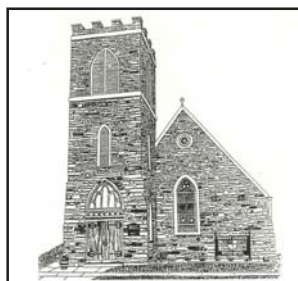
**Would you like a visit or home communion?** Our rector or one of our Eucharistic Visitors will be happy to call on you. Call the church office, 888-5715.

**Volunteer to host a coffee hour!** There is a signup sheet in the kitchen.

**Eucharistic Visitors**

Eucharistic Visitors are trained by the rector and licensed by the Bishop to take communion to those who are ill or shut in. We are in need of additional people to help with this very special ministry of presence. Please prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you to be a Eucharistic Visitor. Talk to Mother Trula.

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**January at Trinity**

