

Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church
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Easter Season - May, 2011

Greetings,

This is my last column for this newsletter.

Through Holy Week, as I would prepare for the service, it would occur to me that each service was likely the last I would preside at Trinity. The Maundy Thursday foot washing, the solemn and poignant service of Good Friday, the burst of joy as we turn on the lights and celebrate the risen Christ of the Easter Vigil. And how wonderful to have three Baptisms on Easter morning this year!

We have celebrated many years of joyful experiences together and we have held each other up through the pain of loss as well.

I've been at Trinity for 20 years. When I walked in for the first time, I remember being greeted by the Rector. This kind man with a head of thick white hair who reached out his hand and said, "Welcome," immediately made it clear to me that Trinity was the church for me.

Trinity allowed me to do exactly what every Christian should hope for, grow. In my secular life, as a supervisor and a manager, my philosophy has always been to teach and to allow people to grow so they can then help others to grow. To me, these approaches built confidence and allowed everyone to maximize their skills. So it is in the life of a Christian. We should always strive to grow, to learn and to allow Christ to lead us out into the world, sharing our gifts and maximize all that God has given.

This little church has taken many of us on a wonderful journey together. It is clear to all who walk through the doors of Trinity that they

are welcome. The kindness and hospitality exhibited by the people who sit in the pews is felt by every stranger who has walked in the doors.

There is so much I will miss as we move on to another county and I move on to a new job. My faith and my church has helped me grow into a better person and a better Christian. That growth should be ongoing for all of us regardless of our age, where we reside or where we attend church. I was just fortunate enough to experience that growth with all of you at my side!

I will never forget your friendship and support. There will be many visits to Bradford County to see our families and those wonderful, loving people at Trinity!

Keep on growing! Keep on giving! Keep on loving!

God's Peace,

Mother Trula

(Editor's Note: John Schoonover announced on Palm Sunday that he was leaving Trinity to join the Roman Catholic Church. He told us he was just as surprised as we were. I asked him if he would write something for our newsletter and he gracefully sent the following.)

Becoming the Catholic I Was

Richard John Neuhaus, a Lutheran minister who converted to Catholicism in 1990, wrote a book called Catholic Matters. He titled the chapter that describes his conversion, "Becoming the Catholic I Was." In retrospect, it

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is probably as clear a summary of what happened to me as I could ever devise myself.

I have always been drawn to the Catholic tradition in the Episcopal Church. I loved its richness, the opportunities it offered to be close to our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters and the hope that someday we might overcome our differences and undo the terrible schism of the 16th century. For years, I have studied the Roman Catholic faith and the Anglican response to it, from the Oxford Movement in the 1800's to the more recent interfaith discussions between us. In September, I decided to take the Roman Catholic RCIA classes in order to learn more.

I did learn more, but not in the way I imagined. I expected that I would be taught the Roman view of the Holy Scriptures, their interpretation of Church Tradition, the role of the hierarchy, and so forth. What I did not expect and what proved to be most edifying, was the personal faith that each of the instructors demonstrated during the classes. Rather than a Church of rigid rules and lockstep obedience to them, I found a richness of spirit and tradition and a people of God who are full of the Holy Spirit, just like the people of Trinity.

And thus I found myself on the horns of a dilemma. My response to it was to spend almost all of Lent in a formal discernment process. I struggled every day to learn willingness, attentiveness and responsiveness. As I neared the end of the process, I was blessed with a wonderful gift from God – a clear expression of His will for me. No one could ask for more and no one could reject such a gift. But, of course, it comes tinged with the sadness of leaving.

And so, finally, I take my leave and bid you again that farewell that I earlier stumbled through at our meetings. Please know that I did and do and will continue to love Trinity and all of you. I ask only, as John Henry Newman did in his final sermon as an Anglican, that you might offer this prayer on my behalf: that in all

things I may know God's will and that at all times I may be ready to fulfill it.

Cardinal Newman titled this sermon, "The Parting of Friends." In God's good Grace, may we always be so, in this world and the world to come.

John Schoonover

John will continue for a while to aid us in the building project and as we transition to a new organization at Trinity.

Vestry News

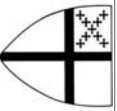
The tower renovation project will soon be in full swing now that Spring has finally arrived. Our architects, Foor and Associates, have completed the planning and the stone work will commence. The temporary covering on the tower will be removed and the top "floor" will be removed and rebuilt. As you know from past updates, the project includes major work on the tower, the replacement of the front doors and basement door and repointing the entire building, as well as other work.



Our thanks to Dan Gerhart for chairing the building committee and overseeing this extensive project.

At our last vestry meeting on April 24, many members of the congregation stayed to offer their input on the changes taking place at Trinity. The meeting was extremely productive. Many good ideas and support were offered and accepted. With the departure of vestry members Karen Nichols and John Schoonover, we were in need of two additional members as well as a new senior warden. Our new vestry members are Charles Kohnken and Barbara Caum. After some gentle urging and promises of assistance, Dan Gerhart accepted the role of Senior Warden. Our thanks to all of them for serving.

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Trinity Episcopal Church - May 2011

Easter Season

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Trinity: 5/1:</i> Carla Ross, Hermine Shapiro, Mary Tolbert. <i>5/8:</i> Laura, T. J. and Tyler Smith. <i>5/15:</i> Roger and Mary Ann Smith. <i>5/22:</i> John and Barbara Strange. <i>5/29:</i> Kathy, Alexandra and Jonathan</p>		<p><i>Diocese: 5/1:</i> St. George's, Hometown, The Rev. Jonathan Mayo, Rector. Episcopal Housing for the Elderly, Slate Belt. <i>5/8:</i> Grace, Honesdale, The Rev. Ed Erb, Rector, Episcopal Housing for the Elderly, Allentown. <i>5/15:</i> Christ Church, Indian Orchard, The Rev. Reuel Kaighn, Supply. Episcopal Housing for the Elderly. Reading. <i>5/22:</i> St. James' and St. George's, Jermy'n, The Rev. Graham Cliff, Priest-in-Charge. New Bethany Ministries. <i>5/29:</i> St. Mark's and St. John's, Jim Thorpe, The Rev. John C. Wagner, Priest-in-Charge. Kirby House.</p>		<p><i>Kaji Keji 5/1:</i> Jondalee, The Rev. Simon Lodu. <i>5/8:</i> Kudaji, The Rev. Gordon Nyori, Deacon James Murye. <i>5/15:</i> Kamsuk, The Rev. Aggrey Ludoru, Deacon Simon Sulla. <i>5/22:</i> Kanyi, The Rev. Joyce Doru Lutka, The Rev. Moses Dima. <i>5/29:</i> Lu'butle, The Rev. Joseph Lomuja, Deacon Benajah Wani.</p>		
<p>1 Easter 2 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>2 St. Mark AA 8:00 pm</p>	<p>3 St. Philip and St. James</p>	<p>4 AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Easter 3 5:00 Holy Eucharist</p>
<p><i>Mary Patterson</i></p>		<p><i>Patrick Kelley</i></p>			<p><i>Kim Murray</i> <i>Noah Gurney</i></p>	
<p>8 Easter 3 Rogation Sunday 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>9 AA 8:00 pm</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm</p>	<p>12 Ascension Day</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Easter 4 5:00 Holy Eucharist Evangelism Workshop, St. Stephen's</p>
	<p>T. J. Smith <i>Hazel & Ron Hunt</i></p>		<p><i>Kathy & Kevin Ayres</i> <i>Chandler Paul</i> <i>Savannah Paul</i></p>	<p><i>Barry Goldsmith</i></p>	<p><i>Colleen Barton</i></p>	<p><i>Corra Orshul</i></p>
<p>15 Easter 4 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour --Vestry Meets--</p>	<p>16 AA 8:00 pm</p>	<p>17 Clergy Bible Study, Towanda, 3 p.m.</p>	<p>18 AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm ECW Annual Meeting, Kirby House</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Easter 5 5:00 Deacon's Mass Trinity Clothing Giveaway, Parish Hall <i>Jeff Davenport</i></p>
		<p><i>Kristina Hooper</i></p>		<p><i>Sharon Cole</i> <i>Phil Kelley</i> <i>Caleb Hunsinger</i> <i>Amanda Birvins</i></p>		
<p>22 Easter 5 9:00 Deacon's Mass 10:00 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>23 AA 8:00 pm</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 AA 7:30 pm AA/Alanon 7:30 pm</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Easter 6 5:00 Holy Eucharist</p>
<p><i>Patricia Gurney Martin</i></p>	<p><i>Ginny Ford</i></p>	<p><i>David J. Birvins</i></p>			<p><i>Dan Gerhart</i></p>	
<p>29 Easter 6 - Rogation 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>30 AA 8:00 pm Memorial Day</p>	<p>31 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</p>	<p><i>Anglicans Around the World: 5/1:</i> New Guinea Islands and Papua, New Guinea, The Rt. Rev. Allan Migi. <i>5/8:</i> Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia, The Rt. Rev. Brian George Farran, The Rt. Rev. Peter Stuart, Suffragan. <i>5/15:</i> Diocese of North Carolina, The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, The Rt. Rev. James Gloster, Suffragan. Diocese of South Carolina, The Rt. Rev. Mark Lawrence. <i>5/22:</i> Northern Argentina. <i>5/29:</i> The Diocese of Northern Michigan.</p>			
	<p><i>Virginia Caum-Lake</i></p>	<p><i>Kim and Chuck Cornell</i></p>				<p>June 11, Diocesan Renewal Assembly, 9 to 1:30, our location: Church of the Redeemer, Sayre.</p>

Vestry News (Continued from page 2)

We are very fortunate that **The Rev. Benjamin Lee Lentz**, former rector of The Church of the Redeemer, Sayre, will be available to serve as our supply priest beginning August 7. We will also be seeing **Deacon Hazel Hunt** from time to time as she helps us as her schedule allows. She will be presiding at both services the weekend of May 21-22 when Karen and Trula plan to move.

As we move forward together to search out God's will for the people who are Trinity Church, we will be talking together, praying together and working together as good stewards of the parish and building that have been entrusted to us.

Everyone is welcome at Vestry meetings. The next meeting is May 15th following coffee hour.

May Highlights:

May 8: Dedication of the new Book of Gospels, 9 a.m. service.

May 15: Vestry Meets

May 21: Clothing Giveaway, morning.

May 21-22: Deacons' Masses with Deacon Hazel Hunt, president.

May 29: Rogation Sunday. (some of your favorite Vaughn Williams hymns).

Clothing Giveaway

We are gathering new and like new clothing for all ages. Items are building up now in the parish hall. Keep that pile growing, now through the end of April. Marie Bubniak is organizing the event and says all sorts of things are needed, *except sweat-shirts*. Talk to her if you have questions. If you can help organize or help with the actual giveaway on the morning of **May 21**, please be in touch with Marie.

Altar Flowers

There is now a rota for the entire year on the back table so that you can sign up for flowers for a specific Sunday. They will be ordered from the florist and delivered to the church. Remember, too, that as the growing season approaches, if you would like to offer flowers from your own garden, they will be joyfully accepted! Very soon the Easter lilies will be fading. Please plan on taking a few plants home to put in your garden. Most of them will bloom the following summer if you plant them now.

Are you getting *Diocesan Life*? Please let Barbara know if you do not receive our diocesan newspaper near the first of each month. A new national newspaper, *Episcopal Journal*, is included. It's a fine publication and is being edited by Jerry Hames, long-time editor of *Episcopal Life*, which ceased to exist, as so many other things have, because of budget cuts. Also, remember that this newsletter and the diocesan publication are both available on the web or by email.

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May at Trinity