

January 2013
Volume 1, Issue 1

Trinity Episcopal Church

Lenox, MA



A peak inside:

- Silver Tea highlights in pictures
- Dominican Republic Mission update
- January and February birthdays
- Launce Blenkin

SERVICES

SUNDAYS

8 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

10:15 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

with Hymns, Godly Play and J2A

5 p.m. - Evening Prayer

DAILY

7 a.m. - Morning Prayer (8

a.m. on first Saturday of every month)

RECURRING EVENTS

Prayer Shawl Ministry - 12

noon on first Thursday and

third Tuesday of every

month

Taize Prayer - 5pm on third

Sunday of every month

Saturday Morning Prayer -

8am on first Saturday of

every month

A Message from our Rector

Dear People of Trinity Church,

Happy New Year to you all! The Christmas festivities were truly wonderful this year, and I can only hope that they will be as enjoyable and spiritually uplifting in the years to come. From the service of the institution to the Lessons and Carols to the candlelight service on Christmas Eve to the snowy trip to see A Christmas Carol, December was a whirlwind of celebration.

Now we have started a new year, and it is time to look to the next part of our journey together. On Sunday, December 6th we celebrate the next great feast of the Church year, the feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord. Throughout this season, we focus on the ways that Jesus is "shown forth" which is what the word "epiphany" means. This will be the focus of our scripture readings over the next few weeks. However, the thing that most people think about when they think of Epiphany is, of course, the kings and the gifts they bring to the Christ Child.

The kings brought gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. While each of these

gifts was valuable and showed Jesus honor, and while they also had profound prophetic and symbolic meaning, there is something else which we often overlook about these gifts. They were absolutely gratuitous and unnecessary. I suppose that Mary and Joseph could have sold these gifts off and set up some sort of a college fund for Jesus, but other than their value, Jesus did not need them. As the divine Son of God, Jesus had absolutely no need for these things. In fact, God has no need of any of the things that we offer him, and this is actually a wonderful challenge for us.

If God does not need anything from us, then what can we possibly give him? The answer is simply ourselves. One place where we offer ourselves to God is in worship together. This is not usually how we think of what we do on Sunday mornings. Often we think of it as a time for reflection or teaching or fellowship. But before all of those things, it is an opportunity to be still and to rest in the presence of God. Another place where we offer ourselves is in prayer. By taking time to be quiet and to still the noise around us, we can begin to hear God.

Another way to offer ourselves to God is in service to others. The Outreach Committee do a wonderful job in creating these opportunities, and I believe that this will continue to be an important part of our corporate life.

But all of these things take time, and our time is often one of most difficult gifts to give, especially for us in our busy lives. Around this time of year, there are many articles written about New Year's resolutions and ways to live differently this year. I would suggest that this year, we look for ways of doing less rather than more. Not surprisingly, this is a difficulty that others have addressed in the past, and the Church has many ways to help us let go of some of the busyness to make space for God. One of these ways is through the practice of giving up things for Lent (more about that later!). Over the next few weeks, we will be looking to strengthen some of the ways that we slow down and pray together, and we will also be looking for some new ways that we can offer ourselves to God.

Yours in Christ,

*The Outreach Committee sponsored John Du Bois to go to the Dominican Republic in November to be part of an existing team from South Carolina to see if there was need and opportunity for a Trinity team there. The answer was a resounding **YES**.*

Dominican Republic Mission Trip Update

During the past year there were several meetings and discussions with members of the congregation, the outreach committee, and the Vestry about the need and interest of Trinity to sponsor and send a medical team to an area of need. The Outreach Committee sponsored John Du Bois to go to the Dominican Republic in November to be part of an existing team from South Carolina to see if there was need and opportunity for a Trinity team there. The answer was a resounding YES. The team

John joined was led by Howard and Joy Holl, from Charleston. John knew them well as they were active in bringing a group to Panama while he was serving as Missionary there. The DR has big medical needs and the Diocese of the DR is very active in supporting and encouraging medical teams that can serve in areas that have church support. John's team worked from the churches in two small villages. He and Howard saw over 400 people in the four days the mission was active including many children

and many adults with high blood pressure and diabetes. Many people with La Grippe, which he caught! Howard and Joy go to these towns twice a year and they would be very interested in having a small team of 4 to 5 people from Trinity join them next year. This seems to be a realistic plan and with Outreach and Vestry approval plans for a trip can be developed this year. This is a very spiritual binding event that can impact many people in our congregation.

Submitted by John Dubois

Affordable Housing Project at Trinity

The Sawmill Brook housing project, with which Trinity has been connected for some years, is beginning to look more promising. Our developer, the Community Development Corp of South Berkshire, reports

that the state has spread the word that it will probably restart the subsidy program for affordable ownership housing in 2013. This would mean that the CDC can do the necessary pre-development engineering

and architectural work. As events unfold we'll keep you informed. For more information ask Tim Geller, Jeff Kittross or Debbie Burke for details.



Dickens' A Christmas Carol and Trinity

The Journey to Adulthood and Godly Journey groups spent three weeks on lessons that compare Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol to the Christian life and Jesus' teachings. We focused on the ghost of Jacob Marley and his

representation of regret. We discussed the chains that Jacob Marley carries and what they represent and how we may be forging our own chains – link by link. This lesson began with a group field trip to the Colonial Theater to see the play on stage.

What a fun, snowy afternoon of young and old culminating with a lovely gathering at Susan and Ned Dana's home.

“He brought them out of darkness and the deepest gloom and broke away their chains.”

Psalm 107:14

Godly Play in the Community



Our very own Eleanor Velez shared the Godly Play story – The Holy Family - at the Salvation Army in Pittsfield, MA in December 2012.

What a gift we have in Eleanor and all of God’s stories. Thank you for sharing both gifts.

Trinity Birthdays

January Birthdays

- 1/8 Deborah Burke
- 1/12 Reggie Cooper
- 1/13 Martha Burke-Hennessy
- 1/14 Michael tuck
- 1/19 Launce Blenkin
- 1/20 Ned Dana
- 1/22 Robert Alsop

- 1/23 James Fawcett
- 1/26 Holly Tuck
- 1/29 George Bergen



February Birthdays

- 2/13 Emily Kittross
- 2/23 Eugenie Fawcett
- 2/27 Lisa Noferi
- 2/28 Virginia Lavery

"This is the day which the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24

Trinity's Silver Tea – A Season of Tradition

We wanted to update those of you who helped make the Silver Tea so successful. It was a success on every level - the number of parishioners who volunteered, the number of people who came and the amount of money we made. Our net was over \$2700 and Expanding Opportunities made \$1600, more than enough to sponsor Trinity's Kenyan child for a year. The proceeds will be divided between Episcopal Relief and Development for Hurricane Sandy victims (\$1000), the 2013 Medical Mission to the Dominican Republic (\$1000), and to Godly Play for outreach projects, (\$250). The remainder will be used in preparation for the 2013 Christmas Fair and Silver Tea.

Submitted by Emily Kittross and Virginia Giddens



Reverend Michael Tuck's Installation



At 5:00 Sunday afternoon, December 16th, Trinity filled with parishioners, guests, and clergy from other Berkshire Churches. All had come to celebrate the new ministry of Rev. Michael Tuck, our 27th Rector. Soon the organ played the introduction to *Holy,*

Holy, Holy and a procession of participants in striking red stoles. Followed by The Rev. Dr. Douglas Fisher, the new Bishop of Western Massachusetts.

Following the Institution came the Induction wherein the Bishop and representatives of the Parish presented Michael with symbolic gifts significant in their meaning to Trinity - a very old Bible, a vessel of water, a red stole, a prayer

book and a prayer shawl and an ark, representing Godly Play. The Wardens presented the keys to the church, and a book of the Constitution and Canons of the church. Finally he was presented with the bread and wine to celebrate the Eucharist.

Both the Children's choir and the Chancel choir sang like angels - the children, *Prepare the Way of the Lord* and the adults *Rejoice in the Lord Always*. The hymns were beautiful and Anita's prelude and postlude were, as always, beautiful.

Following the Recessional, we all moved to the Parish House for a lovely reception, planned by Susan Dana with help from the Search committee. About 7:30, the crowd thinned and people went out into the cold "wintry mix" evening, warmed by a lovely service and great fellowship. I think we all look forward to Michael's new ministry.





The following story was told and presented to Launce Blenkin on Sunday December 9th, 2012 by the Journey to Adulthood students as part of their lessons on the Saints and their stories.

LAUNCE BLENKIN'S STORY

In our Godly Play classroom we hear stories of many different saints, like St. Patrick, St. Francis, and Saint Catherine. We know that saints can be men or women, and girls and boys, too. Saints all love God in a very special way, and they love people, too. Today we're going to hear the story of one of Trinity Church's special saints, someone we all know and love, Mr. Launce Blenkin. Let's listen to Launce's story.

Launce was born in the little town of Bishop Auckland in County Durham on the northeast coast of England. He was the second of six children, four girls and two boys. As a youngster he liked to ride his bike, but he was also a big helper to his mother. He helped with the shopping, with the laundry, and tending to his younger brothers and sisters. Launce tells us that this is just what children did in those days. He attended the local grammar school on scholarship.

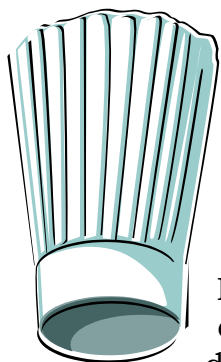


Launce's father was the Vicar's Warden, so he and his family went to church four times every Sunday. Launce lived right across the street from St. Peter's Church, where he sang in the boys' choir until the age of 13. Comprised of 34 boys and 8 probationers, the choir sang at each one of St. Peter's four Sunday services. The boys never had to use a hymn book because they knew all the words by heart. Launce had a reputation for excellent attendance, partly, he says, because his mother watched him out the window to make sure he didn't take a detour on his way across the street!

When Launce was a boy Bishop Auckland was known for its coal mining. At the age of 17 many of the boys in the village became miners and spent the rest of their working lives down in the coal mines. But Launce had a different idea. At 16 he decided to join the British Royal Navy. In 1948 Launce went to Hong Kong as the personal secretary to the Admiral in charge of the British fleet in the Far East. This was a very exciting job that included lots of travel - from Hong Kong to Borneo, Singapore and Japan - and continued through the Korean War. In all, Launce spent 13 years in The British Navy, 8 years of active duty and 5 years in the Reserve.



It was in Hong Kong that Launce joined the stage club and acted in his first play, “The Guinea Pig,” thus beginning a hobby in theatre that he very much enjoyed.



After his naval service Launce began a new life in London. He met the famous chef, James Beard, who guided him into the catering business. Famous people and beautiful mansions became part of his life along with delicious food. When he decided to go to America, he met many more people in the catering field and he opened his own flourishing catering business in New York City. During that time he revamped 3 of Princeton University’s restaurants and catered many parties at Gracie Mansion, the home of the Mayor of New York. Because of his distinguished voice Launce was asked to announce the names of all the dignitaries and renowned guests as they arrived.

Tanglewood brought Launce to Lenox where he fell in love with the friendly people and the beautiful landscapes. He retired here more than 20 years ago and has enjoyed a life of volunteering at the Lenox Library and the Community Center. Launce found a new church home at Trinity Church where he has been a beloved member of the congregation for over two decades. At Trinity he is best known for his contributions to our Sunday Coffee Hours, his famous cucumber sandwiches featured annually at the Silver Tea, and for his delicious soups.



Launce is proud of the way he has lived his life, the friendships he has formed and the lives that he has changed. While he fell away from the church for a period of time he found a new church home and **family** at Trinity. For many years, there were no children at Trinity and then the little ones began to gather in this sanctuary. He made quick connections with these young parishioners and soon became fast friends with every one of them. On Sundays, Launce would reach into his pocket and pull out a butterscotch treats for them. Launce Blenkin welcomed the children at Trinity Church and made each Sunday a little bit more special because of his kindness.

And now, Launce continues to nurture **each** and **every one of us** in his own special way as he ensures that our time at coffee hour is a special time of sharing and community. So today we surround Launce with our love as we remember and honor our own saint, Launce, Blenkin, who loves God, who loves people and who loves children in a most remarkable way.