

Trinity Newsletter June 2012

Stewardship for All Seasons

What if our stewardship focus was the mission of Trinity? What if our conversation about stewardship was not reduced to a week or two in the fall which seeks to provide some money for the operating budget? What if the conversation about stewardship was year round and focused upon mission and outreach?

As we face the future and the coming of the new Rector, I would propose an idea: We lift up all our ministries and understand them to be mission and hear about our mission and outreach all year long. When the leadership can articulate the vision people will respond with generosity. People will give of their time and talent as well as their money when the purpose of giving goes beyond operational budgets.

Here is a radical idea: What if our annual pledges fully funded our mission in the operating budget? Instead of pledges of \$125,000 we received \$250,000 and all of our fundraisers and endowment money could go to outreach. Maybe we need a new vision for mission and/or an expansion of our outreach? The more we give away the more we will receive. I repeat, when the leadership can articulate the vision people will respond. When we inform, motivate, and ask people to pledge to the vision for mission they will respond. When we are only attempting to help supply an operating budget balance and know we can use endowment money to complete it, people are not motivated to increase their giving. New people need a vision for mission and a reason to give beyond the bottom line of an operating budget.

People have a spiritual need to give. People want to express their gratitude to God through giving back. People express this gratitude by giving to many things as well as to the church. People have a need to give thanks through their offerings of time, talent, and money. People want to experience generosity. Fully funding our annual budget is more a function of mission and vision than operating costs. What if our pledges fully funded our annual operating budget when understood as mission?

This is a challenge but very doable. What if we were sharing conversation now about our vision for mission, new initiatives, expanding opportunities, so when pledges are requested, people will be prepared to increase their support. They will be clear on what it is for and where we are going.

May God guide us into the future as we cast a new vision for mission and support it with our time, talent, gifts-in-kind, and money.

Rev. Randy Wilburn, Interim Rector.

George Bergen and Ruth Arisman recently visited the St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Westfield, NJ to meet the Worker's of the Ecclesiastical Embroidery Guild

Visit to the Ecclesiastical Embroidery Guild St. Paul's Westfield NJ

There are three ladies remaining in the Guild, one in her 90's. They meet at St. Paul's every second and fourth Monday to do their work. None of the present Guild members belongs to St. Paul's Parrish and one of them drives an hour to get to the meetings. St. Paul's provides storage for their materials and a room in which they work, which appears to be a part of St. Paul's school.

The Guild members acquired their knowledge of Ecclesiastical Embroidery through a week long class in New York City several years ago. They do not think the class still exists. They are willing to teach others what they know and have attempted to recruit new members; however, since most women today work outside the home, they have not been successful. The few people they did recruit dropped out because of the distance they had to go to attend meeting.

If they agree to take work, their labor is free and they only charge for materials. Donations are welcome and are used to purchase supplies to make vestments for missions. They have supplied several sets of vestments to missions in Africa.

Ruth Arisman



Barbara and Gretchen finish up our 1888 Frontal.



Ethel works on her project.



The 1888 Frontal in all its glory!

Outreach

The Outreach Committee representatives Dr. John De Bois and Gail Street met with the Vestry to present our plans to develop a medical mission to the Dominican Republic in the year 2013. Germane questions were raised and the Vestry unanimously authorized Outreach to proceed to investigate this mission opportunity. The Outreach Committee will keep the Vestry informed as our plans unfold. John will be going in November with another medical mission which should give him an opportunity to answer many questions.

The Outreach Committee has set aside up to \$1,000.00 from their budget to underwrite John's trip in November.

The Christian Center was sent a check for \$200.00 to celebrate their 120th birthday in the community and to help support their work through Berkshire County.

Rabbi David Weiner of the Kneset Israel Synagogue in Pittsfield suffered a destructive house fire and it was agreed to send the Synagogue a check for \$100.00 as a gesture of fraternal support in rebuilding his home.

THE DATE FOR THE 21st Thelma's Little Fund Ice Cream Social is Monday evening, August 6th from 6 to 8 PM in the Parish House.

Outreach will meet on June 11th at 2 PM in the office. Please come and join us.

Gail Street

Small Group Study and Spiritual Formation

The Small Group for Spiritual Formation which met on Wednesdays will no longer meet. May continued blessings guide those who participated.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our faith journey and I

encourage you to continue to pray for each other.

Rev. Randy Wilburn

(Belated) May Birthday greetings:

20 Susan Dana

Happy Birthday in June....

18 Tad Evans

28 Linda Cooper



Children's Spirituality

In March twenty-one of Trinity's Godly Play, Godly Journey and Journey-to-Adulthood children participated in Cheryl Minor's research study on children's spirituality. Parents and children signed consent forms and answered a series of questions on parenting styles and **Feeling Good, Living Life** surveys. Some of these children have been in Trinity's Godly Play Program from its inception in 2004.

Cheryl is Co-Rector at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Belmont, MA, a Godly Play Teacher Trainer for the northeast, and Consulting Editor at the Godly Play

Foundation. She is conducting her research as part of her Ph.D. thesis. During the past ten years Trinity's Godly Play teachers collectively have had many hours of instruction under her direction.



Cheryl

writes: "Understanding the spiritual lives of children is important to our identity as Christians. Jesus told us that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven we need to become like children. However, as is often the case with Jesus, he did not tell us how to do that. Perhaps what he wants us to do is to *simply be with children, watch, and listen*, to see if we can know something of what they know." Cheryl goes on to say: "We know that children come to us with an innate spirituality, but that spirituality is very vulnerable to the cultural forces that devalue it. It follows then, that the most important thing we can do to nurture it is to value it – value it by our words and our actions."

Certainly one of the great joys for Trinity's Godly Play teachers is to "be" with Trinity's children and to "value them", to watch, to listen and to learn from them as they wonder together about God's stories. To read Rev. Minor's two essays on children's spirituality go to www.buildfaith.org and search **Cheryl Minor**.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee has completed interviewing candidates by telephone, and has arranged in-person interviews with two candidates in the coming weeks. After those meetings, if we are still considering one or both, we would check references and, based on the results of that process, begin thoughtful and prayerful consideration of the candidates. If we reach a consensus that we can recommend one, we present that recommendation to the Vestry. If not, we would begin the process again. Thank you for your support and prayers! If you have any questions, please speak with Jesse Goodman in person or by phone at 637-4242.

TRINITY IS LOVE

Rublev's Russian Icon of the Holy Trinity is a beautiful image. There are many parts of the image which have a specific interpretation. On June 3, Trinity Sunday, we saw the colorful image of the icon and it was the focus of the sermon. The bulletin cover included a color image of the icon and an insert provided interpretation.

When all the parts of the image are seen as one image, Rublev's purpose for painting it is revealed as the love of God. Trinity is Love. The conversation among the three characters in the icon is an ongoing conversation of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. When we pray we join in the conversation. Our name is Trinity. We are Trinity Church. Trinity means love. We embody love. We are the Body of Christ and are called to live out our namesake. As we anticipate a new Rector we will discover our vision for mission. We will join the Holy Conversation of the Trinity and pray for the guidance of God in the months and years ahead. We remain in prayer for the Search Committee. We trust God to gift us with discernment. Trinity is Love. May it be so. Rev. Randy Wilburn, Interim Rector

Dear Lenox Clergy Group, Pittsfield Area Council of Congregations, and South County Clergy Group,

I want to let you know about a unique opportunity for spiritual learning and growth happening on July 6 and 20: Jewish Perspectives on the New Testament.

On Friday July 6 Marc Zvi Brettler, co-editor with Amy-Jill Levine of The Jewish Annotated New Testament which has received awards and acclaim from both Jewish and Christian religious and scholarly circles, will be speaking about the book and the goals the two editors wanted to accomplish.

On Friday July 20 the conversation about this acclaimed book will continue with Rabbi Robert S. Goldstein, spiritual leader of Temple Emmanuel in Andover, MA and Father Richard Burnett, senior pastor of Trinity Episcopal Church in Columbus, Ohio.

Both events are from 10:30 am to 12 noon at the Church on the Hill chapel, 55 Main Street in Lenox, downhill from the main church. This is sponsored by Congregation Knesset Israel. Contact Myrna Hammerling at 413-445-4872, ext. 16; mhammerling@knessetisrael.org RSVP to her by the day before each event.

What a great opportunity for Christians and Jews to study and learn together. Please publicize to your congregations and encourage them to come. See you there!

Rev. Natalie Shiras, Pastor
Church on the Hill