

TRINITY PARISH NEWSLETTER
JANUARY, 2011

A message from the Interim Rector

TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON

With Advent we began a new Church Year. With January we begin a new “life year”. Life continues to include necessary losses and small gains. Sometimes it feels like everything is “up for grabs”. What can we count on? Who can we trust? Where is it all going? A war is ending and new wars will begin. Sixteen million children in the U.S. live in poverty. Unemployment, foreclosures, and one million homeless children portray a dark scene.

But to everything there is a season. Seasons change. The dying of autumn and the deadly dark of winter melt away when the crocus peaks through the ground and students sunbathe during finals. Winter warming shelters close and the residents disappear into the bush. Food Pantries and soup kitchens go on and on like the energizer bunny, wound up by the unending dedication of the donors and volunteers. Their season is all year long.

The rhythm of the seasons is the rhythm of God’s Grace. Continuing creation and redemption reveal the constancy of God. God makes and keeps promises even when we do not. As we express our gratitude for all we have received we find stability amidst the mood swings of our daily life. We are called to bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus through demonstrating our compassion for and service to others. If one suffers we all suffer; if one is homeless we all are homeless. As St. Paul reminds us, “we are one body in Christ” and Christ is the head of the body.

As we begin a new “life year” it is my prayer that we are sustained by the promises of God and are motivated to give through serving. May God grant us all a deep sense of gratitude for the blessings we have experienced. We are blessed to be a blessing. The rhythm of receiving and giving will go on. God’s movement within our life will energize our congregation so we open up to all the possibilities before us. May God bless our Profile Committee and the Search Committee. May God bless our stewardship of time, talent, and finances. Let us remind each other that to everything there is a season. Now is the season of gratitude.

- Randy Wilburn, Interim Rector

AN INVITATION FROM THE INTERIM RECTOR

I invite you to join a gathering of others from Trinity or friends in the community for a time of conversation, sharing our faith journey, prayer, and reflection on the scripture texts for the coming Sunday. This is not a “class”. No homework; come when you can. Through this time of spiritual formation, we will grow in our individual and communal faith. This small group experience provides a time set aside for reflection and renewal. We could meet any time during the day on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. We could meet weekly or bi-weekly. We will meet for one hour. We could meet here at Trinity or at a home; coffee and tea would be good.

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you are interested in joining this small group, contact me via email, rkwilburn@comcast.net or call my cell, 413-687-5568. PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHAT DAY(S) AND TIME(S) WORK FOR YOU.

- Randy Wilburn, Interim Rector

LET’S PARTY!

It’s time to party. Come to our Parish **EPIPHANY PARTY FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 7PM**. Delicious desserts, hot chocolate, singing and an Epiphany story through Godly Play Storytelling. This is a party for ALL members of Trinity, young, middle and older. This will be a beautiful way to complete the Christmas Cycle and bask in the light of Epiphany.

Rev. Daina Salnitis and the people from St. Helena’s will join us.

What a wonderful way to show our shared tradition as the light of Epiphany breaks through and shows us the way.

FOND MEMORIES

Most of us remember the words to ***JESUS LOVES ME*** from our Sunday School days: "Jesus loves me this I know, For the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong; we are weak, but He is strong."

It's possible a few of us will relate to this new version:

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow,
Though my sight is growing dim.
Still He bids me trust in Him.

CHORUS

Yes, Jesus loves me . . .
Yes, Jesus loves me. . .
Yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

CHORUS

When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song...
Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear, for I am near."

CHORUS

When my work on Earth is done,
And life's victories have been won,
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love.

CHORUS

I love Jesus, does He know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day.

CHORUS

- From Claudia Wells

MORE WONDERFUL NEWS FROM GODLY PLAY

How awesome it was to follow the huge number of young people happily flowing out of church service as we all went to our groups! I shared with Marc and the young ladies in Godly Journey that the sign of a powerful growing church is the increasing number of young people involved and the attitude of the church body towards them. Grace happily added how when we joined Trinity there were 2 groups and now there are 4!! We also enjoyed together how nice it was to see "Godly Journey" in the weekly bulletin describing their group.

The girls continue to pinch themselves that they are able to worship and share in a small intimate group where they are empowered to help create a vision of what the group will be like. They each shared a prayer freely to open our time and then were very creative, responsive, cooperative and skillful in completing some group building exercises(encouraging the development of non-verbal awareness of group members) at the beginning of their time.

Shelby, Claudia, Grace, Phoebe, Lucy and Siena all enjoyed the wealth of material to create their personal votive candles and scripture on "Light" was read. Their ease in working together and talking respectfully with each other was what you would expect from a mature, older group that had been together for a long time. They are hard workers during work time and also serve each other at feast time with care. We are always surprised and long for extra time when it is time leave.

It is such a blessing to work with these young ladies,

John and Julia Krahm

PROFILE WORK CONTINUES ON SCHEDULE

John Veague, chairman of the Profile Committee, reports that their work is right on schedule. The twenty-four individual interviews have been completed, the congregation-wide survey has been sent out and replies are coming in at a good rate. John suggests that if you did not receive a survey, that you telephone him at 413-298-1010 or email him at johnveague@gmail.com. The next phase of the profile preparation will be group meetings to discuss how you see Trinity now and in the future. The committee is working very hard to make sure that everyone is heard and has input into this part of our search for a new Rector.

SILVER TEA—ANOTHER BIG SUCCESS

The parish house looked festive and was filled with the holiday spirit as parishioners and their neighbors enjoyed Trinity's Christmas Fair and Silver Tea on December 10. The soup and sandwich lunch was delicious and the tea table was loaded with goodies. Bake goods and other food items sold briskly, the doll outfits sold out, many purchased bulbs and other crafts, and the jewelry table was busy. Sales from these tables brought in over \$2000 which will go to victims of Hurricane Irene and other weather related disasters in Western Mass. The Godly Play table was very successful, bringing in \$572, including \$390 donated for blankets for the homeless and gifts for Otiano, the Kenyan child that Trinity supports. Expanding Opportunities sales totaled \$1080.90. This is the exact amount needed to support Otiano for one year with 90 cents leftover. Many, many thanks to all who helped make this such a happy and successful day.

- Emily Kitross and Virginia Giddins, co-chairs

OUTREACH, THE RESTLESS SERVANT THAT NEVER SLEEPS!

Thank you to all of the generous members that contributed to the two Lenox families for Thanksgiving. Our offerings to these families were received with very grateful hearts and the dream of full tummies.

The final totals are not in by press time but the Holiday Fair and Silver Tea made approximately just under \$3,000. That is the gross. Our Godly play kids have discussed plans to spend the part of the money that they worked so hard to earn. I believe that you will hear about that plan later. The remainder of the money earned from the Tea will go to help the victims of the tornadoes and the storms that reaped havoc for our neighbors in the Springfield, Auburn and surrounding area this past Summer and Fall. Much is still to be done before winter set in this year. We will be going through the Diocesan fund for that particular need.

We have a family in Lenox that has fallen on very hard times. The family has 4 children: a boy 10, a boy 7, a boy 2 and a girl 11. there is a sign up sheet in the Parish House. Anything that you feel you can do would be deeply appreciated. Many people gave cash at the coffee hour on December 11th and we have a shopping crew made up of Emily Kittross and Virginia Giddens to help feel that wish list.

Expanding Opportunities made enough monies at the Tea to support Oti (our African student) for another year. Now our Godly Play children want to support a girl. stay tuned for their exciting plan to move forward with their plans.

The Outreach Committee always distributes monies that are budgeted every year to Local, national and international needs and due diligent is always given with every decision. Thank you for the trust that you give to the Outreach Committee.

Thelma's Little Fund was helped greatly with the motor bike ride over the top of Mt. Greylock starring Stephen Booth and Nick Macioige from Trinity and Ned Roche from St. Ann's parish. Thirty eight members from Trinity ending on top of Greylock to welcome the rider reach their goal. Nick wants to do it again next year. Everyone had a great time and the cause can't be beat. If you missed it last year be sure to make it on your calendar for 2012.

Thank you for the generous support you have shown in all of the work that we have done this year.

- Gail Street

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

On Sunday evening, Trinity held its annual service of Christmas Lessons and Carols. As usual the church was absolutely beautiful, lit by at least a hundred sparkling candles. The Children's Choir, the Chancel Choir, smartly attired in their new black and white choir robes , as well as the Cantilena Chamber Choir sang beautifully. This year's carols included some familiar pieces as well as many new ones. The Congregation sang enthusiastically in many carols of the season. This event is always a lovely way to begin the Christmas holiday at Trinity and this year was no exception.

- Anita Stuart

CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

December 24th, Christmas Eve family service at 5:00 P.M.

December 25th, Christmas Day, Holy Eucharist at 10:15 A.M.

January 1st, New Years Day, Holy Eucharist at 10:15 A.M.

Please note, no 8:15 service on Christmas or New Years

January 6, Epiphany party in the Parish House at 7:00 P.M.

January 29, Annual Parish Meeting after the 10:15 service in the Parish House.