

March 2015
Volume 3, Issue 3

Trinity Episcopal Church

Lenox, MA



Special Lent Edition

- Holy Week at Trinity
- Update on Partnership Conversation
- Social Justice during Lent

SERVICES

SUNDAYS

8 a.m. - Holy Eucharist
9:30 a.m. - Adult Forum
and Godly Play
10:15 a.m. - Holy
Eucharist with Hymns
5 p.m. - Evening Prayer

DAILY

7 a.m. - Morning Prayer (8
a.m. on first Saturday of
every month)

TUESDAY

10 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

WEDNESDAY (in Lent)
5 p.m. - Evening Prayer
(with silence and
contemplation)

A Message from our Rector

Dear People of Trinity Church,

I would like to thank everyone who was able to take part in the Open Meeting a few weeks ago regarding the possible partnership with St. Helena's. I continue to be impressed with how honest and forthright people are in this parish. This community has a remarkable ability to engage with challenging topics and ideas. Partnering with St. Helena's would be a significant change for our parish, and I am glad that we are all treating this topic with the care and sensitivity it deserves. I continue to see many possibilities and ways that a partnership could invigorate our parish – if I didn't, we wouldn't be having the conversation at all! But there are significant risks as well, so we are wise to explore this very carefully. Please keep you comments, concerns, and ideas coming.

One request that came up

at the meeting on Sunday was to increase the amount of communication around the process and around the discussion itself. This Sunday we had an update in the bulletin. Later in this newsletter, there is a piece by Anita describing where we are at this point. In addition, there is now a page on our website detailing our goals and some of the ideas with which we are working. Finally, we will be scheduling another open meeting soon after Easter. If there are any other ways we should be getting the word out, please let me know.

But this is not the only thing that has been going on around Trinity. We have also been experimenting with a slightly different schedule on Sunday mornings, with a time for education and formation in the morning. I am very curious to see how this has gone for people. In particular, we will want to get feedback from parents and teachers,

but we want to hear from everyone.

Lastly, we are rapidly approaching Holy Week and Easter – the culmination of our worships and celebration together. With everything that's been going on, it may be difficult for us to switch gears, but I hope that we can take the next few weeks to really focus on these incredible days. It can be easy for us to get lost in the distractions, but remembering that we are loved by God, saved by Christ, and joined with Christ in his resurrection. This is what everything that we do is all about. And I look forward to celebrating with you again.

Yours in Christ,

Holy Week and Easter



March 29 Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
 8:00am Liturgy of the Palms & Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
 10:15am Liturgy of the Palms & Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
 5:00pm Evening Prayer

March 30 Holy Monday
 7:00am Morning Prayer
 5:00pm Evening Prayer

March 31 Holy Tuesday
 7:00am Morning Prayer
 5:00pm Evening Prayer

April 1 Holy Wednesday
 7:00am Morning Prayer
 6:00pm Simple Supper and Table Communion

April 2 Maundy Thursday
 7:00am Morning Prayer
 7:00pm Holy Eucharist with Footwashing
The Maundy Thursday Watch continues until 7am on Good Friday



April 3 Good Friday
 7:00am Morning Prayer
 12:00pm Good Friday Liturgy
 2:00pm Ecumenical Walk with the Cross (*beginning at Church on the Hill and ending at Trinity*)



April 4 Holy Saturday
 7:00 Morning Prayer
 7:30pm Great Vigil Easter (*followed by a reception in the Rectory*)

April 5 Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Sunday
 8:00 Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
 10:15 Holy Eucharist (Rite II) with Brass Quintet
(Easter egg hunt following the service weather permitting)



Music Notes

The choirs are busy preparing for both Palm Sunday and Easter Day. On Palm Sunday, March 29, the Children's Choir will join the Chancel Choir in singing "Sing Out Hosanna!", a lively anthem based on a Hebrew folk tune. On Easter Day, a brass quintet from the New England Conservatory will perform at the 10:15 service. This will be a wonderful, joyful addition to our celebration of the Feast of the Resurrection. Please join us.

Our Handchime Choir will begin again in late April and I would love to have 8 to 10 ringers. So if you are interested (no musical knowledge is necessary). I'll teach you everything you need to know!), please speak to me soon so we can begin to plan our rehearsals.

Anita

Update on Outreach

The churches in Lenox are joining us with the "Fill a bag for Lent" project to help our local to pantry. If you haven't heard about this project it is simple to take part. The next time you do your food shopping pick up a brown paper bag and collect non perishable foods to put in your bag. Bring your offering to the narthex on Palm Sunday. Michael will bless all of the offerings and they will be delivered to the pantry for our neighbors in need. The Lenox food pantry serves the needs of the citizens that live in our town and is located in the United Methodist Church on Holmes Road. If you have any questions please speak to Virginia Giddens or Gail Street.

Reflections on Social Justice: Trinity's Lenten Program

Perhaps nothing creates more controversy within churches of all sorts than those points where social action blurs the line between religion and politics. The Christian faith has been cited as the basis for secular belief and action for every ideology from the center to the farthest wacko wingtips of the political left and right.

And so the study project for Trinity Church this Lent was an examination of the scriptural underpinnings of social action combined with a look at social action projects underway here in our own neighborhood. The scriptural study took place at an adult forum scheduled between the Sunday morning services, and the introduction to local projects happened at meetings surrounding a simple supper in the parish house following Evening Prayer on Sunday night.

The Rector selected readings that opened up discussions that reflected centuries worth of theological insight and battle—the intersecting and conflicting concepts of faith and good works. To the extent that such an ad hoc limited discussion can have any firm conclusion, a sort of consensus emerged that looking for the face of Christ in others melds his two Great Commandments. Absent the delivery of stone tablets out of one of the few bushes left extant to burn on our defoliated campus, we concluded that we must learn to love God though the effective connection with and love of our neighbors.

The evening sessions were highlighted by guests.

Wendy Krom from Berkshire Interfaith Organizing project outlined the activities of her group as community organizers in Pittsfield. The idea, still developing, is to build and expand relationships among churches and other communities of faith to create a structure through which to policy makers and legislators can provide social services more expeditiously.

The Rev. Jennifer Gregg, from St. Stephen's Pittsfield, told us about an intriguing program called "The Cathedral of the Night." The catchy title comes from a similar concept in Northampton, which actually happens in the evening, while the Pittsfield version takes place in the yard of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church every Sunday afternoon at 2 pm, sun, rain or blizzard.

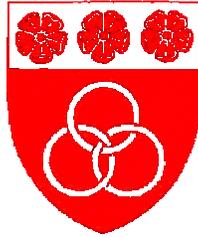
Echoing the ancient oral tradition, a vernacular telling of the weekly gospel story is joined with a litany of prayer to create a simple service. A central symbolic agape meal of water, bread and grape juice is augmented by hot dogs, macaroni and cheese—whatever is left over from St. Stephen's Table. The shifting congregation, a few in winter, many more in warmer months, is made up of the curious, the devout and many for whom a square meal is an important consideration.

Another guest, the Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, the Missioner for Climate Care in the diocese, was prevented by the climate's recent severity-- one of the endless snow storms-- from attending, but will present her perspectives on the diocesan program for "Climate Justice." to Trinity in May. We look forward to a lively discussion.

This was a useful exercise. As mainline churches morph into what comedian Flip Wilson famously called "The Church of What's Happenin' Now," at Trinity, at least, we have tried to explore how scripture can provide the foundation for social action.

Richard S. Jackson, Jr.

Update on the Trinity/St. Helena's Partnership Conversation



On Sunday, March 8, a large group of parishioners gathered to discuss the possible partnership that Trinity is considering with St. Helena's. Jeff Kittross, a member of the committee that is working with St. Helena's, began the discussion with the reading and explanation of the five principles that members of the committee have developed.

This process is in its early stages and no definite plans

have been made. We, as a committee, continue to explore and discuss all aspects of this. Concerns about finances were raised. "Is St. Helena's financially stable?" The answer is yes they are. "Will we merge finances?" Definitely not. A suggestion was made that we begin to invite the people of St. Helena's to events at Trinity such as the Garden Party and the Silver Tea.

We will keep the parish updated

with any and all plans as they develop. Reports of all of these updates will appear in the Sunday bulletin, the newsletter, and through emails. Those without email will receive a hard copy.

Thanks again to everyone who took part in this important conversation.

- Anita

Statement of Principles:

- ❖ Any arrangement must be mutually beneficial to both institutions.
- ❖ The independence of both parishes must be maintained and the distinctive character and voice of both parishes should be enhanced by the partnership.
- ❖ Any covenant, agreement, or partnership should be preliminary and should have a definite timeframe.
- ❖ This is an active decision by both parishes in discernment of God's will for us. This is not based on convenience.
- ❖ This conversation is led by the parishes with the support of the diocese as needed.

The Partnership Discernment Committee:

- ❖ Aaron Clark (St. Helena's)
- ❖ Brenda Clark (St. Helena's)
- ❖ Jeff Kittross (Trinity)
- ❖ Anita Stuart (Trinity)
- ❖ Steve Peters (Trinity, Sr. Warden)
- ❖ Michael Tuck (rector, Trinity)
- ❖ Liz Weibrecht (St. Helena's)
- ❖ Vicki Wynn (St. Helena's, Sr. Warden)