

Trinity Newsletter May 2012

The Body of Christ

We are the Body of Christ in the world. We are his wounded hands and feet. We bear the marks of our own wounds which qualify us for ministry. We are not perfect but out of our disabilities and faults, we discover we are healed and equipped for ministry.

Christ is Community. Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us, we are not only "in" community through Christ, but the very existence of our Christian Community "is" the Body of Christ. Our community grows in number when we grow in spirit. There is always room for one more at the table of the Lord. Making room for others, for new people, means we move over. We remain open to the possibility of change for the sake of the Body of Christ. We are open to change not simply for the sake of change; not to be popular or novel. Rather, we are open to change so we can discover what God is calling us to be as the Body of Christ.

As the new Rector enters into our community we make room. We are open to the possibility of change which means we move over. We shift our perspective and thinking. Past perceptions are challenged and new learnings lead us into new forms of ministry. What an exciting opportunity we have as we begin a new chapter in the rich history of Trinity. May God's Holy Spirit guide us in the days ahead so we discern what God intends. Trusting the work of the Spirit is the first step in moving over and making room. This is a time of blessing. May we receive the blessing of God and become a blessing to others. As we pray our way into the future, we pray we will be the Body of Christ in the world.

Rev. Randy Wilburn, Interim Rector

DRUM ROLL!!!! We have a date for the Christmas Tea and Silver Tea. Mark your calendars for December 8th from 10 until 3. Our wonderful Chairs are Emily Kittross and Virginia Giddens. Our next meeting will be May 7th at 2:00 in the office conference room. If you would like more information please call Gail Street, 637-2440.

Trinity Choirs

The Children's Choir has had another wonderful year of singing and playing instruments! In addition to singing during the Sunday morning service once a month, they participated in the Christmas Eve service, Palm Sunday and Easter Day. We are looking forward to singing on May 20 for the Rite 13 service, and on June 3 for Choir Awards Day.

The Chancel Choir continues to have an EXTRAORDINARY men's section, with as many as seven men singing on Sunday mornings! The women, though small in number, are mighty in sound, too. Paul and Susan Van Sickle joined the choir in September, and we are so glad to have them with us. Tim Geller joined us late in the fall, and we welcome him to our ranks! We are always seeking more members, so if anyone is interested in joining the choir, please speak to Anita Stuart.

The summer Boston University Tanglewood Institute's (BUTI) recitals in our church begin in June and the schedule for these events will be published by the end of May.

Anita Stuart

Vespers to Play at Trinity Church, Lenox



Trinity Episcopal Church in Lenox, a well-known venue for sacred and secular musical experiences, will present a Jazz Vespers service played by the Ike Sturm Jazz Ensemble at 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 20. These musicians play regularly at Lincoln Center and St. Peter's Lutheran Church in New York, where Sturm is "jazz pastor" (<http://saintpeters.org/jazz>). St. Peter's has maintained a jazz ministry for decades, distinguishing it as a welcoming and open place of worship.

Sturm's jazz brings together creative musical exploration with the quest to hear God's voice in new ways. According to Rev. Dr. Randall K. Wilburn, interim rector of Trinity, the Jazz Vespers entwines music and worship in new ways. "Jazz changes and grows, like our experience of God. Jazz Vespers will bring a new dimension to Trinity's traditional Romanesque chancel, gorgeous stained glass windows and richly carved wood. When people come together here for Jazz Vespers, they will be renewed."

The Ike Sturm Jazz Ensemble's "Jazz Mass" received 4-1/2 stars as one of Downbeat Magazine's "Best of 2010." His original music draws on the traditions of Duke Ellington, John Coltrane, Miles Davis and Thelonious Monk. The ensemble just returned from touring three Scandinavian countries. (<http://www.ikesturm.com>).

Jazz Vespers is part of Trinity's outreach to the community. "Our usual Outreach efforts focus on providing services or funds to our neighbors in need," says Gail Street, long time chair of the Trinity's outreach committee. "The Jazz Vespers lets us to share a spiritual gift."

Reggie Cooper, Trinity's senior warden, points out that "jazz is an expansion of Trinity's musical footprint in the Berkshires. We hope to attract people who have never been here for a classical concert or more traditional service.

"We hope people will come to Jazz Vespers from all segments of the community, regardless of their beliefs or affiliation with a religious organization. Music can speak to all of us, each in our own dialect," says Wilburn.

The Jazz Vespers service is fully funded by the Trinity congregation, so offered at no cost to those who attend.

Trinity Episcopal Church is located at 88 Walker St. in historic Lenox, on Rt. 183, approximately 3/4-mile west of Routes 7&20 (<http://www.trinitylenox.org/>)

The Vestry created The Search Committee to be the working group that identifies a priest who is the best "fit" for our congregation. The Committee members are Ned Dana, Jim Fawcett, Heather Heim, Dick Jackson, Marnie Miller, Catherine Taylor Williams, and Eleanor Velez, and Jesse Goodman, Chairman. Many of the members have worked on Search Committees for Trinity in the past, and bring their experience and wisdom to the task. The Profile Committee, led by John Veague, has discerned the essential qualities of the rector we seek as a congregation, and put these qualities into words. This ideal rector-in-our-minds has a very clear shape and character, thanks to the work of the Profile Committee. These qualities are contained in the beautiful profile document, and can be viewed online at www.trinitylenox.org. Some of these qualities are the following: a leader who can identify and nurture the spiritual gifts of newcomers and inspire us all to use our gifts for the Glory of God, help us to integrate our two major populations in worship and fellowship, be a leader in Lenox, prayerfully consider our unspoken assumptions about how things are done, and help us to minister to one another in ways we have yet to learn. I can't wait to meet that priest! Of course, as each of us is flawed, we will be challenged to discover, accept, and love the imperfections of a new Rector.

The Diocese of Springfield identified ten priests who are seeking a call, who might be a good fit for our congregation, Our committee has extended an invitation to each of them, and after reviewing their profiles and information publicly available about them, we will be interviewing six of them by telephone. Based on these interviews, we will identify a smaller group of two or three who we will meet in person. We will interview candidates between May 7 and May 16, 2012. And will meet them in person during late May and early June. Although we cannot know how the process will unfold, the committee may recommend a priest to the Vestry by the beginning of July 2012, and the Vestry will extend the call. The details of our work is confidential, and this is to protect the priests who are seeking a call, that they may do so privately. Although we cannot share the content of our work, our process is transparent. Your prayers for our work sustain us, as we seek to find our next rector, with God's help. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me. I can be reached by phone at 637-4242, or bv email at iesse@goodman.md.

S E A R C H C O M M I T T E E

Ministry Fair

Come to the Ministry Fair on May 6 at coffee hour after the 10:15 service. Learn more about and/or sign up for Altar Guild, Buildings and Grounds projects, Flower Guild, Hospitality and TLC Committee, Godly Play, Godly Circle and J2A teaching and training, Outreach Committee, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Stewardship and Legacy Fund, Music, Newsletter and Silver Tea.

Virginia Giddens

Outreach

We meet monthly and work under the guideline of mission for local, National and International needs. We go through our "people on the ground" for places where Episcopal Relief and Development already has a location. During our meeting in March, we discussed how to get aid to Syria as well as the tornado stricken areas of the mid-western United States. We felt our help might better serve those in need when they were off the front page of the news.

The proceeds from the Shrove Tuesday (\$235.00) was sent to "Higher Ground", a charity established by the First Congregational Church in Williamstown to aid to the victims of the mobile home park flood as a results of Irene. Higher Ground is a non-profit organization formed to aid current disaster victims had help communities be better prepared to cope with future disasters. They have issued a need for volunteers. There are 225 displaced families in northern Berkshire County that were displaced. Volunteers are needed to partner with them through advocacy, emotional support and assistance in accessing appropriate services. Training will be provided and more information can be obtained by calling Susan Pudester at 413-458-4273.

The Lenox food Pantry is in very good shape as this report is written. The Trinity Parish volunteers have expanded in numbers, volunteering one Saturday a month from 9:30 until 11:00. If this is an area of local mission that you might like to help please speak to Virginia Giddens, or Beryl Wells. They will be glad to give you more information. Our contribution is pasta sauce, 100% juice, tuna fish, toiletries and paper goods. Any contribution is greatly appreciated by their clients.

We have another large project on our blue print page. Stay tuned for further updates on that project.

Small Group Study and Spiritual Formation

On Wednesday, May 16 at 2pm the small group for scripture study and spiritual formation will resume. This is not a "closed group". All participants, new and old, are welcomed. The group meets for one hour. We will look at the Lessons for the coming Sunday and share how the scripture intersects with our personal faith journey. Invite a friend. I look forward to our time together.

Rev. Randy Wilburn

(Belated) April Birthday greetings:

15 Jesse Goodman
19 Gordon Clem
30 Robin Heim

Happy Birthday in May....

2 Richard Jackson
2 Kenneth Heim
9 Val Evans
14 Siena Gamberoni
24 Jeff Kittross



Legacy Giving

A Remembrance of Helen and John Van Lund

Many parishioners have fond memories of the late John and Helen Van Lund. Helen, an Altar Guild member who died in 1987, loved to garden. During the old-time Trinity summer fairs she and Marjorie Wilde would set up a flower booth under the arch of the west door and sell their flowers. Some of us have them in our gardens to this day.

John, a math teacher, was also an accomplished photographer. His photographs of Jacob's Pillow, chronicling the evolution of dance over the course of 50 years, are an important part of the Pillow's archives. He served Trinity as Junior and Senior Warden. During Lent, John would mix special oils to polish the kneeling rail and altar, a concoction we still use today.

When John Van Lund died in 2009, he remembered the Diocese of Western Massachusetts in his will; in fact, at the Diocese's 2010 convention it was noted that John's gift balanced the Diocesan budget that year. Last year John and Helen's son Peter Van Lund gave Trinity an additional gift in memory of his parents.

We are grateful for the many gifts of John and Helen Van Lund. As with so many others who came before us at Trinity, their generosity continues to benefit us today.

If you haven't already done so, please consider making your own legacy gift to Trinity Church. A will codicil can be a simple, effective way to make a lasting contribution to the life of our church. There are many other ways to make a planned gift to Trinity. For more information contact John Veague, chair of Trinity's Third Century Society. Formed in 2009 to honor those who include Trinity in their wills or estate planning, the Third Century Society was recognized by our diocese at its 2010 convention for leadership and achievement in the ministry of legacy stewardship.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season...

Psalm 1:3

