

Trinity Newsletter April 2012



A Message from the Interim Rector

GOD REMEMBERS WHEN WE FORGET

“Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.” Psalm 25:5

Thank God for remembering when we forget. Thank God for the truth when we lose our way and forget the covenant. One of the meanings of the Greek New Testament for truth is, “stop forgetting.” When you think about it, we get into trouble with ourselves, with others and with God when we forget who made us, who loves us, and who heals us. “Stop forgetting” to whom you belong. “Stop forgetting” who loves you. “Stop forgetting” what God has done for you in Christ.

Lent is a time to remember. Lent is an awakening. Lent is a time to take stock and repent. Lent is a time to receive forgiveness and be restored. During the days of Lent we have signs and symbols which help us remember. We have the great stories from scripture, the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist, the touch of healing, and the prayer shawls to surround others with love and remembrance. Every morning we pray for those who need healing and for our congregation. On Sundays we greet each other with the “peace of the Lord.” We see and make the sign of the cross as a reminder of why Jesus came and we confess our hope in the resurrection and the life. We have signs everywhere. May God’s Spirit awaken us to God’s presence. May we wake up and see and hear and receive the awesome gift of Grace in Christ. Blessings to you and yours as we “stop forgetting” and remember we are remembered.

Rev. Randy Wilburn, Interim Rector

A NOTE OF SADNESS

Two of our long time parishioners passed away in early March. Lucette Sirensky, a resident of the Curtis Apartments bravely battled Multiple Sclerosis for many years.

Chuck Redfern, a member of Trinity for many years, sang in our choir and was a Lay Eucharistic Minister and reader.

Both will be greatly missed.

We also send our good wishes for a speedy recovery to Vi Switzer who has been ill.

Jazz Vespers at Trinity

On Sunday, May 20 at 5pm, the Ike Sturm Jazz Ensemble will be at Trinity. The seven-piece ensemble which toured Scandinavia in March, will lead the Vespers Worship with their original compositions. They will arrange several hymns for congregational singing as well as offer their original work on Psalms. Scripture and Prayer will be shared as part of the Vespers service.

This event is free to all - no tickets sold nor free-will offering. This will be an excellent opportunity to invite friends and neighbors, especially those who may not currently have a church.

Go online and check out the Ike Sturm Jazz Ensemble from St. Peter's in Manhattan. Ike, the “jazz pastor”, at St. Peter's has an outstanding reputation for great jazz in the tradition of Duke Ellington and other great jazz artists.

2011 Annual Meeting of Trinity Parish, Lenox , MA

Sunday, January 29, 2012

The Senior Warden, Reggie Cooper, called the meeting to order at 11:45 AM in the parish house. The opening prayer was lead by the interim rector, the Reverend Dr. Randall Wilburn.

In the absence of the clerk, George Bergen, it was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to appoint Susan Dana as clerk pro-tem.

The interim rector, Randy Wilburn, spoke on the value of the shared ministry we have at Trinity. The role of the interim is to spread the joy of service, to listen as we collaborate and vision. He praised the lay leadership of the parish. There is a creative tension and delicate balance between waiting for a new rector and doing right now all there is to be done. What are we going to look like in five years? We need to develop a common narrative of our vision.

The warden's report, Reggie Cooper remembered especially the contributions of Inga Dean and Googie Emmet who died this year, as did Maria Michal. He praised the congregation's creativity and willingness to come up with creative solutions, as well as Randy Wilburn's seamless entrance as interim. The challenges for 2012 include the Profile and Search processes and building maintenance projects.

Junior Warden Steve Peters presented the Financial Committee's reports which show a small surplus for 2011. The Stewardship report showed 59 pledges in hand, with a few more expected, and \$125,000 projected in pledges. The financial statements present a balanced budget for 2012, not including expenses for the Profile and Search

committees. An error in the 2012 Annual Operating Budget Summary was corrected by the Senior Warden. The corrected report is attached to these minutes. It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to accept the financial reports with the corrected budget figures.

The Nominating Committee reported that the current officers (Senior Warden Reggie Cooper, Junior Warden Steve Peters, Clerk George Bergen and Treasurer Eúgenie Fawcett have agreed to serve another term of one year. For the vestry, Marian Rutledge will fill the remaining term of George Bergen, and Catherine Taylor-Williams will serve a three year term. Richard Burke will be a delegate to convention with Gail Street an alternate. This is a correction from the published report. There being no further nominations, it was moved, seconded and voted to accept the report of the nominating committee for officers, vestry and convention delegates.

It was moved, seconded and voted to accept all other committee reports.

John Veague reported on the status of the Profile. The goal is to finish in time for the **meeting** in mid-March of the Canons to the Ordinary to review available candidates.

It was moved, seconded and voted to adjourn the meeting. Randy Wilburn led the singing of the Doxology.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Dana, Clerk pro-tem



The Invisible Knitters

For some people who would like to be part of Trinity's Prayer Shawl Ministry, it's not convenient to attend the meetings at noon on the first Thursday and the second Tuesday of each month. That doesn't mean that they can't contribute the work of their hands to the group's mission of providing shawls of comfort. By knitting or crocheting at home, and at their convenience, they can still participate, and their work is appreciated.

Most of these "invisible" knitters live close by, but the long distance prize goes to Mrs. Charles Detwiller, who lives in Westwood, MA. Her daughter, Debbie Smith of Lenox, brings back a bag of shawls knitted by her mother every time she visits. Mrs. Detwiller has macular degeneration, but she enjoys knitting in the glowing colors she chooses for shawls. Attaching the fringe is a bit of a challenge for her, but the "on site" knitters are happy to do that.

If you'd like to be an "invisible" knitter for the Prayer Shawl Ministry, the group will be glad to give you instructions and suggestions for yarns, knitted or crocheted shawls and baby blankets. You don't have to live as far away as Mrs. Detwiller!



EASTER CELEBRATION

Choir Director, Anita Stuart has been working hard with the Children's Choir and the Chancel Choir to prepare for Palm Sunday and our Easter Celebration. On Palm Sunday, They will sing *Sing out Hosanna* with special percussion accompaniment played by Jacob Fanto.

On Easter, The adult choirs will sing the *Halleluiah Chorus* by Handel and *Alleluia ! Christ is Risen* by Michael Bedford. The Children will sing the beloved Shaker song *Lord of the Dance*.

Anita has prepared some beautiful music for the Prelude and Postlude. It will be a glorious celebration.

P R O F I L E

The profile relies on the information the committee has gathered from our congregation since November 2011. It is intended to give prospective clergy a picture of our parish, as well as what it's like to live in Lenox and the Berkshires. In twenty-eight pages, the profile describes the core parts of our ministry, Worship, Nurture, Pastoral Care and Outreach, as well as Trinity's music, stewardship, and administration.

John Veague, the committee chair, expresses his thanks to all the members of Trinity who contributed to the profile, whether by completing the survey, participating in interviews or group meetings, or sharing photographs. In particular, he would like to thank the members of the committee -- Debbie Burke, Susan Dana, Marian Rutledge, Ann St. Clair, Gail Street and Claudia Wells -- for their dedication during the past four months of work. They have produced a useful document that reflects Trinity's present, past, and its hopes for the future.

The next step in the process of calling a new rector for Trinity is the Transition Ministry Conference, which the Reverend Canon Sarah Shofstall, transition officer for the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, will attend in mid-March. At the conference, which is a gathering of almost forty dioceses east of the Mississippi, officers from each diocese share information about clergy who are interested in exploring new calls, as well as congregations like ours who are seeking new clergy. Canon Shofstall estimates that 80% of the clergy who have been called to parishes in our diocese in recent years have come from this conference. Our profile is the first thing these candidates turn to, usually on the Internet, to get a sense of the parish. She is confident that clergy will show significant interest in Trinity.

In conjunction with Canon Shofstall's participation in the conference, the Search Committee chaired by Jesse Goodman will soon begin its work of reviewing candidates, leading to the selection of our new rector.

The completed Profile can be seen on the Trinity website or as hard copy in the Narthex. Please be sure to read it. It gives a wonderful perspective on our church.

Submitted by John Veague

U P D A T E

HOLY WEEK April 1 – April 7

Monday – Saturday, Morning Prayer, 7am
Monday and Tuesday, Evening Prayer, 7pm
Wednesday, 7pm **TABLE COMMUNION**
an informal service in the Parish House symbolic of the transition from the Seder of Passover to Holy Communion, a child-friendly service children will enjoy. Bring your candle and candle holder so we can illuminate our worship space.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 5, 7pm
Eucharist and Foot Washing followed by the all night prayer vigil which ends at Morning Prayer on Good Friday

GOOD FRIDAY, April 6, 10 am, Eucharist
2pm Congregations of Lenox gather at Church-on-the-Hill for the Procession of the Cross which ends at Trinity for closing reading and prayer

HOLY SATURDAY, April 7, Easter Vigil,
Trinity is invited to join St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Stockbridge, MA, 7PM

EASTER SUNDAY, April 8, Festival
Eucharist, 8am and 10:15am