

Trinity Newsletter September 2012

Dear People of Trinity Church,

Giving thanks is one of the most important things that we do as Christians, and I already have so many things for which to thank you all. Annie and I have been overwhelmed with how welcoming and generous everyone has been over the past few weeks. We are already seeing some of what makes this such a wonderful community.

The time between rectors can often be challenging for parishes. It takes a lot of patience to go through this whole process, and I would like to thank the Wardens, the Vestry, and, of course, the Profile and Search Committees for their hard work and their dedication during this time of transition. Unless you have served on a committee like these, it is difficult to imagine the amount of work that goes into it. I would also like to thank Rev. Randy Wilburn for his guidance and his leadership during this time.

I'm sure that I will have further opportunities to introduce myself, but in this first newsletter, I would like to share with you a little bit more about my background. Annie and both I grew up in Norwood, Pennsylvania, in the suburbs of Philadelphia. My father was the rector of St. Stephen's, the local Episcopal Church. Looking for a challenge, I studied at Brown University in Providence where I concentrated in medieval studies and mathematics. After college, I returned to Philadelphia, and I worked as a human resources consultant while I discerned God's call to ordained ministry. During that time, Annie and I were married and Holly was born. Seminary took us overseas for two years to the Church of England's College of the Resurrection in Mirfield where we were also blessed with Porter's birth. After seminary, I returned to Providence to serve as the curate (assistant) at St. Stephen's Church and also the Episcopal Campus Minster at Brown and RISD, a post that I held for the past three years.

Now that you all have at least a thumbnail sketch of me, I would like to learn about you. Over the next few months, it is my intention to spend the time simply getting to know you all better. Every parish (and every priest!) does things a little bit differently, and in those differences, key aspects of the community's values can be revealed. I want to learn more deeply what makes Trinity such a special place and such a great community. Over the next few months I look forward to meeting you all after services, around town, and at all of our special events.

In the August newsletter, Rev. Randy included a lovely meditation on transition as a spiritual discipline, an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to trusting God and to grow into the community that he envisions for us. Even though I have now begun as your new rector, the process of transition and transformation will continue. There will be new challenges as we get to know each other, and there will be new opportunities to witness to the Gospel and to the love of Jesus Christ. I ask for your prayers and your support as we begin this journey together. I thank God for you all, and I look forward to joining you in your path of discipleship.

In Christ,



Outreach

We have sent Western Mass Labor Action \$400.00 to assist with school supplies for families with working parents. Some families cannot afford to provide all of the supplies that schools ask students to have at the beginning of the school year.

A request from Elizabeth Freeman Center for help to replenish their inventory of emergency clothing for victims of rape and assault to enable them to return to the Center from BMC with dignity was met with a purchase of sweat pants, sweat shirts and undergarments.

Dr. John Dubois will be going on a fact finding mission to the DR on November 1-10. If you are interested in joining a support to study this project please contact John so that he can notify you of an upcoming meeting to gather thoughts and questions

Emily Kittross and Virginia Giddens are co-chairman of the Christmas Fair and Silver Tea. Please mark your calendars for December 8th from 10 until 3. Sharon DuBois will be directing decorations this year. It is always a beautiful spirit for the coming holidays. There are bound to be new and special surprises this year. Bring your friends and enjoy a wonderful tradition.

The next Outreach Committee meeting will be Tuesday, October 9th at 2 PM in the church office. All are welcome!

TAIZE SCHEDULE

3rd Sundays At 5:00 PM. October 21, November 18, December 16 – Trinity Chapel

GATHERING SUNDAY

On Sunday, September 23, Our Parish will “gather” after the summer to start the new season. Godly Play, regular worship schedule, and the return of our Chancel and childrens’ choirs, not to mention Taize services and the knitting ministry.

Let’s as many of us as possible “gather” to start this exciting new year with our new Rector. See you on September 23rd.

September Birthday greetings:



1 Gail Street

7 Barbara Broker

15 Nina Egmont

26 Clarence Fanto

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Tim Geller, Executive Director of the Community Development Corporation of South Berkshire successfully presented an update on the Saw Mill Brook affordable housing project to the Lenox Board of Selectmen on September 5th. The complex of approximately 20 affordable and 30 mid-market priced condominiums will be built across from Caligari's on Housatonic St., on land the Town purchased last year for this purpose.

The Diocesan Trustees provided a critical \$250,000 loan for the project's early development. Trinity's Outreach committee shepherded the project from a concept created by neighbors into a plan with the CDC as developer. Along the way, Trinity parishioner Jeff Kittross joined the CDC's board, and Debbie Burke was appointed to the Town's Affordable Housing Committee. Tim reported that the project's status remains unchanged from last year's presentation – it is waiting for financing. He hopes that Saw Mill Brook will be one of the first projects funded when federal and state funds become available, perhaps in the next 18 - 24 months.

More information is available at the CDC's website: <http://www.cdcsb.org>, or from Jeff Kittross and Debbie Burke.

Berkshire Taconic is holding a forum on rural affordable housing on September 19 at the Mahaiwe:

<http://www.berkshiretaconic.org/News/PressReleases/HousingSymposium.shtml>

A LETTER FROM OAKS INDIAN MISSION

In honor of our interim Rector's ministry at Trinity, a gift of \$500 was given to the Oaks Indian Mission. Following are excerpts of their thank you letter.

"Thank you for the gifts you so generously give to the Oaks Indian Mission children... Recently, your gifts made it possible for six children and two adult supervisors to go to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA. While there, they were called to serve the poor and homeless. They came back to the Oaks sincerely affected and forever changed by the needs of others. In addition, The Oaks children grew a garden from the seeds that were bought with your monetary gifts. This gift is a blessing on many levels. Not only have they learned good work ethic by planting the seeds and working in the garden, but they have also learned marketing skills by selling vegetables at a vegetable stand and putting their money into savings. To further enhance the take-away from this garden, they have become healthier as they have consumed the vegetables. It was certainly a win, win situation. Furthermore, because of your gifts, they have enjoyed various church camps and camping programs that they would not have otherwise been able to attend. But most of all, they were clothed, fed, housed, educated both spiritually and intellectually, while living in homes which you have supplied with competent loving house parents....It is you the donor, who makes all of these things and much more possible for the Indian children who have come to depend on the Mission for their livelihood.

BISHOP SCRUTON'S RETIREMENT EACHARIST

Trinity hosted Bishop Scruton's retirement celebration and Eucharist in the Berkshires, which was attended by parishioners and clergy from around the county. The Eucharist was followed by a reception in the Parish House. There will be similar celebrations on September 30 in Holden, and October 7 at Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield.



First/last day on the job: Our new rector Rev. Michael Tuck and our retiring bishop Rt. Rev. Gordon P. Scruton in the narthex. Sunday, September 16 had been chosen for the bishop's retirement Eucharist in the Berkshires long before Fr. Tuck knew it would be the day of his first Eucharists at Trinity.



This quilt was presented to Bishop Scruton and his wife, Rebecca (at right). Panels were created by parishes in the diocese.



The sun streamed through the rose window at just the right moment to illuminate the procession at the end of the service.



photo from the WMA Diocese website

The Ninth Bishop:
The Rev. Dr. Douglas John Fisher, shown here with retiring Bishop Scruton, will be ordained and consecrated ninth bishop of Western Massachusetts on November 30 in Springfield. More information is available at <http://www.diocesewma.org>.