

March 2013
Volume 1, Issue 3

Trinity Episcopal Church

Lenox, MA



A peak inside:

- Holy Week Calendar
- 2012 Parochial Report
- Technology and J2A

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,

I hope you all are having a good Lent. I find in my own Lenten rule that this is often the most difficult time, and I would wish you all encouragement as we come into Holy Week. I wanted to share with you all a little bit about our Lent series and also to let you know about all of the things that will be happening around Trinity for Holy Week and Easter.

The Lent series Sunday evening has been a wonderful opportunity for people to get together and share their stories. It took a few weeks for people to begin to dig more deeply into Jeremy Taylor's way of looking at life, but in the past two weeks in particular there has been a lively discussion. I was hopeful that, by looking at one of the founders of Anglican spirituality, we would find that our own challenges and joys in the Christian are not so different from those of other people and also from people who lived a long time ago. And I think that is exactly what we have found. Dinner and discussion seems to be a

good format for us here in this parish, and so I anticipate that we will do something similar next year. I am also looking forward to exploring the diversity of thought in our Church, so we will probably be reading something quite different next year. I would welcome your suggestions.

We are also rapidly coming up to Holy Week. The services of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil are some of the most powerful expressions of our faith. At these services, we do unusual things like the Palm Procession and reading of the Passion on Palm Sunday, the foot washing on Maundy Thursday, the solemn prayers of Good Friday, and the lighting of the New Fire at the Easter Vigil. But these services really shine in the profound things the ceremonies say about who we are, who God is, and what God has done for us. I understand that many people have not experienced these services in the past, so I have tried

to open up these services through the homilies for Lent. But the best way is to simply experience them, I would encourage you to come to some of these services, and I would be more than happy to talk to anyone about them.

Looking beyond Lent to Easter, we will be coming into our season of feasting. I was always told that feasting is actually a more important spiritual discipline than fasting is. You can tell because Easter has fifty days and Lent only has forty! In order to start our feasting off right, Annie and I will be hosting an Easter reception in the rectory after the Easter Vigil. God Bless you all. I hope that the remainder of your Lent is a good one, and I look forward to celebrating Easter with you all this year.

Yours in Christ,

Notes from Vestry

February 25, 2013

The 2012 audit certificate was approved with four minor recommendations being implemented

Steve Peters is in the process of inventorying and evaluating various valuable items owned by the church.

A generous bequest has been received from the estate of our good friend Inga Dean.

The Christmas Tea will be held on December 7, 2013. The Outreach committee is working on ways to make the outreach program a more significant part of Trinity's life.

A new building and grounds committee has been constituted with the wardens as chairmen. Members will be appointed as needed. They will look into the Parish house stove and floor as well as the large speakers atop the rood screen.

This year's stewardship campaign netted \$123,000 from 63 pledges. There will be an effort to try to increase giving in the future, keeping in mind circumstances of all parishioners.

Lenox Clergy will get together to address social issues, especially gun violence.

We need to find someone to chair the Trinity Treasures sale this summer.

Parochial report

As a parish in the Episcopal Church, one of the things that we have to do every year is to provide a Parochial Report to the national church looking

back on the previous year. I would also like to thank our staff and the Wardens and our Treasurer for all their work in preparing this report.

The Parochial Report is a statistical summary of how things are going in our parish. The national church tracks information about financial status as well as information about the numbers and different types of services we have every year. Of course, numbers don't capture all of the ways in which we have grown as disciples of Christ in the previous year, but they can give us part of the story. When presenting the Parochial Report to the vestry, I highlighted five numbers in particular that tell part of Trinity Church's story over the past year, and they are numbers that I believe challenge us with regard to our future.

Most of the time, people are concerned about one number in particular – the Average Sunday Attendance or ASA (even the Church is not immune from acronyms!). This is a snapshot of number of people who come to church on any given Sunday (this includes both the 8 am and the 10:15 am services). Our ASA for 2012 was 85. This means that about 85 people came to our parish on any given Sunday. Sometimes we have more, sometimes less. This number is a small decline from the previous year's ASA of 88. Unless a downward trend continues, this is nothing to be concerned about.

On the financial page, the first two numbers the national church asks about are the number of people pledging and the total amount pledged. The total amount pledged helps us understand whether or not we have the resources we need in order to function as a parish. In

2012, our total pledge was \$125,000, so we are in very good shape. In 2012, we had 61 individuals or families who pledged. This number helps us understand how many people are connected enough to the parish to commit to an annual pledge. For 2013, we have 63 individuals or families who pledged, so we are again, in good shape, but I believe this is a place where we can do better.

There are two other numbers I highlighted for the vestry. The first is that we had 339 services of morning and evening prayer throughout the year. This is a wonderful sign of the commitment of a few individuals to pray on all of our behalf. The second is that we had 7 weekday celebrations of the Holy Eucharist. In the relatively small number of weekday Eucharists, we can see that there is an opportunity to strengthen our corporate prayer life.

I think it's important to underscore that the numbers for any given year are not terribly important except that they can help highlight strengths and opportunities for growth. Over the next few years, it will be important to use these numbers to make sure that we are growing in strength and holiness as a parish. Please let me know if you would like a copy of our Parochial Report or if you have any questions.

Parochial report submitted by Rev. Michael Tuck

Questions? Please contact a member of the Vestry.

Journey To Adulthood

With a little help from technology, the Journey to Adulthood kids were able to connect across continents with a special friend on Sunday, March 3rd.

The kids had a lively and fun-filled talk with 16 year old Otieno and several of his friends. Otieno is the boy that Trinity Church sponsors through Expanding Opportunities. Our relationship with Expanding Opportunities developed via Trinity parishioner, Gwen Gilbert and her daughter Beverly Stone who works for this wonderful organization.

Trinity's sponsorship is supported by our Silver Tea

Expanding Opportunity sales and through individual donations.

Our sponsorship helps Otieno to have a home, food, clothing, education, medical care and to receive guidance for his physical, mental, emotional and spiritual growth.

It can be challenging to Skype with a group young people who speak different languages and all of the kids took a little time to warm up to each other.

The Expanding Opportunities children sang songs (in English AND Swahili) and connected beautifully with our Trinity J2A students.

We had a big group in the Trinity office including Lucy, Penny, Miriam, Matthew, Zoe, Andrea and Phoebe. Over in Kenya, Beverly assembled a delightful group of children, ages 9 - 16, boys and girls.

When I asked our Kenyan friends if we could send them anything special, they asked for music and books, clothes and shoes. We are going to assemble a care package for them and when Beverly next visits her mom, we will have her carry our presents with her to Kenya.

Submitted by Heather Heim

Technology turns thousands of miles into memories...



Godly Play

The newest volume of Godly Play stories has been released. Volume 8 concludes The Complete Guide to Godly Play series with new lessons that tie together all the other volumes. This final edition culminates in the connection of key lessons and artifacts into a single, overarching lesson: The Liturgical Synthesis. Favorite Godly Play stories including The Circle of the Church Year, the Circle of the Holy Eucharist, Holy Baptism and the Holy Family are all used to present this multi-faceted synthesis. Many of the lessons that

are presented in Volume 8 have been in the works since the 1970's and Jerome Berryman states that these stories "represent content central to the Christian tradition." Some of the stories are complex and further explore presentations with which the children are already familiar.

On Saturday, May 4th, there will be an in depth training on Volume 8 at Saint John's Episcopal Church in Northampton, MA. This training is intended for those who are already familiar with Godly Play and who

already have some storytelling experience, but I find that it is always worthwhile to experience Godly Play stories in this type of environment. The trainers are always top notch and it provides a wonderful opportunity to share stories with other teachers and discover new ways of doing things. If you are interested in attending this training, please contact Heather Wells Heim.

Submitted by Heather Heim

Godly play is an approach based on Montessori principles - we respond to the child's request to 'help me do it by myself.' This puts the teacher in the role of spiritual supporter or guide who fully accepts that each child has his or her own relationship with God already. The teaching takes place in different ways at the same time: it is multi-modal and multi-sensory.

Spotlight on Outreach

The Outreach Committee along with the help of Dr. John DeBois continues to plan our Medical Mission. He and Sharon will be away for three months as John has taken a post in

Laredo, Texas until July. He will be in contact with the mission director in Charleston, S.C. to finalize the details and dates for our mission. So stay tuned for updates on our plans.

At the last meeting each member of the Committee wrote down a direction for the coming year and discussed what direction that we wanted to go.

The next meeting of the Outreach Committee will be held on Monday, April 22, 2:00 pm.

All are welcome!!

Submitted by Gail

Trinity Birthdays

March

- 2 Edward Baptiste
- 4 Anita Stuart
- 6 Virginia Giddens
- 8 Ava Gamberoni
- 19 Porter Tuck
- 21 Barbara Bartle
- 22 Catherine Gamberoni
- 22 Marnie Miller
- 23 Tessa Gamberoni

- 24 Helen Hainesworth
- 26 Betsy Bemis
- 28 Jules Seltzer
- 29 Marion Rutledge
- 29 Wendy Philbrick

April

- 19 Gordon Clem
- 15 Jesse Goodman
- 21 Bob Hainsworth
- 30 Robin Heim



Holy Week

Services of Holy Week at Trinity Church

Sunday March 24 – Saturday March 30, 2013

Palm Sunday

8:00 am Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

10:15 am Liturgy of the Palms, Procession, and Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Holy Wednesday

6:00 pm Fellowship Meal with Table Communion (Parish Hall)

Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm Holy Eucharist and Footwashing (Rite II)

Good Friday

12:00 noon Good Friday Liturgy

2:00 pm Walking with the Cross

(beginning at Church on the Hill and ending at Trinity)

Holy Saturday

7:30 pm The Great Vigil of Easter

Easter Sunday: The Sunday of the Resurrection

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

10:15 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

followed by an Easter Egg Hunt (weather permitting)

Morning Prayer will be said at 7 am, Monday through Saturday.

Evening Prayer will be said at 5 pm every day throughout the week.

