

# Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church  
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## Lent - March 2010

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Greetings,

As we journey through Lent this year, many things come to my mind. Many of us are watching the Winter Olympics and hearing life stories of people who have lived through amazing ordeals and come back even stronger; athletes who have survived physical, emotional and social barriers only to rise to the occasion in this very special event.

Jesus goes into the wilderness for these days facing ordeals and struggles that help him to focus on his mission and future.

Today, we also watch as thousands of people continue to experience undeniable loss, pain and frustration in Haiti. People are living with the task of surviving every day with less than any of us could imagine. They must surely feel as if they have lost their reality and are wandering in the wilderness. Even as their world was shaken, for many their faith has *not* been shaken.

I watch the news at night and see stories of people who are struggling to keep their homes and to put food on the table as their livelihood disappears in front of their eyes.

And those who continue to fight in what seems like endless wars, leaving behind their families, their comforts and in some cases, giving their lives, so our comforts will not be lost are also in my thoughts as we move forward this Lenten season.

As we make our sacrifices during Lent, we need to be reminded of the wilderness in which others are wandering. If we think giving up sweets is difficult, it's obvious reminders are necessary.

We follow a path in our life that has many different courses to choose from; as well as some

courses we did not choose, but know as part of our genetic makeup.

I have recently had occasion to speak at length, with a transgendered individual, as well as some families of those who have gay loved ones. They told me stories of being turned away from churches here in our area. They told me stories of being "discarded" by those who previously professed to love them. They told me stories of being asked to leave restaurants because they were a distraction and there were "children present" in the establishment. It's as if going out in public in your own skin, not even the skin of a leper, but the skin of someone who is different is somehow X-rated. It's as if being oneself in public scares people so much they forget that God loves us all. Those comforts our young men and women have fought for become a nesting place allowing people to lie in their nest and look down on others. The individuals I spoke with described what I consider to be their "struggle in the wilderness" as they continue to work for something as simple as acceptance and equality.

The people of Haiti didn't suffer the earthquake because God was angry with them. Those who struggle and suffer at any point in their lives are not being punished. God didn't make us all different so that certain ones of us could be set aside as outcasts.

It amazes me how easy it is for some people to "sum" up the lives, tragedies, and experiences of others without ever meeting them.

Jesus faced our struggles and knows our pain. Jesus would never discard us.

I believe this with every ounce of my being.

Mother Trula

## Blessing Same-Sex Unions

The General Convention empowered bishops to make generous provisions regarding ministry to same sex couples and, in response, Bishop Paul has developed a pastoral provision for a rite of union. Our Vestry has agreed that we will support Mother Trula in moving forward with this provision. Couples must meet with the rector for pastoral care and counseling prior to a blessing of their union, as would those preparing for a traditional marriage. It should also be noted that this rite is the church's promise to help uphold a couple's commitment to each other and their relationship; it has no legal standing in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



**Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday, March 14th**  
Episcopal Relief

& Development Sunday is a special opportunity to live out the promises made in our Baptismal Covenant, by demonstrating our commitment to care for people who are hungry, sick or living in extreme poverty.

Please give generously. Your offering will go to Episcopal Relief & Development's Area of Greatest Need fund, which enables us to help those most in need around the world.

You'll find an envelope in your church bulletin—for cash or checks. If writing a check, make it payable to Trinity and then please write ERD Sunday on the memo line.

*Almighty God, give to Episcopal Relief & Development the vision of Jesus whose compassion failed not, that following His example we may bring healing to this hurting world.*

*Grant that we may know who we must be as the arms and legs of Christ in the world today, so that we shall do what we are called to do in responding and making available resources of money, skills, and persons to alleviate poverty, famine, and disaster.*

*We thank you for the many generous souls who give of their abundance and pray that many others may join them in responding to the needs, hopes, and concerns of the world through Episcopal Relief & Development. Set us at tasks to risk the Gospel in all places where you lead us, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.*

The Rt. Rev. Robert Gould Tharp  
Former Chairman of the Board



**Trinity is on Facebook!**  
Make Trinity a friend on facebook, **Trinity Episcopal Church, Athens**, is the name

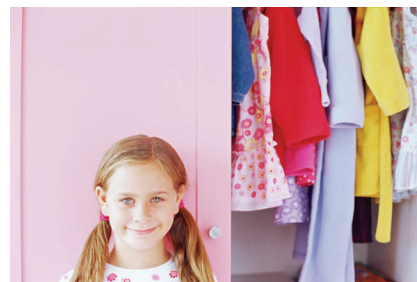
to search for. You'll find pictures, announcements and discussion topics.



**Spring Cleaning at the Parish Hall, Saturday, March 27th at 11 a.m.!**

Sure, we all can relate to how Maxine feels about such things, but this will be fun. After all, why do we need six coffee makers, two of which are broken? And, you might just find that old family heirloom pickle plate you've been missing. Come join

us! Lunch provided, fun and fellowship and a voyage of discovery promised.

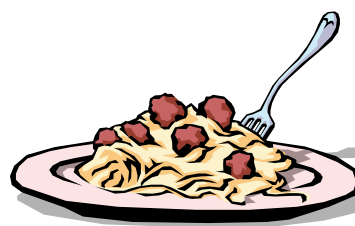


**Children's Clothing**

**Giveaway - April**

Following the great success of our giveaway last fall, we are planning another one. This one will concentrate on

children's clothing. Please start looking around now for children's clothing in new or good condition. Items may be dropped off in the Parish Hall through the first week in April. *Plan ahead: we will also be doing a toy giveaway again this year before Christmas.*



**Spaghetti Dinner Fellowship meal ... coming in May.** Yes,

after the parish hall is cleaned out, the winter doldrums are over and warmth is in the air,

we're going to gather for a feast in the Parish Hall on Saturday, May 8th. Mark your calendar now and plan on bringing along your family and friends



# Trinity Episcopal Church - March 2010

**Lent**

*Trinity Cycle of Prayer*

**3/7** Robert and Marguerite Franks;  
**3/14** George and Ingrid Garver;  
**3/21** Daniel and Margaret Gerhart;  
**3/28** Ed Gilbert, Barry Goldsmith;  
 Patricia Gurney

*Diocesan Cycle of Prayer 3/7:* North Parish: St. John, Ashland; Christ Church, Frackville; Holy Apostles, St. Clair. The Rev. Dolores Evans. **3/14:** Trinity, Athens. The Rev. Trula Hollywood, Rector; St. Peter's, Tunkhannock, The Rev. Vivian Bennett, PIC. **3/21:** Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem. The Very Rev. Anthony Pompa, The Rev. Canon Marclair Partee, The Rev. Canon Joel Atkinson; The Ven. Richard I. Cluett, Archdeacon in residence. **3/28:** Trinity, Bethlehem. The Rev. Laura M. Howell, Rector; The Rev. Elizabeth MacMillan-Miller, Deacon, The Rev. Canon Clifford B. Carr, Assisting Priest; The Rev. Hillary Raining, Curate; The Rev. Canon Gwendolyn-Jane Romeril, Assisting Priest.

*Anglicans Around the World 3/7:* Hong Kong, Bishop Paul Kwong. **3/14:** The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean, Archbishop Ian Ernest. **3/21:** The Liturgical Consultation. **3/28:** Jerusalem and the Middle East, Bishop Suheil

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday   |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|
|  <p><b>Spring forward for March 14</b></p>          | <b>1</b> AA 8:00 pm  | <b>2</b>   | <b>3</b> AA 7:30 pm<br>AA/Alanon 7:30 pm   | <b>4</b><br><br><i>Greg Lake</i>  | <b>5</b><br><br><i>Trula Hollywood</i>                       | <b>6 Lent 1</b><br><b>5:00 Holy Eucharist</b><br><br><i>Laura Smith</i><br><i>Evelyn Johnson</i>   |
| <b>7 Lent 3</b><br><b>10:30 Holy Eucharist at Church of the Redeemer, Bishop Paul and Bishop Pogo</b><br><i>Elizabeth Pashley</i>    | <b>8</b> AA 8:00 pm<br><br><i>Bonnie Bailey</i>  | <b>9</b> Clergy Day  | <b>10</b> AA 7:30 pm<br>AA/Alanon 7:30 pm<br><br><i>Jan Beck</i><br><i>Jack Forbes</i><br><i>Gage Christopher Streeter</i> | <b>11</b>   | <b>12</b><br><br><i>Jo Ann Armstrong</i>                     | <b>13 Lent 2</b><br><b>5:00 Holy Eucharist</b><br><b>Set your clocks forward one hour</b><br><i>Keith Hollywood</i><br><i>Barbara Caum</i> |
| <b>14 Lent 4</b><br><b>9:00 - Holy Eucharist I</b><br><b>10:00 - Coffee Hour</b><br><b>Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday</b>   | <b>15</b> AA 8:00 pm   | <b>16</b>  | <b>17</b> AA 7:30 pm<br>AA/Alanon 7:30 pm  | <b>18</b><br><br><i>Mike Barry</i>  | <b>19 St. Joseph</b><br><br><i>Mary Tolbert</i>              | <b>20 Lent 3</b><br><b>5:00 Holy Eucharist</b><br><br><i>Peter Cama</i>  |
| <b>21 Lent 5</b><br><b>9:00 - Holy Eucharist I</b><br><b>10:00 - Coffee Hour</b><br><b>---Vestry Meets---</b><br><i>Rick Bubniak</i> | <b>22</b> AA 8:00 pm   | <b>23</b> 4 pm Clergy Bible Study, Towanda<br><br><i>William Wood</i><br><i>Maureen Blaney</i> | <b>24</b> AA 7:30 pm<br>AA/Alanon 7:30 pm  | <b>25 The Annunciation</b><br>11 am - Chrism Mass, Cathedral  | <b>26</b><br><br><i>Robert Bean</i><br><i>Mary Ann Burke</i> | <b>27</b> 11:00—Clean our the Parish Hall Bash<br><br><b>Palm Sunday</b><br><b>5:00 Holy Eucharist</b>                                     |
| <b>28 Palm Sunday</b><br><b>9:00 - Holy Eucharist I</b><br><b>10:00 - Coffee Hour</b><br><br><i>Mary Beth Paul</i>                   | <b>29</b> AA 8:00 pm<br><br><br><i>Joe and Laura Cama</i> | <b>30</b>  | <b>31</b> AA 7:30 pm<br>AA/Alanon 7:30 pm  | <i>The Diocese of Kajo Keji 3/7:</i> Andesire Parish, The Rev. Cosmas Lo'diong Kwoji. Ajiio/Wori Parish, The Rev. William Nyombe Amosa. <b>3/14:</b> Bori Archdeaconry and Parish. The Ven. Clement Duku, The Rev. Jenet A'diko. Serajale Parish, The Rev. John Lo'boka Koko. <b>3/21:</b> Gedoru Archdeaconry and Parish, The Ven. George, The Rev. Nasona Buli. Sokare Parish, The Rev. Charles Kenyi. <b>3/28:</b> Kiri Archdeaconry, Kiri Parish. The Ven. John Lomundu, The Rev. Henry Kwanyi. Sonder Parish, The Rev. Henry Puji. |  |  |

### March Highlights

**Sundays: Book Study, 7 p.m., "Coming Out: An Act of Love."** Some books are available or can be purchased from Amazon. Talk to Mtr. Trula for more details.

**Sunday March 7th: We will worship with the Bradford County Churches at the Church of the Redeemer, 10:30 a.m. Bishop Paul will be making his visitation and Bishop Anthony Poggo of Kajo Keji will preach.** There will be no 9 a.m. service at Trinity.

**Very Early, Sunday, March 13th: Daylight Savings Time Begins ... Spring Forward.**

**Sunday, March 14th: Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday**

**Sunday, March 21st: Vestry Meets after Coffee Hour.**

**Saturday, March 27th: Clean out the Parish Hall Bash, 11 a.m.** Lunch will be provided, come and join the fun.

**Holy Week begins Palm Sunday, March 28th. Easter is April 4th**

### Food Pantry is every Sunday

The people in our area are hard hit by unemployment and poverty. The influx of workers for the gas wells have made the cost of housing skyrocket and people are in need. Local food pantries need of food and supplies are very low. Please do what you can to help fill the empty shelves. Take advantage of "buy one, get one free" sales, or other sales you come across, clean out your pantry, and donate items each Sunday. .... *As you did for the least of these ....*

### Ministry Opportunities

**Altar Guild:** You can help with our worship by learning to set up and take down the altar each weekend. Training is simple. Our altar guild members enjoy the quiet time preparing the church.

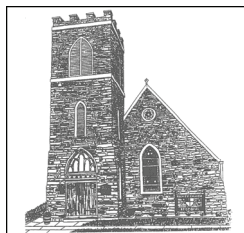
**Eucharistic Visitors:** Visiting our shut-ins is a rewarding experience for both parties involved. You bring warmth and fellowship to them as well as communion. Talk to Mtr. Trula.

**A very special Sunday with Bishop Anthony Poggo of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji.** Bishop Anthony will be joining Bishop Paul in his regularly scheduled visitation to The Church of the Redeemer, Sayre, on Sunday, March 7th at 10:30 a.m. Bishop Anthony is only in our diocese for a short time and we are fortunate and privileged that he will be so close by.

We will not be holding our regular Sunday service this day so that all of us may join in worship and in the reception and forum to follow at Redeemer. There will, however, be a regular 5 p.m. service on Saturday, the 6th.

**Holy Week** begins March 28, the Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday. Our services that week will include Maundy Thursday, The Liturgy for Good Friday and The Great Vigil and first Eucharist of Easter on Saturday. All services are at 7 p.m.

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March at Trinity