

Trinity Newsletter August 2012

TRANSITION AS TRANSFORMATION

Trinity is in transition. From past to present and present to future. We trust the Holy Spirit is holding on to us through this transition. Most of us do not do well with uncertainty and change. Transition can be overwhelming. Often our anxiety takes over and we need to step back and reflect. We are tempted to hang on and take control when in the midst of the transition we are called to turn it over to God and trust the outcome. Of course clear thinking, effective communication, courageous decisions, and consistent messages are essential. We do what we can to follow the Spirit and practice due diligence. We continue to hold our Search Committee, candidates, and our congregation in prayer. Moving from transition to transformation is often like giving birth. Labor pains and messy. Yet, new life comes. Our faith sustains us and renewed hope emerges. We learn from the story of the storm on the sea, that our initial fear is transformed into awe. It is my prayer that Trinity will move toward transformation and reflect the intention of God. When the winds calm down the glassy sea invites us to walk on it. Our fear of sinking is overcome with trust and confidence. May God guide us all as we, myself included, move through transition to transformation; from fear to awe.

Rev. Randy Wilburn, Interim

News from the Search Committee

At last week's Vestry meeting the Search Committee presented a candidate to Vestry and we approved the calling of this new Rector to Trinity Church Lenox.

The Vestry and Executive Committee met with the candidate and details have been worked out to have our new leader join us. The notifications to the Bishops of the Diocese where the candidate is coming from and the final blessing of Bishop Scruton are being finalized and the name and information will be forthcoming. A final announcement will be shared in the coming days.

We are very excited by the qualities that our new rector brings to us. The Search Committee reviewed several candidates and we are looking forward to a new era for Trinity.

I want to thank the Profile and Search committees for the thoughtful discernment they engaged to outline our needs and find what seems to be a perfect match for our needs. The new Rector will be moving his family to be with us in early September and will begin on September 10th with his first sermon being on September 16th. Gathering Sunday will be on September 23rd.

The journey that has brought us to this place has allowed us to learn about what is needed for us into the future and I am so appreciative for the leadership John Veague has shown in the profile process and the thoughtful guidance Dr. Jesse Goodman has brought to the Search process.

In additional news, our Interim Minister Rev. Dr. Randall Wilburn has been assigned to Grace Episcopal Church in Amherst beginning September 1st. Randy's final service with us will be on August 26th. After the 10:15 service we will have an extended coffee hour to thank Randy and Karin for the almost full year they have been with us. The guidance and stability that Randy has given us during this transitional phase has been incredible. He has challenged us to look within ourselves to realize what we are searching for in a new rector and also to introduce new ideas to our church. I am so thankful for the stability Randy has provided us and will always be grateful for his guidance. In appreciation for Randy's ministry we will be looking to provide a purse in recognition of his ministry. If you would like to add to the purse please indicate in our additional pledges by noting that your gift is to be routed to him in the note section of you checks as "Wilburn purse".

Another upcoming event for us to showcase the grace of Trinity Church Lenox will be on September 16th when we will host the Berkshire Corridor Celebration with Bishop Scruton at a special 4 pm gathering in the Parish house. More details will be announced in the bulletins over the coming weeks.

We are truly blessed for the blessings we have received over the past year and I look forward to sharing them with you.

Sincerely and with God's blessing,
Reggie Cooper, Senior Warden

Outreach

Beverly Stone (Gwen Gilbert's daughter) is trying to begin a girl's school in Kenya through Expanding Opportunities. We have donated \$500.00 from our budget to support her endeavors. The boy's school is a wonderful success. We wish her well.

Elizabeth Freeman Center is requesting used (but in good shape) backpacks and luggage for their clients. If you have any donations, please put them in the narthex and we will see that they are taken to the Freeman Center for abused women and children.

After much research, the one group that can get aid to Syria is doctors Without Borders. We have given \$500.00 of our budget to help with supplies and medicines for that war torn area of the world. John DeBois is planning a preliminary trip to the DR this November to see if a medical mission is possible and what locations might be best for our mission. We would like to form a small support group to give the medical mission idea support and advice. If you are interested in joining this group please contact John Dubois at 243-2746 for more information.

It was agreed that the proceeds from the Christmas Tea and Silver Tea on December 8th will be directed to support the proposed medical mission for 2013.

Thelma's Little Fund Ice Cream Social will be Monday, August 6th from 6 until 8 in the Parish House. Bring all of your friends and enjoy a dish for a good cause to help Lenox children!

HospiceCare provides **Bereavement Support Groups** free of charge. Call HospiceCare at 443-2994 for registration information and locations.

LIVING WITH LOSS SUPPORT GROUP meets the second and fourth Monday evening, 5:30pm-7pm, at the NOAH Center at Jennifer House Commons, 420 Stockbridge Rd, Rt. 7 in Great Barrington

SPOUSE/PARTNER LOSS GROUP meets the third Tuesday of the month, at 10am-11:30am, at the Pittsfield Office.

SUICIDE LOSS SUPPORT GROUP meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6pm-7:30pm, at the Brien Center, 10 Wendell Ave. Pittsfield. Contact Peg Morse at 441-6316 for more

August Birthday greetings:

- 4 Pat Peters
- 8 Linda Jackson
- 9 Susan VanSickle
- 25 Claudia Wells
- 27 Lavinia Meeks



TRINITY TREASURES 2012

a success with over \$4,000 netted at the end of the day....



The Parish came together on July 14th to present the Trinity Treasures tag sale to raise monies to go toward our operating budget. The committee members for the event were Sharon Dubois, Ann St. Clair, Heather Heim, Linda Cooper, Ruth Arisman and Marian Rutledge, and many other parishioners were kind enough to help with sorting, pricing and selling the donated items. Several of the parish children were on hand throughout the day, and proved to be gifted salespersons, raising \$100.00 with their lemonade stand, and making everyone smile with their high spirits. It was nice to raise the money, and even nicer to enjoy a July day with friends from our parish community. Many thanks to those generous parish members who donated their worldly goods and their time and talents to make the fundraiser a success!!!!



STEWARDSHIP

Last month our newsletter presented my article about stewardship and several people of Trinity have responded; positively for the most part.

When I mentioned that a goal could be that our pledges fully fund our operating budget, from \$125,000 to \$250,000, I should have added that this would be a process taking place over the next three to five years. It would *not* be an expectation that we double giving in one year. However, my intention is to propose that we increase our mission and outreach giving with all funds no longer needed to supplement our annual operating budget. Increase in giving comes when the leadership can articulate the vision which reaches beyond the operating budget. What is our Vision for Mission? Where do we want to be and what do we want to be doing three years from now? Five years from now? It is my hope that when the new Rector is in place you will take the time and energy to do some vision planning so everyone is on the same page as to where Trinity is going and why.

Why would you personally be motivated to increase your giving?

Rev. Randy Wilburn, Interim